



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
4800 MARK CENTER DRIVE
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22350-1500

March 21, 2025
Ref: DODOIG-2025-000761

SENT VIA EMAIL TO: shelbystartz@outlook.com

Mr. Sherman Startz
550 Lebo Boulevard, 34
Bremerton, WA 98310

Dear Mr. Startz:

This acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for records pertaining to case 20230213-083550. We received your request on March 19, 2025, and assigned it case number DODOIG-2025-000761.

Please be advised that this office has adopted a first in/first out practice of processing all incoming requests. Your request has been placed in chronological order based on the date of receipt and will be handled as quickly as possible. The FOIA provides that agencies may extend time limits when "unusual circumstances" are met during the processing of a request. See 5 U.S.C. § 552 (a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii). Due to the need for a search in another office, this office may not be able to meet the 20-business day response time. If you would like to narrow the scope of your request for records in order to achieve a more timely response, please contact our office at 703-604-9775 or by email at foiarequests@dodig.mil. You may also contact our FOIA Public Liaison at 703-604-9785 for further assistance.

In your request, you sought expedited processing citing that "[you are] in Federal Appeals Court and need to respond to the Court within 21 days from today." Please be advised that your request does not meet the parameters for expedited processing. The basis you provided did not demonstrate the kind of compelling need required for us to place your request ahead of all the others that are pending. It is not sufficient for a requester merely to allege that requested records are needed in connection with a judicial or administrative proceeding; rather, the immediate use of the FOIA must be shown to be critical to the preservation of a substantial right. For this reason, your request for expedited processing is denied. For more information on expedited processing, please refer to 32 C.F.R. § 286.8(e).

If you consider this an adverse determination, you may submit an appeal. Your appeal, if any, must be postmarked within 90 days of the date of this letter, clearly identify the determination that you would like to appeal, and reference to the FOIA case number above. Send your appeal via mail to the Department of Defense, Office of Inspector General, ATTN: FOIA Appellate Authority, Suite 10B24, 4800 Mark Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22350-1500, via email to foiaappeals@dodig.mil, or via facsimile to 571-372-7498. However, please note that FOIA appeals can only examine adverse determinations concerning the FOIA process. For more information on appellate matters and administrative appeal procedures, please refer to 32 C.F.R. Sec. 286.9(e) and 286.11(a).

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Lastly, you may seek dispute resolution services and assistance with your request from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at 877-684-6448, ogis@nara.gov, or <https://ogis.archives.gov/>. You can also contact OGIS via regular mail at National Archives and Records Administration, Office of Government Information Services, 8601 Adelphi Road—OGIS, College Park, MD 20740-6001. Please note that OGIS mediates disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. However, OGIS does not have the authority to mediate requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974 (request to access one's own records).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Searle' followed by a stylized surname.

Searle Slutzkin
Division Chief
FOIA, Privacy and Civil Liberties Office