



## DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20340-5100



U-23-6687/IMO-2 (FOIA)

June 08, 2023  
FOIA-00186-2023

Emily Kopp

Dear Ms. Kopp:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated June 06, 2023 and is an interim response. You requested:

- **A two-part request under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, et seq., to the United States Defense Intelligence Agency (“DIA”). Part I. We request all formal or informal reports, briefings, assessments, and images sent to the DIA’s Directorate of Science and Technology from the National Center for Medical Intelligence pertaining to any of the following topics:**
  - 1. Activity at health facilities in Wuhan, China**
  - 2. An unidentified illness in Wuhan, China**
  - 3. Communications intercepts that mention Wuhan, China****Part II. We seek the production of documents pertaining to the following former and/or current DIA employees:**
  - **LTG Robert Ashley Jr. Former Director**
  - **Suzanne White Deputy Director**
  - **Major General John Howard Former Deputy Director of Commonwealth Integration**
  - **Former Chief of Staff during November - December, 2019****We request email correspondence to or from the above-named individuals -- including attachments, CC and BCC -- containing the following keywords:**
  - **“Wuhan”**
  - **“National Center for Medical Intelligence”****2**
  - **“NCMI”**

**The time period covered by all parts of this request is from November 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019.**

We received your request on June 08, 2023 and assigned it case number FOIA-00186-2023. Please use this number on all future correspondence with us regarding your request.

We are unable to respond to your request within the statutory 20 days’ response period due to one or more of the following reasons, which are defined in the statute as “unusual circumstances”: (I) the need to search for and collect the requested records from field facilities or other establishments that are separate from the office processing the request; (II) the need to search for, collect, and appropriately examine a voluminous amount of separate and distinct

records which are demanded in a single request; or (III) the need for consultation, which shall be conducted with all practicable speed, with another agency having a substantial interest in the determination of the request or among two or more components of the agency having substantial subject-matter interest therein.

At this stage of processing your request, we cannot provide an estimated date of completion. As analysis and processing of your request continues, a case officer will better be able to provide an estimate, and at that time, we will provide you with a further interim response.

We typically process requests in the order of receipt. Our backlog currently is in excess of 1,200 requests. The time it takes to respond to a request will vary depending on the complexity of the request and any backlog of requests already pending. If your request is complex, a case officer may contact you to discuss options for expediting your request, including: (I) narrowing the scope or focus of your request or increasing its specificity; (II) specifically describing record(s) you are looking for with additional descriptive details; and (III) including specific event-related information.

We regret that there is currently a substantial delay in processing requests and solicit your patience and understanding. We will process your request as soon as possible. Our FOIA Requester Service Center is available to assist you with any question about the status of your request and any steps you can take to receive a potentially quicker response. For questions, please contact the FOIA Requester Service Center or our FOIA Public Liaison, preferably via email at [FOIA1@dod.iis.mil](mailto:FOIA1@dod.iis.mil), or at 301-394-6253. DIA's FOIA website is: [www.dia.mil/FOIA](http://www.dia.mil/FOIA).

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services that they offer. You may contact OGIS at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov), toll-free 1-877-684-6448, phone 202-741-5770, fax 202-741-5769, or the following address:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740-6001

Sincerely,

Johnson Turell  
E d157595

Digitally signed by Johnson Turell  
E d157595  
DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government,  
ou=DoD, ou=DoD/IS, ou=People,  
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(for)

Cheryl Cross-Davison  
Chief, Records and Open Government