



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION DIVISION  
1155 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1155**

Ref: 20-F-1199  
July 2, 2021

Mr. Christopher Bing  
94239-88921904@requests.muckrock.com

Dear Mr. Bing:

This is a final response to your June 10, 2020 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, a copy of which is enclosed for your convenience. We received your request on June 11, 2021, and assigned it FOIA case number 20-F-1199. We ask that you use this number when referring to your request.

This FOIA office only processes requests for the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and the Joint Staff (JS). There is no central FOIA processing point for records for the entire Department of Defense (DoD). FOIA processing is decentralized and delegated to those officials of the Military Departments and various DoD Components who generate and/or maintain the records being sought or reviewed.

Additionally, according to the FOIA's legislative history, a description of records requested is sufficient if it enables a professional employee of the agency who is familiar with the subject area of the request to locate the records with a reasonable amount of effort. Courts have also stated that a request is reasonably described if the agency is able to determine "precisely" what records are being requested. The "reasonably described" requirement exists because the FOIA was not intended to reduce government agencies to full-time investigators on behalf of requesters. As such, it is the requester's responsibility to frame requests with sufficient particularity to ensure that searches are not unreasonably burdensome, and to enable the searching agency to determine precisely what records are being sought.

You requested "documents, memos, emails, powerpoint presentations and other notes that contain the phrase or discuss "Operation Themis." In an effort to assist you on limiting the scope of your request, we sent you a letter, dated **June 25, 2021**, requesting clarification on your request. We also asked that you provide details that are more specific on your request, i.e. **the specific timeframe for the search**, but we have not received a reply from you. As such, your request has been administratively closed. You may, of course, submit a new request that is in line with the aforementioned requirements and we are available to assist you in this effort.

If you need assistance in reframing your request or have any questions or concerns about the foregoing or about the processing of your request, please do not hesitate to contact your Action Officer assigned to your request, Laura Pintar, at [Laura.a.pintar.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Laura.a.pintar.civ@mail.mil) or (571) 372-0422. 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.

Should you wish to inquire about mediation services, you may contact the OSD/JS FOIA Public Liaison, Tonya R. Fuentes, at 571-372-0462 or by email at [OSD.FOIALiaison@mail.mil](mailto:OSD.FOIALiaison@mail.mil) or the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740  
E-mail: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
Telephone: 202-741-5770  
Fax: 202-741-5769  
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

You have the right to appeal to the appellate authority, Ms. Joo Chung, Director of Oversight and Compliance, Office of the Secretary of Defense, by writing directly to the following address: 4800 Mark Center Drive, ATTN: DPCLTD, FOIA Appeals, 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.foia-appeal@mail.mil](mailto:osd.foia-appeal@mail.mil). If you use email, please include the words "FOIA Appeal" in the subject of the email. Please also reference FOIA case number 20-F-1199 in any appeal correspondence.

As previously stated, should you need assistance with submitting a new request for information on this topic, please contact us. Remember that any future request should shed additional light on the records you are seeking. Providing the name of the specific OSD/JS component(s), timeframe, and specific subject matter may help in some instances. Again, please contact the Action Officer assigned to your request, Laura Pintar, and reference FOIA case number 20-F-1199, if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

*for Pamela Andrews*  
Stephanie L. Carr  
Chief

Enclosure:  
As stated