

Multi-track processing. A system in which pending FOIA requests that cannot be processed within the statutory time limit of 20 working days are separated into distinct working tracks. The tracks are based on the date the FOIA request is received by GC, the amount of work and time involved in processing the request, and whether the request qualifies for expedited processing.

NIMA operational file exemption. 10 U.S.C. 457 provides that NIMA may withhold from public disclosure operational files that:

(1) As of September 22, 1996 were maintained by National Photographic Interpretations Center (NPIC) or

(2) Concern the activities of the Agency as of that date that were performed by NPIC. Questions on operational files created after 22 September 1996 should be directed to GC.

§ 293.5 Responsibilities.

(a) *Director of NIMA (D/NIMA).* (1) Designates the Agency initial denial authority (IDA) and appellate authority (AA).

(2) Appoints substitutes for the current IDA or AA if necessary.

(b) *The Chief of Staff (CS)* (or acting CS as designated by CS) serves as AA.

(c) *The Director of the Congressional Affairs Office (D/CA)* (or acting D/CA as designated by D/CA) serves as IDA.

(d) *Office of General Counsel (GC).* (1) Administers NIMA's FOIA program for processing FOIA requests received by NIMA.

(2) Processes all requests for mandatory declassification review in response to requests for declassification that meet the requirements of Executive Order 12958.

(3) Submits this part to the Department of Defense to publish in the Code of Federal Regulations and the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(e) *Office Directors in the functional Directorates and the Office Directors* who are aligned with D/NMA (for example, Office of General Counsel, Office of Inspector General, Chief of Staff, International and Policy Office, or Mission Support Office) with regard to search for records.

(1) Appoint an Office point of contact (POC) to whom FOIA requests can be

directed from GC and who serves as a direct liaison with GC.

(2) Forward, through the POC, the FOIA request from GC to the organization most likely to hold or maintain the records being requested.

(3) Direct, through the POC, a search for the records be completed in a timely manner and respond directly to GC on the outcome of the search.

(f) *Office Directors in the functional Directorates and the Office Directors* who are aligned with D/NIMA (for example, Office of General Counsel, Office of Inspector General, Chief of Staff, International and Policy Office, or Mission Support Office) with regard to declassification review.

(1) Appoint an employee to act as the POC for the Office.

(2) Oversee and coordinate, through the POC, declassification reviews for FOIA.

(3) Make, through the POC, recommendations to the mandatory declassification officer (MDO) on the declassification of Agency records.

(g) *Chief, Mission Support Office, Security Programs Division, as MDO.* (1) Conducts declassification reviews for FOIA.

(2) Advises GC whether Agency records are properly classified in accordance with Executive Order 12958 and should be withheld from public release or disclosure.

§ 293.6 Procedures.

(a) *Administration of the FOIA program.* GC receives all FOIA requests submitted to NIMA, logs the requests into a database, and initiates the record search. If a final response cannot be made to the FOIA requester within the statutory time requirement of 20 working days, GC advises the requester of this fact and explains how the FOIA request will be processed within a multi-track processing system. As part of the administration FOIA process, GC:

(1) Assesses and collects fees for costs associated with processing FOIA requests, and approves or denies requests for fee waivers. Fees collected are forwarded through the Financial Management Directorate (CFO) to the U.S. Treasury.