

## DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE AIR FORCE CIVIL ENGINEER CENTER JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO LACKLAND TEXAS

August 25, 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR Mr. Frank Vera

FROM: AFCEC/DSTX (FOIA) 2261 Hughes Ave STE 155

JBSA Lackland TX 78236-9853

SUBJECT: Initial/Final Reply, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests 2014-05895-F and -05891-F

- 1. The subject FOIAs dated August 13, 2014 and August 14, 2014, respectively, were transferred to the Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC) on August 20, 2014. You requested a complete and unredacted copy, printout, or export of the following:
- (a) **2014-05895-F** Epidemiological survey(s), environmental survey(s), and health survey(s) for the former George AFB CA, "EPA Superfund ID: CA2570024453".
- (b) **2014-05891-F** Any Exposure Pathway Assessment(s) and any Completed Exposure Pathways (CEP) for the George AFB personnel, their families, civilian employees, and/or the surrounding community. In addition, you requested HAF FOIA forward your request to all Major Air Commands.
- 2. This is the AFCEC initial/final reply to the subject requests and the information requested is available to the Public. The FOIA states that if the information requested is publically available, the address or computer access information is all that needs to be furnished. Thus, click <a href="http://afcec.publicadmin-record.us.af.mil/Search.aspx">http://afcec.publicadmin-record.us.af.mil/Search.aspx</a> for access to the AF Administrative Record, click on BRAC in the upper left hard corner, and all closed installations are shown (See Atch 1). AFCEC Western Region (AFCEC/CIBW) said you should do a full document search using key terms from your requests, and you will find "epidemiological" (25 records), "exposure pathway" (185 records), and "investigation" (129 records). All are available to the Public.
- 3. In addition, you attached a copy of the MSSQ (Directorate of Information Management) Files Maintenance and Disposition Plan under 2014-05895 seeking Item 363, Epidemiological, Environmental Health Survey At MAJCOMs (Tactical Air Command [TAC] oversaw George AFB). Page 6 of your FOIA is a George AFB official file plan showing official records, the assigned Table/Rule (T/R) from the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule (RDS), as well as the destruction dates. Destruction of any official records must be approved by the Air Force Records Office in coordination with NARA prior to assigning the T/R. Thus, upon closure of George AFB, any records that still had an outstanding destruction T/R date were retired to NARA and it assumed responsibility for the records until NARA destroyed them based in January 1994 (see page 6 of your request).
- 4. Since George AFB is a BRAC-closed installation, the requests were only sent to AFCEC of which the Air Force BRAC office is assigned and not all the MAJCOMs (note: Tactical Air Command was the oversight for the active George AFB) because any existing records would be stored on the Air Force Administrative Records site. AFCEC/CIBW did not find any indexes regarding retired, destroyed, or withheld records pertaining to your specific requests.
- 5. The FOIA provides for collecting fees for processing requests and you are categorized as "Other"; however, there are no chargeable fees associated with these two requests.

- 6. AFCEC must again stress that the Air Force Final Decision (May 15, 2014, Atch 2) on your appeal of the AFCEC denial of Public Interest Fee Waiver is final and you were denied this status. For each future FOIA you might wish to submit and you continue to request Public Interest Fee Waiver, it will delay replies to you because it must be placed "On-Hold-Fee Related" until you acknowledge willingness to pay associated processing fees giving a specific not more than dollar limit.
- 7. If you have questions, etc., please call 210-395-8216 or eMail iris.seals.1@us.af.mil.

Iris W. Seals

IRIS W. SEALS, GS-11, DAF FOIA/Privacy Act Manager

## Attachments:

- 1. Sample Index, AF Admin Record
- 2. AF Denial--Public Interest/News Medial Rep

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE WASHINGTON DC

## OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

SAF/GCA 1740 Air Force Pentagon Washington, DC 20330-1740

APR 1 5 2014

Mr. Frank Vera III

Dear Mr. Vera:

This letter replies to your March 2013, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) appeals (2013-00102-A, 2013-00103-A, 2013-00106-A, 2013-00107-A, 2013-00108-A) of the Air Force Civil Engineer Center's denial of your request for a fee waiver and your request to be categorized as a representative of the news media.

I have been delegated the responsibility to conduct the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force review in your case. I have considered your appeals and determined they should be denied.

A FOIA requester is entitled to a fee waiver or reduction "if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester." 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).

In making my decision, I have reviewed your initial FOIA request, your fee waiver request, and your appeal. I considered the factors found in DoD Regulation 5400.7\_AFMAN 33-302, Chapter 6, and other applicable law. Based on my review, I have determined that your request does not qualify for a fee waiver.

In addition, you do not meet the statutory definition of "representative of the news media" found at 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(4)(A)(ii). Thus, you were appropriately placed in the "other requester" category.

For the reasons stated above, your appeals are denied. This constitutes the final Air Force action on your appeal. The FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, provides for judicial review of this determination.

Sincerely

DAVID L. THOMAS

Assistant Deputy General Counsel (Fiscal, Ethics and Administrative Law)

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AFCEC/DSTX (FOIA) 2261 HUGHES AVE STE 155 DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE JBSA LACKLAND TX 78236-9853

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