Subject: FOIA 26-16839-F: Initial Agency Decision
Date: Friday, April 24, 2026 at 3:11:36 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Ha, Richard
To: FOIA
Priority: High
Category: PRODUCTION

EXTERNAL SENDER

April 24, 2026

In Reply Refer To: 001B
FOIA Request: 26-16839-F

Emma Lewis
American Oversight
[no physical address provided]
foia@americanoversight.org

Dear Ms. Lewis,

This is the Initial Agency Decision to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs (OSVA) dated and received April 2, 2026 and assigned FOIA tracking number **26-16839-F**. You requested, as quoted:
"All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) sent by any of the officials listed below to anyone communicating on behalf of the White House, including, but not limited to, anyone communicating by using an email address that contains "who.eop.gov" or "whitehouse.gov" **from January 20, 2025, through August 31, 2025.**
VA Officials:
a. Douglas Collins, Secretary
b. Paul Lawrence, Deputy Secretary
c. Curt Cashour, Chief of Staff
d. Jen Burch, Deputy Chief of Staff
e. Joshua Quill, Deputy Chief of Staff
f. Shana Love-Holmon, Deputy Chief of Staff
g. Lavin Gartland, White House Liaison and Senior Advisor
h. Christopher Syrek, former Chief of Staff
i. Cortney McCormick, Senior Advisor
j. Howard Manuel, Deputy Senior Advisor
k. Jane Che, Senior Advisor
l. John Figueroa, Senior Advisor
m. Karen Brazell, Senior Advisor
n. Michael Stoddard, Senior Advisor
o. Todd Hunter, Senior Advisor" (emphasis in original).

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All-Other Fee Category and Fee Waiver Grant
We have placed you in the all-other category and granted your fee waiver request. OSVA reserves the right to charge FOIA fees for any future FOIA requests.

Reasonable Searches Dated 4/14/26 & 4/17/26
On April 14, 2026, the OSVA FOIA Officer requested the below searches.

Search – April 14, 2026
By: Office of Information and Technology
Custodians: Douglas Collins, Paul Lawrence, Curt Cashour, Jen Burch, Joshua Quill, Shana Love-Holmon, Lavin Gartland, Christopher Syrek, Cortney McCormick, Howard Manuel, John Figueroa, Karen Brazell, Michael Stoddard, Todd Hunter
Information System: Microsoft 365 (emails, MS Teams, outlook calendars)
Timeframe: 1/20/25 to 8/31/2025
Search Parameters: to who.eop.gov or whitehouse.gov.

Note, Jane Che left VA on January 19, 2025. On April 17, 2026, the VA OI&T office submitted **no** responsive records. Note, for your FOIA request **26-16841-F** for the same search parameters but the timeframe of September 1, 2025, to April 14, 2026, the VA OI&T submitted records to review. These searches constitute reasonable searches.

Initial Agency Decision
From the reasonable searches described above, VA found no responsive records. As such, VA issues you a "no records" response.

FOIA Mediation
Under the provisions of the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016, the following contact information is provided to assist FOIA requesters in resolving disputes:
VA Central Office FOIA Public Liaison:
Email Address: vacofoiaservice@va.gov
Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)
Email Address: ogis@nara.gov
Mailing address:
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001

FOIA Appeal
This concludes OSVA's Initial Agency Decision to request **26-16839-F**. Please be advised that should you desire to do so, you may appeal the determination made in this response to:
ogcfoiaappeals@va.gov
Office of General Counsel (024)
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

If you should choose to file an appeal, please include a copy of this letter with your written appeal and clearly indicate the basis for your disagreement with the determination set forth in this

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response. Please be advised that in accordance with VA's implementing FOIA regulations at 38 C.F.R. § 1.559, your appeal must be postmarked no later than ninety (90) days of the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

Richard Ha, JD, CIPP/G
OSVA FOIA Officer

Richard Ha, JD, CIPPG
OSVA FOIA/Privacy Officer
Office of the Executive Secretary
Office of the Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs (OSVA)
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