

February 11, 2016 - Sent via e-mail

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

In Re: Case No.: 201600231
JM: NG: HK

NATIONAL
ARCHIVES
and RECORDS
ADMINISTRATION

Dear [REDACTED]:

This responds to your January 26, 2016, submission to the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS).

8601 ADELPHI ROAD
OGIS
COLLEGE PARK, MD
20740-6001

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.

web: www.ogis.archives.gov
e-mail: ogis@nara.gov
phone: 202-741-5770
toll-free: 1-877-684-6448
fax: 202-741-5769

In your case, you submitted a request [REDACTED] to the US Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) for records related to a [REDACTED]. I understand that USAMRIID denied your request in part, and you appealed that response. You ask for OGIS's assistance in determining the status of your delayed appeal.

We discussed this matter with Army's Office of the General Counsel (OGC), which informed us that the Office received your appeal on [REDACTED]. OGC processes appeals on a first-in, first-out basis, and according to the office, there are 115 appeals ahead of yours in the queue. OGC estimates that they will complete work on your appeal in approximately six to eight months.

In your submission to OGIS, you express concern that the email address provided for USAMRIID's FOIA public liaison is not functional. We inquired about this issue, but did not receive a response. As stated above, OGIS has no investigatory or enforcement power and we cannot compel an agency to respond to our inquiries.

I hope you find this information useful. At this time, there is no further assistance OGIS can offer and we will close your case. Thank you for bringing this matter to OGIS.

Sincerely,

/S/
JAMES V.M.L. HOLZER
Director

cc: [REDACTED] Attorney, Office of the Army General Counsel

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.

