

(b)(6) CTR OSD PA (USA)

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 2:59 PM
To: Gough, Susan L (Sue) CIV OSD PA (USA)
Subject: Re: AARO historical review?

OK, thanks. I'm looking forward to hearing about future engagements with AARO.

- (b)(6)

ti 5. maalisk. 2024 klo 21.51 Gough, Susan L (Sue) CIV OSD PA (USA) (b)(6) kirjoitti:

(b)(6)

Thanks for reaching out. At this time, we are looking to keep any media engagement with AARO's acting director to a small group. Note, should we have an on-record engagement this week, we will post the transcript once it is available. With that, I will be sure keep you in mind for any upcoming opportunities to engage with AARO going forward.

Regarding an interview request, Acting Director Phillips does not have any availability for interviews at this time. We will keep you in mind for future opportunities.

Regards,

Sue Gough

Defense Press Operations, OSD(PA)

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 4:35 PM
To: Gough, Susan L (Sue) CIV OSD PA (USA) (b)(6)
Subject: Re: AARO historical review?

Hi Sue,

Soon is probably very soon now, so I'd like to take the opportunity to express my interest in participating in the upcoming off-camera media roundtable by AARO's acting director Tim Phillips on March 6. Can you please add me as an online participant, as I'm not able to attend in person?

I would also greatly appreciate an opportunity to interview him however briefly (by phone or over a video link) for just a quick comment on the historical report as soon as the report is published.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

ke 14. helmik. 2024 klo 21.38 Gough, Susan L (Sue) CIV OSD PA (USA) [REDACTED] kirjoitti:

[REDACTED]

'Soon' is all I can provide at this time. I don't have anything for you regarding whether embargoed copies will be available.

Regards,

Sue Gough

Defense Press Operations, OSD(PA)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 2:32 PM

To: Gough, Susan L (Sue) CIV OSD PA (USA) [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: AARO historical review?

OK, thank you. Can you please be more specific, on which day will the initial volume be published? And would an embargoed copy be available?

- [REDACTED]

ke 14. helmik. 2024 klo 21.20 Gough, Susan L (Sue) CIV OSD PA (USA) [REDACTED] kirjoitti:

Hi [REDACTED]

We anticipate releasing an initial volume soon. Please note that per the legislation, the final congressionally directed Historical Record Report isn't due to Congress until June 2024.

Regards,

Sue Gough

Defense Press Operations, OSD(PA)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 2:12 PM

To: Gough, Susan L (Sue) CIV OSD PA (USA) (b)(6)

Subject: AARO historical review?

Hi Sue,

When can we expect the publication of the congressionally directed Historical Record Report from AARO?

Also, would it be possible for established journalists like me to receive an embargoed advance copy of it?

Best regards,

(b)(6)

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(b)(6)

Foreign news journalist

Finnish Broadcasting Company (YLE)

Cell: (b)(6)

Email: (b)(6)

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(b)(6)

Foreign news journalist

Finnish Broadcasting Company (YLE)

Email: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

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(b)(6)

Foreign news journalist

Finnish Broadcasting Company (YLE)

Cell: (b)(6)

Email: (b)(6)

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(b)(6)

Foreign news journalist

Finnish Broadcasting Company (YLE)

Email: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

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(b)(6) CTR OSD PA (USA)

From: OSD Pentagon PA Mailbox Duty Officer Press Operations
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 4:35 PM
To: Gough, Susan L (Sue) CIV OSD PA (USA)
Subject: FW: Interview request from Finland for AARO's Tim Phillips

Categories: UAP AATIP Elizondo UFO, Press Queries

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 4:28 PM
To: OSD Pentagon PA Mailbox Duty Officer Press Operations <(b)(6)>
Subject: Interview request from Finland for AARO's Tim Phillips

Dear Sirs,

I would greatly appreciate an opportunity to interview Tim Phillips, the Director of AARO, briefly by phone or a video link.

For your information, I work as senior foreign news journalist for the Finnish Broadcasting Company (YLE), which is a national public service broadcaster, like a combo of PBS and NPR in the U.S.

I have been following the UAP issue during the past couple of years, and I'm looking forward to reading AARO's UAP historical review, which I understand is due to be published any day now.

As soon as the report is published, would it be possible for Director Phillips to spare me a few minutes for comments?

Also, in the future, I would greatly appreciate an opportunity to join online any DOD press availability or briefing on the UAP issue, such as was held in December 2022
(<https://www.defense.gov/News/Transcripts/Transcript/Article/3249303/usdis-ronald-moultrie-and-dr-sean-kirkpatrick-media-roundtable-on-the-all-domai/>).

Best regards,

(b)(6)

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(b)(6)

Foreign news journalist
Finnish Broadcasting Company (YLE)

Email: (b)(6)

Cell (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) <(b)(6)>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 2:59 PM
To: Gough, Susan L (Sue) CIV OSD PA (USA)
Subject: Re: Susan - Wednesday AARO event

A little disappointing not to be included being that I've covered this topic for a while and cover national security for a major publication in Washington. Seems to be a bit of Pentagon narrative setting versus genuine media outreach.

On Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 2:46 PM Gough, Susan L (Sue) CIV OSD PA (USA) (b)(6) wrote:

(b)(6),

Thanks for reaching out. At this time, we are looking to keep any media engagement with AARO's acting director to a small group. Note, should we have an on-record engagement this week, we will post the transcript once it is available.

With that, I will be sure keep you in mind for any upcoming opportunities to engage with AARO going forward.

Regards,

Sue Gough

Defense Press Operations, OSD(PA)

From: (b)(6) <(b)(6)>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 3:55 PM
To: Gough, Susan L (Sue) CIV OSD PA (USA) (b)(6)
Subject: Susan - Wednesday AARO event

Susan, Wanted to see if I might be able to join the media event on Wednesday with the AARO acting director? Best,
(b)(6) [https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/author/\(b\)\(6\)](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/author/(b)(6))

(b)(6) CTR OSD PA (USA)

From: (b)(6); (b)(3):50 USC § 3024(i); (b)(3):50 USC § 3024(m)
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 2:53 PM
To: Gough, Susan L (Sue) CIV OSD PA (USA)
Subject: RE: Rollout update?

Confirming that we're good without any ODNI mention 😊

From: (b)(6); (b)(3):50 USC § 3024(i); (b)(3):50 USC § 3024(m)
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 1:03 PM
To: 'Gough, Susan L (Sue) CIV OSD PA (USA)' (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Rollout update?

I believe it's (b)(6), but I'm not 100% sure.

Let me check on the press release mention. I personally don't see the necessity... but let me confirm that I'm not alone!

Really appreciate the planning doc!

From: Gough, Susan L (Sue) CIV OSD PA (USA) (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 12:51 PM
To: (b)(6); (b)(3):50 USC § 3024(i); (b)(3):50 USC § 3024(m)
Subject: RE: Rollout update?

(b)(6); (b)(3):50 USC § 3024(i); (b)(3):50 USC § 3024(m)

Hi, your ears must be burning! No (on weekend) and yes (on NSC). See attached for latest.

Question 1 – do you remember whom it was that Julian Barnes said is now the UAP person at NYT?

Question 2 – I'm working on the press release today. Do you want DNI/ODNI mentioned? Unlike the annual UAP report, the legislation calls for AARO producing the report – but Dir, AARO reports to PDDNI, too, so wanted to check.

Sue

From: (b)(6); (b)(3):50 USC § 3024(i); (b)(3):50 USC § 3024(m)
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 12:42 PM
To: Gough, Susan L (Sue) CIV OSD PA (USA) (b)(6)
Subject: Rollout update?

Hey, Sue!

Hope you were able to salvage your weekend (is the pun too soon??)! Wanted to check in and see if you've heard back from NSC re the rollout plan.

Thanks so much,

(b)(6); (b)(3):50 USC § 3024(i); (b)(3):50 USC § 3024(m)

(b)(6); (b)(3):50 USC § 3024(i); (b)(3):50 USC § 3024(m)

Spokesperson

Office of the Director of National Intelligence

desk: (b)(6); (b)(3):50 USC § 3024(i); (b)(3):50 USC § 3024(m) | mobile: (b)(6); (b)(3):50 USC § 3024(i); (b)(3):50 USC § 3024(m)

(b)(6); (b)(3); 50 USC § 3024(i);
(b)(3); 50 USC § 3024(m)

(b)(6) **CTR OSD PA (USA)**

From: OSD Pentagon PA Mailbox Duty Officer Press Operations
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 4:33 PM
To: (b)(6) USN (USA); Gough, Susan L (Sue) CIV OSD PA (USA); (b)(6)
(b)(6) USN OSD PA (USA)
Subject: FW: Scientific American: AARO Media Event 3/6/24

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: UAP AATIP Elizondo UFO, Press Queries

I think this is one of you

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 3:21 PM
To: OSD Pentagon PA Mailbox Duty Officer Press Operations <(b)(6)>
Subject: Scientific American: AARO Media Event 3/6/24

To: OSD / Public Affairs
From (b)(6), Scientific American

I'm an editor at Scientific American. I'd like to be added to your press list for any AARO related events. You are listed as the press contact for this office. We understand from reporting that a media event is planned from this office this week.

Thanks,

(b)(6)
(b)(6)
Scientific American
1100 15th St., NW
4th Floor
Washington DC 20005

(b)(6) CTR OSD PA (USA)

From: Gough, Susan L (Sue) CIV OSD PA (USA)
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 9:40 AM
To: Kozik, David A SES OSD OUSD INTEL & SEC (USA)
Subject: RE: Following up from Unders
Signed By: (b)(6)

Agree, coordinating is just fine and a necessary role. But knowing what the senator has done in the past, I was concerned she has a bigger role in mind.

Anyway, wanted to make you were aware in case you hadn't gotten a readout of the engagement.

From: Kozik, David A SES OSD OUSD INTEL & SEC (USA) <(b)(6)>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 9:23 AM
To: Gough, Susan L (Sue) CIV OSD PA (USA) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Following up from Unders

Thanks Sue—yeah, there's a bit of challenge here. AARO absolutely should be involved in cUAS efforts in a *coordinating* role, but they should not/not be the lead. The problem is, the rest of DoD doesn't always think to include them even in the coordinating role—or forgets to mention that they're part of the team when they're engaging certain members of Congress who are convinced they must be part of the team.

In hindsight, this was a prep failure on our part for ASD HD&HA—just mentioning that AARO was part of the extended team looking at these incursions would have solved everything.

From: Gough, Susan L (Sue) CIV OSD PA (USA) (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 1:45 PM
To: Kozik, David A SES OSD OUSD INTEL & SEC (USA) <(b)(6)>
Subject: FW: Following up from Unders
Importance: High

Dave,
Flagging for you in case you haven't heard. We do not want to see sUAS added to AARO's portfolio!

Regards,
Sue

From: Gough, Susan L (Sue) CIV OSD PA (USA)
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 1:43 PM
To: Meagher, Christopher M SES (USA) <(b)(6)>; OSD Pentagon PA List Press
<(b)(6)>
Subject: RE: Following up from Unders

Thanks! (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Regards,
Sue

From: Meagher, Christopher M SES (USA) <(b)(6)>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 1:35 PM
To: Gough, Susan L (Sue) CIV OSD PA (USA) <(b)(6)>; OSD Pentagon PA List Press <(b)(6)>
Subject: FW: Following up from Unders

Sue – just flagging this chain below.

Chris

From: Bodian, Lane A SES OSD OASD LA (USA) <(b)(6)>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 1:28 PM
To: Wirkkala, Rheanne E HON OSD OASD LA (USA) <(b)(6)>; Meagher, Christopher M SES (USA) <(b)(6)>; King, Heather SES SD <(b)(6)>; Waibel, Carlie S SES (USA) <(b)(6)>
Cc: Mancinelli, Thomas J SES OSD OASD LA (USA) <(b)(6)>; Magsamen, Kelly E SES (USA) <(b)(6)>; Zier, Caroline G SES OSD OUSD POLICY (USA) <(b)(6)>; Yayboke, Erol K SES (USA) <(b)(6)>
Subject: RE: Following up from Unders

Rheanne,

Quick summary:

- This morning PTDO ASD Zimmerman (HD&HA) was joined by RADM Spedero (JS) and Maj Gen Sherman (USAF) in a briefing to SASC members regarding the December events at JBLE and to more broadly discuss drone incursion issues.
- Senators Reed (D-RI), Wicker (R-MS), Shaheen (D-NH), Gillibrand (D-NY), Ernst (R-IA), Cramer (R-ND), Tuberville (R-AL), Rounds (R-SD), Schmitt (R-MO), Cotton (R-AR), Manchin (D-WV), Peters (D-MI), Kaine (D-VA), and Kelly (D-AZ) attended. Not all asked questions and only Sen. Reed stayed for the entirety of the brief.
- The briefing was viewed by members as an informative first step for what is a very complex and concerning problem that must be quickly addressed. Sen. Reed highlighted multiple times that Congress is in part responsible for the confusion with counter-sUAS authorities and that a legislative fix may be required. Sen. Reed also focused on the number of agencies involved and the potential need for a lead USG entity.
- There was an animated response by Sen. Gillibrand to a comment by Ms. Zimmerman regarding there not being a DoD-wide database for cataloging UAS incursions. Sen. Gillibrand believes sUAS should be catalogued by AARO. Ms. Zimmerman briefly mentioned stand-up of the SIG C-UXS during this exchange.
- Sen. Ernst expressed concerns regarding drones being used at the southwest border and dissatisfaction with DHS having lead responsibilities.
- Members expressed an eagerness to legislate on the topic and to see the Department be proactive on cUAS.

-----Original Message-----

From: Wirkkala, Rheanne E HON OSD OASD LA (USA) <(b)(6)>

Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 11:51 AM

To: Meagher, Christopher M SES (USA) <(b)(6)>; King, Heather SES SD <(b)(6)>; Waibel, Carlie S SES (USA) <(b)(6)>
Cc: Mancinelli, Thomas J SES OSD OASD LA (USA) <(b)(6)>; Magsamen, Kelly E SES (USA) <(b)(6)>; Zier, Caroline G SES OSD OUSD POLICY (USA) <(b)(6)>; Yayboke, Erol K SES (USA) <(b)(6)>; Bodian, Lane A SES OSD OASD LA (USA) <(b)(6)>
Subject: RE: Following up from Unders

Becky Zimmerman and RADM Spedero provided a classified brief to SASC this morning on s-UAS incursions. Adding Lane to provide a quick read-out when he returns from the Hill.

Rheanne Wirkkala
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs

(b)(6)
Office: (b)(6) | Tandberg: (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Meagher, Christopher M SES (USA) <(b)(6)>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 10:26 AM
To: Wirkkala, Rheanne E HON OSD OASD LA (USA) <(b)(6)>; King, Heather SES SD <(b)(6)>; Waibel, Carlie S SES (USA) <(b)(6)>
Cc: Mancinelli, Thomas J SES OSD OASD LA (USA) <(b)(6)>; Magsamen, Kelly E SES (USA) <(b)(6)>; Zier, Caroline G SES OSD OUSD POLICY (USA) <(b)(6)>; Yayboke, Erol K SES (USA) <(b)(6)>
Subject: RE: Following up from Unders

Yes, when they reached out to inquire, Breaking Defense said Langley was being briefed in a classified setting to SASC today, fwiw.

-----Original Message-----

From: Wirkkala, Rheanne E HON OSD OASD LA (USA) <(b)(6)>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 10:21 AM
To: King, Heather SES SD <(b)(6)>; Meagher, Christopher M SES (USA) <(b)(6)>; Waibel, Carlie S SES (USA) <(b)(6)>
Cc: Mancinelli, Thomas J SES OSD OASD LA (USA) <(b)(6)>; Magsamen, Kelly E SES (USA) <(b)(6)>; Zier, Caroline G SES OSD OUSD POLICY (USA) <(b)(6)>; Yayboke, Erol K SES (USA) <(b)(6)>
Subject: RE: Following up from Unders

Thanks, Heather. Copying below the quick read-out of the AARO briefings from our team in case helpful:

Mr. Tim Phillips, Acting Director AARO, and (b)(6) were joined by Dr. Sean Kirkpatrick in a compartmented brief and a TS//SCI brief to

staff on the findings of the Historical Record Report

BLUF: Both briefs were well attended and went well. Dr. Kirkpatrick attended the first brief and the majority of the second brief. Questions were robust in both sessions and the staff seemed appreciative of the information and AARO's work. There are a few due outs.

Session 1: Compartmented Annex Brief to Senior Staff; 1300 - 1400

The session was well attended. Staff Directors and Clerks from all six intelligence and defense committees attended, along with Senate Leadership National Security Advisors (House Leadership NSA's were invited but did not attend). Mr. Phillips delivered prepared opening remarks to convey the key takeaways from the report, before inviting questions from the attendees. Although it seemed most in the room had not had the chance to read the annex in advance of the session, the discussion was robust. Staff asked numerous questions about the individuals AARO interviewed as part of the review, and some of the noteworthy programs to include KONA BLUE. Staff also asked questions to better understand AARO perspectives on risk and CI implications of the findings in the report. DoD SAPCO provided copies of the annex for reference during the brief and Mr. Phillips, Dr. Kirkpatrick, and (b)(6) highlighted different sections during the Q&A session to provide context and additional detail. At the end of the session, staff asked for perspectives and recommendations for countering inaccurate or misleading narratives related to UAP based on the review. The staff were appreciative of the information and thanked the panel for the time.

Session 2: TS//SCI Brief to Intelligence and Defense Committee PSMs; 1400 - 1530

This session was also well attended. 24 PSMs representing all six of the invited committees joined the session. SSCI Minority Staff Director Brian Walsh stayed for the second session. Mr. Phillips again delivered his opening remarks and presented from prepared slides to convey the key findings from the report and provide amplifying detail. Staff began asking questions early on and Mr. Phillips, Dr. Kirkpatrick, and (b)(6) fielded questions as they came up, referring to the slides as needed. PSM questions varied, but recurring themes centered on the number of total people interviewed versus contacted over the course of the review and the supporting documentation, locations visited as part of the review, and plans for future UAPs. Staff also asked numerous questions about the programs highlighted during the presentation to include KONA BLUE. At the end of the session, PSMs thanked the panel for their time and the information.

Rheanne Wirkkala
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs

(b)(6)
Office: (b)(6) | Tandberg: (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: King, Heather SES SD <(b)(6)>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 10:19 AM
To: Meagher, Christopher M SES (USA) <(b)(6)>;
Waibel, Carlie S SES (USA) <(b)(6)>
Cc: Wirkkala, Rheanne E HON OSD OASD LA (USA)
<(b)(6)>; Mancinelli, Thomas J SES OSD OASD LA
(USA) <(b)(6)>; Magsamen, Kelly E SES (USA)
<(b)(6)>; Zier, Caroline G SES OSD OUSD POLICY (USA)
<(b)(6)>; Yayboke, Erol K SES (USA) <(b)(6)>
Subject: Following up from Unders

Chris / Carlie,

Following up from Unders a bit ago - the Deputy asked us to flag for you that the Langley topic re: Breaking Defense may be connected to the AARO rollout that occurred this week. Understand there were hill briefings on UAP led by Tim Phillips (Acting Director of AARO). Now that those hill briefings have occurred, there may be more individuals who are tracking Langley. She asked that we flag for you all and that you get a readout of those hill engagements. Copying Rheanne and Tom here too in case they have color/context!

Thanks!
Heather