



June 7, 2021

MR. WILLIAM ROSS PUCKETT  
POST OFFICE BOX 4926  
HELENA, MT 59604-4926

FOIPA Request No.: 1490770-000  
Subject: American Airlines Flight 2292

Dear Mr. Puckett:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Below you will find check boxes under the appropriate statute headings which indicate the types of exemptions asserted to protect information which is exempt from disclosure. The appropriate exemptions are noted on the enclosed pages next to redacted information. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted to indicate where pages were withheld entirely and identify which exemptions were applied. The checked exemption boxes used to withhold information are further explained in the enclosed Explanation of Exemptions.

<b>Section 552</b>		<b>Section 552a</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(A)	<input type="checkbox"/> (d)(5)
<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(B)	<input type="checkbox"/> (j)(2)
<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(C)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(1)
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(D)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(2)
_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(E)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(3)
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(F)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(4)
<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(4)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(8)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(5)
<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(5)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(9)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(6)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(6)		<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(7)

4 page(s) were reviewed and 4 page(s) are being released.

Please see the paragraphs below for relevant information specific to your request as well as the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for standard responses applicable to all requests.

- Document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning, other Government Agency (ies) [OGA].
- This information has been referred to the OGA(s) for review and direct response to you.
- We are consulting with another agency. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is completed.

Please refer to the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for additional standard responses applicable to your request. "Part 1" of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. "Part 2" includes additional standard responses that apply to all requests for records about yourself or any third party individuals. "Part 3" includes general information about FBI records that you may find useful. Also enclosed is our Explanation of Exemptions.

For questions regarding our determinations, visit the [www.fbi.gov/foia](http://www.fbi.gov/foia) website under "Contact Us." The FOIPA Request Number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request.

If you are not satisfied with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's determination in response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, 441 G Street, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20530, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIA STAR portal by creating an account following the instructions on OIP's website: <https://www.justice.gov/oip/submit-and-track-request-or-appeal>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.

You may seek dispute resolution services by contacting the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769. Alternatively, you may contact the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison by emailing [foipaquestions@fbi.gov](mailto:foipaquestions@fbi.gov). If you submit your dispute resolution correspondence by email, the subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.

See additional information which follows.

The enclosed documents represent the final release of information responsive to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request.

This material is being provided to you at no charge.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Seidel  
Section Chief  
Record/Information  
Dissemination Section  
Information Management Division

Enclosure(s)

## FBI FOIPA Addendum

As referenced in our letter responding to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request, the FBI FOIPA Addendum provides information applicable to your request. Part 1 of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. Part 2 includes standard responses that apply to requests for records about individuals to the extent your request seeks the listed information. Part 3 includes general information about FBI records, searches, and programs.

### Part 1: The standard responses below apply to all requests:

- (i) **5 U.S.C. § 552(c).** Congress excluded three categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIPA [5 U.S.C. § 552(c)]. FBI responses are limited to those records subject to the requirements of the FOIPA. Additional information about the FBI and the FOIPA can be found on the [www.fbi.gov/foia](http://www.fbi.gov/foia) website.
- (ii) **Intelligence Records.** To the extent your request seeks records of intelligence sources, methods, or activities, the FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1), (b)(3), and as applicable to requests for records about individuals, PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(1), (b)(3), and (j)(2)]. The mere acknowledgment of the existence or nonexistence of such records is itself a classified fact protected by FOIA exemption (b)(1) and/or would reveal intelligence sources, methods, or activities protected by exemption (b)(3) [50 USC § 3024(i)(1)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that any such records do or do not exist.

### Part 2: The standard responses below apply to all requests for records on individuals:

- (i) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Watch Lists.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of any individual's name on a watch list pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(7)(E) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(7)(E), (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that watch list records do or do not exist.
- (ii) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Witness Security Program Records.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records which could identify any participant in the Witness Security Program pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(3) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(3), 18 U.S.C. 3521, and (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.
- (iii) **Requests for Records for Incarcerated Individuals.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records which could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any incarcerated individual pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F), and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F), and (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.

### Part 3: General Information:

- (i) **Record Searches.** The Record/Information Dissemination Section (RIDS) searches for reasonably described records by searching systems or locations where responsive records would reasonably be found. A standard search normally consists of a search for main files in the Central Records System (CRS), an extensive system of records consisting of applicant, investigative, intelligence, personnel, administrative, and general files compiled by the FBI per its law enforcement, intelligence, and administrative functions. The CRS spans the entire FBI organization, comprising records of FBI Headquarters, FBI Field Offices, and FBI Legal Attaché Offices (Legats) worldwide; Electronic Surveillance (ELSUR) records are included in the CRS. Unless specifically requested, a standard search does not include references, administrative records of previous FOIPA requests, or civil litigation files. For additional information about our record searches, visit [www.fbi.gov/services/information-management/foipa/requesting-fbi-records](http://www.fbi.gov/services/information-management/foipa/requesting-fbi-records).
- (ii) **FBI Records.** Founded in 1908, the FBI carries out a dual law enforcement and national security mission. As part of this dual mission, the FBI creates and maintains records on various subjects; however, the FBI does not maintain records on every person, subject, or entity.
- (iii) **Requests for Criminal History Records or Rap Sheets.** The Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division provides Identity History Summary Checks – often referred to as a criminal history record or rap sheet. These criminal history records are not the same as material in an investigative “FBI file.” An Identity History Summary Check is a listing of information taken from fingerprint cards and documents submitted to the FBI in connection with arrests, federal employment, naturalization, or military service. For a fee, individuals can request a copy of their Identity History Summary Check. Forms and directions can be accessed at [www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks). Additionally, requests can be submitted electronically at [www.edo.cjis.gov](http://www.edo.cjis.gov). For additional information, please contact CJIS directly at (304) 625-5590.
- (iv) **National Name Check Program (NNCP).** The mission of NNCP is to analyze and report information in response to name check requests received from federal agencies, for the purpose of protecting the United States from foreign and domestic threats to national security. Please be advised that this is a service provided to other federal agencies. Private Citizens cannot request a name check.

## EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information ( A ) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, ( B ) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, ( C ) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, ( D ) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, ( E ) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or ( F ) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

[Redacted]

b7E

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Import Form

Form Type: [Redacted]

Date: 03/02/2021

b7E

Title: U American Airlines Flight 2292 on 02/21/2021

Approved By: [Redacted]

b6  
b7C

Drafted By: [Redacted]

Case ID #: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

b7E

**Synopsis:** U DOCUMENT SYNOPSIS CREATED ON 03-02-2021 11:45 AM--SEE [Redacted] FOR CURRENT ASSESSMENT DATA.

b6  
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b7E

On 02/23/2021, Public Affairs Specialist [Redacted] [AQ] notified Writer that he received information on the following flight:

American Airlines flight 2292, an Airbus A320, flying from Cincinnati to Phoenix on 02/21/2021, had a bizarre close encounter with what the crew described as a "long cylindrical object that almost looked like a cruise missile" moving extremely fast over the top of their aircraft as it cruised along at 36,000 feet at 400 knots. The incident occurred over the remote northwest corner of New Mexico, to the west of the town of Des Moines [located east of Raton]. American Airlines is instructing reporters to contact FBI AQ.

Writer has received inquiries from PX Division and [Redacted]

b7E

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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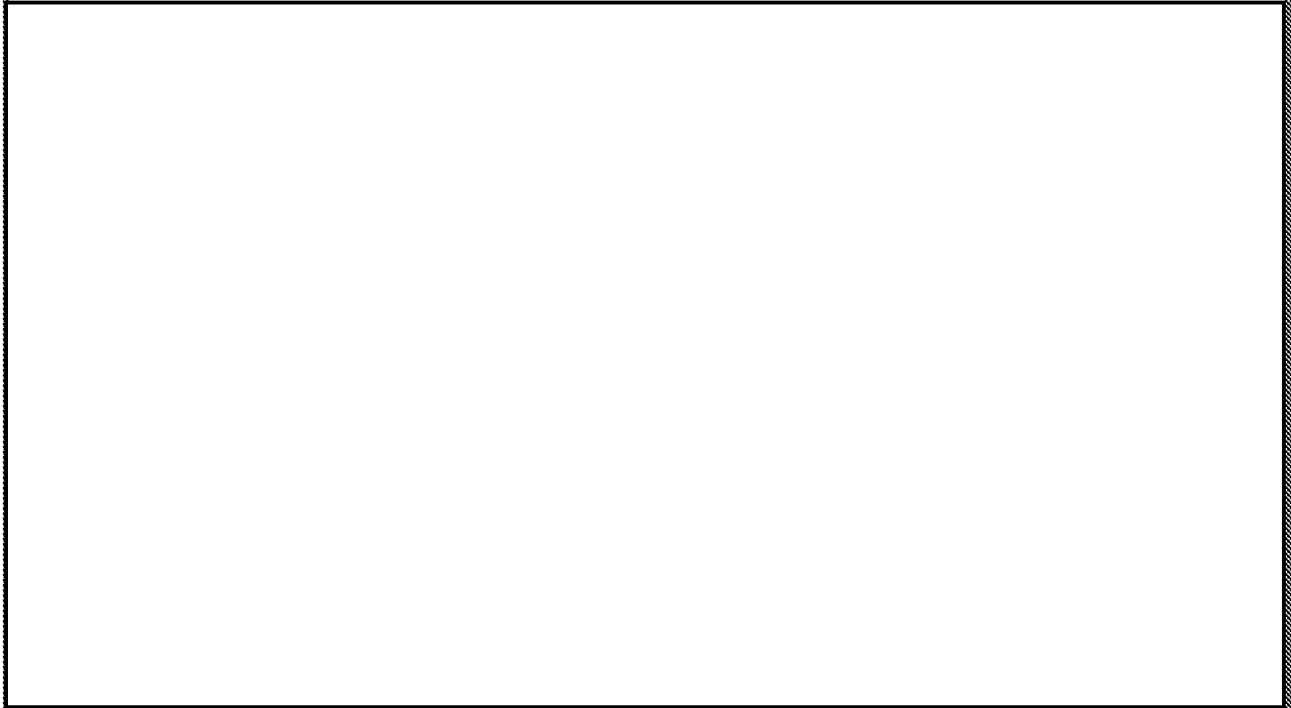
Generated: 03/02/2021 11:45 AM EST

Incident Summary

[Redacted] (U) American Airlines Flight 2292 on 02/21/2021 [Redacted]

Unknown [Redacted]  
(U) Unknown Status: Closed (on 03/02/2021)  
Does not fall within the FBI's jurisdiction

b7E



b7E

(U) On 02/23/2021, Public Affairs Specialist [Redacted] [AQ] notified Writer that he received information on the following flight:

b6  
b7C

American Airlines flight 2292, an Airbus A320, flying from Cincinnati to Phoenix on 02/21/2021, had a bizarre close encounter with what the crew described as a "long cylindrical object that almost looked like a cruise missile" moving extremely fast over the top of their aircraft as it cruised along at 36,000 feet at 400 knots. The incident occurred over the remote northwest corner of New Mexico, to the west of the town of Des Moines [located east of Raton]. American Airlines is instructing reporters to contact FBI AQ.

Writer has received inquiries from PX Division and [Redacted]

b7E



Notes

(U) FAA

Authorized: Administrative note for informational purposes.

Method:

Description: On 02/24/2021, Writer reached out to the FAA office in Albuquerque. The FAA is currently aware of the news articles that have been written on the incident. The FAA is currently checking their systems to determine if their equipment picked up any other aircraft in the area of AA flt 2292 at the time the flight was in the northeast region of NM.

Status: Completed

History: 02/24/2021 07:25:18 PM Created Note: FAA [redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7E

(U) PX ALAC

Authorized: Administrative note for informational purposes.

Method:

Description: On 02/24/2021, Writer reached out to SA [redacted] ALAC for PX Division, as they received reporting on AA flt 2292. Writer intended to coordinate with other FBI entities that may be involved with investigating this incident. Writer reached out to SA [redacted] who provided the contact information for AA corporate security. AA Corp Sec Office [redacted] may be contacted at [redacted]

b6  
b7C

Status: Completed

History: 02/24/2021 07:28:05 PM Created Note: PX ALAC [redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7E

(U) AA Attempt to Contact

Authorized: Administrative note for informational purposes.

Method:

Description: As AA pilots were the reporting party [in short, complainants] concerning the sighting, Writer attempted to make contact with AA Corp Sec Officers [redacted] and [redacted]. [redacted] Writer will make additional attempts to make contact with someone with AA should these attempts fail.

b6  
b7C

Status: Completed

History: 02/24/2021 07:38:43 PM Created Note: AA Attempt to Contact [redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7E

Interviews and Attached 302s

(U//~~FOUO~~) Contact With Las Animas Sheriff's Office

Authorized: Interview or request information from members of the public and private entities.

Method:

Description: On February 25, 2021 at approximately 10:20 A.M. Special Agent [redacted] spoke to [redacted] who works for Las Animas Sheriff's Office Dispatch. He advised no reports were made in regards to objects descending from the sky, or objects that had crashed in the area. [redacted] will contact SA [redacted] or SA [redacted] at the Albuquerque FBI Field Office if future reports are obtained.

b6  
b7C

Status: Completed

History: 02/25/2021 12:54:49 PM Created Note: Spoke To Las Animas Sheriff's Office [redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7E

(U//~~FOUO~~) Contact With Union Sheriff's Office

Authorized: Interview or request information from members of the public and private entities.

Method:

Description: On February 25, 2021 at approximately 10:30 A.M. Special Agent [redacted] spoke to [redacted] who works for Union Sheriff's Office Dispatch. She advised no reports were made in regards to objects descending from the sky, or objects that had crashed in the area. [redacted] will contact SA [redacted] or SA [redacted] at the Albuquerque FBI Field Office if future reports are obtained.

b6  
b7C

Status: Completed

History: 02/25/2021 12:56:24 PM Created Note: Contact Made With Union Sheriff's Office [redacted]

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b7C  
b7E

(U//~~FOUO~~) Contact with Colfax Sheriff's Office

Authorized: Interview or request information from members of the public and private entities.

Method:

Description: On February 25, 2021, at approximately 11:15 A.M., the Colfax County Sheriff's Office contacted Special Agent [redacted] via telephone, and advised no reports were made in regards to objects descending from the sky, or objects that had crashed in the area. The Colfax County Sheriff's Office will contact the Albuquerque FBI Office if any new reports or sightings are obtained.

b6  
b7C

Status: Completed

History: 02/25/2021 01:27:15 PM Created Note: Contact with Colfax Sheriff's Office [redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7E

Referrals

Has this matter been referred to OGA/State/Local? No

Disposition

(U) Disposition

Assessment Subfile Number: [redacted]

Note:

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

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After consultation with FBI AQ Chief Division Counsel, it was concluded the FBI does not have federal jurisdiction to investigate this matter. Therefore this matter is being closed for Information Only. However, if additional information presents itself (within the scope of FBI's federal jurisdiction), the FBI could re-open this assessment and perform any investigative actions deemed necessary to have a successful resolution.

Disposition: Does not fall within the FBI's jurisdiction

It is noted that the individual or group identified during the Assessment does not warrant further FBI investigation at this time. Any dissemination of information from this Assessment regarding the individual or group identified must include an appropriate caveat with the shared information. It is recommended that this Assessment be closed.

Workflow

02/24/2021 07:22:54 PM Created Incident

Assigned By

Assigned To

b6  
b7C  
b7E

02/24/2021 07:28:23 PM Incident submitted for opening

Assigned By

Assigned To

02/24/2021 07:29:42 PM Incident assigned for pre-assessment  
Please conduct the necessary investigative actions required.

Assigned By

Assigned To

03/02/2021 11:35:00 AM Incident recalled from pre-assessment

Assigned By

Assigned To

03/02/2021 11:44:58 AM Closed as Information Only

Assigned By

Assigned To