



OFFICE of GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

May 20, 2015 — Sent via email

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Re: Case No.: 201500588  
NG: CM: KG

NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES  
and RECORDS  
ADMINISTRATION

8601 ADELPHI ROAD  
OGIS  
COLLEGE PARK, MD  
20740-6001

web: [www.ogis.archives.gov](http://www.ogis.archives.gov)  
e-mail: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
phone: 202-741-5770  
toll-free: 1-877-684-6448  
fax: 202-741-5769

Dear [REDACTED]:

This responds to your request for assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), which we received on April 8, 2015 via email. Your request for assistance pertains to your records request to the Department of Defense, Naval Research Laboratory (NRL).

OGIS was created to complement existing Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) practice and procedure; we strive to work in conjunction with the existing request and appeal process. The goal is for OGIS to allow, whenever practical, the requester to exhaust his or her remedies within the agency, including the appeal process. Please know that OGIS has no investigatory or enforcement power, nor can we compel an agency to release documents. OGIS serves as the Federal FOIA Ombudsman and our jurisdiction is limited to assisting with the FOIA process.

OGIS provides mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. After opening a case, OGIS gathers information from the requester and the agency to learn more about the nature of the dispute. OGIS then decides how and whether to proceed on the request for assistance.

OGIS staff carefully reviewed the correspondence you submitted with your request for assistance. I understand that you made a request to NRL for “Three reports-

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED],  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] You also requested “quality multimedia records (photos, film, kodacrome prints, slides, etc) of [REDACTED] [REDACTED].” NRL released the images and reports you requested in full. You emailed the agency and requested higher quality scans of the images the agency sent you and offered to bring in your own equipment to scan the images yourself. NRL rescanned the images in response to your follow up email. The second round of scans did not improve the quality enough for you to use them; again you emailed the agency to offer to scan the images yourself. The agency denied your request to scan them again and closed your FOIA request. You reached out to OGIS for assistance.

OGIS contacted the FOIA Public Liaison for the Department of the Navy, Christopher Julka. Mr. Julka contacted the NRL about your request. Mr. Julka learned that NRL has a standard policy on restricting access to its premises to those with appropriate



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security clearances. The policy is intended to protect sensitive research related to national defense and has been in effect for years back to the laboratory's founding in 1923.

In regards to your request for rescanned images, Mr. Julka referred OGIS to NRL Counsel Patrick Turner. OGIS contacted Mr. Turner to inquire about the images. Mr. Turner welcomed any suggestions from you on how to scan the images using the NRL equipment in order for you to be satisfied with the quality. OGIS forwarded your instructions on how to scan the images using specific settings for a Fujitsu fi-6670 scanner. NRL rescanned the images according to the instructions OGIS forwarded, but could not separate the plates in the printed materials, as you requested, because doing so would have damaged both the plates and the reports. Mr. Turner sent OGIS the images, and OGIS forwarded them to you.

I hope you find this information useful in understanding why NRL could only provide images of a certain quality and why you were not granted access to the facility to scan the images with your equipment. At this time, there is no further assistance OGIS can offer. Thank you for bringing this matter to OGIS. We will close your case.

Sincerely,

/s/

Nikki Gramian, Acting Director  
Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)

We appreciate your feedback. Please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/OGIS> to take a brief anonymous survey on the service you received from OGIS.