



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

Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.

December 10 , 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 destruction 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 FOIA case processing records and notes of an April 1, 2014 FOIA request to BUMED that sought records of Walter Reed's FY2013 Annual FOIA report submission to Navy. These records were also requested on December 24, 2017 FOIA Request "DON 18 AS - FOIA Case Records of Request: Walter Reed Annual FOIA Submissions" (Agency Case # DON-NAVY-2018-002619). This unauthorized disposition case differs from UD-2021-0017.

NARA requests that the Navy investigate this matter to determine if all applicable 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. 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