

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.,)	
425 Third Street, SW, Suite 800)	
Washington, DC 20024,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	Civil Action No.:
)	
v.)	
)	
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,)	
1600 Defense Pentagon)	
Washington, DC 20301-1600,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Judicial Watch, Inc. brings this action against Defendant U.S. Department of Defense to compel compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (“FOIA”). As grounds therefor, Plaintiff alleges as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. The Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331.
2. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e).

PARTIES

3. Plaintiff is a non-profit, educational foundation organized under the laws of the District of Columbia and having its principal place of business at 425 Third Street, S.W., Suite 800, Washington, DC 20024. Plaintiff seeks to promote integrity, transparency, and accountability in government and fidelity to the rule of law. In furtherance of its public interest

mission, Plaintiff regularly requests access to the public records of federal, state, and local government agencies, entities, and offices, and disseminates its findings to the public.

4. The U.S. Department of Defense is an agency of the United States Government and is headquartered at 1600 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-1600. Defendant has possession, custody, and control of records to which Plaintiff seeks access.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

5. On June 19, 2013, Plaintiff sent a FOIA request to the U. S. Air Force (“USAF”) seeking access to records concerning First Lady Michelle Obama’s June 2013 trip to Ireland.

6. According to U.S. Postal Service records, Plaintiff’s June 19, 2013 request was received by the USAF on June 28, 2013. The USAF has never acknowledged receipt of the request, however.

7. Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i), the USAF was required to respond to Plaintiff’s request within twenty (20) working days of June 28, 2013, or by July 29, 2013.

8. As of the date of this Complaint, the USAF has failed to produce any records responsive to Plaintiff’s requests or demonstrate that responsive records are exempt from production. Nor have they indicated whether or when any responsive records will be produced.

9. Because Defendant has failed to comply with the time limit set forth in 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i), Plaintiff is deemed to have exhausted any and all administrative remedies with respect to its requests. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(C).

COUNT 1 **(Violation of FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552)**

10. Plaintiff realleges paragraphs 1 through 9 as if fully stated herein.

11. Defendant is unlawfully withholding records requested by Plaintiff pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552.

12. Plaintiff is being irreparably harmed by reason of Defendant's unlawful withholding of requested records, and Plaintiff will continue to be irreparably harmed unless Defendant is compelled to conform its conduct to the requirements of the law.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court: (1) order Defendant to conduct a search for any and all responsive records to Plaintiff's FOIA requests and demonstrate that it employed search methods reasonably likely to lead to the discovery of records responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA requests; (2) order Defendant to produce, by a date certain, any and all non-exempt records responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA requests and a *Vaughn* index of any responsive records withheld under claim of exemption; (3) enjoin Defendant from continuing to withhold any and all non-exempt records responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA requests; (4) grant Plaintiff an award of attorneys' fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred in this action pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(E); and (5) grant Plaintiff such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: January 13, 2014

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Paul J. Orfanedes
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Attorneys for Plaintiff