

Brian Pristera

From: Brian Pristera
Sent: Friday, August 6, 2021 7:09 AM
To: Joe Palen; 56 FW/FOIA_PA
Subject: RE: FOIA 2021-03975-F
Attachments: Email - DCSA FOIA Denial (Palen).pdf

Good morning Heidi,

I am the attorney representing Maj Joseph Palen. We both greatly appreciate you corresponding with us and I hope that I can provide any information you need to make your search for records easy.

Per his request below, please see the attached email. This is an email chain between me, Mr. Andre Gregorian (DOD DOHA Counsel) and Mr. Jim Clark (DOD CAF General Counsel). In the email chain, Mr. Clark confirms that DCSA does not have the authority to release Air Force records in its possession to Maj Palen or I as the Air Force "owns" the documents. Mr. Clark is the senior most attorney at the DOD CAF, so there is no higher authority we can go to within that organization. He directed us back to the Air Force to request the records.

I have been working on these matters with Maj Palen for 3 years. I am more than happy to jump on the phone with you at any time if you need additional clarification or information to assist in your search. We look forward to hearing back from you. Feel free to reach out to me or Maj Palen directly at any time.

Best Regards,
Brian

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From: Joe Palen <joseph.palen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 2:43 PM
To: 56 FW/FOIA_PA <56FW.FOIA.PA@us.af.mil>
Cc: Brian Pristera <pristera@mclaw.us>
Subject: Re: FOIA 2021-03975-F

Thanks, Heidi. I'm looping in my attorney, Mr. Brian Pristera. He has worked this case since 2019 and is familiar with all previous FOIA requests, including the email one where ~550 pages of the 800 were completely redacted.

Brian - please send Heidi a copy of the email from DODCAF that states in effect we have to FOIA for the SIF info. That is going to help guide her to get us the info more quickly. Mr. Hoover at 56 FW IP is saying he can't release anything because DODCAF owns it.

Also, in conversation with Heidi, she has asked her HQ if she can run the email FOIA request as well, which I think would be positive as she and the 56 FW JA are at arms length vs. the 944th personnel who have motivation to cover up, which we have experienced frequently up to this point.

Best,
Joe Palen
916-276-3514

On Aug 4, 2021, at 14:22, 56 FW/FOIA_PA <56FW.FOIA.PA@us.af.mil> wrote:

Sir,

Per your request, my email is 56FW.FOIA.PA@us.af.mil. Thank you.

Heidi Zimmerman, Civ, DAF
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