



NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
CENTRAL SECURITY SERVICE
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-6000

FOIA Case: 65272A
20 July 2012

Mr. Steven Aftergood
Federation of American Scientists
1725 DeSales Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Aftergood:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of 23 August 2011 for "A copy of a declassified NSA email message entitled "What a Success." This email message served as the basis of Count One in the recent prosecution of former NSA official Thomas Drake." Your request has been processed under the FOIA, and the document you requested is enclosed.

Certain information has been deleted from the enclosure. This Agency is authorized by statute to protect the names of its employees. Such information is exempt from disclosure pursuant to the third exemption of the FOIA which provides for the withholding of information specifically protected from disclosure by statute. The specific statute applicable in this case is Section 6, Public Law 86-36 (50 U.S. Code 402 note). We have determined that such information exists in this document, and we have excised it accordingly.

The Initial Denial Authority for NSA information is the Deputy Associate Director for Policy and Records, D. M. Janosek. Since these deletions may be construed as a partial denial of your request, you are hereby advised of this Agency's appeal procedures. Any person denied access to information may file an appeal to the NSA/CSS Freedom of Information Act Appeal Authority. The appeal must be postmarked no later than 60 calendar days from the date of the initial denial letter. The appeal shall be in writing addressed to the NSA/CSS FOIA Appeal Authority (DJ4), National Security Agency, 9800 Savage Road STE 6248, Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-6248. The appeal shall reference the initial denial of access and shall contain, in sufficient detail and particularity, the grounds upon which the requester believes release of the information is required. The NSA/CSS Appeal Authority will endeavor to respond to the

appeal within 20 working days after receipt, absent any unusual circumstances.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pamela N. Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

PAMELA N. PHILLIPS
Chief
FOIA/PA Office

Encl:
a/s

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WHAT A WONDERFUL SUCCESS!

You should all be extremely proud of the part you played in our Spin 1 efforts to demonstrate TURBULENCE. The Director of NSA saw first-hand what you've accomplished, and everyone in the room associated with TURBULENCE was just BEAMING with pride (especially me!)....

John M. [redacted] did an outstanding job representing us, explaining how TURBULENCE worked and explaining what was happening during the actual demo. The Director was extremely engaged, and knew all about TURBULENCE and the projects associated with it. He asked lots of questions and your teammates around the room provided the detailed information that the Director needed. Thanks to all of you who did - Bill C. [redacted], Larry J. [redacted], Jeff U. [redacted], Linda S. [redacted], Jim B. [redacted], Bill C. [redacted] - forgive me if I left anyone out...

(b) (3) - P.L. 86

During the briefing/demo portion of the meeting, the Director suggested that an application for TURBULENCE might be the Byzantine Hades effort (in conjunction with work being done in TAO). [As an aside, TUTELAGE is mentioned in Byzantine Hades briefings as being part of the solution.] When TRAFFICTHIEF was introduced as being part of the TURBULENCE effort, he interjected, "Clearly the best thing we've done at this Agency up to this point is TRAFFICTHIEF." He asked a lot of questions about how TRAFFICTHIEF and XKEYSCORE interact. In reference to how TURBULENCE follows the quick spin philosophy, the Director mentioned that just this morning, in his discussions with Congress, it was mentioned that rapid spins need to be more widely used, because change in technology is so rapid. He wants to get those congressmen here and show them how we're demonstrating TURBULENCE using spins.

Classified per TURBULENCE and TUTELAGE classification guide

The Director wants you to know that there's "nothing more important in this Agency" than what you're doing. He wants us to have "unfettered access" to him (and mentioned that Pat C. [redacted] is probably the person he deals with the most). Pat, in turn, pointed out that when the Director pings him, the way TURBULENCE is structured, he goes directly to the tech leads and the people working TURBULENCE, so there's a direct line of communication.

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

The Director emphasized that his goal is that "we are moving out as quickly as possible and as smartly as we can." No pressure! Once the system is stabilized, he "wants us to get it out to the field, be pragmatic, but deliver it." The environment is "changing so quickly we have to use it as soon as possible."

His primary concerns are twofold: 1) The Global War on Terrorism, and 2) Net Warfare. And the work you've done to MAKE TURBULENCE HAPPEN will have a profound impact on those two concerns. He "wants to make sure you are getting all the support you need" and he wants to "help you deal with the multiple layers of bureaucracy" that may hinder progress. (At that point, [redacted] almost jumped out of my seat and cheered!)

He then reiterated TURBULENCE is "really, really important to this Agency, to this Nation and we have to overcome the risks" associated with making it work. He talked about the "fight on the network" and used the analogy of the Wright Brothers - they did not build a plane thinking that it would give us such a strategic advantage in WWII. "In the Information Age, we have to win by getting there first."

The Director talked about how "our Agency has tremendous talent across the board" (and Pat chimed in that the TURBULENCE team represents the best). As "we get into this Net Warfare front," we will have to increase the number of folks who have skills in EE, and CompSci and High Performance Computing (we already have the best talent in Math).

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Approved for Release by NSA on 07-20-2012, FOIA Case # 64636

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Approp. Classification at time of signature.

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Tutelage Class Guide

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He predicted that "the fight on the network is going to come on in the near-term." We need to GET THERE FIRST! We need to be the "fastest with the most." He talked about how important this demo was to him, apologized for the delay in his coming to see the demo, and thanked us for jumping through hoops to provide today's demo on such short notice. He complimented John on his excellent briefing, and noted that the slides were great and wanted to get a copy.

He ended the meeting by saying again: "What you're doing is extremely important. Pat gets more attention than anyone else in the Agency." He made a joke of what we could deliver out to the field by Spin 4, looked at my shocked expression, and suggested that Spin 3 might be a better goal. My response was "please." He said "you are leading the path, are the advanced scouts" and are key in how we get there.

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

He left the conference room, but before he left the building, he greeted the entire test team in the lab (who worked behind the scenes to make sure the demo was successful). Kurt [] did an excellent job briefing him on the Stage 1 TURMOIL rack. Thanks, Kurt!

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TURBULENCE and
TUTELAGE
classification guide

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THANKS to all of you. What a GREAT team we have.

Based on today's success and the Director's comments, we have appended our vision:

MAKE TURBULENCE HAPPEN

AND

GET THERE FIRST!

Approp. Class.
at time of
origination. Has
been declassified
per Tutelage Class
Guide 10-12
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