



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

Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.

February 20, 2024

Michelle Clifford
Office of the Secretary of Defense
Defense Finance and Accounting Service
COL218R
8899 East 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46249-6500

Dear Michelle Clifford,

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has been notified of a potential unauthorized disposition of records. The Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) Agency Records Officer alleged that iPhones were turned into DFAS's Information and Technology (IT) office, and the information was deleted in full.

In accordance with 36 CFR 1230.14(a), NARA requests that DFAS respond within 30 calendar days to this allegation. 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,

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



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March 21, 2024

Michelle Clifford
Office of the Secretary of Defense
Defense Finance and Accounting Service
COL218R
8899 East 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46249-6500

Dear Michelle Clifford,

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) acknowledges receipt of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service's (DFAS) report regarding an allegation that staff at the DoD Mobile Unclassified Capability (DMUC) wiped iPhones prior to turn-in.

According to the report, the Agency Records Officer investigated the matter and determined email and instant message records created on the mobile devices were captured via DoD365-J email and MS Teams and these records were not destroyed. DFAS is unable to determine if any SMS text message records were on the devices prior to being wiped. DFAS has instituted training, communication, and procedure updates to ensure proper record retention.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Based on this information, NARA considers this allegation of unauthorized disposition closed. If you have any questions, please contact me at laurence.brewer@nara.gov.

Sincerely,

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