DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION DIVISION
1155 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1155

Ref: 20-F-0989
February 5, 2021

Mr. Austin Evers
American Oversight
1030 15th Street, N.W.
B255
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Evers:

This is a final response to your April 17, 2020 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, a copy of which is enclosed for your convenience. We received your request on April 17, 2020, and assigned it FOIA case number 20-F-0989. We ask that you use this number when referring to your request.

The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition & Sustainment (OUSD(A&S), Executive Services Directorate (ESD), and Secretary of Defense Communications (SECDEF COMMS), components of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, conducted searches of their records systems based on the information provided in your request. After thorough searches of the electronic records and files of OUSD (A&S), ESD, and SECDEF COMMS, no records of the kind you described could be identified. We believe that search methods were appropriate and could reasonably be expected to produce the requested records if they existed. However, if you have additional event or file-related information that indicates that we should have such information or that could assist us in conducting a further search for responsive records, please provide that information to us at your earliest convenience.

Please note that this FOIA office only processes requests for the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Staff. There is no central FOIA processing point for records for the entire Department of Defense (DoD). FOIA processing is decentralized and delegated to those officials of the Military Departments and various DoD Components who generate and/or maintain the records being sought or reviewed. In this instance, The Defense Health Agency, which operates its own FOIA program, would have cognizance over the information you have requested.

You may request these records directly from DHA by submitting your request to the following address:

Defense Health Agency
Freedom of Information Service
7700 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 5101
Falls Church, VA 22042-5101
dha.foia@mail.mil

In this instance, fees for processing your request were below the threshold for requiring payment. Please note that fees may be assessed on future requests.

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If you have questions about the foregoing, please do not hesitate to contact your Action Officer assigned to you request, Erica L. Beckett, at erica.l.beckett.civ@mail.mil or 571-372-0411. Additionally, if you have concerns about service provided by our office, please contact a member of our Leadership Team at 571-372-0498 or Toll Free at 866-574-4970.

Should you wish to inquire about mediation services, you may contact the OSD/JS FOIA Public Liaison, Tonya R. Fuentes, at 571-372-0462 or by email at OSD.FOIALiaison@mail.mil or the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS
College Park, MD 20740
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Telephone: 202-741-5770
Fax: 202-741-5769
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

You have the right to appeal to the appellate authority, Ms. Joo Chung, Director of Oversight and Compliance, Office of the Secretary of Defense, by writing directly to the following address: 4800 Mark Center Drive, ATTN: DPCLTD, FOIA Appeals, Mailbox# 24, Alexandria, VA 22350-1700.

Your appeal must be postmarked within 90 calendar days of the date of this response. Alternatively, you may email your appeal to osd.foia-appeal@mail.mil. If you use email, please include the words "FOIA Appeal" in the subject of the email. Please also reference FOIA case number 20-F-0989 in any appeal correspondence.

We appreciate your patience in the processing of your request. As stated previously, please contact the Action Officer assigned to your request, Erica L. Beckett, and reference FOIA case number 20-F-0989, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

for Pamela Andrews
Stephanie L. Carr
Chief

Enclosure:
As stated

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