



Office of the Chief
Records Officer for the
U.S. Government

Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.

April 13, 2022

Tonia Austin-Douglas
Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard
Attn: Records Manager
US Coast Guard Stop 7710
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20593-7710

Dear Tonia Austin-Douglas,

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has received an email from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office of the Inspector General (OIG), informing us that email from a former SES employee was deleted from the USCG email system after 90 days. The email further explains that, "The USCG will save all electronic communication, to include chats and emails, for all employees for 365 days automatically. When an employee separates, after 30 days that person's USCG account is suspended. After 60 days of inactivity, the account is decommissioned and placed in a pending deletion status. After 90 days of inactivity, the account and data may be deleted from USCG servers."

While the above referenced SES employee's email account should have been considered a permanent "Capstone" email account in accordance with the USCG email records retention schedule, GRS 6.1-0026-2019-0001, NARA is further concerned about the fact that the above quoted email referenced all USCG email accounts. Email accounts that are designated as "Capstone" accounts are required to be kept for a minimum of 15 years before transferring to the National Archives, while non-Capstone email accounts are currently unscheduled and therefore should be treated as permanent.

In accordance with 36 CFR 1230.14(a), I am requesting that the USCG provide NARA with an unauthorized disposition report regarding this allegation. This report should include a complete description of the records with volume and dates if known; a description of the office maintaining the records; a statement of the exact circumstances surrounding the removal,

defacing, alteration, or destruction of records; a statement of the safeguards established to prevent further loss of documentation; and details of the actions taken to salvage, retrieve, or reconstruct the records.

I appreciate your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please contact me at laurence.brewer@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

cc. Michelle Thomas, Department Records Officer, Department of Homeland Security