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

FOIA Case: 76812A
13 January 2016

JOHN GREENEWALD

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This response is regarding your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of 22 February 2014, which was received by this office on 24 February 2014, for "a copy of all records pertaining to Operation Alert." As previously informed, your request has been assigned Case Number 76812. This letter indicates that we have begun to process your request. There is certain information relating to this processing about which the FOIA and applicable Department of Defense (DoD) and NSA/CSS regulations require we inform you.

For purposes of this request and based on the information you provided in your letter, you are considered an "all other" requester. You must pay for search time in excess of 2 hours and duplication in excess of 100 pages.

As you may recall, we attempted to contact you via email on 16 September 2015 (enclosed) in order to clarify the scope of this request. Since we did not hear back from you, we expended your 2 free hours of search and have found records. The search, however, has not been completed. We estimate that it will take an additional 3 hours to complete the search. Costs are computed in accordance with DoD Regulation 5400.7-R, which assesses \$44.00 per hour equaling a total of \$132.00. If you wish for us to continue the search related to your case, then we require you to pay half of the quoted amount or \$66.00.

The material that we have located thus far requires review prior to release. However, prior to initiating the review, we require that you provide us with an amount you are willing to pay for the cost of duplication in the event that all of the material is deemed releasable. In accordance with DoD Regulation 5400.7-R, duplication fees are assessed at \$.15 per page. We cannot estimate the number of releasable pages until our review is complete. Please be advised that agreeing to incur these fees for search and/or duplication will not necessarily result in the disclosure to you of the

information you seek. The records responsive to your request may be classified or otherwise exempt from release in accordance with the exemption provisions of the FOIA. The application of these exemptions to NSA information has been consistently approved by the Federal Judiciary.

Please remit to the FOIA office (see below for address) a check or money order made payable to the Treasurer of the United States in the amount of \$66.00. Please include the number assigned to your case on any correspondence to assure that your account is properly credited. Upon receipt of payment, we will continue the search related to your case. Payment of fees for your request should be sent to National Security Agency, FOIA Office (DJ4), 9800 Savage Road STE 6248, Ft. George G. Meade, MD 20755-6248. Should you have any questions, the telephone number of the FOIA office is 301-688-6527.

If within 30 days from the date of this letter, we do not hear back from you regarding payment for additional search and regarding your willingness to pay for duplication fees, we will continue to process your case as is. This means that we will only process the first 100 pages of material located thus far. This material, however, requires review prior to release. Since your request is not a simple request, it will be placed in the first-in, first-out processing backlog queue. We appreciate your patience with our efforts to treat all requesters fairly by responding to each on a "first-in, first-out" basis.

Sincerely,

CS Blocher for

JOHN R. CHAPMAN
Chief
FOIA/PA Office

Encl:
a/s

[REDACTED]

From: foiarsc, foiarsc
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 6:29 AM
To: 'john@greenewald.com'
Cc: foiarsc, foiarsc
Subject: RE: FOIA Request/Clarify

Hello Mr. Greenwald,

This email pertains to the processing of your FOIA request related to "Operation Alert," copied below. As you may recall, your request was assigned Case No. 76812.

We have begun our search for records. You note that the "operation" was instituted in 1954. We have found in many instances that some of our older records require more elaborate, time consuming searching. In order to ensure that your two-hours is spent as efficiently as possible, we request that you specify a time period in which you are interested.

Look forward to hearing back,

Cindy B
NSA/CSS FOIA Requester Service Center
(301)688-6527

-----Original Message-----

From: donotreply@nsa.gov [<mailto:donotreply@nsa.gov>]
Sent: Saturday, February 22, 2014 11:02 AM
To: donotreply@nsa.gov
Cc: john@greenewald.com
Subject: FOIA Request (Web form submission)

Name: John Greenewald

Email: john@greenewald.com

Company: The Black Vault

Records Requested: To whom it may concern,

This is a non-commercial request made under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 5 U.S.C. 5 552. My FOIA requester status as a "representative of the news media" however due to your agency's denial of this status, I hereby submit this request as an "All other" requester.

I prefer electronic delivery of the requested material either via email to john@greenewald.com or via CD-ROM or DVD via postal mail. Please contact me should this FOIA request should incur a charge.

I respectfully request a copy of all records pertaining to Operation Alert.

In 1954, the United States Federal Civil Defense Agency instituted an exercise called Operation Alert. It was a civil defense drill that took place on the same day in scores of major cities. Citizens in what were called the "target" areas were required to take cover for fifteen minutes. At the same time civil defense officials tested their readiness and their communications systems, and federal officials practiced evacuating from the capital. Even

President Eisenhower left the White House for a tent city outside Washington. The following day newspapers routinely published reports of the fictitious attacks naming the number of bombs that were dropped in the mock alerts, the number of cities hit, and the number of casualties.

Please include all records that may pertain to this request, including, but not limited to, memos, letters, inter-agency communications, reports, electronic files, photos, etc.

Thank you so much for your time, and I am very much looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,

John Greenewald, Jr.

[REDACTED]