



Pacific Currents

Newsletter of the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa & Trust Territory of the Pacific

Facilities and staff in San Bruno, Laguna Niguel, and Riverside, California

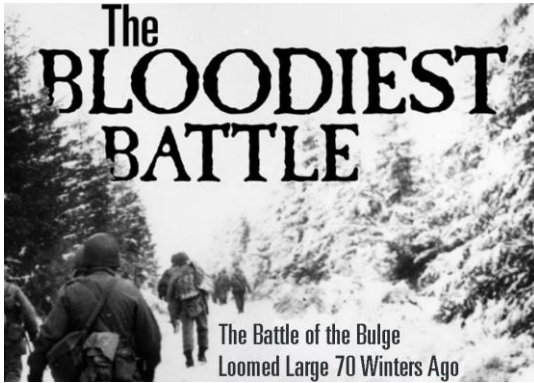
archives.gov/san-francisco

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front line gave the battle the name by which it is best known. It would cost the most American lives of any battle in World War II, with 19,000 U.S. soldiers dead by the time the Allies turned the tide of battle and resumed their assault on the German homeland.

For an excellent article on the battle in the current issue of *Prologue* magazine, [click here](#).



American soldiers march through the snow in the Ardennes, January 1945. 17,000 G.I.'s were hospitalized due the effects of severe cold during the Battle of the Bulge.



Brig. Gen. Anthony McAuliffe, commanding the surrounded 101st Airborne Division, famously replied "Nuts!" to a German demand to surrender.



Gen. George Patton commanded the U.S. Third Army, which relieved surrounded American troops at Bastogne, Belgium.

Seventy years ago, on December 16, 1944, Allied Forces in Europe were taken by surprise when Nazi Germany launched a counter-offensive in the Ardennes region, pushing into France, Luxembourg, and Belgium. The assault came six months after the D-Day invasion of Normandy. Cloudy skies initially prevented the use of U.S. air power. The resulting "bulge" in the

New Law Strengthens Federal Records Management

On November 26, President Obama signed into law H.R. 1233, the Presidential and Federal Records Act Amendments of 2014.

This law updates both the Federal Records Act (FRA) and the Presidential Records Act (PRA) by bringing them into the digital age and modernizing records management by focusing more directly on electronic records. It also

Inside this issue

- Records Management Training Schedule for FY 2015, page 2-3
- DOJ lifts Tobacco Litigation Freeze, page 4
- 2013 Records Management Self Assessment Report Issued, page 4
- From NARA's history: Charters of Freedom came to the National Archives, December 13, 1952, page 5

FREE TRAINING! -- RECORDS TRANSFER AND REFERENCE SERVICE

This free half-day Federal Records Center training includes

- How to transfer records to your Federal Records Center
- How to make an online request for reference services

Dates and Locations: February 18, 2015, Oakland, CA April 29, 2015, Sacramento, CA

To register by email: sanbruno.transfer@nara.gov or call Michael Frush (650) 238-3472

Continued on page 4

Records Management Training, Jan.-Sept., 2015

By Course Name (for training by location, see next page)

To register go to archives.gov/records-mgmt/training/ or email our training registrar at laguna.workshops@nara.gov
For more information on our workshops, go to <http://nara.learn.com/recordsmanagement-training>

Records Transfer and Reference Service FRC **Free** Half-Day Workshops

February 18, 2015, Oakland, California
April 29, 2015, Sacramento, California
(For California FRC classes, see boxed notice at the bottom of page 1.)

June 8, 2015, Seattle, Washington (For Seattle FRC classes, register online as shown above.)

Records Management Overview

(Knowledge Area 1)
February 23, 2015, Honolulu, Hawaii
April 6, 2015, Broomfield (Denver), Colorado
April 7, 2015, Richland, Washington
August 16, 2015, San Diego, California

Records Scheduling (Knowledge Area 3)

February 18-19, 2015, Richland, Washington
February 26-27, 2015, Honolulu, Hawaii
April 9-10, 2015, Broomfield (Denver), Colorado
April 30-May 1, Seoul, Korea
June 11-12, 2015, Seattle, Washington
August 19-20, 2015, San Diego, California

Asset and Risk Management

(Knowledge Area 5)
February 4-5, 2015, Las Vegas, Nevada
March 4-5, 2015, Honolulu, Hawaii
March 18-19, 2015, Richland, Washington
May 6-7, Seoul, Korea
May 20-21, 2015, Broomfield (Denver), Colorado
June 17-18, 2015, Seattle, Washington
September 16-17, 2015, San Diego, California

Electronic Records Management

March 9-10, 2015, Honolulu, Hawaii

Emergency Preparedness

March 12, 2015, Honolulu, Hawaii
March 26, 2015, San Diego, California

Basic Records Operations

February 2, 9, 16, 21, 2015 - Online
February 19, 2015, Oakland, California
March 9, 16, 23, 30, 2015 - Online
March 24, 2015, San Diego, California
April 8, 15, 22, 29, 2015 - Online
April 30, 2015, Sacramento, California
June 9, 16, 23, 30, 2015 - Online
September 4, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2015 - Online

Creating and Maintaining Agency Business Information

(Knowledge Area 2)
February 16-17, 2015, Richland, Washington
February 24-25, 2015, Honolulu, Hawaii
April 7-8, 2015, Broomfield (Denver), Colorado
April 28-29, Seoul, Korea
June 9-10, 2015, Seattle, Washington
August 17-18, 2015, San Diego, California

Records Schedule Implementation

(Knowledge Area 4)
February 2-3, 2015, Las Vegas, Nevada
March 2-3, 2015, Honolulu, Hawaii
March 16-17, 2015, Richland, Washington
May 4-5, Seoul, Korea
May 18-19, 2015, Broomfield (Denver), Colorado
June 15-16, 2015, Seattle, Washington
September 14-15, 2015, San Diego, California

Records Management Program

Development (Knowledge Area 6)

February 6, 2015, Las Vegas, Nevada
March 6, 2015, Honolulu, Hawaii
April 8, 2015, Richland, Washington
May 8, Seoul, Korea
May 22, 2015, Broomfield (Denver), Colorado
June 19, 2015, Seattle, Washington
September 18, 2015, San Diego, California

Vital Business Information

February 4, 11, 18, 25, 2015 - Online
March 11, 2015, Honolulu, Hawaii
March 25, 2015, San Diego, California
August 10, 17, 24, 31, 2015 - Online

Records Management Training, Jan.-Sept., 2015

By Location (for listing by course name, see previous page)

To register go to archives.gov/records-mgmt/training/ or email our training registrar at laguna.workshops@nara.gov

For more information on our workshops, go to <http://nara.learn.com/recordsmanagement-training>

Broomfield (Denver), Colorado

Records Management Overview (KA1), April 6, 2015
 Creating and Maintaining Agency Business Information (KA2), April 7-8, 2015
 Records Scheduling (KA3), April 9-10, 2015
 Records Schedule Implementation (KA4), May 18-19, 2015
 Asset and Risk Management (KA5), May 20-21, 2015
 Records Management Program Development (KA6), May 22, 2015

Las Vegas, Nevada

Records Schedule Implementation (KA4), February 2-3, 2015
 Asset and Risk Management (KA5), February 4-5, 2015
 Records Management Program Development (KA6), February 6, 2015

Richland, Washington

Records Management Overview (KA1), April 7, 2015
 Creating and Maintaining Agency Business Information (KA2), February 16-17, 2015
 Records Scheduling (KA3), February 18-19, 2015
 Records Schedule Implementation (KA4), March 16-17, 2015
 Asset and Risk Management (KA5), March 18-19, 2015
 Records Management Program Development (KA6), April 8, 2015

San Diego, California

Basic Records Operations, March 24, 2015
 Vital Business Information, March 25, 2015
 Emergency Preparedness, March 26, 2015
 Records Management Overview (KA1), August 3, 2015
 Creating and Maintaining Agency Business Information (KA2), August 4-5, 2015
 Records Scheduling (KA3), August 6-7, 2015
 Records Schedule Implementation (KA4), September 14-15, 2015
 Asset and Risk Management (KA5), September 16-17, 2015
 Records Management Program Development (KA6), September 18, 2015

Sacramento, California

Records Transfer and Reference Service - FRC **Free** Half-Day Workshop, April 29, 2015
 (To sign up for this class, see boxed notice at the bottom of page1.)

Basic Records Operations, April 30, 2015

Honolulu, Hawaii

Records Management Overview (KA1), February 23, 2015
 Creating and Maintaining Agency Business Information (KA2), February 24-25, 2015
 Records Scheduling (KA3), February 26-27, 2015
 Records Schedule Implementation (KA4), March 2-3, 2015
 Asset and Risk Management (KA5), March 4-5, 2015, 2015
 Records Management Program Development (KA6), March 6, 2015
 Electronic Records Management, March 9-10, 2015
 Vital Business Information, March 11, 2015
 Emergency Preparedness, March 12, 2015

Oakland, California

Records Transfer and Reference Service - FRC **Free** Half-Day Workshop, February 18, 2015
 (To sign up for this class, see boxed notice at the bottom of page 1.)

Basic Records Operations, February 19, 2015

Online

Basic Records Operations, February 2, 9, 16, 21, 2015; March 9, 16, 23, 30, 2015; April 8, 15, 22, 29, 2015; June 9, 16, 23, 30, 2015; September 4, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2015
 Vital Business Information
 February 4, 11, 18, 25, 2015; August 10, 17, 24, 31, 2015

Seattle, Washington

Records Transfer and Reference Service FRC Free Half-Day Workshop, June 8, 2015
 Creating and Maintaining Agency Business Information (KA2), June 9-10, 2015
 Records Scheduling (KA3), June 11-12, 2015
 Records Schedule Implementation (KA4), June 15-16, 2015
 Asset and Risk Management (KA5), June 17-18, 2015
 Records Management Program Development (KA6), June 19-20, 2015

Seoul, Korea

Creating and Maintaining Agency Business Information (KA2), April 28-29, 2015
 Records Scheduling (KA3), April 30-May 1, 2015
 Records Schedule Implementation (KA4), May 4-5, 2015
 Asset and Risk Management (KA5), May 6-7, 2015
 Records Management Program Development (KA6), May 8, 2015

Presidential and Federal Records Acts Revised

Continued from page 1

complements NARA and OMB efforts to implement the President's 2011 Memorandum on Managing Government Records.

Major updates to the Presidential and Federal Records Acts include

- Strengthening the Federal Records Act by expanding the definition of Federal records to clearly include electronic records. This is the first change to the definition of a Federal record since the enactment of the act in 1950.
- Confirming that Federal electronic records will be transferred to NARA in electronic form.
- Granting the Archivist of the United States final determination as to what constitutes a Federal record.
- Authorizing the early transfer of permanent electronic federal and Presidential records to the National Archives, while legal custody remains with the agency or the President.
- Clarifying the responsibilities of Federal government officials when using non-government email systems.
- Empowering NARA to safeguard original and classified records from unauthorized removal.
- Codifying procedures by which former and incumbent Presidents review Presidential records for constitutional privileges. Formerly, this process was controlled by an Executive Order subject to change by different administrations.

Department of Justice lifts Tobacco Industry Litigation Freeze

On December 4, the Department of Justice lifted the Tobacco Industry Litigation Freeze. This "freeze" – or litigation hold on destruction of records – was implemented October 19, 1999, to preserve records relevant to *United States v. Philip Morris*.

For the last 15 years, nearly 12 million cubic feet of records within the Federal Records Center Program (of the nearly 30 million cubic feet in storage) have been under the tobacco litigation freeze, according to Federal Records Center Program Director David Weinberg.

"With the lifting of this freeze, our records centers will, with agency concurrence, be able to dispose of 2.2 million cubic feet of records. THIS IS HUGE for our customers and the taxpayers as we annually charge close to \$6 million to store tobacco records that are no longer needed for agency business. But this is equally as huge for us as it will provide much needed space relief."

This will be a massive undertaking which will require cooperation of many agencies and multiple NARA units. If your agency has tobacco frozen records in the Federal Records Center you can expect to hear a lot more about this in coming months.

The Federal Records Center system is operated by NARA in nine regional centers, two personnel records centers in St. Louis, MO, and the Washington National Records Center in Suitland, MD. Together the FRCs store approximately 27 million cubic feet of records. Visit us online at www.archives.gov/frc/

NARA Releases the 2013 Records Management Self-Assessment Report

For the fifth year NARA has published a report on how well Federal agencies are doing with their records management programs, based on agencies' self reporting. The goal of the self-assessments is to determine whether Federal agencies are compliant with statutory and regulatory records management requirements. In FY 2013, of the 266 agencies that received the self-assessment, 255 responded, including all Cabinet-level agencies and those under the Executive Office of the President.

The 2013 report highlights some positive trends for improving recordkeeping by Federal agencies. This year, 52% of agencies made improvements to their records management programs and increased their scores. This is the first time the number of agencies in low risk exceeds the number at high risk. Also increasing is the frequency with which agency records management staff conduct routine RM evaluations, inspections, and audits.

NARA is committed to continuing to work with Federal agencies to strengthen their records management programs to improve records management performance across the Federal Government.

The report is available at <http://www.archives.gov/records-mgmt/resources/self-assessment.html>.

Charters of Freedom came to the National Archives in 1952



Visitors to downtown Washington, DC, on December 13, 1952, were treated to an interesting sight—a procession of armored vehicles escorted by a host of military personnel and police. On that chilly morning, passersby saw the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States being moved to a new home. The previous April Congress had ordered that the Charters be moved to the National Archives from the Library of Congress where they had been stored since 1921.

For a wealth of information on the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, visit the National Archives Charters of Freedom online exhibit at <http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/>

