



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH
875 NORTH RANDOLPH STREET
ARLINGTON VA 22203-1995

IN REPLY REFER TO

5720
23-79
September 11, 2023

Mr. George Johnston
MuckRock News
263 Huntington Ave. DEPT MR 145432
Boston, MA 02115

Subj: FOIA Request DON-NAVY-2023-015163

Dear Mr. Johnston,

This is the final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. The Office of Naval Research (ONR) received your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request on August 16, 2023. Your request was assigned ONR tracking number DON-NAVY-2023-015163. You requested records, documents, or emails with keywords: deep fake, digital deception, fake technology, blockchain, deepfakes, and/or deepfake Dates: January 2019 until the processing of this request. USNORTHCOM FOIA Office referred 13 unclassified pages of the Novotny 2023 March GTAR_Curtinto ONR for review and release determination.

Your request is granted in full. Some pages have been redacted under Exemption 4 of the FOIA, codified at 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(4). I have considered the foreseeable harm standard in making this decision. The risk to individual privacy outweighs the public benefit of release of the redacted information.

FOIA Exemption 4 allows for the withholding of trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person that is privileged or confidential. Under this exemption, we are withholding some financial and proprietary inform.

You have the right to an appeal. Your appeal must be received via email or post-marked within 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. You can email your appeal to usn.ncr.ogcwashdc.mbx.donogcappeals@us.navy.mil. You can also appeal via mail. Please provide the appellate authority (see below) the following in an envelope marked "FOIA appeal":

- A letter requesting an appeal that explains what you are appealing with any supporting arguments or reasons you think may be worthy of consideration;
- A copy of your initial request;
- A copy of the letter of denial.

Please mail your appeal to:

Department of the Navy,
Office of the General Counsel
1000 Navy Pentagon, Room 5A532
Washington, DC 20350-1000

Please also provide a copy of your appeal letter to ONR at:

Office of Naval Research
ATTN: FOIA Officer Room 617
875 North Randolph St.
Arlington, VA 22203

I, the undersigned, have been delegated Initial Denial Authority for the purpose of this letter. If you have questions, please contact the ONR FOIA Officer at (703) 588-2968 or Shanee.m.hardy.civ@us.navy.mil. Please reference DON-NAVY-2023-015163 in any correspondence discussing this case. You may also contact the DON FOIA Public Liaison, Christopher Julka, at christopher.a.julka@navy.mil, or (703)697-0031.

In addition, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) provides a voluntary mediation process for resolving disputes between persons making FOIA requests and the Department of the Navy (DON). For more information, go to <https://www.archives.gov/ogis/about-ogis/contact-information>.

Sincerely,



SHANEE M. HARDY
FOIA Officer