

EXHIBIT K



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

12 MAR 2015

Ref: 15-F-0891
Navy# 2015-004272

Mr. Mattathias Schwartz
The New Yorker
c/o The New Yorker
1 World Trade Center
New York, NY 10007-2915

Dear Mr. Schwartz:

This is an interim response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of the Navy dated March 9, 2015, which was received in this office on March 12, 2015. Your request has been assigned case number 15-F-0891 and we ask that you use that number when referring to your request. A copy of your request is enclosed. As a news media category requestor, your request for a fee waiver is deemed moot.

Expedited processing may be granted when the requester demonstrates a compelling need for the information and shows that the information has a particular value that would be lost if not processed on an expedited basis. A key word here is "demonstrates." It is, therefore, incumbent upon you to demonstrate that the requested records will serve an urgency purpose, and that they also will be meaningful in the sense that they will provide for a greater understanding of actual or alleged federal government activity on the part of the public-at-large than that which existed before such information was disseminated. Consequently, it must be clearly demonstrated that such information has a particular value that will be lost if not disseminated quickly. After careful consideration of your request, this office finds that you have not clearly demonstrated how the information will lose its value if not processed on an expedited basis. For these reasons, your request for expedited processing is denied.

We will be unable to respond to your request within the FOIA's 20 day statutory time period as there are unusual circumstances which impact on our ability to quickly process your request. These unusual circumstances are: (a) the need to search for and collect records from a facility geographically separated from this Office; (b) the potential volume of records responsive to your request; and (c) the need for consultation with one or more other agencies or DoD components having a substantial interest in either the determination or the subject matter of the records. For these reasons, your request has been placed in our complex processing queue and will be worked in the order the request was received. Our current administrative workload is 1554 open requests.

The action officer assigned to your request is Charles Marye at (571) 372-0407. The toll free number for this Office is 866-574-4970. You may not be aware that we maintain a website and electronic reading room at: <http://www.dod.mil/pubs/foi/>.

If you are not satisfied with this action, you may petition the Appellate Authority, the Director of Administration, Office of the Secretary of Defense, by writing directly to the OSD/Joint Staff Freedom of Information, ATTN: Appeals Office, 1155 Defense Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20301-1155; you may also submit your appeal electronically at the following link: <http://pal.whs.mil/palMain.aspx>. Your appeal should be postmarked within 60 calendar days of the date of this mail, should cite case number 15-F-0891, and should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "for Charles C. Marye". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

M. L. Wahling
Acting Chief

Enclosure:
As stated