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Douglas D. Johnson

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March 2, 2020

David J. Nelson
Chief FOIA Officer
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Submitted as upload on FOIAonline.gov

To the Chief FOIA Officer:

This letter is a request under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552.

I request copies of all records held by any staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, that were created, received, modified, or forwarded during the period **September 27, 2019 through October 31, 2019, inclusive**, pertaining to an incursion of drones within the base parameter surrounding the Palo Verde nuclear generating station in Arizona.

As used in this FOIA request, "all records" includes (**but is not limited to**) e-mails (including e-mails cc'd, bcc'd, or forwarded to DHS personnel); memos; digital photographic images (including video); digital graphics (such as maps and PowerPoint slides); audio files (including voice mails); and memorialized telephone conversations.

As used in this FOIA request, the word "drones" should be understood to encompass any and all terms that may have been used to refer to apparently unmanned flying devices, whether any such term was used in singular or plural form, including but not limited to these related or overlapping terms: drone, counter-drone, Unmanned Aircraft System, Unmanned Aerial System, UAS, Small Unmanned Aerial Systems, Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems, sUAS, counter-UAS, Countermeasure Small Unmanned Aerial Systems, C sUAS, unidentified aircraft, unidentified aerial, unidentified flying, unidentified flying object, UFO, unidentified aerial phenomena, UAP, unidentified aerospace phenomena, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, UAV, Non-Traditional Aviation Technology, NTAT, remotely piloted aircraft, or unknown aircraft. This FOIA request should also read to include any record referring to, and any photographic or video images depicting, night-flying objects displaying flashing lights at the location described during the specified time period, even when the exact nature or dimensions of those flying objects was unknown.

EXPEDITED PROCESSING: I ask that this request be given expedited processing, because I am primarily engaged in disseminating information, and there is an urgent need to inform the public about actual or alleged Federal government activity with respect to the actual or potential threats by drones to important infrastructure, and the response of certain federal agencies to such actual or potential threats. I write for the publication *SCU Review* (the newsletter of the *Scientific Coalition for UAP Studies*). In addition, I am working in collaboration with journalists associated with other publications investigating ongoing federal government activity on matters of urgent public interest related to drone-related threats. I certify that the compelling need to inform the public regarding this threat is true and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

FOIA REQUEST, PALO VERDE DRONES, D. JOHNSON, P. 2

I am submitting this request as part of research that I am conducting in association with the *Scientific Coalition for UAP Studies (SCU)*, which meets the definition of “noncommercial scientific institution” under OMB Fee Guidelines, 50 Fed. Reg. at 10,018. I am attaching a letter from the SCU Board that explains the nature of this nonprofit organization and my status as a research affiliate. Therefore, I request that for fee purposes, this request be classified as a “noncommercial scientific institution” request, covered by the fee provision found at 50 Fed. Reg. at 10,019, “Agencies shall provide documents to requesters in this category for the cost of reproduction alone, excluding charges for the first 100 pages.” The status of SCU as a noncommercial scientific institution has been recognized by various divisions of the U.S. military, including the U.S. Air Force. With respect to duplication fees in excess of the 100-page allowance, I am willing to pay up to \$50 (fifty dollars) in connection with this request; if your search reveals that the cost would be greater, please contact me in advance.

If my records request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you explain each refusal or redaction by reference to a specific FOIA exemption, but that you also (as required by law) promptly release any segregable portions, after the purportedly exempted material has been redacted. I prefer that redactions be executed in black-out rather than white-out. If any records responsive to my request originated with another agency, and require review or handling by that agency, I request that any and all such information be promptly forwarded to the appropriate agencies for review, that I receive prompt notification of which agency or agencies are involved in such review and their relationship to the responsive records, and that I be informed of the actions of each such agency with respect to such records.

I would prefer to receive the responsive documents electronically as PDF files emailed to douglas.dean.johnson@gmail.com.

I look forward to receiving your initial response within the 20-day statutory deadline. Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

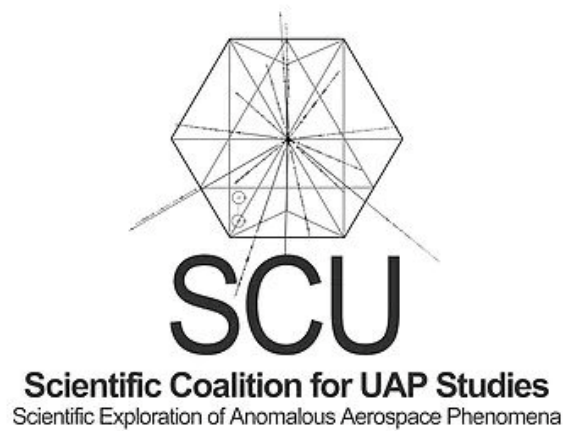


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Attached: letter on status as Research Affiliate, Scientific Coalition for UAP Studies



October 9, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Douglas D. Johnson is a research Affiliate of the Scientific Coalition for UAP Studies. He is one of only 69 researchers internationally who have been granted this Affiliate status by the Board of Directors of our nonprofit research organization.

The Scientific Coalition for Unidentified Aerospace Phenomena (UAP) Studies (aka SCU) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit research organization dedicated to the scientific study of UAP (commonly referred to as UFOs). The SCU is comprised largely of scientists, former military officers, law enforcement personnel, and investigative journalists with technical experience and backgrounds in investigation, and particular experience and expertise in various facets of the study of anomalous aerial phenomena.

The SCU operates as a cooperative among the founder board members, independent researcher affiliates, and affiliated or partnered organizations. The SCU functions as a hub for standardized research and investigation among peers in the respective disciplines into the subject of UAP. SCU board members and affiliated researchers have produced a number of technical papers on specific aspects and incidents of these types of phenomena, which are available on the organization's website at <https://www.explorescu.org/papers>.

In its mission and operations, SCU precisely matches the description of a "noncommercial scientific institution," as defined in OMB Fee Guidelines, 52 Fed. Reg. at 10,018, which describes a "noncommercial scientific institution" as one

that is “operated solely for the purpose of conducting scientific research the results of which are not intended to promote any particular product or industry.” SCU is a purely noncommercial enterprise -- indeed, our Board members and Affiliate researchers such as Mr. Johnson operate and collaborate as volunteers.

Douglas D. Johnson was granted Affiliate status by the SCU Board of Directors in May, 2019. Mr. Johnson has a degree and professional experience in journalism, and extensive professional experience in government relations work. In addition, he has engaged in UAP-related research since the 1970s, and his writings in that area have been published in various non-commercial publications and outlets. His current research is directly related to the mission of SCU, and is performed purely on a noncommercial basis, as a volunteer.

In view of the information set forth above, when Mr. Johnson submits requests under the Freedom of Information Act that touch on UAP-related incidents, policies, or subjects (whether termed “UFOs,” “anomalous aerial or aeronautical phenomena,” “unidentified aircraft,” or other overlapping terms), he should be deemed to fall within the “noncommercial scientific institution” category of requesters as described in OMB Fee Guidelines, 50 Fed. Reg. at 10,018. As stated there, at 10,019, “Agencies shall provide documents to requesters in this category for the cost of reproduction alone, excluding charges for the first 100 pages.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Powell". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large 'R' and 'P'.

Robert Powell

Board of Directors

Scientific Coalition for UAP Studies

robertmaxpowell@gmail.com