

National Counterintelligence Center

§ 1800.13

(1) Books, newspapers, magazines, journals, magnetic or printed transcripts of electronic broadcasts, or similar public sector materials acquired generally and/or maintained for library or reference purposes; to the extent that such materials are incorporated into any form of analysis or otherwise distributed or published by NACIC, they are fully subject to the disclosure provisions of the FOIA;

(2) Index, filing, or museum documents made or acquired and preserved solely for reference, indexing, filing, or exhibition purposes; and

(3) Routing and transmittal sheets and notes and filing or destruction notes which do not also include information, comment, or statements of substance;

Responsive records means those documents (i.e., records) which NACIC has determined to be within the scope of a FOIA request.

§ 1800.3 Contact for general information and requests.

For general information on this part, to inquire about the FOIA program at NACIC, or to file a FOIA request (or expression of interest), please direct your communication in writing to the Information and Privacy Coordinator, Executive Secretariat Office, National Counterintelligence Center, 3W01 NHB, Washington, DC 20505. Such inquiries will also be accepted by facsimile at (703)874-5844. For general information or status information on pending cases only, the telephone number is (703)874-4121. Collect calls cannot be accepted.

§ 1800.4 Suggestions and complaints.

NACIC welcomes suggestions or complaints with regard to its administration of the Freedom of Information Act. Letters of suggestion or complaint should identify the specific purpose and the issues for consideration. NACIC will respond to all substantive communications and take such actions as determined feasible and appropriate.

Subpart B—Filing of FOIA Requests

§ 1800.11 Preliminary information.

Members of the public shall address all communications to the NACIC Coordinator as specified at § 1800.03 and

clearly delineate the communication as a request under the Freedom of Information Act and this regulation. NACIC employees receiving a communication in the nature of a FOIA request shall expeditiously forward same to the Coordinator. Requests and appeals on requests, referrals, or coordinations received from members of the public who owe outstanding fees for information services at this or other federal agencies will not be accepted and action on all pending requests shall be terminated in such circumstances.

§ 1800.12 Requirements as to form and content.

(a) *Required information.* No particular form is required. A request need only reasonably describe the records of interest. This means that documents must be described sufficiently to enable a professional employee familiar with the subject to locate the documents with a reasonable effort. Commonly this equates to a requirement that the documents must be locatable through the indexing of our various systems. Extremely broad or vague requests or requests requiring research do not satisfy this requirement.

(b) *Additional information for fee determination.* In addition, a requester should provide sufficient personal identifying information to allow us to determine the appropriate fee category. A requester should also provide an agreement to pay all applicable fees or fees not to exceed a certain amount or request a fee waiver.

(c) *Otherwise.* Communications which do not meet these requirements will be considered an expression of interest and NACIC will work with, and offer suggestions to, the potential requester in order to define a request properly.

§ 1800.13 Fees for record services.

(a) *In general.* Search, review, and reproduction fees will be charged in accordance with the provisions below relating to schedule, limitations, and category of requester. Applicable fees will be due even if our search locates no responsive records or some or all of the responsive records must be denied under one or more of the exemptions of the Freedom of Information Act.

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(b) *Fee waiver requests.* Records will be furnished without charge or at a reduced rate whenever NACIC determines:

(1) That, as a matter of administrative discretion, the interest of the United States Government would be served, or

(2) That it is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to the public understanding of the operations or activities of the United States Government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester; NACIC shall consider the following factors when making this determination:

(i) Whether the subject of the request concerns the operations or activities of the United States Government; and, if so,

(ii) Whether the disclosure of the requested documents is likely to contribute to an understanding of United States Government operations or activities; and, if so,

(iii) Whether the disclosure of the requested documents will contribute to public understanding of United States Government operations or activities; and, if so,

(iv) Whether the disclosure of the requested documents is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of United States Government operations and activities; and

(v) Whether the requester has a commercial interest that would be furthered by the requested disclosure; and, if so,

(vi) Whether the disclosure is primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.

(c) *Fee waiver appeals.* Denials of requests for fee waivers or reductions may be appealed to the Director, NACIC via the Coordinator. A requester is encouraged to provide any explanation or argument as to how his or her request satisfies the statutory requirement set forth in paragraph (b) of this section.

(d) *Time for fee waiver requests and appeals.* It is suggested that such requests and appeals be made and resolved prior to the initiation of processing and the incurring of costs. However, fee waiver requests will be accepted at any time prior to the release of documents or

the completion of a case, and fee waiver appeals within forty-five (45) days of our initial decision subject to the following condition: if processing has been initiated, then the requester must agree to be responsible for costs in the event of an adverse administrative or judicial decision.

(e) *Agreement to pay fees.* In order to protect requesters from large and/or unanticipated charges, NACIC will request specific commitment when it estimates that fees will exceed \$100.00. NACIC will hold in abeyance for forty-five (45) days requests requiring such agreement and will thereafter deem the request closed. This action, of course, would not prevent an individual from refiling his or her FOIA request with a fee commitment at a subsequent date.

(f) *Deposits.* NACIC may require an advance deposit of up to 100 percent of the estimated fees when fees may exceed \$250.00 and the requester has no history of payment, or when, for fees of any amount, there is evidence that the requester may not pay the fees which would be accrued by processing the request. NACIC will hold in abeyance for forty-five (45) days those requests where deposits have been requested.

(g) *Schedule of fees—(1) In general.* The schedule of fees for services performed in responding to requests for records is established as follows:

(i) Personnel Search and Review

Clerical/Technical	Quarter	hour	\$
5.00	Professional/Supervisory	Quarter	
hour	10.00	Manager/Senior	
Professional	Quarter	hour	18.00

(ii) Computer Search and Production

Search (on-line)	Flat	rate	10.00	Search
(off-line)	Flat	rate	30.00	Other
activity	Per minute	10.00	Tapes (main-	
frame cassette)	Each	9.00	Tapes (main-	
frame cartridge)	Each	9.00	Tapes (main-	
frame reel)	Each	20.00	Tapes (PC	
9mm)	Each	25.00	Diskette (3.5")	
	Each	4.00	CD (bulk	re-
			corded)	Each
			10.00	CD (record-
			able)	Each
			20.00	Telecommunications
	Per minute	.50	Paper (mainframe print-	
	Per page	.10	Paper (PC b&w laser	
	Per page	.10	Paper (PC color	
	Per page	1.00	printer)	

(iii) Paper Production

Photocopy (standard	or	legal)	Per
page	.10	Microfiche	Per
frame	.20	Pre-	

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printed (if available) Per 100
pages 5.00 Published (if available) Per
item NTIS

(2) *Application of schedule.* Personnel search time includes time expended in either manual paper records searches, indices searches, review of computer search results for relevance, personal computer system searches, and various reproduction services. In any event where the actual cost to NACIC of a particular item is less than the above schedule (e.g., a large production run of a document resulted in a cost less than \$5.00 per hundred pages), then the actual lesser cost will be charged.

(3) *Other services.* For all other types of output, production, or reproduction (e.g., photographs, maps, or published reports), actual cost or amounts authorized by statute. Determinations of actual cost shall include the commercial cost of the media, the personnel time expended in making the item to be released, and an allocated cost of the equipment used in making the item, or, if the production is effected by a commercial service, then that charge shall be deemed the actual cost for purposes of this part.

(h) *Limitations on collection of fees—(1) In general.* No fees will be charged if the cost of collecting the fee is equal to or greater than the fee itself. That cost includes the administrative costs to NACIC of billing, receiving, recording, and processing the fee for deposit to the Treasury Department and, as of the date of these regulations, is deemed to be \$10.00.

(2) *Requests for personal information.* No fees will be charged for requesters seeking records about themselves under the FOIA; such requests are processed in accordance with both the FOIA and the Privacy Act in order to ensure the maximum disclosure without charge.

(i) *Fee categories.* There are four categories of FOIA requesters for fee purposes: “commercial use” requesters, “educational and non-commercial scientific institution” requesters, “representatives of the news media” requesters, and “all other” requesters. The categories are defined in §1800.2, and applicable fees, which are the same in two of the categories, will be assessed as follows:

(1) “Commercial use” requesters: Charges which recover the full direct costs of searching for, reviewing, and duplicating responsive records (if any);

(2) “Educational and non-commercial scientific institution” requesters as well as “representatives of the news media” requesters: Only charges for reproduction beyond the first 100 pages;

(3) “All other” requesters: Charges which recover the full direct cost of searching for and reproducing responsive records (if any) beyond the first 100 pages of reproduction and the first two hours of search time which will be furnished without charge.

(j) *Associated requests.* A requester or associated requesters may not file a series of multiple requests, which are merely discrete subdivisions of the information actually sought for the purpose of avoiding or reducing applicable fees. In such instances, NACIC may aggregate the requests and charge the applicable fees.

§ 1800.14 Fee estimates (pre-request option).

In order to avoid unanticipated or potentially large fees, a requester may submit a request for a fee estimate. Pursuant to the Electronic Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 1996, NACIC will endeavor within twenty (20) days to provide an accurate estimate, and, if a request is thereafter submitted, NACIC will not accrue or charge fees in excess of our estimate without the specific permission of the requester.

Subpart C—NACIC Action On FOIA Requests

§ 1800.21 Processing of requests for records.

(a) *In general.* Requests meeting the requirements of §§1800.11 through 1800.13 shall be accepted as formal requests and processed under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, and these regulations. Pursuant to the Electronic Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 1996, upon receipt, NACIC shall within twenty (20) days record each request, acknowledge receipt to the requester in writing, and thereafter effect the necessary