

**Defense Threat Reduction Agency**

8725 John J. Kingman Road MSC 6201
Ft Belvoir, VA 22060-6201

Mr. Steven Aftergood
Federation of American Scientists
1717 K Street, NW, Suite 209
Washington, DC 20036

DEC 12 2003

Dear Mr. Aftergood:

This is the final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to our Agency. We received your request on August 14, 2003, and assigned it FOIA Case Number 03-125.

You requested a copy of a DTRA-funded report, entitled, "Lessons from the Anthrax Attacks: Implications for U.S. Bioterrorism Preparedness, April 2002, (contract number DTRA01-02-C-0013).

The document you requested is exempt from disclosure and, therefore, is denied under the provisions of Title 5 U.S.C 552(b)(2), FOIA Exemption 2 (High). FOIA Exemption 2, High, protects any information which, if disclosed, might be used to circumvent an agency rule or regulation. Further, the Department of Defense conducted a review of this particular document and stated it was not cleared for public release because of its discussion of potential weaknesses in US biopreparedness.

In addition, this document falls under the guidance of the US Attorney General memorandum, dated October 12, 2001, that restricts the public distribution of information related to homeland security and protection of critical infrastructure.

Our withholding of this document may be considered an adverse finding. This determination is made on behalf of William R. Faircloth, Chief of Staff, DTRA, the Initial Denial Authority. If you disagree with this decision, you may file an appeal by submitting a written notice to Major General Trudy H. Clark, Deputy Director, DTRA, so that it reaches her within 60 calendar days of the date of this letter. The appeal should contain the FOIA case number as listed in the first paragraph, a concise statement of the grounds upon which the appeal is brought and a description of the relief sought. A copy of this letter should also accompany your appeal. Both the envelope and your clearly identify that a Freedom of Information Act Appeal is being made.

There are no assessable fees associated with this request.

If you have any questions on this case, please feel free to contact me at 703-325-7095.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandy Ford".

Sandy Ford
Freedom of Information Act/
Privacy Act Officer