



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Washington DC 20420

June 24, 2015

In Reply Refer To: 001B  
FOIA Request: OSVA 15-04811-F

Mr. Benjamin Krause  
Armo Press, LLC

[REDACTED]  
[krause@armopress.com](mailto:krause@armopress.com)

Dear Mr. Krause:

This is in response to your April 22, 2015 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request referred to the Office of the Secretary, Veterans Affairs (OSVA) on May 8, 2015, and assigned tracking number 15-04811-F. You requested a copy of "meeting minutes, transcripts, videos of presentations, attendees list, meeting budget, and all handouts for the meeting covered by the National Journal on October 24, 2014 involving DMA and Dr. Cross."

The OSVA FOIA Officer performed a reasonable search for records responsive to your request to include contacting the Designated Federal Officer for the Advisory Committee on Disability Compensation (ACDC) to obtain the documents requested. Coordination with ACDC staff revealed that the meeting at which Dr. Cross briefed occurred on October 20, 2014. OSVA's search for responsive records resulted in 405 pages of responsive records which we are providing to you in five (5) separate attachments. Limited portions of the responsive records, specifically emails about the meeting budget, have been withheld under FOIA Exemption 6 [5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)] which protects matters of personal privacy.

FOIA Exemption 6 protects against the disclosure of information that, either by itself or in conjunction with other information available to either the public or the FOIA requester, would result in an unwarranted invasion of an individual's personal privacy, without contributing significantly to the public's understanding of the activities of the Federal government. While the release of this contact information may be permissible if it would serve a significant public interest, you have not identified a public interest in disclosing the identifying information of the individuals, nor do we find one. The matters of personal privacy redacted are the identity and contact information of lower-ranking staff members.

In accordance with 38 CFR 1.561, we categorize you as a "news media representative." As such, you are subject to duplication fees for more than 100 pages. Due to VA's delay in processing your request, we are waiving the duplication fees associated with this request. Please be advised that we reserve the right to assess fees as appropriate under the FOIA on any and all future FOIA requests.

This concludes OSVA's response to your request. Please be advised that you may appeal the determination made in this response to:

Office of General Counsel (024)  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20420

*Mr. Krause*  
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If you should choose to file an appeal, please include a copy of this letter with your written appeal and clearly indicate the basis for your disagreement with the determination set forth in this response. Please be advised that in accordance with VA's implementing FOIA regulations at 38 C.F.R. § 1.559, your appeal must be postmarked no later than sixty (60) days of the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

  
Lisa Matuszczak  
FOIA Officer

Attachments