Mr. John Greenewald, Jr.

REF: FOIA Appeal Case F-2016-00130

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This is in response to your faxed correspondence dated and received in the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) on 18 April 2018. Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), you are appealing the NRO’s initial response to your 16 August 2016 request for “a copy of the NRO Congressional Budget Justification Book for Fiscal Year 1996.”

As the NRO Appellate Authority, and after a thorough review of this case, I am upholding the NRO’s initial determination that the responsive document must be withheld from release in its entirety pursuant to the following FOIA exemptions: (b)(1), as properly classified information under Executive Order 13526, Sections 1.4(c), (e), and (g); and (b)(3), which is the basis for withholding information exempt from disclosure by statute. The relevant withholding statute is 10 U.S.C. § 424, which provides (except as required by the President or for information provided to Congress), that no provision of law shall be construed to require the disclosure of the organization or any function of the NRO; the number of persons employed by or assigned or detailed to the NRO; or the name or official title, occupational series, grade, or salary of any such person.

Additionally, the information meets criteria specified in 1.7(e) of Executive Order 13526 that a series of unclassified items in the document in the aggregate reveal associations or relationships not otherwise revealed in the items individually, and these aggregate associations and relationships meet the standards for classification and are not otherwise revealed in the individual items of information.

You are advised that you are entitled to a judicial review of this determination in a United States District Court in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended.

As part of the 2007 FOIA amendments, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA (not Privacy Act) requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services
does not affect your right to pursue litigation. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
Room 2510
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Telephone: 301-837-1996
Facsimile: 301-837-0348
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

If you have any questions or you would like to discuss your request, please contact the NRO FOIA Public Liaison, Patricia Cameresi by way of the Requester Service Center at (703) 227-9326 and reference case number F-2016-00130.

Sincerely,

Michelle Murphy
Appellate Authority