



## Media Leaks Foia Guidance

All documents are provided in PDF format.

1. NSA Email: Final Draft - FOIA Response to Individuals
  2. NSA Email: RE GLOMAR Letters
  3. NSA Email: FW GLOMAR Letters
  4. NSA Email: Language for Requests for Metadata/Call Detail Records
  5. NSA Email: More Discussion
  6. NSA Email: FOIAs for PRISM Information
  7. NSA Email: Media Leaks Strategic Guidance Needed on Engaging FOIA Requesters
-

**Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV**

**From:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2013 2:52 PM  
**To:** [redacted] NSA-DJ USA CIV, Blaskowski Paul J NSA-DJ4 USA CIV, [redacted]  
 [redacted] NSA-DJ2 USA CIV, [redacted] NSA-F32 USA CIV, [redacted]  
 NSA-DJ2 USA CIV, [redacted] NSA-DJ USA CIV, [redacted] NSA-D28 USA CIV,  
 Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV, [redacted] USA CIV, Sherman  
 David J Dr NSA-DJ USA CIV, [redacted] USA CIV, [redacted]  
 NSA-D28 USA CIV, [redacted] NSA-DJ USA CIV  
**Subject:** (U) Final Draft - FOIA Response to Individuals  
**Attachments:** [redacted]  
**Signed By:** pnpPhill@nsa.ic.gov

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

All,  
 (U//~~FOUO~~) Attached is the final version of the draft response that the FOIA Office will begin sending to requesters tomorrow. OGC [redacted] has approved this version with only a couple of minor changes from the prior version. I will also be forwarding this to ODNI and OSD FOIA this afternoon to make them aware and let them know that we will begin responding with this tomorrow. Thanks for your reviews and assistance so that we can begin to work down the volume of requests we've received over the past week and a half.  
 Pamela

(U)  
 Pamela N. Phillips  
 Chief, DJ4  
 Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Office  
 Ops2A1118, Suite 6248  
 966-4071s [redacted] (U)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

Approved for Release  
 by NSA on  
 05-02-2014, FOIA  
 Case # 75752



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

FOIA Case: 12345

Mr. John Smith  
123 Main Street  
Anytown, USA

Dear Mr. Smith :

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request submitted via the Internet on 10 June 2013, which was received by this office on 11 June 2013 for all records on you. Your letter has been assigned Case Number 12345. 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.

You may be aware that one of the NSA/CSS missions is to collect, process, and disseminate communications or signals intelligence information for intelligence and counter intelligence purposes and to support military operations. NSA is authorized to engage in these activities in order to prevent and protect against terrorist attacks, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, intelligence activities directed against the United States, international criminal drug activities, and other hostile activities directed against the United States. The roles and responsibilities that NSA exercises are delineated in Executive Order 12333, as amended.

As you may be also be aware, there has been considerable speculation about two NSA intelligence programs in the press/media. Under Sec 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act, as authorized by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court ("FISC"), NSA may acquire telephone metadata, such as the telephone numbers dialed and length of calls, but not the content of call or the names of the communicants. Under Sec. 702 of the FISA Amendments Act, NSA may acquire the communication of non-U.S. persons located abroad for foreign intelligence purposes such as counterterrorism and counterproliferation. This program is also authorized by the FISC. Under the FISC-authorized Sec. 215 authority, NSA cannot review any metadata unless strict requirements are met, i.e., the data may be queried only when there is a reasonable suspicion, based

on specific facts, that a phone number is associated with a foreign terrorist organization. Likewise, under Sec. 702, there are strict controls established by the FISC to ensure that there is no targeting of any U.S. person's communications and FISC-approved minimizations procedures to ensure the protection of any information concerning U.S. persons that may have been incidentally acquired.

Although these two programs have been publicly acknowledged, details about them remain classified and/or protected from release by statutes to prevent harm to the national security of the United States. To the extent that your request seeks any metadata/call detail records on you and/or any telephone numbers provided in your request, or seeks intelligence information on you, we cannot acknowledge the existence or non-existence of such metadata or call detail records pertaining to the telephone numbers you provided or based on your name. Any positive or negative response on a request-by-request basis would allow our adversaries to accumulate information and draw conclusions about NSA's technical capabilities, sources, and methods. Our adversaries are likely to evaluate all public responses related to these programs. Were we to provide positive or negative responses to requests such as yours, our adversaries' compilation of the information provided would reasonably be expected to cause exceptionally grave damage to the national security.

Therefore, your request is denied because fact of the existence or non-existence of responsive records is a currently and properly classified matter in accordance with Executive Order 13526, as set forth in Subparagraph (c) of Section 1.4. Thus, your request is denied pursuant to the first exemption of the FOIA, which provides that the FOIA does not apply to matters that are specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive Order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign relations and are properly classified pursuant to such Executive Order.

Moreover, the third exemption of the FOIA provides for the withholding of information specifically protected from disclosure by statute. Thus, your request is also denied because the fact of the existence or non-existence of the information is exempted from disclosure pursuant to the third exemption. The specific statutes applicable in this case are: Title 18 U.S. Code 798; Title 50 U.S. Code 3024(i) (formerly Title 50 U.S. Code 403-1(i)); and Section 6, Public Law 86-36 (50 U.S. Code 3605, formerly 50 U.S. Code 402 note).

The Initial Denial Authority for NSA information is the Associate Director for Policy and Records, David J. Sherman. As your request is being denied, you are hereby advised of this Agency's appeal procedures. Any person denied access to information may file an appeal to the NSA/CSS Freedom of

Information Act Appeal Authority. The appeal must be postmarked no later than 60 calendar days of the date of the initial denial letter. The appeal shall be in writing addressed to the NSA/CSS FOIA Appeal Authority (DJ4), National Security Agency, 9800 Savage Road STE 6248, Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-6248. The appeal shall reference the adverse determination and shall contain, in sufficient detail and particularity, the grounds upon which the requester believes that the determination is unwarranted. The NSA/CSS FOIA Appeal Authority will endeavor to respond to the appeal within 20 working days after receipt, absent any unusual circumstances.

If we have misinterpreted your request and you have been affiliated with the NSA in some way as an employee, applicant, or visitor and are looking for records related to those activities, you may submit a signed Privacy Act request to seek that type of information. If you provide a Social Security number, it will assist us with the search for responsive records. The authorities for collecting this information and the use of the requested information is set forth in the Privacy Act Statement provided below.

Sincerely,

PAMELA N. PHILLIPS  
Chief  
FOIA/PA Office

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT: Authority for collecting information requested is contained in 5 U.S.C. § 552a and 5 U.S.C. § 552. NSA's Blanket Routine Uses found at 58 Fed. Reg. 10,531 (1993) as well as the specific uses found in GNSA02, GNSA03, and GNSA10 apply to this information. Authority for requesting your Social Security Number (SSN) is Executive Order 9397. The requested information will be used to assist the Agency in locating and disseminating the applicable records to the requestor. The disclosure of the requested information, to include your SSN, is voluntary. However, failure to provide the requested information may delay the processing of your request.

**Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV**

**From:** [redacted] NSA-D28 USA CIV  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 27, 2013 6 57 AM  
**To:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Subject:** RE (U) Glomar letters  
**Signed By:** [redacted]@nsa.ic.gov

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

Pamela,

A third version is okay—this process is definitely an evolving one, and given the push to declassify a bunch of stuff, we may end up tweaking these letters (i.e., directing them to places for unclassified talking points, enclosing unclassified points, etc.).



Attorney  
Litigation Practice Group  
Office of General Counsel  
D28, Rm 2B6106, OPS2B, Suite 6278  
Secure: 963-2374/5047  
Outside: [redacted]

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

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**From:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 26, 2013 3:40 PM  
**To:** [redacted] NSA-D28 USA CIV  
**Subject:** RE: (U) Glomar letters

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

(U//~~FOUO~~) OK – I see – it doesn't really change what we said, but is a bit smoother. The real question is whether we want yet a third version going out, or do we care and just say it's an evolving thing?

(U)  
*Pamela N. Phillips*  
Chief, DJ4  
Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Office  
Ops2A1118, Suite 6248  
966-4071s [redacted] (U)

---

**From:** [redacted] NSA-D28 USA CIV  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 26, 2013 3:38 PM  
**To:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Subject:** FW: (U) Glomar letters

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

Approved for Release  
by NSA on 05-02-2014,  
FOIA Case # 75752

Pamela,

Here you go. [redacted]

[redacted]  
Attorney  
Litigation Practice Group  
Office of General Counsel  
D28, Rm 2B6106, OPS2B, Suite 6278  
Secure: 963-2374/5047  
Outside: [redacted]

ATTORNEY CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE. The information contained in this email and any accompanying attachments constitutes attorney work product and/or client advice, which are legally privileged.

---

**From:** Reynolds Patrick J NSA-D2 USA CIV  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 26, 2013 2:22 PM  
**To:** [redacted] NSA-D2 USA CIV; [redacted] NSA-D28 USA CIV  
**Cc:** De Rajesh NSA-D2 USA CIV  
**Subject:** FW: (U) Glomar letters

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

[redacted]  
Sorry, a bit more tinkering on this. Let's discuss.

[redacted]  
Principal Deputy General Counsel

---

**From:** [redacted] NSA-D2 USA CIV  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 26, 2013 10:05 AM  
**To:** [redacted] NSA-D28 USA CIV  
**Subject:** FW: (U) Glomar letters

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[redacted]  
I did review this letter, [redacted]

(b) (5)  
(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

Please see the suggestions for more precision; we can discuss whether all of these changes should be made in light of the fact we have already sent the letter to some requesters, but I think at least some of these will need to be made.

[redacted]  
Principal Deputy General Counsel

---

**From:** [redacted] NSA-D28 USA CIV  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 26, 2013 7:46 AM

To: [redacted] NSA-D2 USA CIV

Subject: (U) Glomar letters

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

(b) (5)  
(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

[redacted]

You approved the attached Glomar letter, but wanted to make sure that it does not need to be tweaked [redacted]

[redacted] We've already sent this Glomar letter to approx. 300 requesters so far. I don't think any changes are necessary, but would welcome your input.

Thanks.

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

[redacted]

[redacted]

Attorney  
Litigation Practice Group  
Office of General Counsel  
D28, Rm 2B6106, OPS2B, Suite 6278  
Secure: 963-2374/5047  
Outside: [redacted]

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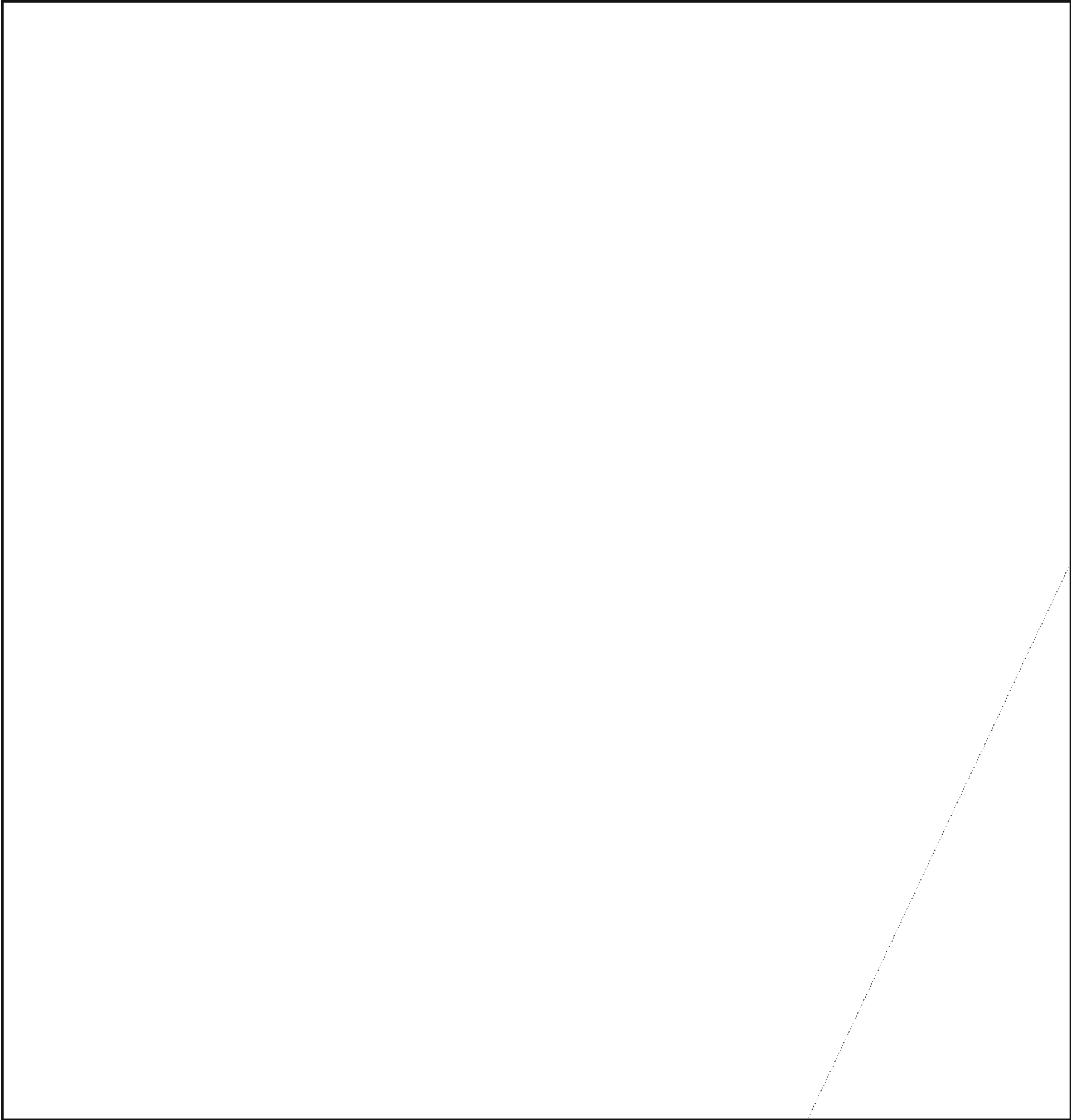
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

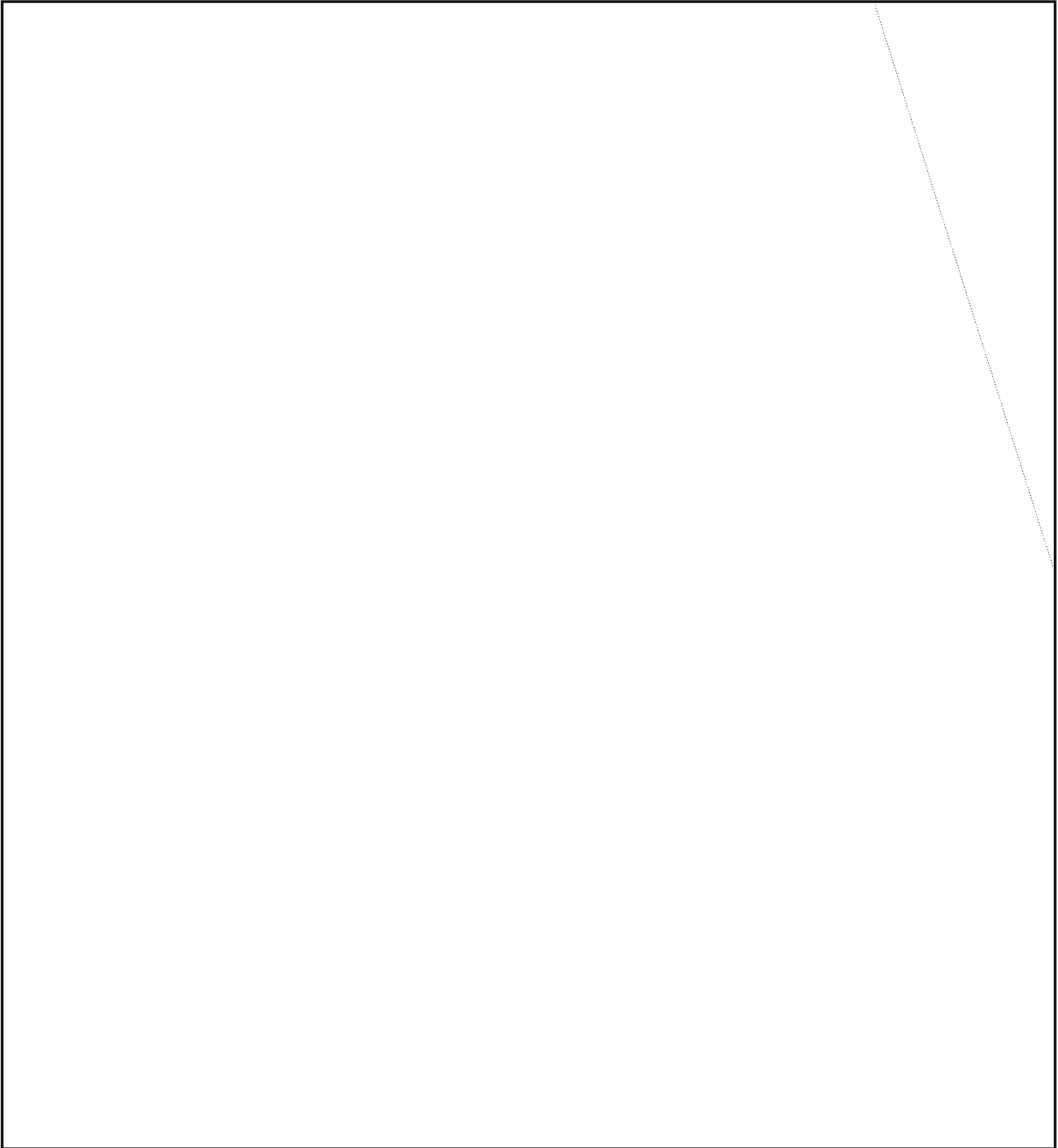
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

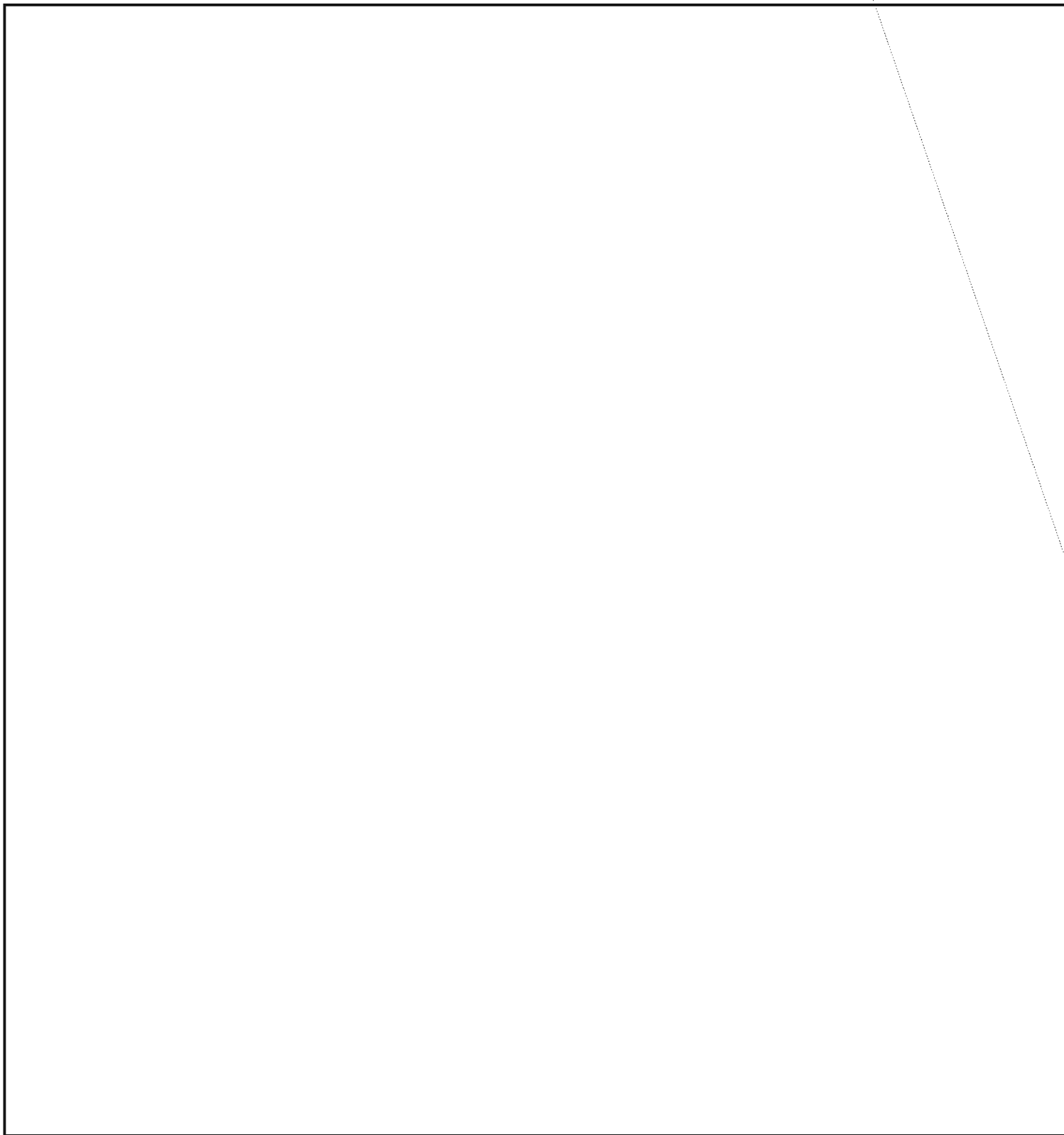
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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~









**Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV**

**From:** [redacted] NSA-D28 USA CIV  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 26, 2013 10 09 AM  
**To:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Subject:** FW (U) Glomar letters  
**Attachments:** [redacted]  
**Signed By:** [redacted]@nsa ic gov

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

Pamela,

Here are [redacted] recommended changes.

[redacted]

Attorney  
Litigation Practice Group  
Office of General Counsel  
D28, Rm 2B6106, OPS2B, Suite 6278  
Secure: 963-2374/5047  
Outside [redacted]

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

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**From:** [redacted] NSA-D2 USA CIV  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 26, 2013 10:05 AM  
**To:** [redacted] NSA-D28 USA CIV  
**Subject:** FW: (U) Glomar letters

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

[redacted]

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

I did review this letter [redacted]

Please see the suggestions for more precision; we can discuss whether all of these changes should be made in light of the fact we have already sent the letter to some requesters, but I think at least some of these will need to be made.

[redacted]

Principal Deputy General Counsel

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

**From:** [redacted] NSA-D28 USA CIV  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 26, 2013 7:46 AM  
**To:** [redacted] NSA-D2 USA CIV  
**Subject:** (U) Glomar letters

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

Approved for Release by  
NSA on 05-02-2014, FOIA  
Case # 75752

[Redacted]

You approved the attached Glomar letter, but wanted to make sure that it does not need to be tweaked [Redacted]

[Redacted]

We've already sent this

Glomar letter to approx. 300 requesters so far. I don't think any changes are necessary, but would welcome your input.

Thanks.

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

[Redacted]

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

[Redacted]

Attorney  
Litigation Practice Group  
Office of General Counsel  
D28, Rm 2B6106, OPS2B, Suite 6278  
Secure: 963-2374/5047  
Outside [Redacted]

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)



**Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV**

**From:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Sent:** Monday, June 17, 2013 8:50 AM  
**To:** Sherman David J Dr NSA-DJ USA CIV  
**Cc:** Blaskowski Paul J NSA-DJ4 USA CIV; [redacted] NSA-D28 USA CIV; [redacted] NSA-DJ2 USA CIV; [redacted] NSA-DJ USA CIV, Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Subject:** RE (U) language for requests for metadata/call detail records  
**Signed By:** pnphill@nsa ic gov

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

Dave,

(U//FOUO) I like your suggested changes below. What do we need to do to have this officially blessed so that I can provide this to my folks to start responding to the requests?

(U//FOUO) And is there any further decision yet on an Unclassified Fact Sheet that can be provided to FOIA requesters (I know there are several out there for talking points, Congress, etc , but I don't know that approval has been given to proactively provide any to anyone else yet). Thanks.

Pamela \

(U)  
 Pamela N. Phillips  
 Chief, DJ4  
 Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Office  
 Ops2A1118, Suite 6248  
 966-4071s [redacted] (U)

**From:** Sherman David J Dr NSA-DJ USA CIV  
**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2013 6:10 PM  
**To:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Cc:** Blaskowski Paul J NSA-DJ4 USA CIV; [redacted] NSA-D28 USA CIV; [redacted] NSA-DJ2 USA CIV; [redacted] NSA-DJ2 USA CIV; [redacted] NSA-DJ USA CIV; [redacted] NSA-DJ USA CIV  
**Subject:** RE: (U) language for requests for metadata/call detail records

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

(U//FOUO) I personally believe the information contained below is unclassified I have a few suggestions on the wording which we can discuss. Dave

David J. Sherman  
 Associate Director for Policy and Records  
 National Security Agency  
 Room 2A0858  
 djsherm@nsa.ic.gov  
 969-2850 (secure)  
 [redacted] (commercial)

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

**From:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2013 4:28 PM  
**To:** Sherman David J Dr NSA-DJ USA CIV  
**Cc:** Blaskowski Paul J NSA-DJ4 USA CIV; Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV; [redacted] NSA-D28 USA CIV; [redacted]

Approved for Release by  
 NSA on 05-02-2014, FOIA  
 Case # 75752

[redacted] NSA-DJ2 USA CIV; [redacted] NSA-DJ2 USA CIV; [redacted] NSA-DJ USA CIV; [redacted] NSA-DJ USA CIV

**Subject:** FW: (U) language for requests for metadata/call detail records  
**Importance:** High

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

Dave and team,

(U//FOUO) [redacted] has pieced together some language on the recent press coverage that would allow us to make a reasonable response to individuals who are seeking information on themselves (either broadly stated as "all records on me," or more narrowly focused to information regarding their phone number, metadata, or phone calls). It still ends up being a GLOMAR response, but more focused on the programs at hand [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] It is consistent with how we've always treated requests from US persons for NSA information (other than Privacy Act information).

(U//FOUO) I have made a couple of changes to keep our response in line with how we typically respond to FOIAs (in blue) and have included the exemption language for your review. I am not sure who has final authority to approve our use of this response, but we need to begin responding to these individual requests due to the volume that continues to come in (we have close to 300 requests from individuals that we haven't begun to process yet).

(U//FOUO) Please let us know your thoughts as to the language in the letter to be sure that a) it is UNCLASSIFIED, and b) it is consistent with other messages being put out there. Our preference would also be to include an UNCLASSIFIED fact sheet with our responses once that is approved and finalized. But if that's not ready, and the letter is OKed, we'll just go with this.

Pamela

(U)  
Pamela N. Phillips  
Chief, DJ4  
Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Office  
Ops2A1118, Suite 6248  
966-4071s [redacted] (U)

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

**From:** [redacted] NSA-D28 USA CIV  
**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2013 2:59 PM  
**To:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Subject:** (U) language for requests for metadata/call detail records

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

Pamela,

Here are my thoughts on a response for telephony metadata, call detail records, etc.:

Dear Requester:

This responds to your FOIA request of DATE for all records on you (or whatever the requester stated regarding intercept or phone number or metadata).

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

[This is our current language, and we may want to still include it up front... ]

[redacted]

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

Therefore, your request is denied because fact of the existence or non-existence of responsive records is a currently and properly classified matter in accordance with Executive Order 13526, as set forth in Subparagraph (c) of Section 1.4. Thus, your request is denied pursuant to the first exemption of the FOIA, which provides that the FOIA does not apply to matters that are specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive Order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign relations and are properly classified pursuant to such Executive Order.

Moreover, the third exemption of the FOIA provides for the withholding of information specifically protected from disclosure by statute. Thus, your request is also denied because the fact of the existence or non-existence of the information is exempted from disclosure pursuant to the third exemption. The specific statutes applicable in this case are: Title 18 U.S. Code 798; Title 50 U.S. Code 3024(i) (formerly Title 50 U.S. Code 403-1(i)); and Section 6, Public Law 86-36 (50 U.S. Code 3605, formerly 50 U.S. Code 402 note).


[Appeal paragraph here]

If we have misinterpreted your request and you have been affiliated with the NSA in some way as an employee, applicant, or visitor and are looking for records related to those activities, you may submit a signed Privacy Act request to seek that type of information. If you provide a Social Security number, it will assist us with the search for responsive records.

This is preliminary given that no declassification determinations have been made.



(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

Attorney  
Litigation Practice Group  
Office of General Counsel  
D28, Rm 2B6106, OPS2B, Suite 6278  
Secure: 963-2374/5047  
Outside: 

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

**Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV**

**From:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2013 2:20 PM  
**To:** Blacker Cindy S NSA-DJ41 USA CIV  
**Cc:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV, Blaskowski Paul J NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Subject:** (U) More Discussion  
**Signed By:** pnphill@nsa.ic.gov

Classification: ~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, FVEY~~

Cindy,

(U//FOUO) Here's more that I just sent to Dave in response to another query from him regarding some of the possible unclassified facts that are under consideration.

Pamela

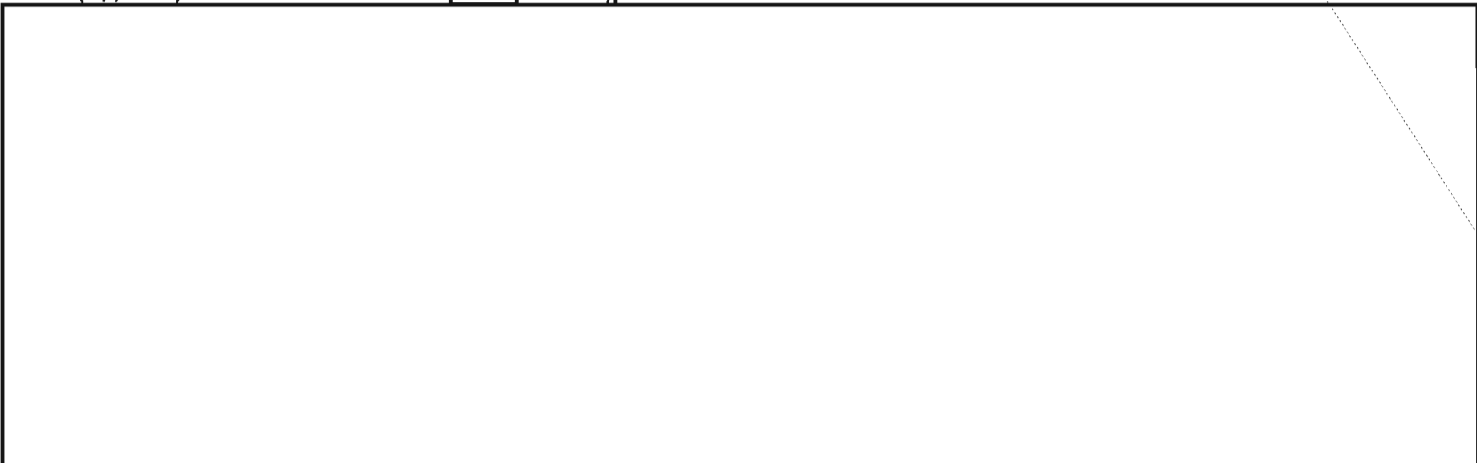
(b) (1)  
(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

Dave,

(U) This will probably give you more reading material than you want – not all directly related to the classification/declassification decisions.

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

(C//REL) I discussed this with [redacted] in OGC, [redacted]



(U//FOUO) The FOIA implications for current new requests will have to do with how we respond. If certain details are declassified, then requests for that information may result in us not being able to do an full denial of information. This could be a significant impact for organizations that perform these activities, as they may be required to search for and produce responsive documents (time consuming), and DJ4 would be required to review all of those records (and likely involve the operations organizations in the review, depending on how well-defined the classification/declassification statements are). But none of that is a reason not to make the declassification decisions. It's just good for us to be aware of the potential impact, and also think through what additional requests and questions may come in because of the statements that will be put out there (and being prepared to respond to them).

(U//FOUO) Having a paper or sheet of unclassified facts that could be provided to the public may make it easier to respond, because we could provide that with initial responses, and then either indicate that all other

details are still classified (or have to be reviewed). It may buy more time for processing if the requesters get something up front.

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

(U//FOUO)

[Redacted]

(U//FOUO) Currently we have 2 requests

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Not sure yet how we'll want

to move forward with these.

(U)  
Pamela N. Phillips  
Chief, DJ4  
Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Office  
Ops2A1118, Suite 6248  
966-4071s [Redacted]

(U)

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

Classified By: 273774  
Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52  
Dated: 20070108  
Declassify On: 20380601

Classification: ~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, FVEY~~

**Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV**

**From:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Sent:** Friday, August 02, 2013 9 25 AM  
**To:** Blacker Cindy S NSA-DJ41 USA CIV, [redacted] NSA-DJ41 USA CIV, [redacted] NSA-DJ41 USA CIV, [redacted] NSA-DJ41 USA CIV, [redacted] NSA-DJ41 USA CIV  
**Cc:** Blaskowski Paul J NSA-DJ4 USA CIV, Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Subject:** (U) FOIAs for PRISM Information  
**Signed By:** pnphill@nsa ic gov

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

(b) (5)

FACO,

(U//FOUO) Here is the full email string regarding the requests for PRISM information so you understand the background. [redacted]

(U//FOUO) Paul is going to pull together any releasable UNCLASSIFIED documents that were created that mention PRISM that we will provide to all these requesters [redacted]

(U//FOUO) For those that requested PRISM and the BR Secondary Order, we will get the BR Order stamped and sealed as well.

(U//FOUO) Please let me know if there are any other outstanding issues on your PRISM requests that I need to address to help you.

Pamela

(U)  
Pamela N. Phillips  
Chief, DJ4  
Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Office  
Ops2A1118, Suite 6248  
966-4071s [redacted] (U)

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

**From:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Sent:** Friday, August 02, 2013 9:14 AM  
**To:** [redacted] USA CIV  
**Cc:** [redacted] USA CIV, [redacted] USA CIV  
**Subject:** RE: (U) ACTION -- FOIAs for PRISM Information - [redacted]

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

(U) Thank you!

(U)  
Pamela N. Phillips  
Chief, DJ4  
Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Office

Approved for Release by NSA on  
05-02-2014, FOIA Case # 75752

Ops2A1118, Suite 6248

966-4071s [redacted] (U)

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

**From:** [redacted] USA CIV  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 01, 2013 5:22 PM  
**To:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Cc:** [redacted] USA CIV; [redacted] USA CIV  
**Subject:** FW: (U) ACTION -- FOIAs for PRISM Information -- [redacted]

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Pamela,

(U//FOUO) [redacted]

Thanks,  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted] USA CIV  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 01, 2013 5:13 PM  
**To:** [redacted] USA CIV  
**Cc:** [redacted] USA CIV  
**Subject:** FW: (U) ACTION -- FOIAs for PRISM Information -- [redacted]

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Remember the question Pamela Phillips asked us about regarding PRISM-related FOIA requests, where she was looking to see if SID [redacted]

All of the background is included, too, in case you want to refresh your memory.

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

(U//FOUO) [redacted]

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

**From:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 01, 2013 5:08 PM  
**To:** [redacted] USA CIV  
**Cc:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Subject:** RE: (U) ACTION -- FOIAs for PRISM Information -- [redacted]

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~



(U//FOUO)

[Redacted]

Email is fine!

Pamela

(U)

Pamela N. Phillips  
Chief, DJ4  
Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Office  
Ops2A1118, Suite 6248  
966-4071s [Redacted]

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

**From:** [Redacted] USA CIV  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 01, 2013 5:06 PM  
**To:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Subject:** RE: (U) ACTION -- FOIAs for PRISM Information -- [Redacted]

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Will an e-mail from him be good?

(U//FOUO)

[Redacted]

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

**From:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 01, 2013 5:02 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] USA CIV; Blaskowski Paul J NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Cc:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Subject:** RE: (U) ACTION -- FOIAs for PRISM Information -- [Redacted]

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

[Redacted]

(U//FOUO) Looks great.

[Redacted]

I'm guessing you

have also been very busy again this week.

Pamela

(U)

Pamela N. Phillips  
Chief, DJ4  
Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Office  
Ops2A1118, Suite 6248  
966-4071s [Redacted]

(U)

**From:** [redacted] USA CIV  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 01, 2013 4:58 PM  
**To:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV; Blaskowski Paul J NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Cc:** [redacted] USA CIV  
**Subject:** FW: (U) ACTION -- FOIAs for PRISM Information - [redacted]

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

How's this?

~~(U//FOUO)~~

[redacted]

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

**From:** [redacted] USA CIV  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 01, 2013 4:03 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]

**Subject:** RE: (U) ACTION -- FOIAs for PRISM Information - [redacted]

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

Thanks [redacted]

[redacted] sorry for the delay. We had numerous DIRNSA taskers today, which had us distracted. I'm just catching up now.

Here's what we have.

~~(TS//SI//NF)~~ [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36  
(b) (3)-50 USC 3024(i)  
(b) (3)-18 USC 798  
(b) (5)

~~(U//FOUO)~~

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted] USA CIV

**Sent:** Thursday, August 01, 2013 10:17

**To:** [Redacted] USA CIV

**Cc:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** RE: (U) ACTION -- FOIAs for PRISM Information -- [Redacted]

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (1)  
(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

Attorney  
Office of General Counsel - Operations  
963-3121

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

**From:** [Redacted] USA CIV

**Sent:** Thursday, August 01, 2013 10:05 AM

**To:** [Redacted] USA CIV

**Cc:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** RE: (U) ACTION -- FOIAs for PRISM Information [Redacted]

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

H [Redacted]

[Redacted]

I'll try to get you something in a little while.

~~(U//FOUO)~~  
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

**From:** [Redacted] USA CIV

**Sent:** Thursday, August 01, 2013 08:00

**To:** [Redacted] USA CIV

**Cc:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** RE: (U) ACTION -- FOIAs for PRISM Information -- [Redacted]

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

[Redacted]

Just checking back [Redacted] any progress?

[Redacted]

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

~~(U//FOUO)~~

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted] USA CIV

**Sent:** Monday, July 29, 2013 1:38 PM

**To:** [Redacted] USA CIV

**Cc:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** RE: (U) ACTION -- FOIAs for PRISM Information -- [Redacted]

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Ok, thanks.

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

We'll get something to you tomorrow or Wednesday.

[Redacted]

~~(U//FOUO)~~

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted] USA CIV

**Sent:** Monday, July 29, 2013 13:37

**To:** [Redacted] USA CIV

Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: RE: (U) ACTION -- FOIAs for PRISM Information - [Redacted]

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

~~(U//FOUO)~~

[Redacted]

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

From: [Redacted] USA CIV

Sent: Monday, July 29, 2013 1:34 PM

To: [Redacted] USA CIV

Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: RE: (U) ACTION -- FOIAs for PRISM Information - [Redacted]

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

~~(U//FOUO)~~

[Redacted]

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

From: [Redacted] USA CIV

Sent: Monday, July 29, 2013 13:32

To: [Redacted] USA CIV

Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: FW: (U) ACTION -- FOIAs for PRISM Information - [Redacted]

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

[Redacted]

Please see below from Pamela Phillips, FOIA chief.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(U//FOUO)

[Redacted]

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

**From:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV

**Sent:** Monday, July 29, 2013 1:23 PM

**To:** [Redacted] USA CIV; Blaskowski Paul J NSA-DJ4 USA CIV

**Cc:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV

**Subject:** RE: (U) ACTION -- FOIAs for PRISM Information - [Redacted]

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

[Redacted]

(U//FOUO)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Pamela

(U)

*Pamela N. Phillips*

Chief, DJ4

Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Office

Ops2A1118, Suite 6248

966-4071s

[Redacted]

(U)

**From:** [Redacted] USA CIV

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

**Sent:** Sunday, July 28, 2013 8:58 AM

**To:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV; Blaskowski Paul J NSA-DJ4 USA CIV

**Cc:** [Redacted] USA CIV

**Subject:** FW: (U) ACTION -- FOIAs for PRISM Information -- [Redacted]

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Does this give you what you need? [redacted]

[redacted] which I can do if you need me to). If not, please let me know what else you may need.

(U//FOUO)

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

**From:** [redacted] USA CIV

**Sent:** Thursday, July 25, 2013 6:00 PM

**To:** [redacted] USA CIV; [redacted] USA CIV

**Cc:** [redacted]

**Subject:** RE: (U) ACTION -- FOIAs for PRISM Information - [redacted]

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Hi [redacted]

Please let us know if you need anything further [redacted]

(U//FOUO)

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

**From:** [redacted] USA CIV

**Sent:** Thursday, July 11, 2013 17:20

**To:** [redacted] USA CIV

**Cc:** [redacted]

**Subject:** (U) ACTION -- FOIAs for PRISM Information - [redacted]

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

[Redacted]

Note - This is NOT a request for anyone to search for records that are responsive to any FOIA request!

As we discussed on the phone, there have been numerous FOIA requests for PRISM-related material since the leaks began. The FOIA office has been working with requesters to narrow the requests as much as possible; however, for some, there's just no way to narrow the scope. We are required to respond with anything that is either unclassified or segregable. For FOIA purposes, segregable info is info that appears in a document and that is not classified, but would be responsive/meaningful to the requester (in other words, a paragraph or sentence in some document that would be meaningfully segregable and tell the requester something about what he's asking). Under FOIA, we can withhold from release info that is either classified or FOUO. The issue at hand is whether there would be any PRISM-related material - other than the talking points that have been created/used over the last month or so - that is unclassified. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

You'll see below the discussion that Pamela Phillips, the chief of the FOIA office, and I have been having over the past week or so about this. She explains beautifully the issue, some history, as well as the options we have. She also included a synopsis of some of the requests. It's important to note that the Talking Points that have been created for the DNI, DIR, DDIR, etc., to use in unclassified settings may be responsive and will be provided to requesters if that is the case. Those are separate from NSA's classified/FOUO records.

[Redacted]

Please don't hesitate to call me if you have questions, although I will be on vacation from 13-23 July. I'm asking that you get back to me with your thoughts by 26 July. I'll be here tomorrow (Friday), so you can reach me then if you need to.

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

Thanks very much for helping with this.

[Redacted]

~~(U//FOUO)~~

[Redacted]

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

**From:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 09, 2013 4:56 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] USA CIV



Cc: Blaskowski Paul J NSA-DJ4 USA CIV; Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV

Subject: RE: (U) FOIAs for PRISM Information

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

(b) (5)

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

(U//FOUO) Based on our conversation this morning, I believe the next step is for SID to task the appropriate

We know that there have been some unclassified statements made in testimony and talking point regarding 702 collection. To the extent we have those statements and/or talking points, that will be releasable.

(U//FOUO)

they should be provided to DJ4 for review We would add those to any unclassified statements and talking points for consideration for release.

(U//FOUO)

(U//FOUO)

Let me know if you need additional information from me. I do not profess to be knowledgeable about the program, so it is hard for me to define where the limits should be on these requests and know what the specific implications are of each request for SID. I am happy to keep working with SID to make this doable and defensible.

Pamela

(U)

Pamela N. Phillips

Chief, DJ4

Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Office

Ops2A1118, Suite 6248

966-4071s

(U)

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

From: Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV

Sent: Wednesday, July 03, 2013 7:51 AM

To: [redacted] USA CIV

Cc: Blaskowski Paul J NSA-DJ4 USA CIV; [redacted] NSA-DJ USA CIV; [redacted] NSA-DJ USA CIV; Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV

Subject: RE: (U) FOIAs for PRISM Information

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

(U//FOUO) Good question, and it's complicated. We have to process a FOIA request based on what is or is not releasable at the time the release decision is made. We can't predict that after we deny information, a new

classification guide may come out 2 months later that releases more information. If that happens, someone would have to submit a new request, and we'd have to do the review based on the new guidance (or if it happens while information is on appeal, we handle it on appeal)

[Redacted]

[Redacted] I can't look into the future and answer those questions. (If someone knows at this point that information is likely to be declassified, or those decisions are already in the works, we don't want to deny now.)

(U//FOUO) So, we could deny it all today based on current classification, and later [Redacted] a new decision may be made. If we get a new request, or if the requester appeals prior to the declassification decision, we might have to redo it all. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

(U//FOUO) But we could sit here waiting to process any of these cases "just in case" [Redacted] declassification decision, [Redacted]

[Redacted]

(U//FOUO) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

(U//FOUO) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Pamela

(U)  
Pamela N. Phillips  
Chief, DJ4  
Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Office  
Ops2A1118, Suite 6248  
966-4071s [Redacted] (U)

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

**From:** [Redacted] USA CIV  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 03, 2013 7:22 AM  
**To:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Cc:** Blaskowski Paul J NSA-DJ4 USA CIV; [Redacted] NSA-DJ USA CIV; [Redacted] NSA-DJ USA CIV; [Redacted] USA CIV  
**Subject:** RE: (U) FOIAs for PRISM Information

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Hi,

[Redacted]

(U//FOUO)

[Redacted]

(b) (3) -P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

(b) (3) -P.L. 86-36

**From:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 02, 2013 3:02 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] USA CIV  
**Cc:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV; Blaskowski Paul J NSA-DJ4 USA CIV [Redacted] NSA-DJ USA CIV; [Redacted] NSA-DJ USA CIV  
**Subject:** (U) FOIAs for PRISM Information

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

[Redacted]

(b) (3) -P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

(U//FOUO) As I mentioned on the phone, we have several FOIA requests for information on PRISM. These requests do not appear to be from media requesters, but are from individuals who have been made aware of alleged NSA activities through extensive media reporting on NSA recently. We have been working/negotiating with requesters on many of the other topics to narrow the requests down to lessen the impact of searches in organizations and of reviews. However, for many of the requests listed below, there is no way to scope or narrow the requests [Redacted]

[Redacted]

(U//FOUO) We'd like to know whether there is anything relating to PRISM that is unclassified, or could be segregated from classified records, that would be releasable – other than any talking points created at the unclassified level that may address the program. Under FOIA, information may be protected if it is classified under (b)(1), or if it is unclassified and exempt for some other reason (like core functions and activities of the Agency under (b)(3)/Public Law 86-36). [Redacted]

[Redacted]

(U//FOUO)

[Redacted]

- (U//FOUO) [Redacted]

- (U//FOUO) [Redacted]

- (U//FOUO) [Redacted]

- (U//FOUO) [Redacted]

- (TS//SI//NF) [Redacted]

- (U//FOUO) [Redacted]

- (U//FOUO) [Redacted]

- (TS//SI//NF) [Redacted]

(U//FOUO) As worded, many of the requests are very broad, [Redacted]

[Redacted] To the extent that we have any unclassified talking points/testimony/fact sheets that we can provide great. [Redacted]

[Redacted] Who the requesters are should not sway the decision, however, as we need to be able to support the decisions regardless of who requests – even

media. [redacted]

(U) Thanks! Please let me know if you'd like to discuss or if you have other questions.

Pamela

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

(U)  
Pamela N. Phillips  
Chief, DJ4  
Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Office  
Ops2A1118, Suite 6248  
966-4071s [redacted] (U)

Classified By: 273774  
Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52  
Dated: 20070108  
Declassify On: 20380701

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

Classified By: [redacted]  
Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52  
Dated: 20070108  
Declassify On: 20380701

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Classified By: 273774  
Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52  
Dated: 20070108  
Declassify On: 20380701

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Classified By: 273774  
Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52  
Dated: 20070108  
Declassify On: 20380701

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Classified By: [redacted]  
Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52  
Dated: 20070108  
Declassify On: 20380701

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Classified By:   
Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52  
Dated: 20070108  
Declassify On: 20380701

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Classified By:   
Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52  
Dated: 20070108  
Declassify On: 20380701

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

Classified By: 273774  
Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52  
Dated: 20070108  
Declassify On: 20380701

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Classified By:   
Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52  
Dated: 20070108  
Declassify On: 20380701

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Classified By:   
Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52  
Dated: 20070108  
Declassify On: 20380701

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Classified By:   
Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52  
Dated: 20070108  
Declassify On: 20380701

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Classified By: [redacted]  
Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52  
Dated: 20070108  
Declassify On: 20380701

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Classified By: [redacted]  
Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52  
Dated: 20070108  
Declassify On: 20380801

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Classified By: [redacted]  
Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52  
Dated: 20070108  
Declassify On: 20380801

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Classified By: [redacted]  
Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52  
Dated: 20070108  
Declassify On: 20380801

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Classified By: [redacted]  
Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52  
Dated: 20070108  
Declassify On: 20380801

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Classified By: [redacted]  
Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52  
Dated: 20070108  
Declassify On: 20380801

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Classified By: 273774  
Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52

Dated: 20070108  
Declassify On: 20380801

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Classified By:   
Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52  
Dated: 20070108  
Declassify On: 20380801

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

(b)-(3)-P.L. 86-36

Classified By: 273774  
Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52  
Dated: 20070108  
Declassify On: 20380801

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Classified By:   
Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52  
Dated: 20070108  
Declassify On: 20380801

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Classified By: 259955  
Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52  
Dated: 20070108  
Declassify On: 20380801

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Classified By: 273774  
Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52  
Dated: 20070108  
Declassify On: 20380801

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Classified By: 273774  
Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52  
Dated: 20070108  
Declassify On: 20380801



Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

**Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV**

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**From:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 27, 2013 10:05 AM  
**To:** DL dj4\_gov (ALIAS) DJ4  
**Subject:** FW (U) Rick/Trum -- Media Leaks. Strategic Guidance Needed on Engaging FOIA Requesters  
**Signed By:** pnphill@nsa ic gov

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

All,  
(U//FOUO) Thought you'd like to see Dave's vote of confidence for the entire FOIA/PA Staff! Dave and I and OGC met with Rick Ledgett yesterday afternoon to go over the GLOMAR process, and he was totally comfortable with it after the meeting, as well as everything else the FOIA Office is doing.  
Pamela

(U)  
Pamela N. Phillips  
Chief, DJ4  
Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Office  
Ops2A1118, Suite 6248  
966-4071s [redacted] (U)

---

**From:** Sherman David J Dr NSA-DJ USA CIV  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 26, 2013 6:07 PM  
**To:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Cc:** Blaskowski Paul J NSA-DJ4 USA CIV; [redacted] NSA-D28 USA CIV (b) (3) -P.L. 86-36  
**Subject:** RE: (U) Rick/Trum -- Media Leaks: Strategic Guidance Needed on Engaging FOIA Requesters

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

(U//FOUO) I have not said this enough: each of you and the entire team that is working this in DJ4 and OGC is doing an absolutely super job under difficult and rapidly changing conditions. It's confirming every day why NSA's FOIA program is called out as best-in-class. I'm the new guy and the amateur at all this, but for what it is worth I am extraordinarily proud and glad that I was offered the opportunity to be here with you at this time and see what is exceptional public service, in the true sense of the words, in action.

David J. Sherman  
Associate Director for Policy and Records  
National Security Agency  
Room 2A0858  
djsherm@nsa.ic.gov  
.969-2850 (secure)  
[redacted] (commercial) (b) (3) -P.L. 86-36

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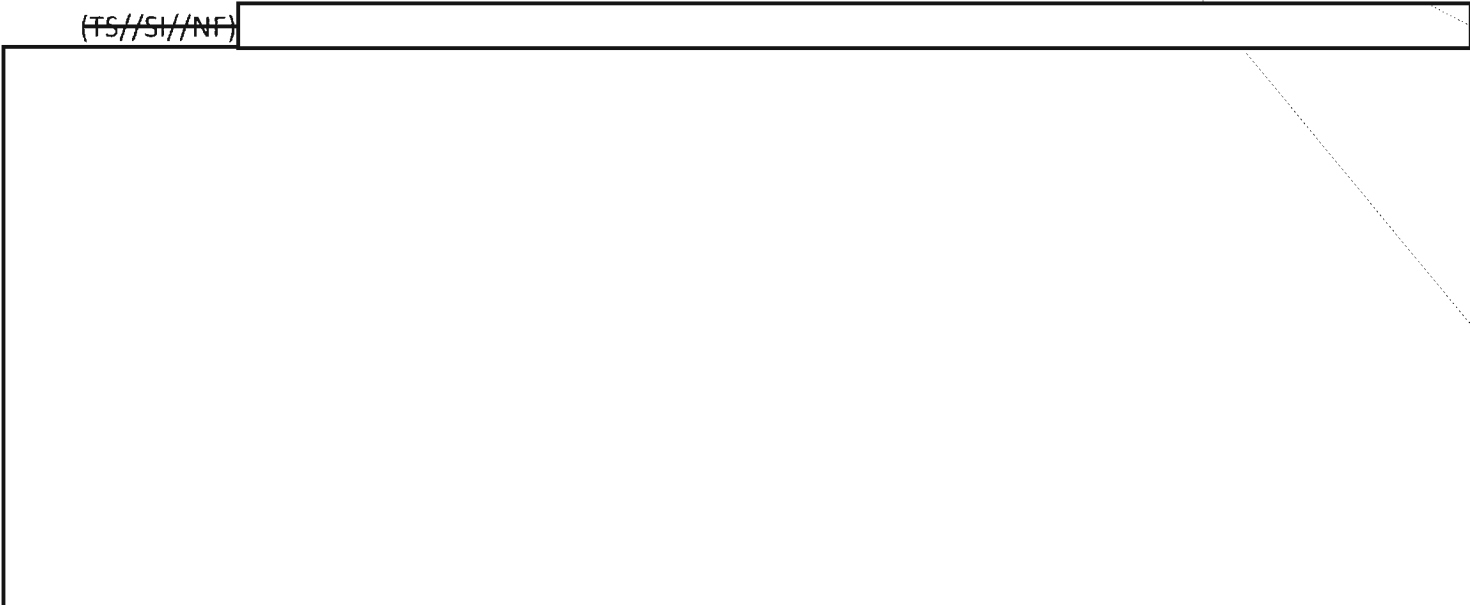
**From:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 26, 2013 12:41 PM  
**To:** Sherman David J Dr NSA-DJ USA CIV  
**Cc:** Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV; Blaskowski Paul J NSA-DJ4 USA CIV; [redacted] NSA-D28 USA CIV  
**Subject:** FW: (U) Rick/Trum -- Media Leaks: Strategic Guidance Needed on Engaging FOIA Requesters  
**Importance:** High

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

(b) (1)  
(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36  
(b) (3)-50 USC 3024 (i)  
(b) (5)

Dave,

(TS//SI//NF)



(U//FOUO) In the meantime, I am very appreciative of the fact that they concur with the approach to negotiating with the media requesters. I will gather those up and determine the best way to approach them and start making calls today or tomorrow. I will keep you posted on how those calls go.

Pamela

(U)  
Pamela N. Phillips  
Chief, DJ4  
Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Office  
Ops2A1118, Suite 6248  
966-4071s [redacted] (U)

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

**From:** Soule Trumbull D NSA-DC USA CIV  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 26, 2013 12:25 PM  
**To:** Sherman David J Dr NSA-DJ USA CIV; Ledgett Richard H Jr NSA-V USA CIV  
**Cc:** DL medialeaks staff (ALIAS) K1; De Rajesh NSA-D2 USA CIV; [redacted] NSA-D2 USA CIV; [redacted] NSA-D28 USA CIV; [redacted] USA CIV; [redacted] USA CIV; [redacted] USA CIV; Emmel Judith A NSA-DN USA CIV; [redacted] NSA-DN09 USA CIV; [redacted] USA CIV; [redacted] USA CIV; [redacted] NSA-DJ USA CIV; [redacted] NSA-DJ USA CIV; Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV; Blaskowski Paul J NSA-DJ4 USA CIV  
**Subject:** RE: (U) Rick/Trum -- Media Leaks: Strategic Guidance Needed on Engaging FOIA Requesters

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//COMINT//NOFORN~~

Dave,

Rick and I discussed this issue this morning, and I'm replying for both of us.

(U//FOUO) We concur with maintaining the current approach as you outlined below, that you reach out to those reporters with requests so broad as to be impossible to respond to and see if we can develop ways of meeting their needs.

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

(U//FOUO) Separately, [redacted]

Would you please work with [redacted]

[redacted] cc on this email as part of the DL MEDIALEAKS\_Staff to arrange such a discussion with Rick + either [redacted] or me?

Thank you.

Trum

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

(U//FOUO)

Trumbull D Soule

NSA Deputy Chief of Staff

NSA Media Leaks Event Lead

OPS 2B, Room 2B8044, Suite 6242

For Chief of Staff Issues 963-3444s [redacted]

For Media Leaks Team: use DL MEDIALEAKS\_Staff or 963-2356s

**From:** Sherman David J Dr NSA-DJ USA CIV

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 25, 2013 8:49 AM

**To:** Ledgett Richard H Jr NSA-V USA CIV; Soule Trumbull D NSA-DC USA CIV

**Cc:** DL medialeaks\_staff (ALIAS) K1; De Rajesh NSA-D2 USA CIV [redacted] NSA-D2 USA CIV; [redacted]

NSA-D28 USA CIV; [redacted] USA CIV; [redacted] USA CIV; [redacted]

USA CIV; Emmel Judith A NSA-DN USA CIV; [redacted] NSA-DN09 USA CIV; [redacted] USA CIV; [redacted]

[redacted] USA CIV; [redacted] NSA-DJ USA CIV; [redacted] NSA-DJ USA CIV; Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4

USA CIV; Blaskowski Paul J NSA-DJ4 USA CIV

**Subject:** (U) Rick/Trum -- Media Leaks: Strategic Guidance Needed on Engaging FOIA Requesters

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN~~

Rick/Trum:

**BLUF:** (U//FOUO) We need to make a strategic decision on how we respond to FOIA requests from the media and the advocacy community, more specifically on continuing our traditionally forward-leaning engagement with requesters to narrow overly broad searches and provide responsive materials. I've coordinated the attached with [redacted] OGC, PAO, and [redacted] who concur. We recommend maintaining this approach.

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

(U//FOUO) By way of background:

- We traditionally have leaned forward in contacting requesters whose FOIAs are so broadly drawn as to make a response impossible.
- We attempt to negotiate more focused requests meeting their needs.
- We have taken this approach as such engagement is in line with the President's direction regarding transparency in government.
- It also may reduce the chances of a requester citing lack of responsiveness on our part and opting for litigation.

(U//FOUO) The nature of current media and privacy NGO requests suggests that we revalidate this approach.

- We've received roughly 20 significant media/NGO requests since 5 June.
- We should expect them to continue for the foreseeable future and spike after new press items, testimony, etc..
- Over 1000 requests in all have come in during this period.
- The overwhelming majority from individuals seeking records NSA allegedly holds on them.
- There is at least one website facilitating individual requests accounting for half of the total.

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

(TS//SI//NF) By way of example [redacted]

[redacted]

(U//FOUO) [redacted]

[redacted]

(U//FOUO) Were the scope of this latter request to be limited [redacted] however, we could respond to it.

(U//FOUO) Under our past SOP, the FOIA office chief or deputy (not line staff) would contact [redacted] to ascertain the exact information that it is seeking and see if we can narrow the search to something manageable.

(U//FOUO) The benefit to continuing this approach in the current context is that we remain engaged with the requesters and do not have media suggesting we are unresponsive.

(U//FOUO) That said, it is entirely possible that [redacted]

[redacted] Those searches are completely feasible to conduct and presumably could surface responsive materials. As I

understand matters, there are grounds for withholding [redacted]

[redacted] but we would have to indicate that we were withholding them and provide the reasons.

(U//FOUO) On balance, our recommendation is that we continue to reach out to those with requests so broad as to be impossible to respond to and see if we can develop ways of meeting their needs and thus have a better chance of providing what we can consistent with our obligation to protect classified or otherwise exempted information. In the current context, the alternative of being portrayed in the media as unresponsive seems to carry too much risk. We would continue to coordinate any activity in this regard with OGC and, for media requests, PAO.

Dave

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36  
(b) (5)

David J. Sherman

Associate Director for Policy and Records

National Security Agency

Room 2A0858

djsherm@nsa.ic.gov

969-2850 (secure)

[redacted] (commercial)

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

Classified By: djsherm

Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52

Dated: 20070108

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Classified By: 273774

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Dated: 20070108

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