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Dear Sirs,

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act for the following records:

Records from the "Louisiana Army Ammunition Plant" (LAAP) in Doyline, Webster Parish, Louisiana with regards to the production, processing, storage, sale, transfer and export, including copies of export licenses, of incendiary weapons /smoke generating projectiles containing white phosphorus between 1988 and 1994.

For background, a report from Human Rights Watch from March 25th, 2009 titled "Rain of Fire/Israel's Unlawful Use of White Phosphorus in Gaza" identified the markings of one of the projectiles found in Gaza and traced the source of the weapon back to the U.S. Army Ammunition Plant in Doyline, Webster Parish in Louisiana. Specifically, the report stated:

"All of the white phosphorus shells Human Rights Watch found in Gaza are from the same lot, manufactured in the United States and marked: THS89D112-003 155MM M825E1. THS89D is the manufacturer identification code denoting that the shells and contents were produced in April 1989 by Thiokol Aerospace, which operated the Louisiana Army Ammunition Plant at the time; 112-003 are the interfix and sequence numbers, which denote that several lots of the same ammunition were being produced simultaneously; 155mm stands for the caliber of the artillery shell. M825E1 is the US military designation for an older remanufactured M825 white phosphorus shell that has been brought up to the current M825A1 standard. [...]"

A website and a contact address of an FOIA office of the LAAP could not be located. A report by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services stated the following about the LAAP:

"The Louisiana Army Ammunition Plant (LAAP) is a government-owned, contractor-operated facility located on 14,974 acres in Doyline near Shreveport, Webster Parish, Louisiana. [...]

"The Thiokol Corporation then operated the facility until 1996, after closing all production and loading of ammunition operations in October 1994. Valentec Systems, Inc., currently oversees/operates the facility under modified caretaker/partial standby status and several tenants occupy portions of the depot property (ETA 2000). [...]"

I understand that the Louisiana Army Ammunition Plant has been an installation of the U.S. Army and that it has been a U.S. military production and storage area of white phosphorus weapons. My request is not limited to the sale of white phosphorus weapons to the State of Israel. White phosphorus weapons were also used in the attack on Fallujah, Iraq, in November of 2004.

I request a waiver of search fees for this request. Disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in my commercial interest. My website, expose-the-war-profiteers.org is a non-profit service, created to inform the general public about the activities of the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. civilian and military intelligence services, their affiliated private contractors, firms and state allies within the U.S.A. and abroad.

The subject matter of the requested records specifically concerns identifiable operations or activities of the U.S. government. The disclosure of these records is likely to contribute to public understanding of specific government operations or activities, because very little about the industry responsible for making these weapons is known to the public. The widespread press interest in the Gaza and Fallujah attacks show that disclosure will contribute to the understanding of the public at large, as opposed to the understanding of the requester or a narrow segment of interested persons. For the same reasons, the disclosure will contribute "significantly" to public understanding of government operations or activities.

I also request a waiver of copying fees based on my status as a member of the news media. My work is similar to advocacy groups like the National Security Archive, who are considered members of the news media for the purpose of FOIA fees, because they produce distinct works from the materials they receive, and disseminate their works to the public. The distinct works I produce related to this FOIA request can be found on my website at www.expose-the-war-profiteers.org. Currently, my website receives around 30,000 individual visits on average per month. Several individual pages of the site, such as "The Mahmudiya Massacre", "The Blackwater Killings", "Valerie Plame vs. Lewis Libby" or "U.S. vs. Kyle Dustin Foggo", are among the top 5 ranked webpages on Google with regards to their respective keywords.

Finally, I request these records in electronic format as provided by the EFOIA amendments, in order to save copying costs. Thanks for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

Martin Ottmann