

EXHIBIT I



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

SEP 07 2017

Ref: 17-F-1553

Ms. Allison Murphy
The Protect Democracy Project
2020 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
#163
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Ms. Murphy:

This is an interim response to your enclosed September 1, 2017, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, a copy of which is attached for your convenience. We received your request on September 5, 2017, and assigned it case number 17-F-1553. We ask that you use this number when referring to your request.

The purpose of the FOIA is to provide the public access to existing government records. We will not be able to process the fifth item of your request as the universe of records requested do not exist and will not exist until a period after your request was received, and those records will continue to accrue until the closing of your request. Therefore, we invite you to submit a new request for this information following the closure of this case, when the administrative record for this will constitute an established set of documents.

For items 1-4, although we have already begun processing your request, we will not be able to respond within the FOIA's 20-day statutory time period as there are unusual circumstances that impact our ability to quickly process your request. The FOIA defines unusual circumstances as (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. At least one, if not more, of these scenarios applies or would likely apply to your request. While this office handles FOIA requests for the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Joint Staff (JS), and other component offices, we do not actually hold their records and our office is not geographically located with these organizations. As we do not hold the records, until the required records searches are complete, we are unable to estimate the potential volume of records or the number of consultations that will be required to make a release determination.

Your request has been placed in our complex processing queue and is being worked based on the order in which the request was received. Our current administrative workload is approximately 2,252 open requests.

In your FOIA request, you ask for "a fee waiver." Decisions to waive or reduce fees are made on a case-by-case basis and we will make a determination concerning your fee waiver request at the conclusion of the search and assessment of responsive records, should they exist.

However, please know that this office will only assess fees if we provide the final response to your FOIA request within the statutory time allotted by the FOIA or the responsive records total more than 5,000 pages, even after a good faith effort on our part to limit the scope of your request.

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." Therefore, it is incumbent upon you to demonstrate that the requested records will serve an urgency purpose and that they will also be meaningful in the sense that they will provide 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 carefully considering 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 this reason, your request for expedited processing is denied.

In some instances, we have found that requesters who narrow the scope of their requests experience a reduction in the time needed to process their requests. If you have any questions or wish to discuss the reformulation of your request or an alternative time frame for the processing of your request, you may contact, Sean Porter, the Action Officer assigned to case number 17-F-1553 at sean.m.porter27.ctr@mail.mil or (571) 372-0421.

The OSD/JS FOIA Public Liaison, Jim Hogan, is available at 571-372-0462 or by email at OSD.FOIALiaison@mail.mil to answer any concerns about the foregoing.

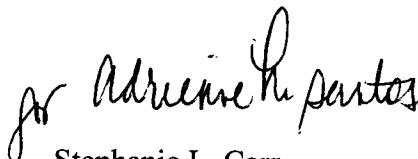
Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS
College Park, MD 20740
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Telephone: 202-741-5770
Fax: 202-741-5769
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

You have the right to appeal to the appellate authority, Ms. Joo Chung, Director of Oversight and Compliance, Office of the Secretary of Defense, by writing directly to ODCMO Directorate for Oversight and Compliance, 4800 Mark Center Drive, ATTN: DPCLTD, FOIA Appeals, Mailbox #24, Alexandria, VA 22350-1700. Your appeal must be postmarked within 90 calendar days of the date of this response. Alternatively, you may use the OSD FOIA request portal at <http://pal.whs.mil/palMain.aspx> or email your appeal to osd.foia-appeal@mail.mil. If

you use email, please include the words "FOIA Appeal" in the subject of the email. Please also reference case number 17-F-1553 in any appeal correspondence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "for Adrienne R. Santos". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Stephanie L. Carr
Chief

Enclosure:
As stated