U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of General Counsel
Information and Administrative Law Group

810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington DC 20420
www.va.gov/ogc

August 14, 2026

In Reply Refer to: 024
FOIA Request: 26-00110-GC

American Oversight
Attn: Emma Lewis
Suite B255
1030 15th street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
Email: foia@americanoversight.org

Dear Ms. Lewis:

This is the Initial Agency Decision (IAD) letter in response to your July 15, 2026, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request sent to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Central Office's FOIA Service. You requested a copy of the following records be provided to American Oversight:

- All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) between (a) any of the VA Officials listed below, and (b) any email address ending in .com, .co, .us, .net, .org, .mail, .edu, .law, .ch, and .me., and (c) containing any of the key terms listed below:

    - VA Officials:
        a. Douglas Collins, Secretary
        b. Curt Cashour, Chief of Staff
        c. Christopher Syrek, Former Chief of Staff
        d. Anyone serving in the capacity of Chief of Staff
        e. Joshua Quill, Deputy Chief of Staff
        f. Jennifer Burch, Deputy Chief of Staff
        g. Mark Engelbaum, Assistant Secretary, Human Resources and Administration
        h. Anyone serving in the capacity of Assistant Secretary, Human Resources and Administration
        i. Tracey Therit, Chief Human Capital Officer
        j. Anyone serving in the capacity of Chief Human Capital Officer
        k. James Baehr, General Counsel
        l. Anyone serving in the capacity of General Counsel
        m. Anyone serving in the capacity of Executive Director, Corporate Senior Executive Management Office
        n. Shana Love Holmon, Former Executive Director, Corporate Senior Executive Management Office
        o. Kelly Cruz, Strategic HR Advisor, Corporate Senior Executive Management Office

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- Key Terms:
  i. "Schedule G"
  ii. "Sched G"
  iii. EO14317
  iv. 14317
  v. "Schedule Policy/Career"

On July 15, 2026, your request was received by the VACO FOIA Service and assigned FOIA Tracking number 26-24082-F. On July 21, 2026, the portion of your request seeking information regarding the General Counsel were transferred to the Office of General Counsel's FOIA Office. Upon transferring your request, the FOIA tracking number has changed. The new FOIA Tracking Number that has been assigned to your FOIA request is **26-00110-GC** for processing. Please use FOIA Tracking number **26-00110-GC** when communicating with the Office General Counsel's FOIA Office.

On July 29, 2026, the Office of General Counsel FOIA Office contacted the Office of Information & Technology and requested that they conduct a search of Ms. Danielle Runyan and Mr. James Beahr's emails utilizing the key terms that were provided by you. After conducting the search for information, the search resulted with negative results; therefore, the Office of General Counsel is providing a "no records" response.

No Records: Courts have determined that reasonableness of an agency's search can depend on whether the agency properly determined where responsive records were likely to be found and searched those locations. [See Iacoe v. IRS, No. 98-C-0466, 1999 WL 675322, at *4 (E.D. Wis. July 23, 1999) (recognizing that agency "diligently searched for the records requested in those places where [agency] expected they could be located")]. Record search inquiries were made to the appropriate office. This search was conducted by utilizing the search criteria as defined in your request. At the conclusion of the search, a "no records" response was provided for responsive records to your request.

FOIA Mediation
For any questions regarding the processing of this request, you have the right to seek assistance from the VA FOIA Public Liaison or the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). As part of the 2007 FOIA amendments, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) was created to offer mediation services. Similarly, as part of the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016, VA established a FOIA Public Liaison to offer mediation services. You may contact OGIS and the VA Public Liaison in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services:
E-mail Address: ogis@nara.gov
Fax: 202-741-5769
National Archives and Records Administration
Room 2510
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001

VA FOIA Public Liaison:
VA FOIA Public Liaison E-mail: FOIAHelp@va.gov

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Appeal Rights
Please be advised that should you desire to do so, you may appeal the determination made in this response to:

Office of General Counsel (024)
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420
E-mail: ogcfoiaappeals@va.gov

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 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,

GREGORY DRAVES

Digitally signed by GREGORY DRAVES
Date: 2026.08.13 15:43:04 -04'00'

Greg Draves
FOIA/Privacy Officer
Office of General Counsel

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