



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL  
1600 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1600

January 31, 2014

Matthew Kownacki  
Judicial Watch

Via Email only to [m.kownacki@judicialwatch.org](mailto:m.kownacki@judicialwatch.org)

Re: Judicial Watch v. DoD, 13-cv-1343 (JDB)

Dear Mr. Kownacki,

Please find attached a final release in response to your June 7, 2013, FOIA request for “[a]ll records concerning, regarding, or relating to Admiral McRaven’s 2011 directive to purge USSOCOM systems of all records related to the operation leading to the death of Usama bin laden on or about May 1, 2011.”

The search conducted by SOCOM produced a single email from Admiral McRaven, the vast majority of which was not responsive to your request. The unmarked redactions on the attached are those non-responsive portions. The recipients of the email have been withheld under FOIA Exemption 3, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 130(b), which allows for the withholding of the names of personnel in overseas, sensitive, or routinely deployable units. The redaction within the responsive paragraph is pursuant to FOIA Exemption 1, to withhold information the unauthorized disclosure of which reasonably could be expected to cause serious damage to the national security, pursuant to Executive Order 13526, Sections 1.2(a)(2) (“secret” classification level); 1.4(a) (military operations).

As this matter is in litigation, your appellate rights are moot.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark H. Herrington".

Mark H. Herrington  
Associate Deputy General Counsel  
Office of Litigation Counsel

Encl: As stated.

cc: Michael Bekesha, Esq. ([mbekesha@judicialwatch.org](mailto:mbekesha@judicialwatch.org))  
Judicial Watch



[REDACTED]

---

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** McRaven, Bill H VADM  
**Sent:** Friday, May 13, 2011 5:09 PM  
**To:** (b) (3) (A) [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** (b) (3) (A) [REDACTED],

(b) (3) (A)

**Subject:** OPSEC Guidance / Neptune Spear

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET~~

CAVEATS: NONE

TERMS: NONE

**Gentlemen,**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**One particular item that I want to emphasize is photos; particularly UBLs remains. At this point - all photos should have been turned over to the CIA; if you still have them destroy them immediately or get them to the (b) (1) (A) .**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---



## Thanks, McRaven

DERIVED FROM: MANUAL 380-5  
DECLASSIFY ON: 25 YEARS FROM DATE OF SOURCE  
DATE OF SOURCE: 1 MAY 2006

CLASSIFICATION W/O ATCH: ~~SECRET~~  
CAVEATS W/O ATCH: NONE  
TERMS W/O ATCH: NONE

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET~~  
CAVEATS: NONE  
TERMS: NONE

DERIVED FROM: MANUAL 380-5  
DECLASSIFY ON: 25 YEARS FROM DATE OF SOURCE  
DATE OF SOURCE: 1 MAY 2006

CLASSIFICATION W/O ATCH: ~~SECRET~~  
CAVEATS W/O ATCH: NONE  
TERMS W/O ATCH: NONE

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET~~  
CAVEATS: NONE  
TERMS: NONE

Attachment Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Classification: ~~SECRET~~  
Caveats: NONE

Derived From: MANUAL 380-5

Declassify On: 25 YEARS FROM DATE OF SOURCE