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USAFA FOIA Requester Service Center
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 3700
USAF Academy, CO 80840-5001
Official Business

Freedom of Information Act Request

To Whom It May Concern:

It was recently brought to our attention that all cadets in the Class of 2025 were issued a copy of Mr. George Takei's book, *They Called Us Enemy*. This book was purchased and issued under the One Book, One Academy program.

Stand Together Against Racism and Radicalism in the Services, Inc. ("STARRS") would like to learn more about the motivation and justification for issuing this book.

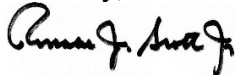
Therefore, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, please provide us as soon as possible any documents related to the following:

1. Answers to these questions: What is the One Book, One Academy program? Who created it, who administers it, what has it done, what will it do, what is its purpose and who funds it?
2. The logic and justification for selecting this book for required reading of every cadet in the Class of 2025; and
3. The cost and source of funding to purchase and distribute this book.

I request a waiver of any fees for this request. Disclosure of this requested information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations and activities of government. However, if there is any anticipated cost, please provide an estimate prior to providing the requested records and please provide the methodology used to determine the anticipated fees. Please see the attachment for the justification for a fee waiver.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ronald J. Scott, Jr., Ph.D.
Colonel, USAF, Retired
USAFA Class of 1973
Vice President, Stand Together Against Racism and Radicalism in the Services, Inc.

Attachment: Fee Waiver Justification

Fee Waiver Justification

This statement provides additional justification for a fee waiver. My explanation is based on five criteria discussed in a Department of Justice policy guidance memorandum, dated January 7, 1983, retrieved on May 19, 2021 from [FOIA Update \(justice.gov\)](https://www.justice.gov/foiaupdate).

“First, an agency must determine whether there is a genuine public interest in the subject matter of the documents.”

Justification: I represent a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, Stand Together Against Racism and Radicalism in the Services, Inc. (STARRS, Inc.). The Secretary of Defense was very public in announcing a stand down day to examine extremism within the Department of Defense. This exercise is consistent with our mission to educate the public on extremism. This mission is completely in the public interest.

“The second factor which agencies must examine is the value to the public of the records themselves.”

Justification: We want to report to the public how “extremism” was presented to the cadets, faculty, and staff during the down day—how extremism was defined, examples provided, and any implications for reporting extremism.

“A third factor to be considered is whether the requested information is already available in the public forum.”

Justification: We are not aware the presentation materials have been made available to the public. Therefore, we are requesting them.

“Fourth, while the identity of a FOIA requester is usually not a proper factor for agencies to consider in granting or denying access, it should be considered in acting on a request for a fee waiver.”

Justification: As the Vice Chairman and Vice President of STARRS, I hold a Ph.D. from Arizona State University (my dissertation examined the role of strategic communication within the Air Force), and have served as a university professor and chaired numerous dissertations related to policy and ideology. Further, I served as a principal scientist with Applied Research Associates, Inc., conducting strategic analysis on terrorism in support of clients such as the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office in the Department of Homeland Security, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, among other government clients. As an active duty colonel, I directed the Air Force Operations Center and stood up a readiness center at the Pentagon.

“The final criterion requires an assessment, based upon information provided by the requester as well as information independently available to the agency, of any personal interest of the requestor reasonably expected to be benefited by disclosure.”

Justification: My work with STARRS is pro bono. I am committed to facilitating the STARRS mission to educate the public on matters related to racism and radicalism in the Services.

I trust the above answers your questions and will promptly process my FOIA request.