



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
9301 CHAPEK ROAD
FORT BELVOIR VA 22060-5527

June 16, 2025

SAAA-LS

Mr. James Fitzpatrick
Center to Advance Security in America
1802 Vernon Street NW, PMB 2095
Washington, DC 20009
Email: james@advancing-america.org

Dear Mr. Fitzpatrick:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated December 12, 2024, which is now in litigation pursuant to a Complaint (25-cv-00316) filed by you in the District Court for the District of Columbia on February 4, 2025. You are seeking documents identified in Exhibit A of that Complaint.

We are making a release of 149 pages with partial redactions in response to paragraph 2 of your original request. All redactions and withholdings have been made pursuant to Exemption (b)(6) of the FOIA, as described below.

Exemption 6 of the FOIA 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)

Exemption (b)(6) of the FOIA protects from mandatory disclosure “personnel and medical files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6) (2011). To qualify for protection under Exemption (b)(6), records must meet two criteria: (1) they must be “personnel and medical files and similar files,” (2) the disclosure of which “would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.” *Id.*; *United States Dep’t of State v. Washington Post Co.*, 456 U.S. 595, 599-603 (1982). The first prong is met if the information “appl[ies] to a particular individual” and is “personal” in nature. *New York Times Co. v. NASA*, 852 F.2d 602, 606 (D.C. Cir. 1988). The second prong requires courts to strike a “balance between the protection of an individual’s right to privacy and the preservation of the public’s right to government information.” *United States Dep’t of State v. Washington Post Co.*, 456 U.S. 595, 599 (1982). The “public interest” in the analysis is limited to the “core purpose” for which Congress enacted the FOIA: to “shed . . . light on an agency’s performance of its statutory duties.” *United States Dep’t of Justice v. Reporters Comm. for Freedom of the Press*, 489 U.S. 749, 773 (1989).

We are withholding names of personnel, other than Senior Executive Service members, General Officers and contact information for all Army personnel, third-party information and statements under Exemption 6. 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6). See *Judicial Watch, Inc. v. United States*, No. 03-1160, 2004 WL 26736, at *4 (4th Cir. Jan. 6, 2004). Under the Exemption (b)(6) balancing test, the Supreme Court held in a similar case that disclosure of employee addresses “would not appreciably further the citizens’ right

to be informed about what their Government is up to and, indeed, would reveal little or nothing about the employing agencies or their activities.” United States Dep’t of Defense v. Fed. Labor Relations Auth., 510 U.S. 487 (1994). The same is true here. Disclosure of the names, contact and personal information of government employees would contribute little to the public’s understanding of government activities. By contrast, such disclosure would constitute a “non-trivial” and “not insubstantial” invasion of government employees’ privacy interests. Id. at 500, 501.

This partial denial has been made on behalf of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army, who has designated that this office act as the Initial Denial Authority for records maintained by the Office of the Secretary of the Army and its serviced activities.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the information furnished, please inform your counsel to contact Special Assistant United States Attorney Alane Ballweg, by email at alane.ballweg@usdoj.gov, or by telephone at (202) 252-2574.

Sincerely,

Paul V. DeAgostino

Paul V. DeAgostino
Senior Counsel

Encl: 149 .pdf pages with partial redactions

Subject: hegseth

From: (b) (6)

To: PAOinformation@westpoint.edu

Caution! **Don't click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Shame on you for lying about Mr. Hegseth's acceptance at the academy. I expect SO MUCH better.

Subject: Liars

From: (b) (6)

To: PAOinformation@westpoint.edu, (b) (6)

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

West Point is a shadow of its former self.

From changing the Duty Honor Country motto to lying about Pete Hegseth bring accept to West Point....there is nothing special about the place anymore.

I hope Pete Hegseth defunds West Point and shuts it down when he becomes SecDef. ROTC officers can get RA appointments and fill the ranks going forward.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Subject: Read: Press inquiry on Hegseth and ProPublica -- spoke to Frank on this issue

From: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: DeMaro, Francis J

Message was read on:

Subject: RE: NY Post requesting comment on false statement made about Pete Hegseth's admission to West Point

From: <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6), Thanks for reaching out. We can provide the following statement. A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend. An incorrect statement involving Hegseth's admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released by an employee on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in error. Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the Class of 2003. The academy takes this situation seriously and apologizes for this administrative error. Please attribute the West Point Directorate of Communications. V/r Cheryl C
From: (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 1:56 PM
To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>
Subject: NY Post requesting comment on false statement made about Pete Hegseth's admission to West Point
Caution! **Don't click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**
Hello, I'm a reporter at the New York Post. Both an attorney for Pete Hegseth and Sen. Tom Cotton wrote letters to West Point recently claiming that a press officer, Theresa Brinkerhoff, may have violated privacy laws by disclosing information about the current defense secretary designee's admissions offer from the US Military Academy in 1999. I've received copies of the letters as well as Hegseth's admissions offer. "The use of false statements to influence or damage a political nominee's reputation is particularly concerning, as it may interfere with the democratic process and the fair consideration of [a] candidate for public office," lawyer (b) (6) wrote in his letter. "In light of these concerns, I urge you to investigate this matter thoroughly and take appropriate corrective action to prevent future violations. As a fellow Service Academy graduate, I am sure that we both agree that it is imperative that our Service Academies uphold the highest standards of privacy, accuracy, and integrity in their communications." Cotton said: "If true, [the incident] demonstrates egregiously bad judgment to share such information about the nominee to be Secretary of Defense with a known liberal outlet like ProPublica." Both asked for West Point to investigate. Would its press office care to respond to either of the letters or explain why this apparently false information was disclosed. My deadline is 5 p.m. Thanks, (b) (6) -- (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)

(b) (6) Cell/WhatsApp/Signal: (b) (6)

Subject: RE: CBS News Inquiry: Pete Hegseth

From: <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: DeMaro, Francis J

I think we should keep him off From: DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) Sent: Wednesday, December

11, 2024 11:07 AM To: Boujnida, Cheryl L (b) (6) Subject: FW: CBS News Inquiry: Pete

Hegseth Cheryl, Do you want to add the boss back to the media relations box, so he has access to all these queries? Or

keep him off and T and you handle these requests and back brief him? T said its up to you there is good and bad having

him on that box. Francis J DeMaro Jr. Public Affairs Specialist Media Relations Division US Military Academy Public Affairs

Office. (b) (6) From: (b) (6) > Sent:

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:00 AM To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: CBS

News Inquiry: Pete Hegseth Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came

from an external source. **Hello, Mr. Hegseth has shared what appears to be a letter of acceptance for admission to

West Point. I have attached them here. Can you confirm the authenticity of the letter? Can you confirm that Hegseth was

accepted to West Point, but declined to attend? Thank you. Sincerely, (b) (6)

Subject:

From: <MAILER-DAEMON>

A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend West Point. An incorrect statement involving Mr. Hegseth's admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released by an employee on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in error. Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the class of 2003. USMA takes this situation very seriously, and we apologize for this administrative error. Please attribute to the PCheryl L. BoujnidaChief, Media Relations DivisionDirectorate of CommunicationsU.S. Military Academy at West Point (b) (6) DUTY! HONOR! COUNTRY!

Subject: Hegseth Queries

From: <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

T As of 2:30 p.m. today, we received a total of EIGHT press queries (NY Post, The Daily Wire, The Federalist, The Washington Times, Fox (freelancer) CBS, Washington Examiner and Washington Free Beacon Press) from the following agencies in addition to ProPublica today. All news outlets were provided the following statement: A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend. An incorrect statement involving Hegseth's admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released by an employee on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in error. Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the Class of 2003. The academy takes this situation seriously and apologizes for this administrative error. The statement was attributed to the West Point Directorate of Communications. V/r Cheryl Cheryl L. Boujnida Chief, Media Relations Division Directorate of Communications U.S. Military Academy at West Point (b) (6) DUTY! HONOR! COUNTRY!

Subject: Hegseth Queries

From: <MAILER-DAEMON>

T - We are currently at three queries in addition to Pro Publica. CBS - Mr. Hegseth has shared what appears to be a letter of acceptance for admission to West Point. I have attached them here. Can you confirm the authenticity of the letter? Can you confirm that Hegseth was accepted to West Point, but declined to attend? (b) (6) and I'm a defense reporter with the Washington Examiner. I'm reaching out to see whether West Point can confirm that Peter Hegseth, the president-elect's selection to lead the Department of Defense, did in fact apply and was accepted to West Point in 1999. A ProPublica editor said today that West Point's PAO told the outlet that he hadn't even applied there, while Hegseth posted a photo of his acceptance letter, which was signed by West Point Superintendent, Lt. Gen. Daniel Christman, U.S. Army. So, can you confirm whether Mr. Hegseth applied to West Point, and whether he was accepted? (b) (6)

Senior Investigative Reporter with the Washington Free Beacon I just spoke w/ Frank on the phone for this inquiry but wanted to put it in an email. I just wanted to clarify some chatter on Twitter about Pete Hegseth's application to West Point in 1999. A reporter for Pro Public is claiming that a West Point spokesperson told him that West Point had no record of Hegseth applying to West Point. But Hegseth produced a letter from West Point showing he had been accepted. I just wanted to clarify a.) did West Point tell ProPublica that there is no record of Hegseth applying? Frank suggested there was some confusion on ProPublica's part. b.) what records does West Point have on this matter? Cheryl L. Boujnida Chief, Media Relations Division Directorate of Communications U.S. Military Academy at West Point (b) (6) DUTY! HONOR! COUNTRY!

Subject: RE: CBS News Inquiry: Pete Hegseth

From: <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: DeMaro, Francis J

How long does it take to get a statement together? Think it will happen in the next hour?From: DeMaro, Francis J

(b) (6) Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:11 AMTo: Boujnida, Cheryl L

(b) (6) Subject: RE: CBS News Inquiry: Pete HegsethokFrancis J DeMaro Jr.Public Affairs

SpecialistMedia Relations DivisionUS Military AcademyPublic Affairs Officep. (b) (6)

(b) (6) From: Boujnida, Cheryl L (b) (6) Sent:

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:09 AMTo: DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) Subject: RE: CBS

News Inquiry: Pete HegsethI think we should keep him off and T and I handle it. The sooner we get the statement, it will

calm down. From: DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:07

AMTo: Boujnida, Cheryl L (b) (6) Subject: FW: CBS News Inquiry: Pete HegsethCheryl, Do

you want to add the boss back to the media relations box, so he has access to all these queries? Or keep him off and T

and you handle these requests and back brief him?T said its up to you there is good and bad having him on that box.

Francis J DeMaro Jr.Public Affairs SpecialistMedia Relations DivisionUS Military AcademyPublic Affairs Officep.

(b) (6) From: (b) (6) Sent:

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:00 AMTo: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>Subject: CBS

News Inquiry: Pete HegsethCaution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came

from an external source.**Hello,Mr. Hegseth has shared what appears to be a letter of acceptance for admission to

West Point. I have attached them here.Can you confirm the authenticity of the letter?Can you confirm that Hegseth was

accepted to West Point, but declined to attend?Thank you.Sincerely,(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: media inquiry

From: (b) (6)

To: MediaRelations@westpoint.edu

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Hello,

I'm a reporter with ProPublica. Have a question I was hoping you could provide comment on.

Was Pete Hegseth offered admission toWest Point? This would have been for the class starting in 1999.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

--

(b) (6)

Subject: Re: media inquiry

From: (b) (6)

To: "DeMaro, Francis J" (b) (6)

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Thank you, really appreciate it. And just to reiterate, if we can get an answer by tomorrow, would be much appreciated.

On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 11:19AM DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) wrote:

(b) (6) good speaking with you.

Like I mentioned on the phone we do not have a database that shows who applied or was offered admission we can only confirm that he never attended the academy.

We have sent your request to our admissions office to see if they are able to provide more details about application/offers etc.

v/r

Frank

Francis J DeMaro Jr.

Public Affairs Specialist

Media Relations Division

US Military Academy

Public Affairs Office

p. (b) (6)

f. (b) (6)

(b) (6)

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 12:25 AM

To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>

Subject: Re: media inquiry

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Hello,

Checking in about my email from Friday. Please let me know if Pete Hegseth was offered admission, or ever applied, toWest Point. This would have likely been sometime in the late 1990s.

Just as a point of reference, West Point has in the past verified whether individuals applied/were offered admissions.

See here:

<https://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ben-carson-west-point-215598>

Am working on a tight deadline. Am also available by phone: (b) (6)

Thank you so much,

(b) (6)

On Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 1:23PM (b) (6) wrote:

Hello,

I'm a reporter with ProPublica. Have a question I was hoping you could provide comment on.

Was Pete Hegseth offered admission toWest Point? This would have been for the class starting in 1999.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

--

(b) (6)

(b) (6) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: media inquiry

From: (b) (6)

To: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" (b) (6)

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Frank and Theresa, I need your urgent response on two questions:

-Hegseth's representatives claim West Point is in violation of federal law by disclosing admissions information. Is that true? Can you point to the policy that makes clear this is public info?

-His representatives also said that he was offered admission, and that they have the acceptance letter from West Point, but they refuse to share it. However, you all said he did not apply, and he was not offered admission. Any response?

On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 6:00AM Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) wrote:

According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for admission to the U.S. Military Academy.

From: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 2:21 PM

To: DeMaro, Francis J

(b) (6)

Cc: PAO Media Relations

paomediarelations@westpoint.edu

Subject: Re: media inquiry

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Thank you, really appreciate it. And just to reiterate, if we can get an answer by tomorrow, would be much appreciated.

On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 11:19AM DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) wrote:

(b) (6) good speaking with you.

Like I mentioned on the phone we do not have a database that shows who applied or was offered admission we can only confirm that he never attended the academy.

We have sent your request to our admissions office to see if they are able to provide more details about application/offers etc.

v/r

Frank

Francis J DeMaro Jr.

Public Affairs Specialist

Media Relations Division

US Military Academy

Public Affairs Office

p. (b) (6)

f. (b) (6)

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 12:25 AM

To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>

Subject: Re: media inquiry

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Hello,

Checking in about my email from Friday. Please let me know if Pete Hegseth was offered admission, or ever applied, toWest Point. This would have likely been sometime in the late 1990s.

Just as a point of reference, West Point has in the past verified whether individuals applied/were offered admissions.

See here:

<https://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ben-carson-west-point-215598>

Am working on a tight deadline. Am also available by phone: (b) (6)

Thank you so much,

(b) (6)

On Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 1:23PM (b) (6) wrote:

Hello,

I'm a reporter with ProPublica. Have a question I was hoping you could provide comment on.

Was Pete Hegseth offered admission to West Point? This would have been for the class starting in 1999.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

--

(b) (6)

--

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: media inquiry

From: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" (b) (6)

To: (b) (6)

According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for admission to the U.S. Military Academy. From: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 2:21 PM To: DeMaro, Francis J

(b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations paomediarelations@westpoint.edu Subject: Re: media

inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.** Thank you, really appreciate it. And just to reiterate, if we can get an answer by tomorrow, would be much

appreciated. On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 11:19AM DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) wrote: (b) (6) good

speaking with you. Like I mentioned on the phone we do not have a database that shows who applied or was offered admission we can only confirm that he never attended the academy. We have sent your request to our admissions office

to see if they are able to provide more details about application/offers etc. v/r Frank Francis J DeMaro Jr. Public Affairs

Specialist Media Relations Division US Military Academy Public Affairs Office. (b) (6)

(b) (6) From: (b) (6) Sent: Monday,

December 9, 2024 12:25 AM To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: media

inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.** Hello, Checking in about my email from Friday. Please let me know if Pete Hegseth was offered admission, or

ever applied, to West Point. This would have likely been sometime in the late 1990s. Just as a point of reference, West

Point has in the past verified whether individuals applied/were offered admissions. See here:

<https://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ben-carson-west-point-215598> Am working on a tight deadline. Am also available

by phone: (b) (6) Thank you so much. (b) (6) On Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 1:23PM (b) (6)

(b) (6) wrote: Hello, I'm a reporter with ProPublica. Have a question I was hoping you could

provide comment on. Was Pete Hegseth offered admission to West Point? This would have been for the class starting in

1999. Thank you. (b) (6) (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: media inquiry

From: "DeMaro, Francis J" (b) (6)

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6) good speaking with you. Like I mentioned on the phone we do not have a database that shows who applied or was offered admission we can only confirm that he never attended the academy. We have sent your request to our admissions office to see if they are able to provide more details about application/offers etc. v/r Frank Francis J DeMaro Jr. Public Affairs Specialist Media Relations Division US Military Academy Public Affairs Office. (b) (6)

(b) (6) From: (b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 12:25 AM To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: media inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.** Hello, Checking in about my email from Friday. Please let me know if Pete Hegseth was offered admission, or ever applied, to West Point. This would have likely been sometime in the late 1990s. Just as a point of reference, West Point has in the past verified whether individuals applied/were offered admissions. See here: <https://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ben-carson-west-point-215598> Am working on a tight deadline. Am also available by phone: (b) (6) Thank you so much. (b) (6) On Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 1:23PM (b) (6)

(b) (6) wrote: Hello, I'm a reporter with ProPublica. Have a question I was hoping you could provide comment on. Was Pete Hegseth offered admission to West Point? This would have been for the class starting in 1999. Thank you. (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: Press inquiry on Hegseth and ProPublica -- spoke to Frank on this issue

From: (b) (6)

To: MediaRelations@westpoint.edu

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Hello,

I just spoke w/ Frank on the phone for this inquiry but wanted to put it in an email. I just wanted to clarify some chatter on Twitter about Pete Hegseth's application to West Point in 1999.

A reporter for ProPublica is claiming that a West Point spokesperson told him that West Point had no record of Hegseth applying to West Point. But Hegseth produced a letter from West Point showing he had been accepted.

I just wanted to clarify a.) did West Point tell ProPublica that there is no record of Hegseth applying? Frank suggested there was some confusion on ProPublica's part. b.) what records does West Point have on this matter?

Thanks in advance for any help,

(b) (6)

Subject: Press inquiry, Washington Examiner

From: (b) (6)

To: MediaRelations@westpoint.edu

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Hello,

My name is (b) (6) and I'm a defense reporter with the Washington Examiner.

I'm reaching out to see whether West Point can confirm that Peter Hegseth, the president-elect's selection to lead the Department of Defense, did in fact apply and was accepted to West Point in 1999. A

ProPublica editor said today that West Point's PAO told the outlet that he hadn't even applied there, while Hegseth posted a photo of his acceptance letter, which was signed by West Point Superintendent, Lt. Gen. Daniel Christman, U.S. Army.

So, can you confirm whether Mr. Hegseth applied to West Point, and whether he was accepted?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: media inquiry

From: "DeMaro, Francis J" (b) (6)

To: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" (b) (6)

Yeah crazy (b) (6) was in the office earlier talking about it too Francis J DeMaro Jr. Public Affairs Specialist Media Relations Division US Military Academy Public Affairs Office. (b) (6)

(b) (6) From: Boujnida, Cheryl L (b) (6) Sent:

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:06 PM To: DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) Subject: FW: media

inquiry This Hegseth thing is a mess. How is it possible that admissions said he never got an offer? Are you and T

discussing? From: (b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:03 PM To:

Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations

<paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: media inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you

trust the sender. This email came from an external source. **They just sent images of the letter. Can you check your

records again? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 10:50AM (b) (6) wrote: Frank and

Theresa, I need your urgent response on two questions: -Hegseth's representatives claim West Point is in violation of

federal law by disclosing admissions information. Is that true? Can you point to the policy that makes clear this is public

info? -His representatives also said that he was offered admission, and that they have the acceptance letter from West

Point, but they refuse to share it. However, you all said he did not apply, and he was not offered admission. Any

response? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 6:00AM Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6)

wrote: According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for admission to the U.S. Military Academy. From:

(b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 2:21 PM To: DeMaro, Francis J

(b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations paomediarelations@westpoint.edu Subject: Re: media

inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external

source. **Thank you, really appreciate it. And just to reiterate, if we can get an answer by tomorrow, would be much

appreciated. On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 11:19AM DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) wrote: (b) (6) good

speaking with you. Like I mentioned on the phone we do not have a database that shows who applied or was offered

Subject: RE: CBS News Inquiry: Pete Hegseth

From: "DeMaro, Francis J" (b) (6)

To: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" (b) (6)

okFrancis J DeMaro Jr.Public Affairs SpecialistMedia Relations DivisionUS Military AcademyPublic Affairs Officep.

(b) (6) From: Boujnida, Cheryl L

(b) (6) Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:09 AMTo: DeMaro, Francis J

(b) (6) Subject: RE: CBS News Inquiry: Pete HegsethI think we should keep him off and T

and I handle it. The sooner we get the statement, it will calm down. From: DeMaro, Francis J

(b) (6) Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:07 AMTo: Boujnida, Cheryl L

(b) (6) Subject: FW: CBS News Inquiry: Pete HegsethCheryl, Do you want to add the boss

back to the media relations box, so he has access to all these queries? Or keep him off and T and you handle these

requests and back brief him?T said its up to you there is good and bad having him on that box. (b) (6)

Jr.Public Affairs SpecialistMedia Relations DivisionUS Military AcademyPublic Affairs Officep. (b) (6)

(b) (6) From: (b) (6) Sent: Wednesday, December

11, 2024 11:00 AMTo: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>Subject: CBS News Inquiry: Pete

HegsethCaution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external

source.**Hello,Mr. Hegseth has shared what appears to be a letter of acceptance for admission to West Point. I have

attached them here.Can you confirm the authenticity of the letter?Can you confirm that Hegseth was accepted to West

Point, but declined to attend?Thank you.Sincerely,(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: Re: Hegseth Queries

From: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" (b) (6)

To: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" (b) (6)

Have forwarded to boss

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Boujnida, Cheryl L (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:07:44 AM

To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6)

Cc: DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6)

Subject: Hegseth Queries

T - We are currently at three queries in addition to Pro Publica.

(b) (6) with CBS - Mr. Hegseth has shared what appears to be a letter of acceptance for admission to West Point. I have attached them here. Can you confirm the authenticity of the letter? Can you confirm that Hegseth was accepted to West Point, but declined to attend?

(b) (6) and I'm a defense reporter with the

Washington Examiner. I'm reaching out to see whether West Point can confirm that Peter Hegseth, the president-elect's selection to lead the Department of Defense, did in fact apply and was accepted to West Point in 1999. A

ProPublica editor said today that West Point's PAO told the outlet that he hadn't even applied there, while Hegseth posted a photo of his acceptance letter, which was signed by West Point Superintendent, Lt. Gen. Daniel Christman, U.S. Army. So, can

you confirm whether Mr. Hegseth applied to West Point, and whether he was accepted?

(b) (6) Senior Investigative Reporter with the Washington Free Beacon I just spoke w/ Frank on the phone for this inquiry but wanted to put it in an email. I just wanted to clarify some chatter on Twitter about Pete Hegseth's application to West Point in 1999. A reporter for Pro Public is claiming that a West Point spokesperson told him that West Point had no record of Hegseth applying to West Point. But Hegseth produced a letter from West Point showing he had

been accepted.I

just wanted to clarify a.) did West Point tell ProPublica that there is no record of Hegseth applying? Frank suggested there was some confusion on ProPublica's part. b.) what records does West Point have on this matter?

V/r

Cheryl

Cheryl L. Boujnida

Chief, Media Relations Division

Directorate of Communications

U.S. Military Academy at West Point

(b) (6)

DUTY! HONOR! COUNTRY!

Subject: RE: media inquiry

From: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" (b) (6)

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6), Thank you for sending this along. Ill send it to our admissions office to recheck/review since they were unable to find any records showing that he applied to USMA. From: (b) (6) Sent:

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:03 PM To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Cc: PAO Media

Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: media inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.** They just sent images of the letter. Can you

check your records again? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 10:50AM (b) (6)

wrote: Frank and Theresa, I need your urgent response on two questions: -Hegseth's representatives claim West Point is in violation of federal law by disclosing admissions information. Is that true? Can you point to the policy that makes clear

this is public info? -His representatives also said that he was offered admission, and that they have the acceptance letter from West Point, but they refuse to share it. However, you all said he did not apply, and he was not offered admission.

Any response? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 6:00AM Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6)

wrote: According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for admission to the U.S. Military Academy. From:

(b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 2:21 PM To: DeMaro, Francis J

(b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations paomediarelations@westpoint.edu Subject: Re: media inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external

source.** Thank you, really appreciate it. And just to reiterate, if we can get an answer by tomorrow, would be much appreciated. On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 11:19AM DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) wrote: (b) (6) good

speaking with you. Like I mentioned on the phone we do not have a database that shows who applied or was offered admission we can only confirm that he never attended the academy. We have sent your request to our admissions office

to see if they are able to provide more details about application/offers etc. v/r Frank Francis J DeMaro Jr. Public Affairs

Specialist Media Relations Division US Military Academy Public Affairs Officep. (b) (6)

(b) (6) From: (b) (6) Sent: Monday,

December 9, 2024 12:25 AM To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: media inquiry

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Hello, Checking in about my email from Friday. Please let me know if Pete Hegseth was offered admission, or ever applied, to West Point. This would have likely been sometime in the late 1990s. Just as a point of reference, West Point has in the past verified whether individuals applied/were offered admissions. See here: <https://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ben-carson-west-point-215598>

Am working on a tight deadline. Am also available by phone: (b) (6) Thank you so much. (b) (6) On Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 1:23PM (b) (6) (b) (6) wrote: Hello, I'm a reporter with ProPublica. Have a question I was hoping you could provide comment on. Was Pete Hegseth offered admission to West Point? This would have been for the class starting in 1999. Thank you. (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6): (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: CBS News Inquiry: Pete Hegseth

From: (b) (6)

To: "MediaRelations@westpoint.edu" <MediaRelations@westpoint.edu>

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Hello,

Mr. Hegseth has shared what appears to be a letter of acceptance for admission to West Point. I have attached them here.

Can you confirm the authenticity of the letter?

Can you confirm that Hegseth was accepted to West Point, but declined to attend?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Subject: Hegseth Inquiry

From: (b) (6)

To: MediaRelations@westpoint.edu

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Good morning,

I'm a freelance journalist who has published in Fox News and other platforms.

(b) (6) with ProPublica recently tweeted that the West Point public affairs office told "us twice on record that he [Pete Hegseth] hadn't even applied there."

Hegseth has since published a letter of acceptance by West Point Superintendent Lieutenant General Daniel Christman, US Army.

Some questions:

1. Is West Point changing its position that Hegseth never applied?
2. What type of search was conducted to check if Hegseth applied?
3. Did West Point "twice" represent to Eisinger (or those with ProPublica) that Hegseth never applied?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

Subject: Re: Press inquiry on Hegseth and ProPublica -- spoke to Frank on this issue

From: (b) (6)

To: MediaRelations@westpoint.edu

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Sorry, I failed to put a deadline in here -- I was hoping to get something in within the next hour.

Thanks again,

(b) (6)

On Wed, Dec 11, 2024 at 9:38AM (b) (6) wrote:

Hello,

I just spoke w/ Frank on the phone for this inquiry but wanted to put it in an email. I just wanted to clarify some chatter on Twitter about Pete Hegseth's application to West Point in 1999.

A reporter for ProPublica is claiming that a West Point spokesperson told him that West Point had no record of Hegseth applying to West Point. But Hegseth produced a letter from West Point showing he had been accepted.

I just wanted to clarify a.) did West Point tell ProPublica that there is no record of Hegseth applying? Frank suggested there was some confusion on ProPublica's part. b.) what records does West Point have on this matter?

Thanks in advance for any help,

(b) (6)

Subject: Media request

From: (b) (6)

To: mediarelations@westpoint.edu

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Good afternoon

May I speak to a resource at West Point about an apparent mix-up as to whether President-elect Donald Trump's nominee to lead the Defense Department, Pete Hegseth, applied and was accepted into West Point?

A publication - Pro Publica - is reporting publicly that a representative of West Point said Mr. Hegseth did not apply to the military academy. Mr. Hegseth has produced an acceptance letter.

May I find out:

1. Whether West Point has record of Mr. Hegseth's application and acceptance
2. Who spoke to Pro Publica and provided information that Mr. Hegseth did not even apply to West Point.
3. A response to growing public criticism that this was an intentional smear on the part of West Point against Mr. Hegseth.

Thank you for considering my request. My contact information is below and my deadline is close of business, December 11.

--

(b) (6)

<https://www.washingtontimes.com>

The information contained in this electronic transmission is intended for the exclusive use of the individuals to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential, the disclosure of which is prohibited

by law. If the reader of this transmission is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination,

distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. In addition, any unauthorized copying, disclosure or distribution

of the material in this e-mail and any attachments is strictly forbidden.

Subject: Fw: Response from West Point urgently needed

From: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" (b) (6)

To: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" (b) (6), "DeMaro, Francis J" (b) (6)

FYSA- boss said hold on response to anyone else on the follow ups.

Ultimately they should get the straight info of yes he did but did not attend...stand by

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:05:14 AM

To: Kelley, Terence M COL (b) (6)

Cc: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) > (b) (6)

Subject: Re: Response from West Point urgently needed

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Thank you, Colonel Kelley. We appreciate your efforts to resolve this quickly.

Just so we fully understand the circumstances of Hegseth's application and admission to the Academy: Can you tell us who nominated him? Or any other context on his application?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

On Wed, Dec 11, 2024 at 10:46AM Kelley, Terence M COL (b) (6) wrote:

(b) (6)

First, my personal and professional apologies for this error. I assure you with the utmost sincerity that this was an honest mistake by employees searching 25-year-old records.

You may attribute the following to myself as an Army spokesman:

A review of our records indicates Mr. Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend West Point.

An incorrect statement involving Mr. Hegseths admission to the United States Military Academy was released by an

employee on December 10, 2024. Upon further review of an achieved database, employees realized

this statement was in error. Mr. Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the class of 2003. USMA takes this situation very seriously, and we apologize for this administrative error.

Best,

-Terry

V/r,

Terence M. Kelley

Colonel, U.S. Army

Director of Communications

U.S. Military Academy at West Point

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

--

From:

(b) (6)

Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 9:23AM

To: Kelley, Terence M COL (b) (6) Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6)

Subject: Response from West Point urgently needed

Caution! **Don't click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Colonel Kelley,

This is (b) (6), (b) (6) colleague at ProPublica working on the Pete Hegseth reporting. (b) (6) is on the west coast so I'm handling morning duties.) I just texted you and left a voicemail

as well.

We urgently need a response from West Point on this Pete Hegseth admissions issue.

Hegseth tweeted the attached this morning.

What we currently have from West Point on the record is Theresa Brinkerhoff saying: "According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for admission to the U.S. Military Academy."

In a follow-up call, we asked another academy spokesperson if Hegseth never applying necessarily meant he was not offered admission. Absolutely 100% said Francis DeMaro Jr. Because he never opened a file.

If West Point wishes to revise its statement on the record, we need to know now.

Please call me at (b) (6).

Thanks,

(b) (6)

--

(b) (6)

Subject: Media Inquiry-The Federalist

From: (b) (6)

To: MediaRelations@westpoint.edu

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Hello,

My name is (b) (6), a staff writer with The Federalist. ProPublica Editor (b) (6) recently revealed correspondence with West Point's public affairs team regarding Pete Hegseth's acceptance into West Point. According to the statement cited by (b) (6), an Army spokesman admitted academy officials made an error in falsely claiming that Mr. Hegseth was not accepted into West Point. If someone could answer the following questions by 3 pm ET, today, Dec. 11, I would greatly appreciate it.

1. Does West Point plan on launching an investigation into this matter, as requested by Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton? If not, please explain why.
2. Will the West Point officials who provided inaccurate information to (b) (6) face any form of disciplinary action or be removed from their current duties responding to media inquiries? If not, please explain why.
3. Please provide the identities of the West Point officials who provided (b) (6) false information regarding Mr. Hegseth's acceptance into West Point.

From,

(b) (6)

Subject: Daily Wire inquiry re: Pete Hegseth

From: (b) (6)

To: MediaRelations@westpoint.edu

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Hello. I'm a reporter with The Daily Wire. Pete Hegseth has published his acceptance letter from West Point, but a journalist says your PR told him twice Hegseth never applied.

<https://x.com/eisingerj/status/1866863141826752735>

Can you please explain the discrepancy?

Thank you,

(b) (6)

Subject: Re: Daily Wire inquiry re: Pete Hegseth

From: (b) (6)

To: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" (b) (6)

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Thank you, Cheryl, for the quickresponse!

(b) (6)

On Wed, Dec 11, 2024 at 1:28PM Boujnida, Cheryl L (b) (6) wrote:

(b) (6)

Thanks for reaching out. We can provide the following statement.

A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend. An incorrect statement involving Hegseths admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released

by an employee on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in error.Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the Class of 2003.The academy takes this situation seriously

and apologizes for this administrative error.

Please attribute the West Point Directorate of Communications.

V/r

Cheryl

Cheryl L. Boujnida

Chief, Media Relations Division

Directorate of Communications

U.S. Military Academy at West Point

(b) (6)

DUTY! HONOR! COUNTRY!

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 1:20 PM

To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>

Subject: Daily Wire inquiry re: Pete Hegseth

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Hello. I'm a reporter with The Daily Wire. Pete Hegseth has published his acceptance letter from West Point, but a journalist says your PR told him twice Hegseth never applied.

<https://x.com/eisingerj/status/1866863141826752735>

Can you please explain the discrepancy?

Thank you,

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: Press inquiry on Hegseth and ProPublica -- spoke to Frank on this issue

From: "DeMaro, Francis J" (b) (6)

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6) In reference to your post on X I need to clarify when I mentioned to you on the phone there was some confusion, I was referring to our internal response nothing associated with ProPublica's. I would like to ask that you correct your response to the post because I was not referring to ProPublica. You should have received our response from Cheryl.

Have a good day
Beat Navy!
Frank Francis J DeMaro Jr. Public Affairs Specialist
Media Relations Division
US Military Academy
Public Affairs Office. (b) (6) From: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:47 AM To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: Press inquiry on Hegseth and ProPublica -- spoke to Frank on this

issue
Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**
Sorry, I failed to put a deadline in here -- I was hoping to get something in within the next hour. Thanks

again. (b) (6) On Wed, Dec 11, 2024 at 9:38AM (b) (6) wrote: Hello, I just spoke w/ Frank on the phone for this inquiry but wanted to put it in an email. I just wanted to clarify some chatter on Twitter about Pete Hegseth's application to West Point in 1999. A reporter for ProPublica is claiming that a West Point spokesperson told him that West Point had no record of Hegseth applying to West Point. But Hegseth produced a letter from West Point showing he had been accepted. I just wanted to clarify a.) did West Point tell ProPublica that there is no record of Hegseth applying? Frank suggested there was some confusion on ProPublica's part. b.) what records does West Point have on this matter? Thanks in advance for any help. (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: NY Post requesting comment on false statement made about Pete Hegseth's admission to West Point

From: (b) (6)

To: paomediarelations@westpoint.edu

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Hello,

I'm a reporter at the New York Post. Both an attorney for Pete Hegseth and Sen. Tom Cotton wrote letters to West Point recently claiming that a press officer, Theresa Brinkerhoff, may have violated privacy laws by disclosing information about the current

defense secretary designee's admissions offer from the US Military Academy in 1999.

I've received copies of the letters as well as Hegseth's admissions offer.

"The use of false statements to influence or damage a political nominee's reputation is particularly concerning, as it may interfere with the democratic process and the fair consideration of [a] candidate for public office," lawyer (b) (6) wrote

in his letter.

"In light of these concerns, I urge you to investigate this matter thoroughly and take appropriate corrective action to prevent future violations. As a fellow Service Academy graduate, I am sure that we both agree that it is imperative that our Service Academies

uphold the highest standards of privacy, accuracy, and integrity in their communications."

Cotton 3

Subject: Re: Media Inquiry-The Federalist

From: (b) (6)

To: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" (b) (6)

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Cheryl,

Thank you for the response.

(b) (6)

On Wed, Dec 11, 2024 at 1:08PM Boujnida, Cheryl L (b) (6) wrote:

(b) (6)

Thanks for reaching out. We can provide the following statement.

A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend. An incorrect statement involving Hegseths admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released

by an employee on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in error.Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the Class of 2003.The academy takes this situation seriously

and apologizes for this administrative error.

Please attribute the West Point Directorate of Communications.

V/r

Cheryl

Cheryl L. Boujnida

Chief, Media Relations Division

Directorate of Communications

U.S. Military Academy at West Point

(b) (6)

DUTY! HONOR! COUNTRY!

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 12:53 PM

To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>

Subject: Media Inquiry-The Federalist

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Hello,

My name is (b) (6), a staff writer with The Federalist. ProPublica Editor (b) (6) recently revealed correspondence with West Point's public affairs team regarding Pete Hegseth's acceptance into West Point. According to the statement cited by (b) (6), an Army spokesman admitted

academy officials made an error in falsely claiming that Mr. Hegseth was not accepted into West Point. If someone could answer the following questions by 3 pm ET, today, Dec. 11, I would greatly appreciate it.

1. Does West Point plan on launching an investigation into this matter, as requested by Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton? If not, please explain why.
2. Will the West Point officials who provided inaccurate information to (b) (6) face any form of disciplinary action or be removed from their current duties responding to media inquiries? If not, please explain why.
3. Please provide the identities of the West Point officials who provided (b) (6) false information regarding Mr. Hegseth's acceptance into West Point.

From,

(b) (6)

Subject: Re: NY Post requesting comment on false statement made about Pete Hegseth's admission to West Point

From: (b) (6)

To: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" (b) (6)

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Thanks

On Wed, Dec 11, 2024 at 2:19PM Boujnida, Cheryl L (b) (6) wrote:

(b) (6) Thanks for reaching out. We can provide the following statement. A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend. An incorrect statement involving Hegseths admission

(b) (6)

Thanks for reaching out. We can provide the following statement.

A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend. An incorrect statement involving Hegseths admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released

by an employee on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in error.Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the Class of 2003.The academy takes this situation seriously

and apologizes for this administrative error.

Please attribute the West Point Directorate of Communications.

V/r

Cheryl

Cheryl L. Boujnida

Chief, Media Relations Division

Directorate of Communications

U.S. Military Academy at West Point

(b) (6)

DUTY! HONOR! COUNTRY!

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 1:56 PM

To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>

Subject: NY Post requesting comment on false statement made about Pete Hegseth's admission to West Point

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Hello,

I'm a reporter at the New York Post. Both an attorney for Pete Hegseth and Sen. Tom Cotton wrote letters to West Point recently claiming that a press officer, Theresa Brinkerhoff, may have violated privacy laws by disclosing information about the current defense secretary designee's admissions offer from the US Military Academy in 1999.

I've received copies of the letters as well as Hegseth's admissions offer.

"The use of false statements to influence or damage a political nominee's reputation is particularly concerning, as it may interfere with the democratic process and the fair consideration of [a] candidate for public office," lawyer (b) (6)

(b) (6) wrote in his letter.

"In light of these concerns, I urge you to investigate this matter thoroughly and take appropriate corrective action to prevent future violations. As a fellow Service Academy graduate, I am sure that we both agree that it is imperative that our Service Academies

uphold the highest standards of privacy, accuracy, and integrity in their communications."

Cotton said: "If true, [the incident] demonstrates egregiously bad judgment to share such information about the nominee to be Secretary of Defense with a known liberal outlet like

ProPublica."

Both asked for West Point to investigate. Would its press office care to respond to either of the letters or explain why this apparently false information was disclosed.

My deadline is 5 p.m.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

--

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: Hegseth Queries

From: "DeMaro, Francis J" (b) (6)

To: "Kelley, Terence M COL" (b) (6)

One more article just hit West Point Won't Say If Its Hegseth Lies Will Initiate Punishment Francis J DeMaro Jr. Public Affairs Specialist Media Relations Division US Military Academy Public Affairs Officep. (b) (6)

(b) (6) From: DeMaro, Francis J Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 2:50

PM To: Kelley, Terence M COL (b) (6) Cc: Boujnida, Cheryl L

(b) (6) Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6) Subject: RE: Hegseth Queries Sir, Just did a search and found these articles are now online.

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/defense/3257116/west-point-apology-pete-hegseth-misinformation/>https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2024/dec/11/west-point-apologizes-administrative-error-claimin/Pete_Hegseth_Scoops

Apparent Media Hit Piece About West Point: Heres My Letter Of Acceptance (b) (6)

Specialist Media Relations Division US Military Academy Public Affairs Officep. (b) (6)

(b) (6) From: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Sent:

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 2:41 PM To: Kelley, Terence M COL (b) (6) Cc: Boujnida,

Cheryl L (b) (6); DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) Subject: Hegseth

Queries***There are no actual news articles that weve come across all comments remain on X. We will continue to

monitor. As of Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 2:30 p.m., PAO Media Relations team has received a total of NINE press queries

from the following agencies: ProPublica NY Post The Daily Wire The Federalist The Washington Times, Fox (freelancer) CBS Washington Examiner Washington Free Beacon Press All news outlets were provided the following

statement: A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend. An incorrect statement involving Hegseths admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released by an employee

on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in error. Hegseth

was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the Class of 2003. The academy takes this situation

seriously and apologizes for this administrative error. The statement was attributed the West Point Directorate of Communications.

Subject: RE: Hegseth Queries

From: "DeMaro, Francis J" (b) (6)

To: "Kelley, Terence M COL" (b) (6)

Sir, Just did a search and found these articles are now online.

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/defense/3257116/west-point-apology-pete-hegseth-misinformation/>[\(b\) \(6\)](https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2024/dec/11/west-point-apologizes-administrative-error-claimin/Pete-Hegseth-Scoops-Apparent-Media-Hit-Piece-About-West-Point-Heres-My-Letter-Of-AcceptanceFrancis-J-DeMaro-Jr.Public-Affairs-SpecialistMedia-Relations-DivisionUS-Military-AcademyPublic-Affairs-Officep.(b)(6))

[\(b\) \(6\)](https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2024/dec/11/west-point-apologizes-administrative-error-claimin/Pete-Hegseth-Scoops-Apparent-Media-Hit-Piece-About-West-Point-Heres-My-Letter-Of-AcceptanceFrancis-J-DeMaro-Jr.Public-Affairs-SpecialistMedia-Relations-DivisionUS-Military-AcademyPublic-Affairs-Officep.(b)(6))

Apparent Media Hit Piece About West Point: Heres My Letter Of AcceptanceFrancis J DeMaro Jr.Public Affairs

SpecialistMedia Relations DivisionUS Military AcademyPublic Affairs Officep. (b) (6)

(b) (6) From: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Sent:

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 2:41 PMTo: Kelley, Terence M COL (b) (6) Cc: Boujnida,

Cheryl L (b) (6); DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) Subject: Hegseth

Queries***There are no actual news articles that weve come across all comments remain on X. We will continue to

monitor.As of Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 2:30 p.m., PAO Media Relations team has received a total of NINE press queries

from the following agencies:ProPublicaNY PostThe Daily Wire The FederalistThe Washington Times, Fox

(freelancer)CBSWashington ExaminerWashington Free Beacon Press All news outlets were provided the following

statement:A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not

attend. An incorrect statement involving Hegseths admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released by an employee

on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in error.Hegseth

was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the Class of 2003.The academy takes this situation

seriously and apologizes for this administrative error.The statement was attributed the West Point Directorate of

Communications.

Subject: Hegseth Queries

From: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" (b) (6)

To: "Kelley, Terence M COL" (b) (6)

***There are no actual news articles that weve come across all comments remain on X. We will continue to monitor. As of Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 2:30 p.m., PAO Media Relations team has received a total of NINE press queries from the following agencies: ProPublica NY Post The Daily Wire The Federalist The Washington Times, Fox (freelancer) CBS Washington Examiner Washington Free Beacon Press All news outlets were provided the following statement: A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend. An incorrect statement involving Hegseth's admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released by an employee on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in error. Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the Class of 2003. The academy takes this situation seriously and apologizes for this administrative error. The statement was attributed to the West Point Directorate of Communications.

Subject: RE: CBS News Inquiry: Pete Hegseth

From: "DeMaro, Francis J" (b) (6)

To: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" (b) (6)

I think the boss is just calling everyone I bet we dont get any statement Francis J DeMaro Jr.Public Affairs SpecialistMedia Relations DivisionUS Military AcademyPublic Affairs Officep. (b) (6)

(b) (6) From: Boujnida, Cheryl L (b) (6) Sent:

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:13 AMTo: DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) Subject: RE: CBS

News Inquiry: Pete HegsethHow long does it take to get a statement together? Think it will happen in the next

hour?From: DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:11 AMTo:

Boujnida, Cheryl L (b) (6) Subject: RE: CBS News Inquiry: Pete HegsethokFrancis J DeMaro

Jr.Public Affairs SpecialistMedia Relations DivisionUS Military AcademyPublic Affairs Officep. (b) (6)

(b) (6) From: Boujnida, Cheryl L (b) (6) Sent:

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:09 AMTo: DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) Subject: RE: CBS

News Inquiry: Pete HegsethI think we should keep him off and T and I handle it. The sooner we get the statement, it will

calm down. From: DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:07

AMTo: Boujnida, Cheryl L (b) (6) Subject: FW: CBS News Inquiry: Pete HegsethCheryl, Do

you want to add the boss back to the media relations box, so he has access to all these queries? Or keep him off and T

and you handle these requests and back brief him?T said its up to you there is good and bad having him on that box.

Francis J DeMaro Jr.Public Affairs SpecialistMedia Relations DivisionUS Military AcademyPublic Affairs Officep.

(b) (6) From: (b) (6) Sent:

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:00 AMTo: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>Subject: CBS

News Inquiry: Pete HegsethCaution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came

from an external source.**Hello,Mr. Hegseth has shared what appears to be a letter of acceptance for admission to

West Point. I have attached them here.Can you confirm the authenticity of the letter?Can you confirm that Hegseth was

accepted to West Point, but declined to attend?Thank you.Sincerely,(b) (6)

Subject: Re: Media request

From: (b) (6)

To: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" (b) (6)

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Thank you, Cheryl

On Wed, Dec 11, 2024 at 12:27PM Boujnida, Cheryl L (b) (6) wrote:

(b) (6)

Thanks for reaching out. We can provide the following statement.

A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend. An incorrect statement involving Hegseths admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released by an employee on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in error.Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the Class of 2003.The academy takes this situation seriously and apologizes for this administrative error.

Please attribute the West Point Directorate of Communications.

V/r

Cheryl

Cheryl L. Boujnida

Chief, Media Relations Division

Directorate of Communications

U.S. Military Academy at West Point

(b) (6)

DUTY! HONOR! COUNTRY!

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 12:25 PM

To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>

Subject: Media request

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Good afternoon

May I speak to a resource at West Point about an apparent mix-up as to whether President-elect Donald Trump's nominee to lead the Defense Department, Pete Hegseth, applied and was accepted into West Point?

A publication - Pro Publica - is reporting publicly that a representative of West Point said Mr. Hegseth did not apply to the military academy. Mr. Hegseth has produced an acceptance letter.

May I find out:

1. Whether West Point has record of Mr. Hegseth's application and acceptance
2. Who spoke to Pro Publica and provided information that Mr. Hegseth did not even apply to West Point.
3. A response to growing public criticism that this was an intentional smear on the part of West Point against Mr. Hegseth.

Thank you for considering my request. My contact information is below and my deadline is close of business, December

11.

--

(b) (6)

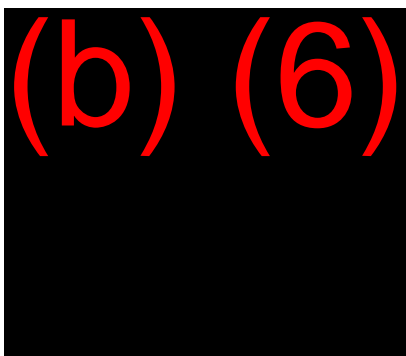
<https://www.washingtontimes.com>

The information contained in this electronic transmission is intended for the exclusive use of the individuals to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential, the disclosure

of which is prohibited by law. If the reader of this transmission is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. In addition, any unauthorized copying, disclosure

ordistribution of the material in this e-mail and any attachments is strictly forbidden.

--



<https://www.washingtontimes.com>

The information contained in this electronic transmission is intended for the exclusive use of the individuals to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential, the disclosure of which is prohibited by law. If the reader of this transmission is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. In addition, any unauthorized copying, disclosure or distribution of the material in this e-mail and any attachments is strictly forbidden.

Subject: Re: Press inquiry, Washington Examiner

From: (b) (6)

To: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" (b) (6)

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Thank you for your time.

Best,

(b) (6)

On Wed, Dec 11, 2024 at 12:25PM Boujnida, Cheryl L (b) (6) wrote:

(b) (6)

Thanks for reaching out. We can provide the following statement.

A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend. An incorrect statement involving Hegseths admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released

by an employee on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in error.Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the Class of 2003.The academy takes this situation seriously

and apologizes for this administrative error.

Please attribute the West Point Directorate of Communications.

V/r

Cheryl

Cheryl L. Boujnida

Chief, Media Relations Division

Directorate of Communications

U.S. Military Academy at West Point

(b) (6)

DUTY! HONOR! COUNTRY!

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 10:39 AM

To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>

Subject: Press inquiry, Washington Examiner

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Hello,

My name is (b) (6) and I'm a defense reporter with the

Washington Examiner.

I'm reaching out to see whether West Point can confirm that Peter Hegseth, the president-elect's selection to lead the Department of Defense, did in fact apply and was accepted to West Point in 1999. A

ProPublica editor said today that West Point's PAO told the outlet that he hadn't even applied there, while Hegseth posted a photo of his acceptance letter, which was signed by West Point Superintendent, Lt. Gen. Daniel Christman, U.S. Army.

So, can you confirm whether Mr. Hegseth applied to West Point, and whether he was accepted?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: Hegseth Statement edits - USE this one

From: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" (b) (6)

To: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" (b) (6)

Cheryl I'd prefer to take out the redundant words like West Point and uppercase Class. Otherwise, let's get this off. Use the below. I think it makes him sound a bit better. A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend. An incorrect statement involving Hegseth's admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released by an employee on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in error. Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the Class of 2003. The academy takes this situation seriously and apologizes for this administrative error. Please attribute the West Point Directorate of Communications. From: Boujnida, Cheryl L (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 12:07 PM To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Cc: DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) Subject: Hegseth Statement A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend West Point. An incorrect statement involving Hegseth's admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released by an employee on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in error. Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the class of 2003. The academy takes this situation seriously and apologizes for this administrative error. Please attribute the West Point Directorate of Communications. V/r Cheryl Cheryl L. Boujnida Chief, Media Relations Division Directorate of Communications U.S. Military Academy at West Point (b) (6) DUTY! HONOR! COUNTRY!

Subject: Re: CBS News Inquiry: Pete Hegseth

From: (b) (6)

To: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" (b) (6)

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Thank you, Cheryl. This is very helpful, and I appreciate it.

Best,

(b) (6)

From: Boujnida, Cheryl L (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 12:26:16 PM

To: (b) (6)

Cc: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>

Subject: RE: CBS News Inquiry: Pete Hegseth

<External Email>

(b) (6)

Thanks for reaching out. We can provide the following statement.

A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend. An incorrect statement involving Hegseths admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released

by an employee on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in error.Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the Class of 2003.The academy takes this situation seriously

and apologizes for this administrative error.

Please attribute the West Point Directorate of Communications.

V/r

Cheryl

Cheryl L. Boujnida

Chief, Media Relations Division

Directorate of Communications

U.S. Military Academy at West Point

(b) (6)

DUTY! HONOR! COUNTRY!

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:00 AM

To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>

Subject: CBS News Inquiry: Pete Hegseth

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Hello,

Mr. Hegseth has shared what appears to be a letter of acceptance for admission to West Point. I have attached them here.

Can you confirm the authenticity of the letter?

Can you confirm that Hegseth was accepted to West Point, but declined to attend?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: Media Inquiry-The Federalist

From: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6), Thanks for reaching out. We can provide the following statement. A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend. An incorrect statement involving Hegseth's admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released by an employee on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in error. Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the Class of 2003. The academy takes this situation seriously and apologizes for this administrative error. Please attribute the West Point Directorate of Communications. V/r Cheryl L. Boujnida, Chief, Media Relations Division, Directorate of Communications, U.S. Military Academy at West Point. (b) (6) DUTY! HONOR! COUNTRY! From: (b) (6) (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 12:53 PM To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Media Inquiry-The Federalist Caution! **Don't click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source. **Hello, My name is (b) (6), a (b) (6) (b) (6) with (b) (6). (b) (6) recently revealed correspondence with West Point's public affairs team regarding Pete Hegseth's acceptance into West Point. According to the statement cited by (b) (6), an Army spokesman admitted academy officials made an error in falsely claiming that Mr. Hegseth was not accepted into West Point. If someone could answer the following questions by 3 pm ET, today, Dec. 11, I would greatly appreciate it. 1. Does West Point plan on launching an investigation into this matter, as requested by Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton? If not, please explain why. 2. Will the West Point officials who provided inaccurate information to (b) (6) face any form of disciplinary action or be removed from their current duties responding to media inquiries? If not, please explain why. 3. Please provide the identities of the West Point officials who provided (b) (6) false information regarding Mr. Hegseth's acceptance into West Point. From: (b) (6) Staff Writer The Federalist

Subject: RE: Daily Wire inquiry re: Pete Hegseth

From: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6), Thanks for reaching out. We can provide the following statement. A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend. An incorrect statement involving Hegseth's admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released by an employee on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in error. Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the Class of 2003. The academy takes this situation seriously and apologizes for this administrative error. Please attribute the West Point Directorate of Communications. V/r Cheryl Cheryl L. Boujnida Chief, Media Relations Division Directorate of Communications U.S. Military Academy at West Point (b) (6) DUTY! HONOR! COUNTRY! From: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 1:20 PM To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Daily Wire inquiry re: Pete Hegseth Caution! **Don't click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.** Hello. I'm a reporter with The Daily Wire. Pete Hegseth has published his acceptance letter from West Point, but a journalist says your PR told him twice Hegseth never applied. <https://x.com/eisingerj/status/1866863141826752735> Can you please explain the discrepancy? Thank you. (b) (6)

Subject: RE: Hegseth Statement edits - USE this one

From: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

Agreed! From: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) > Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024

12:20 PM To: Boujnida, Cheryl L (b) (6) > Cc: DeMaro, Francis J

(b) (6) > Subject: RE: Hegseth Statement edits - USE this one Cheryl I'd prefer to take out the

redundant words like West Point and uppercase Class Otherwise, let's get this off Use the below. I think it makes him

sound a bit better. A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did

not attend. An incorrect statement involving Hegseth's admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released by an

employee on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in

error. Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the Class of 2003. The academy takes

this situation seriously and apologizes for this administrative error. Please attribute the West Point Directorate of

Communications. From: Boujnida, Cheryl L (b) (6) Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024

12:07 PM To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Cc: DeMaro, Francis J

(b) (6) Subject: Hegseth Statement A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was

offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend West Point. An incorrect statement involving Hegseth's

admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released by an employee on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an

archived database, employees realized this statement was in error. Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a

prospective member of the class of 2003. The academy takes this situation seriously and apologizes for this

administrative error. Please attribute the West Point Directorate of Communications. V/r Cheryl Cheryl L. Boujnida Chief,

Media Relations Division Directorate of Communications U.S. Military Academy at West

Point (b) (6) HONOR! COUNTRY!

Subject: RE: NY Post requesting comment on false statement made about Pete Hegseth's admission to West Point

From: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6), Thanks for reaching out. We can provide the following statement. A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend. An incorrect statement involving Hegseth's admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released by an employee on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in error. Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the Class of 2003. The academy takes this situation seriously and apologizes for this administrative error. Please attribute the West Point Directorate of Communications. V/r Cheryl L. Boujnida, Chief, Media Relations Division, Directorate of Communications, U.S. Military Academy at West Point. (b) (6) DUTY! HONOR! COUNTRY! From: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 1:56 PM To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: NY Post requesting comment on false statement made about Pete Hegseth's admission to West Point Caution! **Don't click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.** Hello, I'm a reporter at the New York Post. Both an attorney for Pete Hegseth and Sen. Tom Cotton wrote letters to West Point recently claiming that a press officer, Theresa Brinkerhoff, may have violated privacy laws by disclosing information about the current defense secretary designee's admissions offer from the US Military Academy in 1999. I've received copies of the letters as well as Hegseth's admissions offer. "The use of false statements to influence or damage a political nominee's reputation is particularly concerning, as it may interfere with the democratic process and the fair consideration of [a] candidate for public office," lawyer (b) (6) wrote in his letter. "In light of these concerns, I urge you to investigate this matter thoroughly and take appropriate corrective action to prevent future violations. As a fellow Service Academy graduate, I am sure that we both agree that it is imperative that our Service Academies uphold the highest standards of privacy, accuracy, and integrity in their communications." Cotton said: "If true, [the incident] demonstrates egregiously bad judgment to share such information about the nominee to be Secretary of Defense with a known liberal outlet like ProPublica." Both asked for West Point to investigate. Would its press office care to respond to either of the letters or explain why this apparently false information was disclosed. My

deadline is 5 p.m.Thanks (b) (6) (b) (6) [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted]

Subject: RE: Response from West Point urgently needed

From: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M;DeMaro, Francis J

Okay sounds good T. From: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Sent: Wednesday,

December 11, 2024 11:15 AM To: Boujnida, Cheryl L (b) (6); DeMaro, Francis J

(b) (6) Subject: Fw: Response from West Point urgently needed FYSA- boss said hold on

response to anyone else on the follow ups. Ultimately they should get the straight info of yes he did but did not

attend...stand by Get Outlook for iOS From: (b) (6) Sent: Wednesday, December 11,

2024 11:05:14 AM To: Kelley, Terence M COL (b) (6) Cc: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6); (b) (6) Subject: Re: Response from

West Point urgently needed Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came

from an external source.**Thank you, Colonel Kelley. We appreciate your efforts to resolve this quickly. Just so we fully

understand the circumstances of Hegseth's application and admission to the Academy: Can you tell us who nominated

him? Or any other context on his application? Thanks (b) (6) On Wed, Dec 11, 2024 at 10:46AM Kelley, Terence M COL

(b) (6) wrote: (b) (6) First, my personal and professional apologies for this error. I assure you

with the utmost sincerity that this was an honest mistake by employees searching 25-year-old records. You may

attribute the following to myself as an Army spokesman: A review of our records indicates Mr. Peter Hegseth was

offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend West Point. An incorrect statement involving Mr. Hegseth's

admission to the United States Military Academy was released by an employee on December 10, 2024. Upon further

review of an achieved database, employees realized this statement was in error. Mr. Hegseth was offered acceptance to

West Point as a prospective member of the class of 2003. USMA takes this situation very seriously, and we apologize

for this administrative error. Best, -Terry V/r, Terence M. Kelley Colonel, U.S. Army Director of Communications U.S. Military

Academy at

West

Point Office: (b) (6) --From:

(b) (6) Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 9:23AM To: Kelley, Terence M

COL (b) (6), Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Cc: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Subject: Response from West Point urgently neededCaution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**Colonel Kelley,This is (b) (6), (b) (6) working on the Pete Hegseth reporting. (b) (6) is on the west coast so I'm handling morning duties.) I just texted you and left a voicemail as well.We urgently need a response from West Point on this Pete Hegseth admissions issue.Hegseth tweeted the attached this morning.What we currently have from West Point on the record isTheresa Brinkerhoff saying: "According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for admission to the U.S. Military Academy."In a follow-up call, we asked another academy spokesperson if Hegseth never applying necessarily meant he was not offered admission. Absolutely 100% said Francis DeMaro Jr. Because he never opened a file.If West Point wishes to revise its statement on the record, we need to know now.Please call me at (b) (6).Thanks,(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)

Subject: Hegseth Statement

From: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend West Point. An incorrect statement involving Hegseths admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released by an employee on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in error. Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the class of 2003. The academy takes this situation seriously and apologizes for this administrative error. Please attribute the West Point Directorate of Communications. V/r Cheryl Cheryl L. Boujnida Chief, Media Relations Division Directorate of Communications U.S. Military Academy at West Point (b) (6) DUTY! HONOR! COUNTRY!

Subject: FW: CBS News Inquiry: Pete Hegseth

From: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: Cheryl Boujnida

From: (b) (6) Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:00 AM To: PAO Media Relations

<paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: CBS News Inquiry: Pete Hegseth Caution! **Dont click on links or

attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.** Hello, Mr. Hegseth has shared what

appears to be a letter of acceptance for admission to West Point. I have attached them here. Can you confirm the

authenticity of the letter? Can you confirm that Hegseth was accepted to West Point, but declined to attend? Thank

you. Sincerely, (b) (6)

Subject: RE: Hegseth Statement edits - USE this one

From: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

The poor West Point employee. From: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Sent: Wednesday,

December 11, 2024 12:20 PM To: Boujnida, Cheryl L (b) (6) Cc: DeMaro, Francis J

(b) (6) Subject: RE: Hegseth Statement edits - USE this one Cheryl I'd prefer to take out the

redundant words like West Point and uppercase Class Otherwise, let's get this off Use the below. I think it makes him

sound a bit better. A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did

not attend. An incorrect statement involving Hegseth's admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released by an

employee on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in

error. Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the Class of 2003. The academy takes

this situation seriously and apologizes for this administrative error. Please attribute the West Point Directorate of

Communications. From: Boujnida, Cheryl L (b) (6) Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024

12:07 PM To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Cc: DeMaro, Francis J

(b) (6) Subject: Hegseth Statement A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was

offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend West Point. An incorrect statement involving Hegseth's

admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released by an employee on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an

archived database, employees realized this statement was in error. Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a

prospective member of the class of 2003. The academy takes this situation seriously and apologizes for this

administrative error. Please attribute the West Point Directorate of Communications. V/r Cheryl Cheryl L. Boujnida Chief,

Media Relations Division Directorate of Communications U.S. Military Academy at West

Point (b) (6) HONOR! COUNTRY!

Subject: RE: Press inquiry, Washington Examiner

From: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6), Thanks for reaching out. We can provide the following statement. A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend. An incorrect statement involving Hegseth's admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released by an employee on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in error. Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the Class of 2003. The academy takes this situation seriously and apologizes for this administrative error. Please attribute the West Point Directorate of Communications. V/r Cheryl Cheryl L. Boujnida Chief, Media Relations Division Directorate of Communications U.S. Military Academy at West Point (b) (6) DUTY! HONOR! COUNTRY! From: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 10:39 AM To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Press inquiry, Washington Examiner Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.** Hello, My name is (b) (6) and I'm a defense reporter with the Washington Examiner. I'm reaching out to see whether West Point can confirm that Peter Hegseth, the president-elect's selection to lead the Department of Defense, did in fact apply and was accepted to West Point in 1999. A ProPublica editor said today that West Point's PAO told the outlet that he hadn't even applied there, while Hegseth posted a photo of his acceptance letter, which was signed by West Point Superintendent, Lt. Gen. Daniel Christman, U.S. Army. So, can you confirm whether Mr. Hegseth applied to West Point, and whether he was accepted? Thanks, (b) (6)

Subject: RE: Laptop

From: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: DeMaro, Francis J

Okay sounds good. I still cant understand why we did not know about his appointment letter. (b) (6)

(b) (6) so I will be offline at noon. What about the tax form?From: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 10:05 AMTo: Boujnida, Cheryl L

(b) (6) Subject: RE: LaptopNo, I dont think I will take mine agree I never get on it. We should

get T to do the roll-up tomorrow shes at the IPR to the Supt for A/N and still dealing with this Pete Hegseth issue.Francis

J DeMaro Jr.Public Affairs SpecialistMedia Relations DivisionUS Military AcademyPublic Affairs (b) (6)

(b) (6) From: Boujnida, Cheryl L (b) (6) Sent:

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 10:02 AMTo: DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) Subject: LaptopAre

you taking your laptop? I am going to take mine but I never really feel like I use it there. Cheryl L. BoujnidaChief, Media

Relations DivisionDirectorate of CommunicationsU.S. Military Academy at West

Point(b) (6) DUTY! HONOR! COUNTRY!

Subject: RE: Media request

From: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6), Thanks for reaching out. We can provide the following statement. A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend. An incorrect statement involving Hegseth's admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released by an employee on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in error. Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the Class of 2003. The academy takes this situation seriously and apologizes for this administrative error. Please attribute the West Point Directorate of Communications. V/r Cheryl Cheryl L. Boujnida Chief, Media Relations Division Directorate of Communications U.S. Military Academy at West Point (b) (6) DUTY! HONOR! COUNTRY! From: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 12:25 PM To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Media request Caution! **Don't click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.** Good afternoon May I speak to a resource at West Point about an apparent mix-up as to whether President-elect Donald Trump's nominee to lead the Defense Department, Pete Hegseth, applied and was accepted into West Point? A publication - Pro Publica - is reporting publicly that a representative of West Point said Mr. Hegseth did not apply to the military academy. Mr. Hegseth has produced an acceptance letter. May I find out: 1. Whether West Point has record of Mr. Hegseth's application and acceptance 2. Who spoke to Pro Publica and provided information that Mr. Hegseth did not even apply to West Point 3. A response to growing public criticism that this was an intentional smear on the part of West Point against Mr. Hegseth. Thank you for considering my request. My contact information is below and my deadline is close of business, December 11. (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6) <https://www.washingtontimes.com> The information contained in this electronic transmission is intended for the exclusive use of the individuals to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential, the disclosure of which is prohibited by law. If the reader of this transmission is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly

prohibited. In addition, any unauthorized copying, disclosure or distribution of the material in this e-mail and any attachments is strictly forbidden.

Subject: RE: CBS News Inquiry: Pete Hegseth

From: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: DeMaro, Francis J

I think we should keep him off and T and I handle it. The sooner we get the statement, it will calm down. From: DeMaro,

Francis J (b) (6) > Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:07 AM To: Boujnida, Cheryl L

(b) (6) Subject: FW: CBS News Inquiry: Pete Hegseth Cheryl, Do you want to add the boss

back to the media relations box, so he has access to all these queries? Or keep him off and T and you handle these

requests and back brief him? T said its up to you there is good and bad having him on that box. Francis J DeMaro

Jr. Public Affairs Specialist Media Relations Division US Military Academy Public Affairs Office. (b) (6)

(b) (6) From: (b) (6) Sent: Wednesday, December

11, 2024 11:00 AM To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: CBS News Inquiry: Pete

Hegseth Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external

source. **Hello, Mr. Hegseth has shared what appears to be a letter of acceptance for admission to West Point. I have

attached them here. Can you confirm the authenticity of the letter? Can you confirm that Hegseth was accepted to West

Point, but declined to attend? Thank you. Sincerely, (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: Hegseth Queries

From: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

T We have received six (The Federalist, The Washington Times, Fox (freelancer) CBS, Washington Examiner and Washington Free Beacon Press) queries from the following agencies in addition to ProPublica today. My name is (b) (6), a staff writer with The Federalist. ProPublica Editor (b) (6) recently revealed correspondence with West Point's public affairs team regarding Pete Hegseth's acceptance into West Point. According to the statement cited by (b) (6), an Army spokesman admitted academy officials made an error in falsely claiming that Mr. Hegseth was not accepted into West Point. If someone could answer the following questions by 3 pm ET, today, Dec. 11, I would greatly appreciate it. 1. Does West Point plan on launching an investigation into this matter, as requested by Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton? If not, please explain why. 2. Will the West Point officials who provided inaccurate information to (b) (6) face any form of disciplinary action or be removed from their current duties responding to media inquiries? If not, please explain why. 3. Please provide the identities of the West Point officials who provided (b) (6) false information regarding Mr. Hegseth's acceptance into West Point. (b) (6) National Politics Correspondent The Washington Times May I speak to a resource at West Point about an apparent mix-up as to whether President-elect Donald Trump's nominee to lead the Defense Department, Pete Hegseth, applied and was accepted into West Point? A publication - Pro Publica - is reporting publicly that a representative of West Point said Mr. Hegseth did not apply to the military academy. Mr. Hegseth has produced an acceptance letter. May I find out: 1. Whether West Point has record of Mr. Hegseth's application and acceptance 2. Who spoke to Pro Publica and provided information that Mr. Hegseth did not even apply to West Point. 3. A response to growing public criticism that this was an intentional smear on the part of West Point against Mr. Hegseth. Thank you for considering my request. My contact information is below and my deadline is close of business, December 11. (b) (6) Good morning, I'm a freelance journalist who has published in Fox News and other platforms. (b) (6) with ProPublica recently tweeted that the West Point public affairs office told "us twice on record that he [Pete Hegseth] hadn't even applied there." Hegseth has since published a letter of acceptance by West Point Superintendent Lieutenant General Daniel Christman, US Army. Some questions: 1. Is West Point changing its position that Hegseth never applied? 2. What type of search was conducted to check if Hegseth applied? 3.

Did West Point "twice" represent to (b) (6) (or those with ProPublica) that Hegseth never applied? CBS - Mr. Hegseth has shared what appears to be a letter of acceptance for admission to West Point. I have attached them here. Can you confirm the authenticity of the letter? Can you confirm that Hegseth was accepted to West Point, but declined to attend? (b) (6) and I'm a defense reporter with the Washington Examiner. I'm reaching out to see whether West Point can confirm that Peter Hegseth, the president-elect's selection to lead the Department of Defense, did in fact apply and was accepted to West Point in 1999. A ProPublica editor said today that West Point's PAO told the outlet that he hadn't even applied there, while Hegseth posted a photo of his acceptance letter, which was signed by West Point Superintendent, Lt. Gen. Daniel Christman, U.S. Army. So, can you confirm whether Mr. Hegseth applied to West Point, and whether he was accepted? (b) (6) Senior Investigative Reporter with the Washington Free Beacon I just spoke w/ Frank on the phone for this inquiry but wanted to put it in an email. I just wanted to clarify some chatter on Twitter about Pete Hegseth's application to West Point in 1999. A reporter for Pro Public is claiming that a West Point spokesperson told him that West Point had no record of Hegseth applying to West Point. But Hegseth produced a letter from West Point showing he had been accepted. I just wanted to clarify a.) did West Point tell ProPublica that there is no record of Hegseth applying? Frank suggested there was some confusion on ProPublica's part. b.) what records does West Point have on this matter? I'm a reporter with ProPublica. Have a question I was hoping you could provide comments on. Was Pete Hegseth offered admission to West Point? This would have been for the class starting in 1999. Provided the Admissions Office contact information. He did not apply to West Point. Confirmed by Admissions. V/r Cheryl Cheryl L. Boujnida Chief, Media Relations Division Directorate of Communications U.S. Military Academy at West Point (b) (6) DUTY! HONOR! COUNTRY!

Subject: RE: CBS News Inquiry: Pete Hegseth

From: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6), Thanks for reaching out. We can provide the following statement. A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend. An incorrect statement involving Hegseth's admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released by an employee on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in error. Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the Class of 2003. The academy takes this situation seriously and apologizes for this administrative error. Please attribute the West Point Directorate of Communications. V/r Cheryl Cheryl L. Boujnida Chief, Media Relations Division Directorate of Communications U.S. Military Academy at West Point (b) (6) DUTY! HONOR! COUNTRY! From: (b) (6) Sent:

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:00 AM To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: CBS News Inquiry: Pete Hegseth Caution! **Don't click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.** Hello, Mr. Hegseth has shared what appears to be a letter of acceptance for admission to West Point. I have attached them here. Can you confirm the authenticity of the letter? Can you confirm that Hegseth was accepted to West Point, but declined to attend? Thank you. Sincerely, (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: Hegseth Inquiry

From: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: (b) (6)

Hi, Thanks for reaching out. We can provide the following statement. A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend. An incorrect statement involving Hegseths admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released by an employee on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in error. Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the Class of 2003. The academy takes this situation seriously and apologizes for this administrative error. Please attribute the West Point Directorate of Communications. V/ (b) (6),

Media Relations Division Directorate of Communications U.S. Military Academy at West Point (b) (6) DUTY! HONOR! COUNTRY! From: (b) (6) Sent:

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:35 AM To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject:

Hegseth Inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an

external source. **Good morning, I'm a freelance journalist who has published in Fox News and other platforms (b) (6)

(b) (6) with ProPublica recently tweeted that the West Point public affairs office told "us twice on record that he [Pete Hegseth] hadn't even applied there." Hegseth has since published a letter of acceptance by West Point Superintendent Lieutenant General Daniel Christman, US Army. Some questions: 1. Is West Point changing its position that Hegseth never applied? 2. What type of search was conducted to check if Hegseth applied? 3. Did West Point "twice" represent to (b) (6) (or those with ProPublica) that Hegseth never applied? Thanks (b) (6)

Subject: FW: media inquiry

From: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: DeMaro, Francis J

This Hegseth thing is a mess. How is it possible that admissions said he never got an offer? Are you and T

discussing?From: (b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:03 PMTo:

Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations

<paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>Subject: Re: media inquiryCaution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you

trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**They just sent images of the letter. Can you check your

records again?On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 10:50AM (b) (6) wrote:Frank and

Theresa, I need your urgent response on two questions: -Hegseth's representatives claimWest Point is in violation of

federal law by disclosing admissions information. Is that true? Can you point to the policy that makes clear this is public

info?-His representatives also said that he was offered admission, and that they have the acceptance letter from West

Point, but they refuse to share it. However, you all said he did not apply, and he was not offered admission. Any

response?On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 6:00AM Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6)

wrote:According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for admission to the U.S. Military Academy.From:

(b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 2:21 PMTo: DeMaro, Francis J

(b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations paomediarelations@westpoint.eduSubject: Re: media

inquiryCaution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external

source.**Thank you, reallyappreciate it. And just to reiterate, if we can get an answer by tomorrow, would be much

appreciated.On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 11:19AM DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) wrote:(b) (6) good

speaking with you.Like I mentioned on the phone we do not have a database that shows who applied or was offered

admission we can only confirm that he never attended the academy. We have sent your request to our admissions office

to see if they are able to provide more details about application/offers etc. v/rFrankFrancis J DeMaro Jr.Public Affairs

SpecialistMedia Relations DivisionUS Military AcademyPublic Affairs Officep. (b) (6)

(b) (6) From: (b) (6) Sent: Monday,

December 9, 2024 12:25 AMTo: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>Subject: Re: media

inquiryCaution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**Hello, Checking in about my email from Friday. Please let me know if Pete Hegseth was offered admission, or ever applied, toWest Point. This would have likely been sometime in the late 1990s.Just as a point of reference, West Point has in the past verified whether individuals applied/were offered admissions. See here: <https://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ben-carson-west-point-215598>Am working on a tight deadline. Am also available

by phone: 213-271-7217Thank you so much,(b) (6) On Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 1:23PM (b) (6)

(b) (6) wrote:Hello,I'm a reporter with ProPublica. Have a question I was hoping you could provide comment on.Was Pete Hegseth offered admission toWest Point? This would have been for the class starting in 1999.Thank you,Robert-- (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: media inquiry

From: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: DeMaro, Francis J

So odd. Unless the letter is hoax, but that is doubtful. From: DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) Sent:

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:12 PM To: Boujnida, Cheryl L (b) (6) Subject: RE: media

inquiry Yeah crazy (b) (6) was in the office earlier talking about it too Francis J DeMaro Jr. Public Affairs Specialist Media

Relations Division US Military Academy Public Affairs Officep. (b) (6)

(b) (6) From: Boujnida, Cheryl L (b) (6) Sent:

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:06 PM To: DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) Subject: FW: media

inquiry This Hegseth thing is a mess. How is it possible that admissions said he never got an offer? Are you and T

discussing? From: (b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:03 PM To:

Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations

<paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: media inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you

trust the sender. This email came from an external source.** They just sent images of the letter. Can you check your

records again? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 10:50AM (b) (6) wrote: Frank and

Theresa, I need your urgent response on two questions: -Hegseth's representatives claim West Point is in violation of

federal law by disclosing admissions information. Is that true? Can you point to the policy that makes clear this is public

info? -His representatives also said that he was offered admission, and that they have the acceptance letter from West

Point, but they refuse to share it. However, you all said he did not apply, and he was not offered admission. Any

response? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 6:00AM Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6)

wrote: According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for admission to the U.S. Military Academy. From:

(b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 2:21 PM To: DeMaro, Francis J

(b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations paomediarelations@westpoint.edu Subject: Re: media

inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external

source.** Thank you, really appreciate it. And just to reiterate, if we can get an answer by tomorrow, would be much

appreciated. On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 11:19AM DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) wrote: (b) (6) good

speaking with you. Like I mentioned on the phone we do not have a database that shows who applied or was offered admission we can only confirm that he never attended the academy. We have sent your request to our admissions office to see if they are able to provide more details about application/offers etc. v/r Frank Francis J DeMaro Jr. Public Affairs Specialist Media Relations Division US Military Academy Public Affairs Office. (b) (6)

(b) (6) From: (b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 12:25 AM To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: media inquiry Caution! **Don't click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.** Hello, Checking in about my email from Friday. Please let me know if Pete Hegseth was offered admission, or ever applied, to West Point. This would have likely been sometime in the late 1990s. Just as a point of reference, West Point has in the past verified whether individuals applied/were offered admissions. See here: <https://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ben-carson-west-point-215598> Am working on a tight deadline. Am also available by phone: 213-271-7217 Thank you so much. (b) (6) On Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 1:23PM (b) (6) (b) (6) wrote: Hello, I'm a reporter with ProPublica. Have a question I was hoping you could provide comment on. Was Pete Hegseth offered admission to West Point? This would have been for the class starting in 1999. Thank you. (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: Hegseth Queries

From: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

T - We are currently at three queries in addition to Pro Publica. (b) (6) with CBS - Mr. Hegseth has shared what appears to be a letter of acceptance for admission to West Point. I have attached them here. Can you confirm the authenticity of the letter? Can you confirm that Hegseth was accepted to West Point, but declined to attend? (b) (6) and I'm a defense reporter with the Washington Examiner. I'm reaching out to see whether West Point can confirm that Peter Hegseth, the president-elect's selection to lead the Department of Defense, did in fact apply and was accepted to West Point in 1999. A ProPublica editor said today that West Point's PAO told the outlet that he hadn't even applied there, while Hegseth posted a photo of his acceptance letter, which was signed by West Point Superintendent, Lt. Gen. Daniel Christman, U.S. Army. So, can you confirm whether Mr. Hegseth applied to West Point, and whether he was accepted? (b) (6) Senior Investigative Reporter with the Washington Free Beacon I just spoke w/ Frank on the phone for this inquiry but wanted to put it in an email. I just wanted to clarify some chatter on Twitter about Pete Hegseth's application to West Point in 1999. A reporter for Pro Public is claiming that a West Point spokesperson told him that West Point had no record of Hegseth applying to West Point. But Hegseth produced a letter from West Point showing he had been accepted. I just wanted to clarify a.) did West Point tell ProPublica that there is no record of Hegseth applying? Frank suggested there was some confusion on ProPublica's part. b.) what records does West Point have on this matter? V/r Cheryl Cheryl L. Boujnida Chief, Media Relations Division Directorate of Communications U.S. Military Academy at West Point (b) (6) DUTY! HONOR! COUNTRY!

Subject: RE: Press inquiry on Hegseth and ProPublica -- spoke to Frank on this issue

From: "Boujnida, Cheryl L" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: (b) (6)

Hi (b) (6), Thanks for reaching out. We can provide the following statement. A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend. An incorrect statement involving Hegseth's admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released by an employee on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in error. Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the Class of 2003. The academy takes this situation seriously and apologizes for this administrative error. Please attribute the West Point Directorate of Communications. V/r Cheryl Cheryl L. Boujnida Chief, Media Relations Division Directorate of Communications U.S. Military Academy at West Point (b) (6) DUTY! HONOR! COUNTRY! From: (b) (6) Sent:

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 10:38 AM To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Press inquiry on Hegseth and ProPublica -- spoke to Frank on this issue Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source. **Hello, I just spoke w/ Frank on the phone for this inquiry but wanted to put it in an email. I just wanted to clarify some chatter on Twitter about Pete Hegseth's application to West Point in 1999. A reporter for ProPublica is claiming that a West Point spokesperson told him that West Point had no record of Hegseth applying to West Point. But Hegseth produced a letter from West Point showing he had been accepted. I just wanted to clarify a.) did West Point tell ProPublica that there is no record of Hegseth applying? Frank suggested there was some confusion on ProPublica's part. b.) what records does West Point have on this matter? Thanks in advance for any help. (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: Fw: Response from West Point urgently needed

From: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" <MAILER-DAEMON>

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:05:14 AM

To: Kelley, Terence M COL (b) (6)

Cc: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6); (b) (6)

Subject: Re: Response from West Point urgently needed

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Thank you, Colonel Kelley. We appreciate your efforts to resolve this quickly.

Just so we fully understand the circumstances of Hegseth's application and admission to the Academy: Can you tell us who nominated him? Or any other context on his application?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

On Wed, Dec 11, 2024 at 10:46AM Kelley, Terence M COL (b) (6) wrote:

(b) (6)

First, my personal and professional apologies for this error. I assure you with the utmost sincerity that this was an honest mistake by employees searching 25-year-old records.

You may attribute the following to myself as an Army spokesman:

A review of our records indicates Mr. Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend West Point.

An incorrect statement involving Mr. Hegseth's admission to the United States Military Academy was released by an employee on December 10, 2024. Upon further review of an achieved database, employees realized this statement was in error. Mr. Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the class of 2003. USMA takes this situation very seriously, and we apologize for this administrative error.

Best,

-Terry

V/r,

Terence M. Kelley

Colonel, U.S. Army

Director of Communications

U.S. Military Academy at West Point

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

--

From:

(b) (6)

Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 9:23AM

To: Kelley, Terence M COL (b) (6), Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6)

Subject: Response from West Point urgently needed

Caution! **Don't click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Colonel Kelley,

This is (b) (6), (b) (6) colleague at ProPublica working on the Pete Hegseth reporting. (b) (6) is on the west coast so I'm handling morning duties.) I just texted you and left a voicemail as well.

We urgently need a response from West Point on this Pete Hegseth admissions issue.

Hegseth tweeted the attached this morning.

What we currently have from West Point on the record is Theresa Brinkerhoff saying: "According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for admission to the U.S. Military Academy."

In a follow-up call, we asked another academy spokesperson if Hegseth never applying necessarily meant he was not offered admission. Absolutely 100% said Francis DeMaro Jr. Because he never opened a file.

If West Point wishes to revise its statement on the record, we need to know now.

Please call me at (b) (6).

Thanks,

(b) (6)

--

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: media inquiry

From: <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: (b) (6)

Exactly! I hate all this political mumbo-jumbo. I did find this if thats what they are claiming in regard to the information. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):This 1974 law protects the privacy of student education records, including admission records, at all schools that receive federal funds.FERPA limits third-party access to student records and generally prohibits schools from disclosing information without certain exceptions.Students can request access to their admission records and waive the non-disclosure provision by signing an authorization form.From: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:33 PMTo: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6) Subject: RE: media inquiryI honestly dont care if he says he was offered or not. Ultimately it looks like he declined and went to Princeton, so what is the problem? (b) (6)

From: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:27 PMTo:

(b) (6) Subject: RE: media inquiryIm unsure why they wouldnt provide this upfront. He obviously didnt complete the process so is it safe to say thats why records are purged perhaps?From: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:23 PMTo: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6) Subject: RE: media inquirySo are they saying we released this? I simply said we didnt have records of him applying. (b) (6)

(b) (6) From: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:10 PMTo: (b) (6)

(b) (6) >Subject: FW: media inquiryLook what they now provided??From: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:03 PMTo: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>Subject: Re: media inquiryCaution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**They just sent images of the letter. Can you check your records again?On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 10:50AM

(b) (6) wrote:Frank and Theresa, I need your urgent response on two

questions: -Hegseth's representatives claim West Point is in violation of federal law by disclosing admissions information.

Is that true? Can you point to the policy that makes clear this is public info? -His representatives also said that he was offered admission, and that they have the acceptance letter from West Point, but they refuse to share it. However, you all said he did not apply, and he was not offered admission. Any response? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 6:00AM Brinkerhoff,

Theresa M (b) (6) wrote: According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for admission to the U.S. Military Academy. From: (b) (6) Sent: Monday,

December 9, 2024 2:21 PM To: DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations paomediarelations@westpoint.edu Subject: Re: media inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you

trust the sender. This email came from an external source. **Thank you, really appreciate it. And just to reiterate, if we can get an answer by tomorrow, would be much appreciated. On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 11:19AM DeMaro, Francis J

(b) (6) wrote: (b) (6) good speaking with you. Like I mentioned on the phone we do not have a database that shows who applied or was offered admission we can only confirm that he never attended the academy.

We have sent your request to our admissions office to see if they are able to provide more details about application/offers etc. v/r Frank Francis J DeMaro Jr. Public Affairs Specialist Media Relations Division US Military

Academy Public Affairs Office (b) (6) (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 12:25 AM To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: media inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you

trust the sender. This email came from an external source. **Hello, Checking in about my email from Friday. Please let me know if Pete Hegseth was offered admission, or ever applied, to West Point. This would have likely been sometime in

the late 1990s. Just as a point of reference, West Point has in the past verified whether individuals applied/were offered admissions. See here: <https://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ben-carson-west-point-215598> Am working on a tight

deadline. Am also available by phone: 213-271-7217 Thank you so much. (b) (6) On Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 1:23PM (b) (6)

(b) (6) wrote: Hello, I'm a reporter with ProPublica. Have a question I was hoping you could provide comment on. Was Pete Hegseth offered admission to West Point? This would have been for the class

starting in 1999. Thank you. (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: Fw: Hegseth Queries

From: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" <MAILER-DAEMON>

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Boujnida, Cheryl L (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:07:44 AM

To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6)

Cc: DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6)

Subject: Hegseth Queries

T - We are currently at three queries in addition to Pro Publica.

(b) (6) with CBS - Mr. Hegseth has shared what appears to be a letter of acceptance for admission to West Point. I have attached them here. Can you confirm the authenticity of the letter? Can you confirm that Hegseth was accepted to West Point, but declined to attend?

(b) (6) and I'm a defense reporter with the

Washington Examiner. I'm reaching out to see whether West Point can confirm that Peter Hegseth, the president-elect's selection to lead the Department of Defense, did in fact apply and was accepted to West Point in 1999. A

ProPublica editor said today that West Point's PAO told the outlet that he hadn't even applied there, while Hegseth posted a photo of his acceptance letter, which was signed by West Point Superintendent, Lt. Gen. Daniel Christman, U.S. Army. So, can

you confirm whether Mr. Hegseth applied to West Point, and whether he was accepted?

(b) (6) Senior Investigative Reporter with the Washington Free Beacon I just spoke w/ Frank on the phone for this inquiry but wanted to put it in an email. I just wanted to clarify some chatter on Twitter about Pete Hegseth's application to West Point in 1999. A reporter for Pro Public is claiming that a West Point spokesperson told him that West Point had no record of Hegseth applying to West Point. But Hegseth produced a letter from West Point showing he had been accepted. I

just wanted to clarify a.) did West Point tell ProPublica that there is no record of Hegseth applying? Frank suggested

there was some confusion on ProPublica's part. b.) what records does West Point have on this matter?

V/r

Cheryl

Cheryl L. Boujnida

Chief, Media Relations Division

Directorate of Communications

U.S. Military Academy at West Point

(b) (6)

DUTY! HONOR! COUNTRY!

Subject: Fw: Hegseth Queries

From: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: Kelley, Terence M COL

This is what MR rolled up

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Boujnida, Cheryl L (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:07:44 AM

To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6)

Cc: DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6)

Subject: Hegseth Queries

T - We are currently at three queries in addition to Pro Publica.

(b) (6) with CBS - Mr. Hegseth has shared what appears to be a letter of acceptance for admission to West Point. I have attached them here. Can you confirm the authenticity of the letter? Can you confirm that Hegseth was accepted to West Point, but declined to attend?

(b) (6) and I'm a defense reporter with the

Washington Examiner. I'm reaching out to see whether West Point can confirm that Peter Hegseth, the president-elect's selection to lead the Department of Defense, did in fact apply and was accepted to West Point in 1999. A

ProPublica editor said today that West Point's PAO told the outlet that he hadn't even applied there, while Hegseth posted a photo of his acceptance letter, which was signed by West Point Superintendent, Lt. Gen. Daniel Christman, U.S. Army. So, can

you confirm whether Mr. Hegseth applied to West Point, and whether he was accepted?

(b) (6) Senior Investigative Reporter with the Washington Free Beacon I just spoke w/ Frank on the phone for this inquiry but wanted to put it in an email. I just wanted to clarify some chatter on Twitter about Pete Hegseth's application to West Point in 1999. A reporter for Pro Public is claiming that a West Point spokesperson told him that West Point had no record of Hegseth applying to West Point. But Hegseth produced a letter from West Point showing he had

been accepted.I

just wanted to clarify a.) did West Point tell ProPublica that there is no record of Hegseth applying? Frank suggested there was some confusion on ProPublica's part. b.) what records does West Point have on this matter?

V/r

Cheryl

Cheryl L. Boujnida

Chief, Media Relations Division

Directorate of Communications

U.S. Military Academy at West Point

(b) (6)

DUTY! HONOR! COUNTRY!

Subject: FW: media inquiry

From: <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: Kelley, Terence M COL

I need to loop you in This was from the guy looking to see if Hegseth attended/graduated. DAD said no records existed,

I replied and then he came back providing a letter and saying we violated From: (b) (6)

Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:12 PM To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6) >Subject: RE: media inquiry I will, but we might have to go back to the archives for

this one! Nothing is coming up in the data base. (b) (6)

From: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:10 PM To: (b) (6)

Subject: FW: media inquiry Look what they now provided?? From: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:03 PM To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6) >Cc: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: media

inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.** They just sent images of the letter. Can you check your records again? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 10:50AM

(b) (6) wrote: Frank and Theresa, I need your urgent response on two questions: -Hegseth's representatives claim West Point is in violation of federal law by disclosing admissions information.

Is that true? Can you point to the policy that makes clear this is public info? -His representatives also said that he was offered admission, and that they have the acceptance letter from West Point, but they refuse to share it. However, you all said he did not apply, and he was not offered admission. Any response? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 6:00AM Brinkerhoff,

Theresa M (b) (6) wrote: According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for admission to the U.S. Military Academy. From: (b) (6) Sent: Monday,

December 9, 2024 2:21 PM To: DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations paomediarelations@westpoint.edu Subject: Re: media inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you

trust the sender. This email came from an external source.** Thank you, really appreciate it. And just to reiterate, if we can get an answer by tomorrow, would be much appreciated. On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 11:19AM DeMaro, Francis J

(b) (6) wrote: (b) (6) good speaking with you. Like I mentioned on the phone we do not have a database that shows who applied or was offered admission we can only confirm that he never attended the academy. We have sent your request to our admissions office to see if they are able to provide more details about application/offers etc. v/r Frank Francis J DeMaro Jr. Public Affairs Specialist Media Relations Division US Military Academy Public Affairs Office (b) (6) (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 12:25 AM To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: media inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.** Hello, Checking in about my email from Friday. Please let me know if Pete Hegseth was offered admission, or ever applied, to West Point. This would have likely been sometime in the late 1990s. Just as a point of reference, West Point has in the past verified whether individuals applied/were offered admissions. See here: <https://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ben-carson-west-point-215598> Am working on a tight deadline. Am also available by phone: (b) (6) Thank you so much, Robert On Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 1:23PM (b) (6)

(b) (6) wrote: Hello, I'm a reporter with ProPublica. Have a question I was hoping you could provide comment on. Was Pete Hegseth offered admission to West Point? This would have been for the class starting in 1999. Thank you. (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: Re: media inquiry

From: Robert Faturechi (b) (6)

To: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" (b) (6)

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Thank you. I assume that means he was not offered admissions either?

On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 6:00AM Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) wrote:

According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for admission to the U.S. Military Academy.

From: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 2:21 PM

To: DeMaro, Francis J

(b) (6)

Cc: PAO Media Relations

paomediarelations@westpoint.edu

Subject: Re: media inquiry

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Thank you, really appreciate it. And just to reiterate, if we can get an answer by tomorrow, would be much appreciated.

On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 11:19AM DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) wrote:

(b) (6) good speaking with you.

Like I mentioned on the phone we do not have a database that shows who applied or was offered admission we can only confirm that he never attended the academy.

We have sent your request to our admissions office to see if they are able to provide more details about application/offers etc.

v/r

Frank

Francis J DeMaro Jr.

Public Affairs Specialist

Media Relations Division

US Military Academy

Public Affairs Office

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 12:25 AM

To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>

Subject: Re: media inquiry

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Hello,

Checking in about my email from Friday. Please let me know if Pete Hegseth was offered admission, or ever applied, toWest Point. This would have likely been sometime in the late 1990s.

Just as a point of reference, West Point has in the past verified whether individuals applied/were offered admissions.

See here:

<https://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ben-carson-west-point-215598>

Am working on a tight deadline. Am also available by phone: (b) (6)

Thank you so much,

(b) (6)

On Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 1:23PM (b) (6) wrote:

Hello,

I'm a reporter with ProPublica. Have a question I was hoping you could provide comment on.

Was Pete Hegseth offered admission toWest Point? This would have been for the class starting in 1999.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

--

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: media inquiry

From: (b) (6)

To: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" (b) (6)

(b) (6), From what I can tell there is no record of him applying. That said, it was in the 1990s so records could have been lost. Ill keep digging and see if I can find anything. Also what federal did we break by saying we have no records.

(b) (6)

From: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6)

Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 1:53 PM To: (b) (6) Subject: FW: media

inquiry Here we go again? Is this correct? I cant tell where this guy is going with this. From: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 1:51 PM To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: media

inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.** Frank and Theresa, I need your urgent response on two questions: -Hegseth's representatives claim West Point is in violation of federal law by disclosing admissions information. Is that true? Can you point to the policy that makes clear this is public info? -His representatives also said that he was offered admission, and that they have the acceptance letter from West Point, but they refuse to share it. However, you all said he did not apply, and he was not offered admission. Any response? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 6:00AM Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6) wrote: According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for admission to the U.S. Military Academy. From: (b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024

2:21 PM To: DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations paomediarelations@westpoint.edu Subject: Re: media inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you

trust the sender. This email came from an external source.** Thank you, really appreciate it. And just to reiterate, if we can get an answer by tomorrow, would be much appreciated. On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 11:19AM DeMaro, Francis J

(b) (6) wrote: (b) (6) good speaking with you. Like I mentioned on the phone we do not have a database that shows who applied or was offered admission we can only confirm that he never attended the academy.

We have sent your request to our admissions office to see if they are able to provide more details about application/offers etc. v/rFrankFrancis J DeMaro Jr.Public Affairs SpecialistMedia Relations DivisionUS Military AcademyPublic Affairs (b) (6) From: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 12:25 AMTo: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>Subject: Re: media inquiryCaution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**Hello, Checking in about my email from Friday. Please let me know if Pete Hegseth was offered admission, or ever applied, toWest Point. This would have likely been sometime in the late 1990s.Just as a point of reference, West Point has in the past verified whether individuals applied/were offered admissions. See here: <https://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ben-carson-west-point-215598>Am working on a tight deadline. Am also available by phone: (b) (6) Thank you so much.(b) (6) On Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 1:23PM (b) (6) (b) (6) wrote:Hello,I'm a reporter with ProPublica. Have a question I was hoping you could provide comment on.Was Pete Hegseth offered admission toWest Point? This would have been for the class starting in 1999.Thank you.(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: media inquiry

From: (b) (6)

To: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" (b) (6)

Also, anyone can generate an acceptance letter so just because they have one doesnt mean its legit (b) (6)

(b) (6)

From: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Sent: Tuesday,

December 10, 2024 1:53 PM To: (b) (6) >Subject: FW: media inquiry Here we go

again? Is this correct? I cant tell where this guy is going with this. From: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 1:51 PM To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: media

inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external

source. **Frank and Theresa, I need your urgent response on two questions: -Hegseth's representatives claim West Point

is in violation of federal law by disclosing admissions information. Is that true? Can you point to the policy that makes

clear this is public info? -His representatives also said that he was offered admission, and that they have the acceptance

letter from West Point, but they refuse to share it. However, you all said he did not apply, and he was not offered

admission. Any response? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 6:00AM Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6) wrote: According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for admission

to the U.S. Military Academy. From: (b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024

2:21 PM To: DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations

paomediarelations@westpoint.edu Subject: Re: media inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you

trust the sender. This email came from an external source. **Thank you, really appreciate it. And just to reiterate, if we

can get an answer by tomorrow, would be much appreciated. On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 11:19AM DeMaro, Francis J

(b) (6) wrote: (b) (6) good speaking with you. Like I mentioned on the phone we do not have

a database that shows who applied or was offered admission we can only confirm that he never attended the academy.

We have sent your request to our admissions office to see if they are able to provide more details about

application/offers etc. v/rFrankFrancis J DeMaro Jr.Public Affairs SpecialistMedia Relations DivisionUS Military

AcademyPublic Affairs Officep. (b) (6) From: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 12:25 AMTo: PAO Media Relations

<paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>Subject: Re: media inquiryCaution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you

trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**Hello, Checking in about my email from Friday. Please let

me know if Pete Hegseth was offered admission, or ever applied, toWest Point. This would have likely been sometime in

the late 1990s.Just as a point of reference, West Point has in the past verified whether individuals applied/were offered

admissions. See here: <https://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ben-carson-west-point-215598>Am working on a tight

deadline. Am also available by phone: (b) (6) Thank you so much.(b) (6) On Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 1:23PM (b) (6)

(b) (6) wrote:Hello,I'm a reporter with ProPublica. Have a question I was hoping

you could provide comment on.Was Pete Hegseth offered admission toWest Point? This would have been for the class

starting in 1999.Thank you.(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: West Point Follow Up

From: "Kelley, Terence M COL" (b) (6)

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Following up from our call so you have my contact information. We will send our on the record comment ASAP.

Again, my sincere apologies for the incorrect information; it was inadvertent. Best,-TerryV/r,Terence M. KelleyColonel,

U.S. ArmyDirector of CommunicationsU.S. Military Academyat West

PointOffice(b) (6)

Subject: Re: West Point Follow Up

From: (b) (6)

To: "Kelley, Terence M COL" (b) (6)

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Thank you. And appreciate the apology.

When do you think you can get me something on the record?

On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 1:48PM Kelley, Terence M COL (b) (6) wrote:

(b) (6)

Following up from our call so you have my contact information. We will send our on the record comment ASAP.

Again, my sincere apologies for the incorrect information; it was inadvertent.

Best,

-Terry

V/r,

Terence M. Kelley

Colonel, U.S. Army

Director of Communications

U.S. Military Academy at West Point

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

--

--

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: Fw: Response

From: "Kelley, Terence M COL" (b) (6)

To: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" (b) (6), "Cocchia, Carmine A" (b) (6)

I just sent this to (b) (6) (b) (6) and Chief. I believe CoS will dial me into call with Supe in an hour.

V/r,

Terence M. Kelley

Colonel, U.S. Army

Director of Communications

U.S. Military Academy at West Point

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

From: Kelley, Terence M COL

Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 7:54:12 AM

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: Response

I believe we need to correct the record asap, regardless of propriety. The reporter is waiting to hear back from us with official word. Confirming Hegseth's claim probably kills any interest Propublica has in the story but the longer we delay response, the more likely that becomes a story.

Response:

A review of our records indicates Pete Hegseth was offered admission in 1999 but did not attend West Point.

We may need to explain the error; I don't want to, but if the reporter demands an on the record explanation, we need to be ready:

The records in question are more than 25 years old. When asked about Mr. Hegseths admission offer, an employee was initially

unable to find the applicable records. A subsequent search found another out-of-use database that contained the records. The error was unintentional and immediately corrected.

V/r,

Terence M. Kelley

Colonel, U.S. Army

Director of Communications

U.S. Military Academy at West Point

(b) (6)

Subject: Response from West Point urgently needed

From: (b) (6)

To: (b) (6)

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Colonel Kelley,

This is (b) (6), (b) (6) colleague at ProPublica working on the Pete Hegseth reporting. (b) (6) is on the west coast so I'm handling morning duties.) I just texted you and left a voicemail as well.

We urgently need a response from West Point on this Pete Hegseth admissions issue.

Hegseth tweeted the attached this morning.

What we currently have from West Point on the record is Theresa Brinkerhoff saying: "According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for admission to the U.S. Military Academy."

In a follow-up call, we asked another academy spokesperson if Hegseth never applying necessarily meant he was not offered admission. Absolutely 100% said Francis DeMaro Jr. Because he never opened a file.

If West Point wishes to revise its statement on the record, we need to know now.

Please call me at (b) (6).

Thanks,

(b) (6)

--

(b) (6)

Subject: Re: Response from West Point urgently needed

From: "Kelley, Terence M COL" (b) (6)

To: (b) (6) "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" (b) (6)

(b) (6) First, my personal and professional apologies for this error. I assure you with the utmost sincerity that this was an honest mistake by employees searching 25-year-old records. You may attribute the following to myself as an Army spokesman: A review of our records indicates Mr. Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend West Point. An incorrect statement involving Mr. Hegseth's admission to the United States Military Academy was released by an employee on December 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in error. Mr. Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the class of 2003. USMA takes this situation very seriously, and we apologize for this administrative error. Best, -Terry V/r, Terence M. Kelley Colonel, U.S. Army Director of Communications U.S. Military Academy at West Point Office: 8 (b) (6) -From:

(b) (6) >Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 9:23AM To: Kelley, Terence M COL (b) (6), Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Cc: (b) (6)

(b) (6) >Subject: Response from West Point urgently needed Caution! **Don't click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.** Colonel Kelley, This is (b) (6) colleague at ProPublica working on the Pete Hegseth reporting. (b) (6) is on the west coast so I'm handling morning duties.) I just texted you and left a voicemail as well. We urgently need a response from West Point on this Pete Hegseth admissions issue. Hegseth tweeted the attached this morning. What we currently have from West Point on the record is Theresa Brinkerhoff saying: "According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for admission to the U.S. Military Academy." In a follow-up call, we asked another academy spokesperson if Hegseth never applying necessarily meant he was not offered admission. Absolutely 100% said Francis DeMarco Jr. Because he never opened a file. If West Point wishes to revise its statement on the record, we need to know now. Please call me at (b) (6). Thanks (b) (6) -- (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: Re: Response from West Point urgently needed

From: (b) (6)

To: "Kelley, Terence M COL" (b) (6), "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" (b) (6)

Subject: RE: media inquiry

From: (b) (6)

To: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" (b) (6)

So are they saying we released this? I simply said we didnt have records of him applying. (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6) From: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Sent: Tuesday,

December 10, 2024 2:10 PM To: (b) (6) >Subject: FW: media inquiry Look what

they now provided?? From: (b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024

2:03 PM To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations

<paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: media inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you

trust the sender. This email came from an external source.** They just sent images of the letter. Can you check your

records again? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 10:50AM (b) (6) wrote: Frank and

Theresa, I need your urgent response on two questions: -Hegseth's representatives claim West Point is in violation of

federal law by disclosing admissions information. Is that true? Can you point to the policy that makes clear this is public

info? -His representatives also said that he was offered admission, and that they have the acceptance letter from West

Point, but they refuse to share it. However, you all said he did not apply, and he was not offered admission. Any

response? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 6:00AM Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6)

wrote: According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for admission to the U.S. Military Academy. From:

(b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 2:21 PM To: DeMaro, Francis J

(b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations paomediarelations@westpoint.edu Subject: Re: media

inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external

source.** Thank you, really appreciate it. And just to reiterate, if we can get an answer by tomorrow, would be much

appreciated. On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 11:19AM DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) wrote: (b) (6) good

speaking with you. Like I mentioned on the phone we do not have a database that shows who applied or was offered

admission we can only confirm that he never attended the academy. We have sent your request to our admissions office

to see if they are able to provide more details about application/offers etc. v/rFrankFrancis J DeMaro Jr.Public Affairs

SpecialistMedia Relations DivisionUS Military AcademyPublic Affairs Officep.

(b) (6)

(b) (6) From: (b) (6) Sent: Monday,

December 9, 2024 12:25 AMTo: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>Subject: Re: media

inquiryCaution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external

source.**Hello, Checking in about my email from Friday. Please let me know if Pete Hegseth was offered admission, or

ever applied, toWest Point. This would have likely been sometime in the late 1990s.Just as a point of reference, West

Point has in the past verified whether individuals applied/were offered admissions. See here:

<https://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ben-carson-west-point-215598>Am working on a tight deadline. Am also available

by phone: (b) (6) Thank you so much.(b) (6) On Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 1:23PM (b) (6)

(b) (6) wrote:Hello,I'm a reporter with ProPublica. Have a question I was hoping you could

provide comment on.Was Pete Hegseth offered admission toWest Point? This would have been for the class starting in

1999.Thank you,(b) (6)-- (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: media inquiry

From: (b) (6)

To: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" (b) (6)

Teresa, I checked the system, and I can't find any records showing that Pete Hegseth ever applied to USMA. Please let me know if you need anything else. VR (b) (6)

From: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 3:53 PM To: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Cc: (b) (6) >Subject: FW: media inquiry Sir, I

understand that everyone is away from the office today. Is it possible to run this query for me tomorrow? I've already checked in the Register of Graduates and can speak with confidence that Pete Hegseth did not attend or graduate from USMA but are you able to confirm that he didn't apply/start a file? We went through this when (b) (6) was running for office, made a comment and got everybody stirred up. I'm in tomorrow if you or a member of your team can touch base with me on this as he's on deadline. I certainly appreciate the effort. Respectfully, Theresa Brinkerhoff
Public Affairs Division
Chief Directorate of Communications
U.S. Military Academy
West Point, N.Y. (b) (6)

(b) (6) From: (b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 12:25 AM To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: media inquiry
Caution! **Don't click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**
Hello, Checking in about my email from Friday. Please let me know if Pete Hegseth was offered admission, or ever applied, to West Point. This would have likely been sometime in the late 1990s. Just as a point of reference, West Point has in the past verified whether individuals applied/were offered admissions. See here: <https://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ben-carson-west-point-215598> Am working on a tight deadline. Am also available

by phone: (b) (6) Thank you so much. (b) (6) On Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 1:23PM (b) (6)

(b) (6) wrote: Hello, I'm a reporter with ProPublica. Have a question I was hoping you could provide comment on. Was Pete Hegseth offered admission to West Point? This would have been for the class starting in 1999. Thank you. (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: Re: Response from West Point urgently needed

From: (b) (6)

To: "Kelley, Terence M COL" (b) (6)

Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Thank you, Colonel Kelley. We appreciate your efforts to resolve this quickly.

Just so we fully understand the circumstances of Hegseth's application and admission to the Academy: Can you tell us who nominated him? Or any other context on his application?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

On Wed, Dec 11, 2024 at 10:46AM Kelley, Terence M COL (b) (6) wrote:

(b) (6)

First, my personal and professional apologies for this error. I assure you with the utmost sincerity that this was an honest mistake by employees searching 25-year-old records.

You may attribute the following to myself as an Army spokesman:

A review of our records indicates Mr. Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend West Point.

An incorrect statement involving Mr. Hegseth's admission to the United States Military Academy was released by an employee on December 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized

this statement was in error. Mr. Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the class of 2003. USMA takes this situation very seriously, and we apologize for this administrative error.

Best,

-Terry

V/r,

Terence M. Kelley

Colonel, U.S. Army

Director of Communications

U.S. Military Academy at West Point

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

--

From:

(b) (6)

Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 9:23AM

To: Kelley, Terence M COL (b) (6), Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6)

Subject: Response from West Point urgently needed

Caution! **Don't click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**

Colonel Kelley,

This is (b) (6) colleague at ProPublica working on the Pete Hegseth reporting. (b) (6) is on the west coast so I'm handling morning duties.) I just texted you and left a voicemail as well.

We urgently need a response from West Point on this Pete Hegseth admissions issue.

Hegseth tweeted the attached this morning.

What we currently have from West Point on the record is Theresa Brinkerhoff saying: "According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for admission to the U.S. Military Academy."

In a follow-up call, we asked another academy spokesperson if Hegseth never applying necessarily meant he was not offered admission. Absolutely 100% said Francis DeMarco Jr. Because he never opened a file.

If West Point wishes to revise its statement on the record, we need to know now.

Please call me at (b) (6)

Thanks,

(b) (6)

--

(b) (6)

Subject: FW: media inquiry

From: (b) (6)

To: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" (b) (6)

This is what got back from the really smart data folks. I agree we just dont tell him anything at tis point unless SJA says OK. (b) (6)

From: (b) (6)

Sent:

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 3:36 PM To: (b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

>Subject: RE: media

inquiry (b) (6), I would not recommend that we confirm or deny this with any media. Ive included (b) (6) and (b) (6) we have become SUPER careful of releasing names for any reasons unless we get clearance from SJA. (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6) From: (b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 3:33 PM To:

(b) (6)

>Subject: RE: media inquiry (b) (6), Hes in there. Its in an old archived table. (b) (6) you can

run the following in dw_wrk: SELECT * FROM applicants_all_clean_udw WHERE name_last = 'Hegseth' The record shows that he declined the offer. Best (b) (6)

Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:15 PM To: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6) >Cc: (b) (6) Subject: FW: media

inquiry (b) (6), So, when I ran the database for Pete Hegseth I couldnt find that he ever applied, but his folks sent me the documents below. Is there any way we can dig back to see if he was actually accepted in 1999? Im not sure we

actually can. Thanks (b) (6)

(b) (6) From: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:10 PM To: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Subject: FW: media inquiry Look what they now provided?? From: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:03 PM To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: media

inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.** They just sent images of the letter. Can you check your records again? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 10:50AM

(b) (6) wrote: Frank and Theresa, I need your urgent response on two

questions: -Hegseth's representatives claim West Point is in violation of federal law by disclosing admissions information.

Is that true? Can you point to the policy that makes clear this is public info? -His representatives also said that he was

offered admission, and that they have the acceptance letter from West Point, but they refuse to share it. However, you

all said he did not apply, and he was not offered admission. Any response? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 6:00AM Brinkerhoff,

Theresa M (b) (6) wrote: According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for

admission to the U.S. Military Academy. From: (b) (6) Sent: Monday,

December 9, 2024 2:21 PM To: DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations

paomediarelations@westpoint.edu Subject: Re: media inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you

trust the sender. This email came from an external source.** Thank you, really appreciate it. And just to reiterate, if we

can get an answer by tomorrow, would be much appreciated. On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 11:19AM DeMaro, Francis J

(b) (6) wrote: (b) (6) good speaking with you. Like I mentioned on the phone we do not have

a database that shows who applied or was offered admission we can only confirm that he never attended the academy.

We have sent your request to our admissions office to see if they are able to provide more details about

application/offers etc. v/r Frank Francis J DeMaro Jr. Public Affairs Specialist Media Relations Division US Military

Academy Public Affairs Office. (b) (6) From: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 12:25 AM To: PAO Media Relations

<paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: media inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you

trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**Hello, Checking in about my email from Friday. Please let me know if Pete Hegseth was offered admission, or ever applied, toWest Point. This would have likely been sometime in the late 1990s.Just as a point of reference, West Point has in the past verified whether individuals applied/were offered admissions. See here: <https://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ben-carson-west-point-215598>Am working on a tight deadline. Am also available by phone: (b) (6) Thank you so much,(b) (6) On Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 1:23PM (b) (6) (b) (6) wrote:Hello,I'm a reporter with ProPublica. Have a question I was hoping you could provide comment on.Was Pete Hegseth offered admission toWest Point? This would have been for the class starting in 1999.Thank you,(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: media inquiry

From: (b) (6)

To: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" (b) (6)

I honestly dont care if he says he was offered or not. Ultimately it looks like he declined and went to Princeton, so what is the problem? (b) (6)

From: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:27 PM To: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Subject: RE: media inquiryIm unsure why they wouldnt provide this upfront. He obviously didnt complete the process so is it safe to say thats why records are purged perhaps? From: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:23 PM To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6) Subject: RE: media inquirySo are they saying we released this? I simply said we didnt have records of him applying. (b) (6)

(b) (6) From: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:10 PM To: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Subject: FW: media inquiryLook what they now provided?? From: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:03 PM To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: media inquiryCaution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**They just sent images of the letter. Can you check your records again? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 10:50AM

(b) (6) wrote:Frank and Theresa, I need your urgent response on two questions: -Hegseth's representatives claim West Point is in violation of federal law by disclosing admissions information.

Is that true? Can you point to the policy that makes clear this is public info?-His representatives also said that he was offered admission, and that they have the acceptance letter from West Point, but they refuse to share it. However, you all said he did not apply, and he was not offered admission. Any response? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 6:00AM Brinkerhoff,

Theresa M (b) (6) wrote:According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for

admission to the U.S. Military Academy.From: (b) (6) Sent: Monday,
December 9, 2024 2:21 PMTo: DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations
paomediarelations@westpoint.eduSubject: Re: media inquiryCaution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you
trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**Thank you, reallyappreciate it. And just to reiterate, if we
can get an answer by tomorrow, would be much appreciated.On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 11:19AM DeMaro, Francis J
(b) (6) wrote:(b) (6) good speaking with you.Like I mentioned on the phone we do not have
a database that shows who applied or was offered admission we can only confirm that he never attended the academy.
We have sent your request to our admissions office to see if they are able to provide more details about
application/offers etc. v/rFrankFrancis J DeMaro Jr.Public Affairs SpecialistMedia Relations DivisionUS Military
AcademyPublic Affairs Officep. (b) (6) (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 12:25 AMTo: PAO Media Relations
<paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>Subject: Re: media inquiryCaution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you
trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**Hello, Checking in about my email from Friday. Please let
me know if Pete Hegseth was offered admission, or ever applied, toWest Point. This would have likely been sometime in
the late 1990s.Just as a point of reference, West Point has in the past verified whether individuals applied/were offered
admissions. See here: <https://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ben-carson-west-point-215598>Am working on a tight
deadline. Am also available by phone: (b) (6) Thank you so much(b) (6) On Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 1:23PM (b) (6)
(b) (6) wrote:Hello,I'm a reporter with ProPublica. Have a question I was hoping
you could provide comment on.Was Pete Hegseth offered admission toWest Point? This would have been for the class
starting in 1999.Thank you.(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: media inquiry

From: (b) (6)

To: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" (b) (6)

I will, but we might have to go back to the archives for this one! Nothing is coming up in the data base. (b) (6)

(b) (6)

From: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Sent: Tuesday,

December 10, 2024 2:10 PM To: (b) (6) Subject: FW: media inquiry Look what

they now provided?? From: (b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024

2:03 PM To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations

<paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: media inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you

trust the sender. This email came from an external source.** They just sent images of the letter. Can you check your

records again? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 10:50AM (b) (6) wrote: Frank and

Theresa, I need your urgent response on two questions: -Hegseth's representatives claim West Point is in violation of

federal law by disclosing admissions information. Is that true? Can you point to the policy that makes clear this is public

info? -His representatives also said that he was offered admission, and that they have the acceptance letter from West

Point, but they refuse to share it. However, you all said he did not apply, and he was not offered admission. Any

response? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 6:00AM Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6)

wrote: According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for admission to the U.S. Military Academy. From:

(b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 2:21 PM To: DeMaro, Francis J

(b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations paomediarelations@westpoint.edu Subject: Re: media

inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external

source.** Thank you, really appreciate it. And just to reiterate, if we can get an answer by tomorrow, would be much

appreciated. On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 11:19AM DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) wrote: (b) (6) good

speaking with you. Like I mentioned on the phone we do not have a database that shows who applied or was offered

admission we can only confirm that he never attended the academy. We have sent your request to our admissions office

to see if they are able to provide more details about application/offers etc. v/rFrankFrancis J DeMaro Jr.Public Affairs

SpecialistMedia Relations DivisionUS Military AcademyPublic Affairs Officep.

(b) (6)

(b) (6) From: (b) (6) Sent: Monday,

December 9, 2024 12:25 AMTo: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>Subject: Re: media

inquiryCaution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external

source.**Hello, Checking in about my email from Friday. Please let me know if Pete Hegseth was offered admission, or

ever applied, toWest Point. This would have likely been sometime in the late 1990s.Just as a point of reference, West

Point has in the past verified whether individuals applied/were offered admissions. See here:

<https://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ben-carson-west-point-215598>Am working on a tight deadline. Am also available

by phone: (b) (6) Thank you so much.(b) (6) On Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 1:23PM (b) (6)

(b) (6) wrote:Hello,I'm a reporter with ProPublica. Have a question I was hoping you could

provide comment on.Was Pete Hegseth offered admission toWest Point? This would have been for the class starting in

1999.Thank you,(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: media inquiry

From: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: (b) (6)

Okay, Im not holding my breath on this one he obviously is on some witch hunt. From: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 1:58 PM To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6) Subject: RE: media inquiry Theresa, From what I can tell there is no record of him

applying. That said, it was in the 1990s so records could have been lost. Ill keep digging and see if I can find anything.

Also what federal did we break by saying we have no records. (b) (6)

(b) (6) From:

Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 1:53 PM To: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Subject: FW: media inquiry Here we go again? Is this correct? I cant tell

where this guy is going with this. From: (b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December

10, 2024 1:51 PM To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations

<paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: media inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you

trust the sender. This email came from an external source. **Frank and Theresa, I need your urgent response on two

questions: -Hegseth's representatives claim West Point is in violation of federal law by disclosing admissions information.

Is that true? Can you point to the policy that makes clear this is public info? -His representatives also said that he was

offered admission, and that they have the acceptance letter from West Point, but they refuse to share it. However, you

all said he did not apply, and he was not offered admission. Any response? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 6:00AM Brinkerhoff,

Theresa M (b) (6) wrote: According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for

admission to the U.S. Military Academy. From: (b) (6) Sent: Monday,

December 9, 2024 2:21 PM To: DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations

paomediarelations@westpoint.edu Subject: Re: media inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you

trust the sender. This email came from an external source. **Thank you, really appreciate it. And just to reiterate, if we

can get an answer by tomorrow, would be much appreciated. On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 11:19AM DeMaro, Francis J

(b) (6) wrote: (b) (6) good speaking with you. Like I mentioned on the phone we do not have

a database that shows who applied or was offered admission we can only confirm that he never attended the academy.

We have sent your request to our admissions office to see if they are able to provide more details about application/offers etc. v/rFrankFrancis J DeMaro Jr.Public Affairs SpecialistMedia Relations DivisionUS Military AcademyPublic Affairs Officep. (b) (6) From: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 12:25 AMTo: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>Subject: Re: media inquiryCaution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**Hello, Checking in about my email from Friday. Please let me know if Pete Hegseth was offered admission, or ever applied, toWest Point. This would have likely been sometime in the late 1990s.Just as a point of reference, West Point has in the past verified whether individuals applied/were offered admissions. See here: <https://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ben-carson-west-point-215598>Am working on a tight deadline. Am also available by phone: (b) (6) Thank you so much.(b) (6) On Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 1:23PM (b) (6) (b) (6) wrote:Hello,I'm a reporter with ProPublica. Have a question I was hoping you could provide comment on.Was Pete Hegseth offered admission toWest Point? This would have been for the class starting in 1999.Thank you.(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: FW: media inquiry

From: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: (b) (6)

Here we go again? Is this correct? I cant tell where this guy is going with this. From: (b) (6)

Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 1:51 PM To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: media

inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external

source.** Frank and Theresa, I need your urgent response on two questions: -Hegseth's representatives claim West Point

is in violation of federal law by disclosing admissions information. Is that true? Can you point to the policy that makes

clear this is public info? -His representatives also said that he was offered admission, and that they have the acceptance

letter from West Point, but they refuse to share it. However, you all said he did not apply, and he was not offered

admission. Any response? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 6:00AM Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6) wrote: According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for admission

to the U.S. Military Academy. From: (b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024

2:21 PM To: DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations

paomediarelations@westpoint.edu Subject: Re: media inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you

trust the sender. This email came from an external source.** Thank you, really appreciate it. And just to reiterate, if we

can get an answer by tomorrow, would be much appreciated. On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 11:19AM DeMaro, Francis J

(b) (6) wrote: (b) (6) good speaking with you. Like I mentioned on the phone we do not have

a database that shows who applied or was offered admission we can only confirm that he never attended the academy.

We have sent your request to our admissions office to see if they are able to provide more details about

application/offers etc. v/r Frank Francis J DeMaro Jr. Public Affairs Specialist Media Relations Division US Military

Academy Public Affairs Office. (b) (6) From: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 12:25 AM To: PAO Media Relations

<paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: media inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you

trust the sender. This email came from an external source.** Hello, Checking in about my email from Friday. Please let

me know if Pete Hegseth was offered admission, or ever applied, to West Point. This would have likely been sometime in the late 1990s. Just as a point of reference, West Point has in the past verified whether individuals applied/were offered admissions. See here: <https://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ben-carson-west-point-215598> Am working on a tight deadline. Am also available by phone: (b) (6) Thank you so much, (b) (6) On Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 1:23PM (b) (6)

(b) (6) wrote: Hello, I'm a reporter with ProPublica. Have a question I was hoping you could provide comment on. Was Pete Hegseth offered admission to West Point? This would have been for the class starting in 1999. Thank you, (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: media inquiry

From: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: (b) (6)

Very true. From: (b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:01 PM To:

Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) >Subject: RE: media inquiry Also, anyone can generate an acceptance letter so just because they have one doesn't mean it's legit (b) (6)

From:

Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 1:53 PM To: (b) (6)

Subject: FW: media inquiry Here we go again? Is this correct? I can't tell

where this guy is going with this. From: (b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December

10, 2024 1:51 PM To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations

<paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: media inquiry Caution! **Don't click on links or attachments unless you

trust the sender. This email came from an external source. **Frank and Theresa, I need your urgent response on two

questions: -Hegseth's representatives claim West Point is in violation of federal law by disclosing admissions information.

Is that true? Can you point to the policy that makes clear this is public info? -His representatives also said that he was

offered admission, and that they have the acceptance letter from West Point, but they refuse to share it. However, you

all said he did not apply, and he was not offered admission. Any response? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 6:00AM Brinkerhoff,

Theresa M (b) (6) wrote: According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for

admission to the U.S. Military Academy. From: (b) (6) Sent: Monday,

December 9, 2024 2:21 PM To: DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations

paomediarelations@westpoint.edu Subject: Re: media inquiry Caution! **Don't click on links or attachments unless you

trust the sender. This email came from an external source. **Thank you, really appreciate it. And just to reiterate, if we

can get an answer by tomorrow, would be much appreciated. On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 11:19AM (b) (6)

wrote: (b) (6) good speaking with you. Like I mentioned on the phone we do not have

a database that shows who applied or was offered admission we can only confirm that he never attended the academy.

We have sent your request to our admissions office to see if they are able to provide more details about

application/offers etc. v/rFrankFrancis J DeMaro Jr.Public Affairs SpecialistMedia Relations DivisionUS Military

AcademyPublic Affairs Officep. (b) (6) From: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 12:25 AMTo: PAO Media Relations
<paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>Subject: Re: media inquiryCaution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you
trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**Hello, Checking in about my email from Friday. Please let
me know if Pete Hegseth was offered admission, or ever applied, toWest Point. This would have likely been sometime in
the late 1990s.Just as a point of reference, West Point has in the past verified whether individuals applied/were offered
admissions. See here: <https://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ben-carson-west-point-215598>Am working on a tight
deadline. Am also available by phone: (b) (6) Thank you so much.(b) (6) On Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 1:23PM (b) (6)

(b) (6) wrote:Hello,I'm a reporter with ProPublica. Have a question I was hoping
you could provide comment on.Was Pete Hegseth offered admission toWest Point? This would have been for the class
starting in 1999.Thank you.(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: Hegseth Queries

From: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: (b) (6)

CAG -I just sent this to COL Kelley --***There are no actual news articles that weve come across all comments remain on X. We will continue to monitor.As of Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 2:30 p.m., PAO Media Relations team has received a total of NINE press queries from the following agencies:ProPublicaNY PostThe Daily Wire The FederalistThe Washington Times, Fox (freelancer)CBSWashington ExaminerWashington Free Beacon Press All news outlets were provided the following statement:A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend. An incorrect statement involving Hegseths admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released by an employee on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in error.Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the Class of 2003.The academy takes this situation seriously and apologizes for this administrative error.The statement was attributed the West Point Directorate of Communications.Sprinklr snap shot as of 1430 11DEC2024

Subject: Hegseth Queries

From: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: Kelley, Terence M COL

***There are no actual news articles that weve come across all comments remain on X. We will continue to monitor. As of Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 2:30 p.m., PAO Media Relations team has received a total of NINE press queries from the following agencies: ProPublica NY Post The Daily Wire The Federalist The Washington Times, Fox (freelancer) CBS Washington Examiner Washington Free Beacon Press All news outlets were provided the following statement: A review of our records indicates Peter Hegseth was offered admission to West Point in 1999 but did not attend. An incorrect statement involving Hegseth's admission to the U.S. Military Academy was released by an employee on Dec. 10, 2024. Upon further review of an archived database, employees realized this statement was in error. Hegseth was offered acceptance to West Point as a prospective member of the Class of 2003. The academy takes this situation seriously and apologizes for this administrative error. The statement was attributed to the West Point Directorate of Communications.

Subject: FW: media inquiry

From: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: (b) (6)

Sir,I understand that everyone is away from the office today. Is it possible to run this query for me tomorrow? Ive already checked in the Register of Graduates and can speak with confidence that Pete Hegseth did not attend or graduate from USMA but are you able to confirm that he didnt apply/start a file? We went through this when (b) (6) was running for office, made a comment and got everybody stirred up. Im in tomorrow if you or a member of your team can touch base with me on this as hes on deadline. I certainly appreciate the effort.Respectfully,Theresa BrinkerhoffPublic Affairs Division ChiefDirectorate of CommunicationsU.S. Military AcademyWest Point, N.Y.(b) (6)

(b) (6) From: (b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 12:25 AMTo: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>Subject: Re: media inquiryCaution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**Hello, Checking in about my email from Friday. Please let me know if Pete Hegseth was offered admission, or ever applied, toWest Point. This would have likely been sometime in the late 1990s.Just as a point of reference, West Point has in the past verified whether individuals applied/were offered admissions. See here: <https://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ben-carson-west-point-215598>Am working on a tight deadline. Am also available by phone: (b) (6) Thank you so much.(b) (6) On Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 1:23PM (b) (6) wrote:Hello,I'm a reporter with ProPublica. Have a question I was hoping you could provide comment on.Was Pete Hegseth offered admission toWest Point? This would have been for the class starting in 1999.Thank you (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: FW: media inquiry

From: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: Kelley, Terence M COL

From: (b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:03 PM To: Brinkerhoff,

Theresa M (b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations

<paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: media inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you

trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**They just sent images of the letter. Can you check your

records again? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 10:50AM (b) (6) wrote: Frank and

Theresa, I need your urgent response on two questions: -Hegseth's representatives claim West Point is in violation of

federal law by disclosing admissions information. Is that true? Can you point to the policy that makes clear this is public

info? -His representatives also said that he was offered admission, and that they have the acceptance letter from West

Point, but they refuse to share it. However, you all said he did not apply, and he was not offered admission. Any

response? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 6:00AM Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6)

wrote: According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for admission to the U.S. Military Academy. From:

(b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 2:21 PM To: DeMaro, Francis J

(b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations paomediarelations@westpoint.edu Subject: Re: media

inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external

source.**Thank you, really appreciate it. And just to reiterate, if we can get an answer by tomorrow, would be much

appreciated. On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 11:19AM DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) wrote: (b) (6) good

speaking with you. Like I mentioned on the phone we do not have a database that shows who applied or was offered

admission we can only confirm that he never attended the academy. We have sent your request to our admissions office

to see if they are able to provide more details about application/offers etc. v/r Frank Francis J DeMaro Jr. Public Affairs

Specialist Media Relations Division US Military Academy Public Affairs Office. (b) (6)

(b) (6) From: (b) (6) > Sent: Monday,

December 9, 2024 12:25 AM To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: media

inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external

source.**Hello, Checking in about my email from Friday. Please let me know if Pete Hegseth was offered admission, or ever applied, toWest Point. This would have likely been sometime in the late 1990s.Just as a point of reference, West Point has in the past verified whether individuals applied/were offered admissions. See here: <https://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ben-carson-west-point-215598>Am working on a tight deadline. Am also available

by phone: (b) (6) Thank you so much,(b) (6) On Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 1:23PM (b) (6) (b) (6) wrote:Hello,I'm a reporter with ProPublica. Have a question I was hoping you could provide comment on.Was Pete Hegseth offered admission toWest Point? This would have been for the class starting in 1999.Thank you,(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: media inquiry

From: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: (b) (6)

Im unsure why they wouldnt provide this upfront. He obviously didnt complete the process so is it safe to say thats why records are purged perhaps? From: (b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:23 PM To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Subject: RE: media inquiry So are they saying we released this? I simply said we didnt have records of him applying. (b) (6)

From: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:10 PM To:

(b) (6) Subject: FW: media inquiry Look what they now provided?? From: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:03 PM To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: media

inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.** They just sent images of the letter. Can you check your records again? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 10:50AM

(b) (6) wrote: Frank and Theresa, I need your urgent response on two questions: -Hegseth's representatives claim West Point is in violation of federal law by disclosing admissions information.

Is that true? Can you point to the policy that makes clear this is public info? -His representatives also said that he was offered admission, and that they have the acceptance letter from West Point, but they refuse to share it. However, you all said he did not apply, and he was not offered admission. Any response? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 6:00AM Brinkerhoff,

Theresa M (b) (6) wrote: According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for admission to the U.S. Military Academy. From: (b) (6) Sent: Monday,

December 9, 2024 2:21 PM To: DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations paomediarelations@westpoint.edu Subject: Re: media inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you

trust the sender. This email came from an external source.** Thank you, really appreciate it. And just to reiterate, if we can get an answer by tomorrow, would be much appreciated. On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 11:19AM DeMaro, Francis J

(b) (6) wrote: (b) (6) good speaking with you. Like I mentioned on the phone we do not have

a database that shows who applied or was offered admission we can only confirm that he never attended the academy.

We have sent your request to our admissions office to see if they are able to provide more details about application/offers etc. v/rFrankFrancis J DeMaro Jr.Public Affairs SpecialistMedia Relations DivisionUS Military

AcademyPublic Affairs (b) (6) From: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 12:25 AMTo: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>Subject: Re: media inquiryCaution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**Hello, Checking in about my email from Friday. Please let me know if Pete Hegseth was offered admission, or ever applied, toWest Point. This would have likely been sometime in the late 1990s.Just as a point of reference, West Point has in the past verified whether individuals applied/were offered admissions. See here: <https://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ben-carson-west-point-215598>Am working on a tight deadline. Am also available by phone: (b) (6) Thank you so much.(b) (6) On Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 1:23PM (b) (6)

(b) (6) wrote:Hello,I'm a reporter with ProPublica. Have a question I was hoping you could provide comment on.Was Pete Hegseth offered admission toWest Point? This would have been for the class starting in 1999.Thank you.(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: FW: media inquiry

From: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: (b) (6)

Look what they now provided??From: (b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December

10, 2024 2:03 PMTo: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations

<paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>Subject: Re: media inquiryCaution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you

trust the sender. This email came from an external source.**They just sent images of the letter. Can you check your

records again?On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 10:50AM (b) (6) wrote:Frank and

Theresa, I need your urgent response on two questions: -Hegseth's representatives claimWest Point is in violation of

federal law by disclosing admissions information. Is that true? Can you point to the policy that makes clear this is public

info?-His representatives also said that he was offered admission, and that they have the acceptance letter from West

Point, but they refuse to share it. However, you all said he did not apply, and he was not offered admission. Any

response?On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 6:00AM Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6)

wrote:According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for admission to the U.S. Military Academy.From:

(b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 2:21 PMTo: DeMaro, Francis J

(b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations paomediarelations@westpoint.eduSubject: Re: media

inquiryCaution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external

source.**Thank you, reallyappreciate it. And just to reiterate, if we can get an answer by tomorrow, would be much

appreciated.On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 11:19AM DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) wrote:(b) (6) good

speaking with you.Like I mentioned on the phone we do not have a database that shows who applied or was offered

admission we can only confirm that he never attended the academy. We have sent your request to our admissions office

to see if they are able to provide more details about application/offers etc. v/rFrankFrancis J DeMaro Jr.Public Affairs

SpecialistMedia Relations DivisionUS Military AcademyPublic Affairs Officep. (b) (6)

(b) (6) From: (b) (6) Sent: Monday,

December 9, 2024 12:25 AMTo: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu>Subject: Re: media

inquiryCaution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external

source.**Hello, Checking in about my email from Friday. Please let me know if Pete Hegseth was offered admission, or ever applied, toWest Point. This would have likely been sometime in the late 1990s.Just as a point of reference, West Point has in the past verified whether individuals applied/were offered admissions. See here: <https://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ben-carson-west-point-215598>Am working on a tight deadline. Am also available

by phone: (b) (6) Thank you so much,(b) (6) On Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 1:23PM (b) (6) (b) (6) wrote:Hello,I'm a reporter with ProPublica. Have a question I was hoping you could provide comment on.Was Pete Hegseth offered admission toWest Point? This would have been for the class starting in 1999.Thank you,(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: media inquiry

From: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: (b) (6)

Exactly! I hate all this political mumbo-jumbo. I did find this if thats what they are claiming in regard to the information. I was hoping that we purge records if they dont move forward for admission and thats why they arent keep in the inventory. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA): This 1974 law protects the privacy of student education records, including admission records, at all schools that receive federal funds. FERPA limits third-party access to student records and generally prohibits schools from disclosing information without certain exceptions. Students can request access to their admission records and waive the non-disclosure provision by signing an authorization form. From: (b) (6)

Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:33 PM To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6) Subject: RE: media inquiry I honestly dont care if he says he was offered or not. Ultimately it looks like he declined and went to Princeton, so what is the problem? (b) (6)

From: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:27 PM To: (b) (6) > Subject: RE: media inquiry I'm unsure why they wouldn't provide this upfront. He obviously didn't complete the process so is it safe to say that's why records are purged perhaps? From: (b) (6)

(b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:23 PM To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Subject: RE: media inquiry So are they saying we released this? I simply said we didn't have records of him applying. (b) (6)

From: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:10 PM To: (b) (6)

> Subject: FW: media inquiry Look what they now provided?? From: (b) (6) (b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:03 PM To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M

(b) (6) Cc: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: media inquiry Caution! **Don't click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source.** They just sent images of the letter. Can you check your records again? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 10:50AM

(b) (6) wrote: Frank and Theresa, I need your urgent response on two questions: -Hegseth's representatives claim West Point is in violation of federal law by disclosing admissions information. Is that true? Can you point to the policy that makes clear this is public info? -His representatives also said that he was offered admission, and that they have the acceptance letter from West Point, but they refuse to share it. However, you all said he did not apply, and he was not offered admission. Any response? On Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 6:00AM Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6) wrote: According to the admissions office Hegseth had not applied for admission to the U.S. Military Academy. From: (b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 2:21 PM To: (b) (6) PAO Media Relations paomediarelations@westpoint.edu Subject: Re: media inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source. **Thank you, really appreciate it. And just to reiterate, if we can get an answer by tomorrow, would be much appreciated. On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 11:19AM DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6) wrote: (b) (6) good speaking with you. Like I mentioned on the phone we do not have a database that shows who applied or was offered admission we can only confirm that he never attended the academy. We have sent your request to our admissions office to see if they are able to provide more details about application/offers etc. v/r Frank Francis J DeMaro Jr. Public Affairs Specialist Media Relations Division US Military Academy Public Affairs Office. (b) (6) From: (b) (6) (b) (6) Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 12:25 AM To: PAO Media Relations <paomediarelations@westpoint.edu> Subject: Re: media inquiry Caution! **Dont click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender. This email came from an external source. **Hello, Checking in about my email from Friday. Please let me know if Pete Hegseth was offered admission, or ever applied, to West Point. This would have likely been sometime in the late 1990s. Just as a point of reference, West Point has in the past verified whether individuals applied/were offered admissions. See here: <https://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ben-carson-west-point-215598> Am working on a tight deadline. Am also available by phone: (b) (6) Thank you so much. (b) (6) On Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 1:23PM (b) (6) wrote: Hello, I'm a reporter with ProPublica. Have a question I was hoping you could provide comment on. Was Pete Hegseth offered admission to West Point? This would have been for the class starting in 1999. Thank you. (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: Fw: Hegseth Queries

From: "Brinkerhoff, Theresa M" <MAILER-DAEMON>

To: Kelley, Terence M COL

Here's what MR has rolled up.

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Boujnida, Cheryl L (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:07:44 AM

To: Brinkerhoff, Theresa M (b) (6)

Cc: DeMaro, Francis J (b) (6)

Subject: Hegseth Queries

T - We are currently at three queries in addition to Pro Publica.

(b) (6) with CBS - Mr. Hegseth has shared what appears to be a letter of acceptance for admission to West Point. I have attached them here. Can you confirm the authenticity of the letter? Can you confirm that Hegseth was accepted to West Point, but declined to attend?

(b) (6) and I'm a defense reporter with the

Washington Examiner. I'm reaching out to see whether West Point can confirm that Peter Hegseth, the president-elect's selection to lead the Department of Defense, did in fact apply and was accepted to West Point in 1999. A

ProPublica editor said today that West Point's PAO told the outlet that he hadn't even applied there, while Hegseth posted a photo of his acceptance letter, which was signed by West Point Superintendent, Lt. Gen. Daniel Christman, U.S. Army. So, can

you confirm whether Mr. Hegseth applied to West Point, and whether he was accepted?

(b) (6) Senior Investigative Reporter with the Washington Free Beacon I just spoke w/ Frank on the phone for this inquiry but wanted to put it in an email. I just wanted to clarify some chatter on Twitter about Pete Hegseth's application to West Point in 1999. A reporter for Pro Public is claiming that a West Point spokesperson told him that West Point had no record of Hegseth applying to West Point. But Hegseth produced a letter from West Point showing he had

been accepted.I

just wanted to clarify a.) did West Point tell ProPublica that there is no record of Hegseth applying? Frank suggested there was some confusion on ProPublica's part. b.) what records does West Point have on this matter?

V/r

Cheryl

Cheryl L. Boujnida

Chief, Media Relations Division

Directorate of Communications

U.S. Military Academy at West Point

(b) (6)

DUTY! HONOR! COUNTRY!