



Office of the Chief
Records Officer for the
U.S. Government

Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.

February 17, 2021

Mr Maurice King
Department of the Defense
Department of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon, 5E170
Washington, DC 22350
maurice.king@navy.mil

Dear Mr. King:

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has been notified of a potential unauthorized disposition of records at the Department of the Navy. A member of the public has alleged that the Navy's Bureau of Medicine (BUMED) has destroyed records relating to an April 1, 2014 FOIA request of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center's (WRNMMC) FY 2013 Annual FOIA report submission to Navy BUMED as it was received in BUMED's office from WRNMMC with all enclosures, any raw data, and any communication accompanying the FY 2013 FOIA Report.

NARA requests that the Navy investigate this matter to determine if all applicable FOIA records were provided at the time of the request and whether responsive records were/or will be destroyed in accordance with the appropriate records disposition schedules. Please note that per 36 CFR 1230.14, if records have been destroyed without NARA's proper authorization, the agency must report these incidents promptly to NARA.

NARA requests that you provide NARA with a response within 30 days in accordance with 36 CFR 1230.16. Your report should include a description of the records; the records schedule disposition citation that covers the files; details regarding the records destruction incident and recovery efforts; and a statement of the safeguards that have been or will be implemented to prevent future unauthorized disposals of such records. If you have any questions, please contact me at laurence.brewer@nara.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurence V. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and 'B'.

LAURENCE BREWER
Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government



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November 3 , 2021

Mr. Maurice King
Department of the Defense
Department of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon, 5E170
Washington, DC 22350
maurice.king@navy.mil

Dear Mr. King:

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has received the Department of the Navy's response regarding NARA's request for further information pertaining to an allegation of the Bureau of Medicine's (BUMED) destruction of records. The records relate to an April 1, 2014 FOIA request of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center's (WRNMMC) FY 2013 Annual FOIA Report submission to Navy's BUMED.

During your investigation, the Navy determined that WRNMMC's submission of its FY 2013 FOIA activity via a spreadsheet containing case processing data was deemed by BUMED as an insufficient and improper reporting submission. Since WRNMMC did not submit the information via a DD-22564 form and did not provide the required reporting data, BUMED considers the submitted data as transitory, intermediate records that are used for temporary training and correspondence purposes only. These records are covered by GRS 5.2, Item 020. Only the final reports are kept by the Navy for retention periods covered by GRS 4.2. The Navy has determined that all applicable FOIA records were provided to the requestor and that the responsive records have been managed in accordance with appropriate NARA schedule authorities.

Based on the information that you provided, the reporting requirements of 36 CFR 1230.14 have been met. NARA considers this allegation of unauthorized disposition of agency records unfounded. If you have any questions, please contact me at laurence.brewer@nara.gov. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurence V. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and a distinct 'V'.

LAURENCE BREWER
Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government