

NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

14675 Lee Road
Chantilly, VA 20151-1715

7 April 2021

Thomas Busse

(b)(6)

REF: FOIA Case F-2021-00113

Dear Mr. Busse:

This is in response to your request dated 17 March 2021 and received in the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) on 30 March 2021. Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), you are requesting, "copies of the following:

1. Documents pertaining to failed launches from Vandenberg Air Force Base between October 1984 and August 1985 (incident reports, etc.)
2. Documents such as incident reports pertaining to toxicological (esp. hydrazine), environmental, and radiological contamination/exposure due to the above-referenced launches, especially in the vicinity of Incline Village, Nevada; Truckee, California, Yerington, Nevada, and Lake Tahoe/Washoe County.
3. Reports from the CDC and Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) of disease outbreaks and mass poisonings related to NRO and USAF programs in the above-referenced time period and region."

We have processed your request in accordance with the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended. In regard to part 1 of your request, we have determined that in accordance with Executive Order 13526 § 3.6(a), the NRO can neither confirm nor deny the existence or nonexistence of records responsive to your request. The fact of the existence or nonexistence of such records is itself currently and properly classified; accordingly, your request is denied pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b) (1).

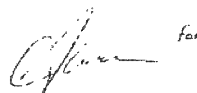
With respect to parts 2 and 3 of your request, we performed a thorough search of our records and databases, and located no records responsive to your request.

Additionally, regarding part 3 of your request "reports from the CDC and EIS", it appears that the information you are requesting falls under the purview of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). You may want to submit a FOIA request to the CDC, please visit their public FOIA website: <https://www.cdc.gov/od/foia/index.htm>

You have the right to appeal this determination to the NRO Appellate Authority, 14675 Lee Road, Chantilly, VA 20151-1715, within 90 days of the above date. You may also submit an appeal electronically through the National FOIA Portal at www.foia.gov or via email to FOIA@nro.mil. Please include an explanation of the reason(s) for your appeal as part of your submission. The FOIA also provides that you may seek dispute resolution for any adverse determination through the NRO FOIA Public Liaison and/or through the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). Please refer to the OGIS public web page at www.ogis.archive.gov for additional information.

If you have any questions, please call the Requester Service Center at (703) 745-0600 and reference case number F-2021-00113.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anita Casamento", with a small "for" written to the right of the signature.

Anita Casamento
FOIA Public Liaison