



ADMINISTRATION AND
MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1950 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1950

15 MAR 2004

Ref: 04-F-0521 (A)

Mr. Steven Aftergood
Federation of American Scientists
1717 K. Street, NW, Suite 209
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Aftergood:

This responds to your appeal of a Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) determination to deny release of a DTRA report entitled, "Lessons from the Anthrax Attacks: Implications for U.S. Bioterrorism Preparedness." Your appeal and the document were referred by DTRA to the Directorate for Freedom of Information and Security Review (DFOISR) for final review and response to you because the subject matter concerns Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). This action complies with Department of Defense policy that information concerning WMD requires review by DFOISR prior to release as set forth in a Secretary of Defense message dated 15 May, 2002.

In their initial response to you, DTRA denied the document in its entirety. I have reviewed the report and have concluded that an excised version may be released. A redacted version of the report is enclosed.

The information withheld from the report concerns vulnerabilities and capabilities of the US Government to respond to another Anthrax or similar WMD attack. The withheld portions, if released, could circumvent Department of Defense rules and practices established to prevent the spread of information associated with WMD. This material could potentially aid enemies of the US in development of techniques to defeat WMD response efforts of the US Government. Accordingly, this withheld information is denied pursuant to 5 USC 552(b)(2).

You are advised that you have the right to judicial review of this decision in a United States District Court in accordance with Title 5 USC § 552(a)(4)(B).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "H.J. McIntyre".

H.J. McIntyre
Chief, DoD FOIA Policy Office

Enclosure: As stated.