



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

Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.

February 29, 2024

Andrica Dickerson
Department of Defense
Department of the Army
Army Records Management Directorate
9301 Chapek Road, Building 1458
Ft. Belvoir, VA 22060-5527

Dear Andrica Dickerson,

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has been notified of a potential unauthorized disposition of records. A member of the public has alleged that ballistics research lab reports were destroyed 20 years ago at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Aberdeen, MD.

In accordance with 36 CFR 1230.14(a), NARA requests that the Department of the Army respond within 30 calendar days to this allegation. If it is determined that an unauthorized disposition of records has occurred, the response should include the following information:

- A complete description of the records with volume and dates if known;
- 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.

If it is determined that there has been no unauthorized disposition, please provide us with sufficient documentation to support that finding. 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,

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



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July 31, 2024

Andrica Dickerson
Department of Defense
Department of Army
9301 Chapek Road Building 1458
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5527

Dear Andrica Dickerson:

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) acknowledges receipt of the Department of the Army's report regarding the alleged unauthorized disposition of ballistics research lab (BRL) reports at the U.S. Army Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen MD.

According to the report, the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command (DEVCOM) Army Research Laboratory (ARL) Records Management Office researched the allegation and found no evidence of an unauthorized destruction of BRL reports. We understand that many of the paper-based copies of the reports were scanned and only excess paper-based copies were destroyed after inspection and acceptance of the scanned documents. We further understand that copies of the scanned documents are available through the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) and the ARL Technical Library maintains possession of the vast majority of extant reports, in both digital and paper formats.

Based on this information, the reporting requirements of 36 CFR 1230.14(a) have been met and NARA is satisfied with the actions Army has taken and considers this matter closed. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at william.fischer@nara.gov.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM FISCHER
Acting Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government