



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
2000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

5720  
Ser DNS-36MJ/19U102953  
September 4, 2019

Sent via email to: [saftergood@fas.org](mailto:saftergood@fas.org)

Mr. Steven Aftergood  
Federation of American Scientists  
1112 16th Street NW #400  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Aftergood,

This is in reference to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)/Privacy Act (PA) request dated May 20, 2019. Your request was received in our office on the same day and assigned case number DON-NAVY-2019-007042. Our office reassigned your request to the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory (NRL), and then to the office of Naval Research (ONR). ONR determined that because of the subject matter, your request would be best handled by our office, and accordingly, it was rerouted back, being assigned case number DON-NAVY-2019-008389.

In the course of processing your FOIA request, it was determined that while ONR, as well as the office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy to conduct a search for applicable records. Accordingly, those searched their local files for records relating to "a study that was performed last year for the Under Secretary of the Navy by the Naval Research Advisory Committee (NRAC) concerning the effectiveness and the future role of the Naval Research Laboratory".

The ONR has identified the study you are requesting, however it has been determined that this report is marked "do not distribute", is pre-decisional, and is thus exempt from disclosure under 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5).

Because your request is denied, you are advised of your right to appeal this determination by writing to:

Office of the Judge Advocate General  
1322 Patterson Ave SE Ste 3000  
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5066

Your appeal must be postmarked within ninety calendar days from the date of this letter. A copy of your initial request and this letter must accompany the appeal. The appeal should be marked "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL" both on the envelope and the face of the letter. In order to expedite the appellate process and ensure full consideration of your appeal, your appeal should contain a brief statement of the reasons you believe this decision to be in error.

In this instance, the fees associated with the processing of your request are waived, but this action is not indicative of how future requests will be handled.

For this determination, you have the right to seek dispute resolution services from either the DoD Navy Component FOIA Public Liaison, Mr. Chris Julka, at: [Christopher.a.julka@navy.mil](mailto:Christopher.a.julka@navy.mil), via phone: (703) 697-0031; or by contacting the Office of Government Information Services at: (<https://ogis.archives.gov/>), (202) 741-5770, [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov).

Questions regarding the action this office has taken to process your request may be directed to our FOIA Service Center at (202) 685-0412 or via email at [donfoia-pa@navy.mil](mailto:donfoia-pa@navy.mil).

Sincerely,



R. Strong  
Deputy Director,  
DON FOIA/PA Program Office