

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jason Leopold** <jasonleopold@gmail.com>  
Date: Mon, Jul 10, 2023, 3:00 PM  
Subject: Request for records under the Freedom of Information Act  
To: <usarmy.pentagon.hqda-otig.mbx.saig-zxl@army.mil>

This is a request for records under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552 and the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a. This request should be considered under both statutes to maximize the release of records.

REQUESTER INFORMATION

**Name:** Jason Leopold

**Affiliation:** Senior Investigative Reporter/Bloomberg News

**Address:** [REDACTED] Drive

Beverly Hills, CA 90210

**Email:** JLeopold15@Bloomberg.net jasonleopold@gmail.com

**Phone:** [REDACTED]

RECORDS SOUGHT

I request disclosure from the US Army Office of the Inspector General the following records:

1. All final reports of investigation and audits and memorandums of reprimand referencing extremist activity, extremism, racism, domestic and violent extremism, white supremacist or white supremacy.
  
2. Closing memos and referral letters related to the final reports and audits identified in part 1.

To be clear, I am seeking final reports and audits that have not previously been processed, posted on a FOIA reading room or posted publicly in another manner.

The timeframe for this request is January 1, 2018 through the date the search for responsive records is conducted.

**Reasonably Foreseeable Harm.** The FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 amended the FOIA as follows (5 USC 552(a)(8)):

- (A) An agency shall—
  - (i) withhold information under this section only if—
    - (I) the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by an exemption described in subsection (b); or
    - (II) disclosure is prohibited by law; and
  - (ii) (I) consider whether partial disclosure of information is possible whenever the agency determines that a full disclosure of a requested record is not possible; and
  - (II) take reasonable steps necessary to segregate and release nonexempt information. . . .

The US Army OIG should not fail to meet the requirements of Section 552(a)(8) when processing my request and release responsive records to me in full or at least in part.

**INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING SEARCH**

*1. Request for Public Records:*

Please search for any records even if they are already publicly available.

*2. Request for Electronic and Paper/Manual Searches:*

I request that searches of all electronic and paper/manual indices, filing systems, and locations for any and all records relating or referring to the subject of my request be conducted. I further request that the agencies conduct a search of its “soft files” as well as files in its locked cabinets.

*3. Request regarding Photographs and other Visual Materials:*

I request that any photographs or other visual materials responsive to my request be released to me in their original or comparable forms, quality, and resolution. For example, if a photograph was taken digitally, or if the agencies maintains a photograph digitally, I request disclosure of the original digital image file, not a reduced resolution version of that image file nor a printout and scan of that image file. Likewise, if a photograph was originally taken as a color photograph, I request disclosure of that photograph as a color image, not a black and white image. Please contact me for any clarification on this point.

*4. Request for Duplicate Pages:*

I request disclosure of any and all supposedly “duplicate” pages. Scholars analyze records not only for the information available on any given page, but also for the relationships between that information and information on pages surrounding it. As such, though certain pages may have been previously released to me, the existence of those pages within new context renders them functionally new pages. As such, the only way to properly analyze released information is to analyze that information within its proper context. Therefore, I request disclosure of all “duplicate” pages.

*5. Request to Search Emails:*

Please search for emails relating to the subject matter of my request.

*6. Request for Search of Records Transferred to Other Agencies:*

I request that in conducting its search, the agencies disclose releasable records even if they are available publicly through other sources outside the agencies, such as NARA.

FORMAT

I request that any releases stemming from this request be provided to me in digital format (soft-copy) on a compact disk or other like media.

FEE CATEGORY AND REQUEST FOR A FEE WAIVER

I am the senior investigative reporter for Bloomberg News and formerly senior investigative reporter for BuzzFeed News and VICE News. Additionally, my reporting has been published in The Guardian, The Wall Street Journal, The Financial Times, Salon, CBS Marketwatch, The Los Angeles Times, The Nation, Truthout, Al Jazeera English and Al Jazeera America. I am filing this request on behalf of myself and Bloomberg News.

I request a complete waiver of all search and duplication fees. If my request for a waiver is denied, I request that I be considered a member of the news media for fee purposes.

Under 5 U.S.C. §552(a)(4)(A)(iii), “Documents shall be furnished without any charge ... if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.” Disclosure in this case meets the statutory criteria, as the records sought to detail the operations and activities of government. This request is also not primarily in my commercial request, as I am seeking the records as a journalist to analyze and freely release to members of the public.

If I am not granted a complete fee waiver, I request to be considered a member of the news media for fee purposes. I



Jason Leopold <jasonleopold@gmail.com>

FOIA Acknowledgement 23-507

USARMY Pentagon HQDA OTIG Mailbox SAIG ZXL <usarmy.pentagon.hqda-otig.mbx.saig-zxl@army.mil>  
To: "jasonleopold@gmail.com" <jasonleopold@gmail.com>

Wed, Dec 13, 2023 at 12:34 PM

Good Afternoon,

Your request is still being processed at this time. This is due to our very large backlog and manpower shortages. We currently have one action office processing requests, so its taking much longer to complete requests. We are unable to give you an updated completion date, however we ask that you continue to check back periodically for a status update. We apologize for the inconvenience, however we appreciate your patience.

Respectfully,

Records Release Office

**From:** Jason Leopold <jasonleopold@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023 11:33 AM  
**To:** USARMY Pentagon HQDA OTIG Mailbox SAIG ZXL <usarmy.pentagon.hqda-otig.mbx.saig-zxl@army.mil>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Re: FOIA Acknowledgement 23-507

You don't often get email from [jasonleopold@gmail.com](mailto:jasonleopold@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

May I have an updated estimated date of completion for this request?

Best,

Jason

On Thu, Jul 13, 2023 at 8:06AM USARMY Pentagon HQDA OTIG Mailbox SAIG ZXL <usarmy.pentagon.hqda-otig.mbx.saig-zxl@army.mil> wrote:

Dear Mr. Leopold:

This is an interim response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request received on July 10, 2023, seeking Army Inspector General records.

The Army IG Records Release Office receives a large volume of FOIA requests and cannot always respond to requests as quickly as we would like. Accordingly, we make it our practice to respond to FOIA request in the order received. The approximate date of completion on your request is July 10, 2024 or it could take longer. The actual processing time will depend upon the number of prior requests, as well as the complexity and volume of documents to be reviewed for each request received before yours.

You may seek dispute resolution services from the Army FOIA Public Liaison or the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The Army FOIA Public Liaison may be contacted at (571) 515-0306, or by e-mail at [usarmy.belvoir.hqda-oaa-ahs.mbx.rmda-foia-public-liaison@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.belvoir.hqda-oaa-ahs.mbx.rmda-foia-public-liaison@army.mil). Contact information for OGIS is at [www.archives.gov/ogis](http://www.archives.gov/ogis).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact this office via email [usarmy.pentagon.hqda-otig.mbx.saig-zxl@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.pentagon.hqda-otig.mbx.saig-zxl@army.mil). Should you contact our office, be sure to provide the FOIA number 23-507 that we have assigned to your request.

Respectfully,

DAIG, Legal / Records Release Office

ATTN: SAIG-ZXR, (Records Release)

1700 Army Pentagon, Room 1E132

Washington, DC 20310-17002

--

Jason Leopold  
Senior Investigative Reporter  
Bloomberg News

██████████ (signal)

You may also reach me at [jasonleopold@protonmail.com](mailto:jasonleopold@protonmail.com) for secure and encrypted communications

@JasonLeopold

[Read my reporting](#)