



HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES EUROPEAN COMMAND
UNIT 30400
APO AE 09131

Attachment 6

Manpower, Personnel and
Administration Directorate

22 May 2014

Law Office
John H. Clarke
1629 K. Street, NW Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Clarke

This is an initial response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request made on behalf of Accuracy in Media, Inc. Your request was received by the U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) FOIA Requester Service Center on 29 April 2014 and assigned case number 14-F-58.

You requested records regarding the attack on U.S. facilities in Benghazi, Libya, on September 11th and 12th, 2012. Specifically, the following records:

1. **Sigonella**-Records identifying, and concerning, all US aircraft at NATO Base Sigonella, Naval Air Station Sigonella in Sicily, Italy ("NAS Sigonella"), whether transport, cargo, refueling, fighter, attack, or surveillance. Records should include those that disclose the readiness status of:

- Any F-16 and F-18 fighters (a/k/a F/A-18- Fighter/Attack);
- C-5, C-9, C-17, C-40 and C-130 transport;
- C-2 cargo; C-26 passenger/cargo;
- KC-10 and KC-135 refueling; and
- P-3 surveillance.

2. Records disclosing the readiness status of the 130-man Marine Force Reconnaissance Team at NAS Sigonella, including:

- (a) All communications with, and orders to, NAS Sigonella personnel to get ready to deploy, and, if applicable, to deploy, to Benghazi; and
- (b) All communications from NAS Sigonella personnel notifying command that assets were ready to deploy, and, if applicable, that aircraft was airborne, bound for Benghazi, and, if applicable, orders to abort or turn back.

3. Any records of the Department of Defense seeking help by use of Italian aircraft at NAS Sigonella.

4. **Rota-** Records revealing the status of two Marine Corps Fleet Antiterrorism Security Teams ("FAST"), at the Spanish naval base Naval Station Rota ("NAVSTA Rota"), including:

- (a) All communications with, and orders to, NAVSTA Rota personnel to get ready to deploy, and, if applicable, to deploy; and
- (b) All communications from NAVSTA Rota personnel notifying command that assets were ready to deploy, and, if applicable, that aircraft was airborne, and, if applicable, orders to abort or turn back.

5. **Croatia-** Records regarding the readiness status of, and orders given to, airborne special operations unit, "Commanders In-extremis Force" ("CIF"), assigned to the European Command, and in Croatia, including:

- (a) Orders for the CIF to deploy to NAS Sigonella; and
- (b) All communications from the CIF notifying command that it was ready to deploy, and, if applicable, that aircraft was airborne, bound for NAS Sigonella, and, if applicable, orders to abort or turn back.

6. **Maps-** Maps depicting all assets that could have been dispatched to the Benghazi mission or the CIA annex facility on September 11th and 12th, 2012, regardless of such maps were created before or after September 11, 2012

Your request is being processed in accordance with Title 5 U.S.C. § 552, the Freedom of Information Act. The actual processing time for the records you requested may depend upon consultation with other DoD components and agencies.

After carefully considering your request for **expedited processing**, we have determined that you do not meet the criteria for expedited processing as outlined in DoD Regulation 5400.7-R. Therefore, your request for expedited processing is denied.

The USEUCOM FOIA Requester Service Center has placed you in the "other" category for fee purposes. Requesters in this category receive two hours of free search and the first 100 pages at no cost.

Before we can continue processing your request, we'll require a fee agreement from you. All requesters are required submitting a willingness to pay fees regardless of the fee category; however, this does not mean you will be charged fees. Except for commercial requesters, fee waiver requests are always considered.

Please reply within 30 days regarding the maximum amount of \$USD you are willing to pay. You will be notified first, if we estimate fees for processing your request will exceed your limit.


If you are not satisfied with USEUCOM's actions on your request for expedited processing and "news media" fee category placement, you may submit an administrative appeal to:

Mr. James Hogan, Chief, Policy,
Appeals and Litigation Branch, Office of Freedom of Information,
1155 Defense Pentagon,
Washington DC 20301-1155.

Your appeal should be postmarked within 60 calendar days of the date of this message, should cite USAFRICOM case number 2014-21, and should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

If you have any questions regarding your inquiry, please contact me by phone at + (49) 0711-680-7161, or email: at eucom.stuttgart.ecj1.mbx.foia-privact-request@mail.mil, and refer to case number 14-F-58.

Sincerely,



Mayra Lazala-Stock
FOIA/PA Support Specialist