January 31, 2014

Matthew Kownacki
Judicial Watch

Via Email only to m.kownacki@judicialwatch.org

Re: Judicial Watch v. DoD, 13-cv-1343 (JDB)

Dear Mr. Kownacki,

Please find attached a final release in response to your June 7, 2013, FOIA request for 
“[a]ll records concerning, regarding, or relating to Admiral McRaven’s 2011 directive to purge 
USSOCOM systems of all records related to the operation leading to the death of Usama bin 
laden on or about May 1, 2011.”

The search conducted by SOCOM produced a single email from Admiral McRaven, the 
vast majority of which was not responsive to your request. The unmarked redactions on the 
attached are those non-responsive portions. The recipients of the email have been withheld 
under FOIA Exemption 3, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 130(b), which allows for the withholding of the 
names of personnel in overseas, sensitive, or routinely deployable units. The redaction within 
the responsive paragraph is pursuant to FOIA Exemption 1, to withhold information the 
unauthorized disclosure of which reasonably could be expected to cause serious damage to the 
national security, pursuant to Executive Order 13526, Sections 1.2(a)(2) (“secret” classification 
level); 1.4(a) (military operations).

As this matter is in litigation, your appellate rights are moot.

Sincerely,

Mark H. Herrington
Associate Deputy General Counsel
Office of Litigation Counsel

Encl: As stated.
cc: Michael Bekesha, Esq. (mbekesha@judicialwatch.org)
    Judicial Watch
Gentlemen,

One particular item that I want to emphasize is photos; particularly UBLs remains. At this point - all photos should have been turned over to the CIA; if you still have them destroy them immediately or get them to the.
Thanks, McRaven
Derived From: MANUAL 380-5
Declassify On: 25 YEARS FROM DATE OF SOURCE