

FOIA Backlog Reduction Recommendation

KOSAKA, JUDY A CIV USAF PACAF PACAF/IP (FOIA) <judy.kosaka@us.af.mil>

May 14, 2015 3:10 PM

Posted in group: FOIA Advisory Committee

FOIA Folks,

May I make a suggestion that we try to pass as a law?

To reduce the FOIA backlog it should be "Required" that all classified documents 25 years or older go through the MDR, process not the FOIA. Most FOIA staff do not have the skill or expertise to handle classified information or conduct this additional review to determine what is releasable or not. This alone causes a huge backlog to the FOIA process. My first request took over 1 1/2 yrs because I didn't know what I was doing or where to go for assistance.

This appears to be a simple solution but will require legislation to make it a law and not leave it up to the requester to determine which process to use. Yes they will get their records but if they are classified it will go through the MDR process which will relieve the pressure and backlog from the FOIA process.

I have suggested this before but it was quickly dismissed down because they said congress will never approve. Let's not give up so easily. Sometimes the best things in life are the hardest to achieve.

V/R,

JUDY KOSAKA, GS-12, DAFC
HQ PACAF FOIA/PA Official
DSN: 315-449-FOIA (3642)
COMM: (808) 449-3642