

FOIA/PA Officer
Department of Defense
Washington, D.C.

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
1/16/77

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is my self-explanatory letter to NSA.

My initial FOIA/PA request was to the DOD and to cover all components. There was correspondence with several as well as the office of the Secretary and General Counsel. It was entirely unsatisfactory. Departmental officials were deceived by those below them. As one example I cite the fact that I did not even receive copies of my military record. I was a soldier in World War II.

After I filed the request I suffered acute thrombophlebitis in both legs and thighs. Before I was hospitalized the damage was extensive and permanent. One of the results is that bending and squatting is contra-indicated. This is requiring a reorganization of my extensive files. It also has me far behind in filing and refiling. However, you will find that I was provided no records and that in all branches of the service there are records that are called for by the request. As my letter to NSA shows I possess documentary proof as it relates to NSA.

There are also extensive relevant records relating to claims I filed followed by two law suits. I won the first, the second was settled out of court. Both were in federal district court in Baltimore, both with Roszel Hanson the judge. Under discovery in the second case extensive records were made available to me but I had to return them to the United States Attorney. This was prior to PA. These records came from all branches of the military, including the Marines. I recall clearly that the Air Force files made reference to other Air Force files on me not related to the damage done to us and the farm we then operated at Hyattstown. The then Secretary took an interest in protecting us and directed the general counsel to assist us in any way possible. There were several meetings on this alone at the Pentagon where I was present. There are records of this, too. As I recall his name the assistant or deputy general counsel then was a Mr. Niederlehner. The assistant he assigned was Walter Herbert Morse. There are records even in the White House helicopter detachment where, as with Mr. Morse, there was an effort to be helpful. If Colonel Beyer is still there he remember this the last time we spoke. The first officer I recall from there was a Major Doster. There should be records ranging from the operational to the legal. The JAGs of all branches were involved. I had personal meetings with all and separately with those of the Army thereafter when the Department decided that the Army would represent all services. In the first litigation I was represented by the firm of Rauh and Silard, initially in the second by the Edward Bennett Williams firm, since reorganized. At the end of the second case we were represented by the Baltimore firm of Venable, Baetjer and Howard and of that firm by Mr. Harvey Clapp.

To my knowledge there are records at the following military installations: Dover (Del.) AFB, Ft. Belvoir (probably all in the Washington area), Ft. Detrick, Second Army, Indian-town Gap and Ft. Belbird. (I suggest to the Department that a study of the records initiating at Dover AFB will disclose how higher authority and the Congress were deliberately misinformed and how thereby they defrauded claimants when this was not the intent of higher authority and the operational people had their own objectives to serve.)

In more recent years I have written about and studied the political assassinations more extensively than anyone else. I am confident there are records on and about me because of this and because military components were involved in my investigations and writings.

Although I have appealed the refusals and can seek relief from federal court I am writing you again in the hope that litigation can be avoided by belated compliance.

Sincerely,

Howard Ketchum