DEPARTMENT OF WAR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR/JOINT STAFF
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
1155 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1155

Ref: 26-F-2645
August 7, 2026

Ms. Loree Stark
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW
Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Stark:

This is a final response to your June 30, 2026 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, a copy of which is enclosed for your convenience. The Office of the Secretary of War/Joint Staff (OSW/JS) FOIA Requester Service Center received your request on June 30, 2026, and assigned it FOIA case number 26-F-2645. We ask that you use this number when referring to your request.

Please note that your request was misdirected to this office for processing. This FOIA office only processes requests for OSW and JS. There is no central FOIA processing point for records for the entire Department of War (DoW). FOIA processing is decentralized and delegated to those officials of the Military Departments and various DoW Components who generate and/or maintain the records being sought or reviewed. In this instance, the Defense Health Agency (DHA), which operates its own FOIA program, would have cognizance over the information you have requested.

In consideration of this fact, we have forwarded your request to DHA for their direct response to you. For your convenience, contact information for the DHA FOIA office is provided below:

Defense Health Agency
DHA Freedom of Information Service Center
7700 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 5101
Falls Church, Virginia 22042-5101

Additionally, in reference to the portion of your request dealing with Captain Sean Barabella, it has been determined by the White House Military Office that the records sought are considered to be Presidential Records, as defined by the Presidential Records Act, 44 U.S.C. § 22. This means that these records are not subject to the FOIA at this time.

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Should you wish to inquire about mediation services, you may contact the OSW/JS FOIA Public Liaison, Virginia Burke, by email at osd.mc-alex.odam.mbx.foia-liaison@mail.mil or by phone at 571-372-0462. You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer at: email at ogis@nara.gov, or phone at 202-741-5770 or 1-877-684-6448.

You have the right to appeal to the appellate authority, Mr. Michael Kremlacek, Acting Director of Oversight and Compliance, Office of the Director of Administration and Management, Office of the Secretary of War, at: 4800 Mark Center Drive, ATTN: FOIA Appeals, O&CD, 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.mc-alex.odam.mbx.foia-appeals@mail.mil. If you use email, please include the words "FOIA Appeal" in the subject of the email. Please also reference FOIA case number 26-F-2645 in any appeal correspondence.

This action closes your request with this office, and there are no assessable fees associated with this response. If you have any questions or concerns about the foregoing or about the processing of your request, please do not hesitate to contact the Action Officer assigned to your request, Kaitlyn Bett, at kaitlyn.s.bett.ctr@mail.mil or 571-372-0440. Additionally, if you have concerns about service received by our office, please contact a member of our Leadership Team at 571-372-0498 or Toll Free at 866-574-4970.

Sincerely,

For Charles C. Maryo

Douglas McComb
Acting Chief, FOIA

Enclosure:
As stated

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