January 28, 2016—Sent via U.S. mail

Re: Case No.: 201600138
NG: CM

Dear [Name]

This responds to your request for assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), which we received on October 30, 2016 via U.S. mail. Thank you for your interest in OGIS.

Congress created OGIS 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. 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.

We have carefully reviewed your submission of information, and it appears that you seek records related to [redacted]; you have requested these records from multiple National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) facilities and from the Army, but you are dissatisfied with the responses you have received. You ask for OGIS’s assistance with this matter.

In response to your request, we contacted the National Archives records center in Chicago. The Archivist to whom we spoke confirmed that all Selective Service records once held in Chicago have been transferred to the National Archives at St. Louis. If you have not done so already, you may wish to make a request to St. Louis for the records you seek. The mailing address for NARA’s St. Louis office is:

National Archives and Records Administration
ATTN: Archival Programs
P.O. Box 38757
St. Louis, MO 63138

In your submission of information, you state that you were informed by NARA that the “U.S. Army created a record in mailing [redacted] and that they have the legal custody of this record.” Information like this can be useful in helping an agency locate the record you seek. You may wish to enclose the correspondence that includes this statement with your request to NARA.
January 28, 2016
Page 2 of 2

While I understand that the records you seek are important to you, please note that not all Federal records are retained on a permanent basis. According to 44 U.S.C. §§ 3302-3303, agency heads work with the Archivist of the United States to create lists of records that no longer have “sufficient administrative, legal, research, or other value to warrant their further preservation by the Government.” There is no requirement that these records be retained in digital form. If NARA is unable to locate the records you seek, it is possible that the records were destroyed pursuant to an approved records retention schedule.

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/

JAMES V.M.L. HOZER
Director

cc: NARA at Chicago