



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

Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.

March 11, 2022

Ms. Kim Tart
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave, NW
Enterprise Records Service (005R1B)
Washington, DC 20420
kim.tart@va.gov

Dear Ms. Tart:

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has been notified of a potential unauthorized disposition of records at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). A member of the public has alleged that “starting in or about July 2012 and continuing through at least February 2019, VA improperly destroyed hardcopy permanent and vital records after electronically imaging such material into the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS).”

In accordance with 36 CFR 1230.14(a), NARA requests that VA respond within 30 calendar days to these allegations. If it is determined that an unauthorized disposition of records has occurred, the response should include the following information:

- A complete description of the records with volume and dates if known;
- The office maintaining the records;
- A statement of the exact circumstances surrounding the removal, defacing, alteration, or destruction of records;
- A statement of the safeguards established to prevent further loss of documentation; and
- Details of the actions taken to salvage, retrieve, or reconstruct the records.

If it is determined that there has been no unauthorized disposition, please provide us with sufficient documentation to support that finding.

I appreciate your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or wish to discuss further, 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 a distinct 'V'.

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

Enclosure



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October 17, 2022

Kim Tart
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave
Enterprise Records Services (005R1B)
Washington, DC 20420
kim.tart@va.gov

Dear Kim Tart,

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has received the Department of Veteran Affairs' (VA) final report regarding the potential destruction of permanent hard copy records after they were scanned and uploaded into the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS).

On March 30, 2022, VA reported that, "the scope of the claimant's assertions does not provide sufficient detail for a thorough and isolated investigation; however, our review of past and current approved records control schedules, litigation holds imposed by the *Robinson v. McDonald* decision, and our standard operating procedures found no cause in whole or in part for deviations." On April 1, 2022, NARA sent VA a follow up email providing additional information on the scope and context of the allegation and requested that VA consider the information in their response. On May 19, 2022, VA reported that "the additional information had no bearing on our initial response of March 30, 2022."

Based on the information you provided to us in this final report, NARA considers this issue resolved. Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at laurence.brewer@nara.gov.

Sincerely,

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