

March 23, 2015

Department of Defense Office of Inspector General
DoD IG FOIA Requester Service Center
ATTN: FOIA/PA Chief, Suite 17F18
4800 Mark Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22350-1500

Submitted electronically on 3/23/2015

To the responsible FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request access to and copies of the following information from the Department of Defense Office of Inspector General (hereinafter referred to as "DoD IG"):

- The full declassified version of Report 05-INTEL-03, "Requirements for the TRAILBLAZER and THINTHREAD Systems", dated December 15, 2004, as well as all internal NSA correspondence, and documentation supplied by the whistleblowers filing the complaint, that were examined or utilized by the DoD IG in preparing Report 05-INTEL-03 referenced above..
- The full declassified versions of any other DoD IG reports, audits or other memoranda relating to the THINTHREAD or TRAILBLAZER programs.
- The full declassified versions of any DoD IG reports, audits or other memoranda, including criminal referrals to the Department of Justice, relating to investigations of civil liberties or privacy rights violations by NSA personnel from September 12, 2001 to the date of this request under applicable federal law or executive orders, including the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (as amended), as well as Executive Order 12333 (as amended).

In order to help to determine my status to assess fees, you should know that I am a policy analyst and scholar at the Cato Institute, an IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational and public interest organization. As I am employed by an educational or noncommercial scientific institution, this request is made for a scholarly or scientific purpose and not for a commercial use. **I request a waiver of all fees for this request.** Disclosure of the requested information to me 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 my commercial interest. The NSA's conduct in this episode is of high public interest from a Constitutional and civil liberties perspective, particularly in light of the fact that the Congress must, before June 1, 2015, vote on whether to continue to authorize NSA surveillance activities that, according to the whistleblowers who filed the original complaint, employ technology and techniques derived from THINTHREAD and related programs, and that also, according to the same whistleblowers as well as multiple civil liberties and privacy organizations, have violated the Fourth Amendment rights of millions of American citizens.

Whenever possible, please provide the requested information in electronic format on either CD/DVD or other portable electronic storage device(s) such as "thumb drives".

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

I would appreciate your communicating with me by email or telephone, rather than by mail. My email address is peddington@cato.org and my direct line is 202-216-1440.

Please provide expedited processing of this request which concerns a matter of urgency.

As a civil liberties policy analyst, I am primarily engaged in disseminating information. The public has an urgent need for information about the NSA's conduct in this episode, which is of high public interest from a Constitutional and civil liberties perspective, particularly in light of the fact that the Congress must, before June 1, 2015, vote on whether to continue to authorize NSA surveillance activities that, according to the whistleblowers who filed the original complaint, employ technology and techniques derived from THINTHREAD and related programs, and that also, according to the same whistleblowers as well as multiple civil liberties and privacy organizations, have violated the Fourth Amendment rights of millions of American citizens. I certify that my statements concerning the need for expedited processing are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I look forward to your determination regarding my request for expedited processing within 10 calendar days, as the statute requires.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Patrick G. Eddington
Policy Analyst in Civil Liberties and Homeland Security
Cato Institute
1000 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20001-5403
202-216-1440 (direct)