



RESEARCH
AND ENGINEERING

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3030 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3030

FOR: Joseph Morici, Acting Director, Business Operations

FROM: Jessica Appler, Director, Maintaining Technology Advantage

SUBJECT: ~~CUI~~ Hotline Completion Report for Department of Defense Hotline Case
20210820-072840-CASE-02

- ~~CUI~~ **Allegation**: Major Joseph Patrick Murphy, US Marine Corps, alleged that the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency (DARPA) concealed/covered-up their funding of and involvement with an EcoHealth Alliance project proposed to their PREEMPT Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) HR00118S0017 in March of 2018. He supports this allegation with the discovery of eight (8) unclassified documents addressing the EcoHealth Alliance BAA proposal housed in a folder on DARPA's JWICS sharedrive that appeared in the folder in July 2021 (Exhibits 1-8). He alleges that the files did not contain any classification or distribution marking, which is a violation of DARPA policy. Furthermore, Major Murphy alleges that DARPA withheld the information about this project from the intelligence community, which caused their reports related to the COVID 19 pandemic to be produced "in a vacuum, absent the context the proposal provides" and from the broader COVID-19 pandemic response community.
- **Findings**: NOT SUBSTANTIATED
- ~~CUI~~ **Analysis**: The transfer and storage of files related to the March 2018 EcoHealth Alliance submission to the DARPA BAA to JWICS took place to support interagency sharing of the information contained within the files and was conducted in accordance with DARPA policies, procedures, and senior leadership guidance. The specified files (Exhibits 1-8) were located in the JWICS folder as indicated by Major Murphy. However, the original copy of these files continues to be maintained in the access controlled PREEMPT BAA file on the unclassified DARPA Biological Technology Office (BTO) sharedrive (Exhibits 10-12), and will remain in that folder until after the last effort funded on that BAA has concluded, in accordance with DARPA's source selection record retention policies (Exhibit 9). The files in question were placed in the JWICS folder in July 2021 by the (b)(6) corroborating the timeline of file appearance stated by Major Murphy (Exhibit 10). The (b)(6) moved the files up to JWICS using iSAFE, the intelligence community approved file transfer system, to support the DARPA BTO Director. The files were not manipulated or changed in any way to support this transfer, including not adding any additional markings or updating the markings to current DoD standards (Exhibit 10). The files in question submitted by EcoHealth Alliance contained all their original markings (Exhibits 1-7). The files produced by DARPA indicated that the documents were source selection sensitive, and were marked in accordance with DARPA's policies at time of document creation

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POC: Jessica Appler,

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in 2018 (Exhibit 8). The files were transferred to JWICS to support sharing with intelligence community partners who do not routinely maintain unclassified email addresses (Exhibits 10-12). Although the BAA proposal was NOT ever funded by DARPA – as documented in the files (Exhibit 8), and corroborated by the BAA selection and funding processes (Exhibit 9), the BTO Director (Exhibit 11), and the current (b)(6) (b)(6) (Exhibit 12) – DARPA BTO received a request from intelligence community partners in the July 2021 timeframe to share what they knew of EcoHealth Alliance's intentions to conduct coronavirus research in China (Exhibits 10-12). The DARPA BTO Director consulted with the (b)(6) and the (b)(6) (b)(6) to determine if it was appropriate to support this request for information and received approval to share the source selection sensitive documents with the intelligence community partners over JWICS (Exhibit 11). The documentation, interviews, and external events that occurred during the summer 2021 timeframe are consistent to support explanation for the appearance of the files on JWICS detailed in Major Murphy's allegation but do NOT support the allegation of concealment/cover-up or withholding information from interagency partners with a legitimate need to know. Furthermore, the storage, handling, and marking of the documents in question is consistent with DARPA and DoD policies and procedures concurrent with the origination of the files.

- **List of Supporting Evidence:**

- Exhibit 1- Document- PREEMPT Volume 1 no ESS HR00118S0017 EcoHealth Alliance DEFUSE
- Exhibit 2- Document- PREEMPT Volume 2 EHA Final HR00118S0017 EcoHealth Alliance DEFUSE
- Exhibit 3- Document- WIV Budget packet HR00118S0017 EcoHealth Alliance DEFUSE
- Exhibit 4- Document- SF424_2_0-V2.0 HR00118S0017 EcoHealth Alliance DEFUSE
- Exhibit 5- Document- WS00094394-RR_PersonalData_1_2-V1.2 HR00118S0017
- Exhibit 6- Document- WS00094394-RR_KeyPersonExpanded_2_0-V2.0
- Exhibit 7- Document- Executive Slide HR00118S0017 EcoHealth Alliance DEFUSE
- Exhibit 8- Document- HR00118S0017-PREEMPT-FP-019-PM Summary (Selectable – Not Recommended)
- Exhibit 9- Interview- (b)(6)
- Exhibit 10- Interview- (b)(6) (b)(6)
- Exhibit 11- Interview- Kerri Dugan, Director of BTO, DARPA
- Exhibit 12- (b)(6) (b)(6)

- **Investigating Officer:** Dr. Jessica Appler, SES, Director, Maintaining Technology Advantage, Pentagon, (b)(6) All working papers and case files for this hotline inquiry are maintained with Dr. Appler and submitted to the R&E DoD Hotline Coordinator for records retention per DoD Instruction 7050.01.
- **R&E Appointing Official:** Dr. Robert Irie, SES, Deputy Director, Strategic Technology Protection & Exploitation, (b)(6)
- **R&E DoD Hotline Coordinator:** Mr. Joseph Morici, NH-IV, Acting Director of Business Operations, (b)(6)

I certify that I complied with the Quality Standards for Hotline Inquiries in DoD Instruction 7050.01.

(b)(6)



Dr. Jessica Appler
February 23, 2022

I affirm that I reviewed this Draft DoD HCR and in my role as the R&E Appointing Authority, I approve and mark this document as Final.

(b)(6)



Dr. Robert Irie

February 23, 2022

Date

Prepared by: Jessica Appler, Director, MTA, (b)(6)

