



NATIONAL ARCHIVES *and* RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
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Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.

January 29, 2018

Ms. Elena Dale Drayer (Acting)
Marine Corps Records Manager
3000 Marine Corps Pentagon
Washington DC 22350
elena.drayer@usmc.mil

Dear Ms. Drayer:

On January 22, 2016, *The State* posted an *Associated Press* article titled [Trove of Marine Corps films from 1930s-1970s to be preserved in Columbia](#), which described how specialists of the University of South Carolina's (USC) [Moving Image Research Collection \(MIRC\)](#) plan to repair, preserve, and digitize approximately 16,000 reels of 16mm and 35mm film transferred from the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC). The article included details on an approximately 2,100 square foot special cold-storage vault to be constructed to store the film. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) became aware of this article on January 27, 2016.

Since the article mentioned the construction of a storage facility for these films, NARA needed to determine if the intent of USMC was to donate the films to USC since federal regulations ([36 CFR 1226.26](#)) require agencies receive written approval from NARA before donating records eligible for disposal to an organization outside of the Federal Government. Since NARA did not receive such a request, we immediately contacted the Marine Corps Records Manager asking for clarification.

On January 28, 2016, the Marine Corps Records Manager stated that the correct process was followed but the search for documentation could not be completed until the Marine Corps History Division had completed an office move.

On August 2, 2016, NARA sent the Marine Corps Records Manager formal correspondence (attached) requesting that the USMC submit to NARA a formal request with the required information related to the donation of the films to USC.

Since this matter is still unresolved and the custodial status of the films is unclear, we are requesting that USMC provide NARA a response that describes the records and clarifies their status within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter in accordance with [36 CFR 1230](#). If USMC has donated the films to USC, please include a formal request for donation in accordance with [36 CF 1226.26](#) with your response.

We look forward to your response and appreciate your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Scott Jobson at 301-837-2977 or scott.jobson@nara.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurence V. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

LAURENCE BREWER
Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government

Attachment:
2016-08-02_UD-2016-0021_USMC_Open Letter



August 2, 2016

Ms. Kim Enright-Lamere
Department of the Navy
Marine Corps Records Manager
3000 Marine Corps Pentagon
Room 2B253
Washington, DC 20350-3000

Dear Ms. Enright-Lamere:

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has received information regarding a potential case of alienation of Federal records. According to an article in the January 27, 2016 online edition of *The State*, the Marine Corps donated 16,000 reels of 16mm and 35mm films to the University of South Carolina.

NARA commends the Marine Corps and the University of South Carolina for committing to the restoration of these films and for providing appropriate storage and public access. However, it is important to note, that the Marine Corps should have received NARA approval prior to transferring these films to the University of South Carolina. In accordance with 36 CFR 1226.26(a), we therefore ask that you send a letter to my attention containing the relevant information required and to request NARA's approval to donate the films to the University. For your convenience, please find enclosed a sample letter.

We look forward to your response and thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Steven B. Rhodes at 301-837-3055 or steven.rhodes@nara.gov.

Sincerely,

LAURENCE BREWER
Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government

Enclosures

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