

19 NOVEMBER 2015



NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
CENTRAL SECURITY SERVICE
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-6000

FOIA Case: 82872
17 November 2015

JOHN YOUNG
CRYPTOME.ORG
251 WEST 89TH STREET
NEW YORK NY 10024

Dear Mr. Young:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of 6 November 2015, which was received by this office on 6 November 2015, for "access to and protection of classified information by Edward Joseph Snowden as an employee of contractors for the National Security Agency, reportedly the Dell Corporation and Booz, Allen, Hamilton, and to include other of Mr. Snowden's work, if any, for the National Security Agency and its contractors, sub-contractors and consultants." Your letter has been assigned Case Number 82872. Please refer to this case number when contacting us about your request. For purposes of this request and based on the information you provided in your letter, you are considered an "all other" requester. There are no assessable fees for this request. Your request has been processed under the provisions of the FOIA.

Records pertaining to Mr. Snowden that this Agency maintains related to his security processing, employment status or activities, training records, or other activities, including those collected relating to the unauthorized disclosure of classified information, are exempt from release in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(1), 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(3), 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6), and 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(7).

The information pertaining to Mr. Snowden is withheld pursuant to the seventh exemption of the FOIA (5 U.S.C. Section 552(b)(7)), which protects from disclosure records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes. This includes information that, if released, could interfere with enforcement proceedings, could cause an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, could reveal the identities of confidential sources, or would reveal law enforcement techniques and procedures. All of the information maintained by this Agency relating to Mr. Snowden meets the threshold requirements for withholding

under exemption 7 of the FOIA and is withheld under (b)(7)(A), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(D), and (b)(7)(E) of the FOIA.

The sixth exemption of the FOIA (5 U.S.C. Section 552(b)(6)) protects from disclosure information which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. In balancing the public interest for the information you request against the privacy interests involved, we have determined that the privacy interests sufficiently satisfy the requirements for the application of the (b)(6) exemption.

In addition, this Agency is authorized by statute to protect certain information concerning its activities, as well as the names of its employees. Such information is exempt from disclosure pursuant to the third exemption of the FOIA (5 U.S.C. Section 552(b)(3)), which provides for the withholding of information specifically protected from disclosure by statute. The specific statute applicable in this case is Section 6, Public Law 86-36 (50 U.S. Code 3605). We have determined that such information exists in these records, and it has been withheld accordingly. Other statutes that apply are Title 18 U.S. Code 798 and Title 50 U.S. Code 3024(i).

Some of the withheld information was also found to be currently and properly classified in accordance with Executive Order 13526. This information meets the criteria for classification as set forth in Subparagraphs (b), (c), (d) and (g) of Section 1.4 and remains classified TOP SECRET, SECRET, and CONFIDENTIAL as provided in Section 1.2 of the Executive Order. The information is classified because its disclosure could reasonably be expected to cause exceptionally grave damage to the national security. Because the information is currently and properly classified, it is exempt from disclosure pursuant to the first exemption of the FOIA (5 U.S.C. Section 552(b)(1)).

You may appeal this decision. If you decide to appeal, you should do so in the manner outlined below.

- The appeal must be in writing and addressed to the:

NSA/CSS FOIA/PA Appeal Authority (DJ4),
National Security Agency
9800 Savage Road STE 6248
Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-6248

- It must be postmarked no later than 60 calendar days of the date of this letter.

- Please include the case number provided above.
- Please describe with sufficient detail why you believe the denial of requested information was unwarranted.
- NSA will endeavor to respond within 20 working days of receiving your appeal, absent any unusual circumstances.

NSA has commented publicly on some aspects of the media disclosures and has released one of Mr. Snowden's e-mails. You may be interested in reviewing the information that has been posted to the NSA.gov website, under Public Information, as well as information posted on the public websites of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence at ODNI.gov and IC on the Record (icontherecord.tumblr.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Chapman" followed by a flourish.

JOHN R. CHAPMAN
Chief, FOIA/PA Office
NSA Initial Denial Authority