



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

***Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.***

June 5, 2023

Tommy W. Lee  
Department of the Air Force  
1800 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1800

Dear Tommy Lee,

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) acknowledges receipt of the Department of the Air Force's report on the accidental loss of two boxes of Patient Mental Health Treatment Records that were stored in a staging area at Vandenberg Space Force Base, CA.

According to the report, it was assumed that the records were copies and they were accidentally destroyed as part of a mass shred project to remove obsolete records from the staging area. We understand that efforts were made to recover the records but were unsuccessful. We further understand that to prevent future loss of records the files are being scanned to reduce the number of paper-based records on hand and staff will receive training on the proper procedures for staging, tracking, and shipping records.

Based on this information, NARA is satisfied with the actions Air Force has taken and considers this matter closed. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at [laurence.brewer@nara.gov](mailto:laurence.brewer@nara.gov).

Sincerely,

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