

August 29, 2006

Mr. Charley Barth  
Director of Records  
Department of Navy  
Chief of Naval Operations Staff (DNS-5)  
720 Kennon St. SE, Bldg 36, Room 203  
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5074

Dear Mr. Barth:

An article concerning the alleged disposal of records related to the killings of 24 Iraqis in Haditha last November recently appeared in *The New York Times* (copy enclosed). According to the article, records may have been destroyed by a U.S. Marine Corps squadron to conceal evidence in the investigation of this incident.

We request that you look into this matter to determine whether the destruction actually occurred as alleged and notify us of your findings. If there was an unauthorized destruction, we request that you provide us with a report as required by 36 CFR 1228.104 (see attachment). Your report should include a description of the exact circumstances surrounding the destruction of records and a statement regarding the safeguards established by the Department of Navy to prevent further loss or destruction. Please respond within 30 days of the date of this letter.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Jill Glenewinkel of the Life Cycle Management Division at [jill.glenewinkel@nara.gov](mailto:jill.glenewinkel@nara.gov) or 301-837-1754.

Sincerely,

PAUL M. WESTER, JR.  
Director  
Modern Records Programs

Enclosures


cc: Elter  
Glenewinkel

File: 1301-1b Unauthorized Disposal-Department of Navy

Official file – NWML  
Reading file – NWML  
Day file - NWM  
NGC  
NCON (Susan Cooper)

Drafted by Glenewinkel, August 22, 2006

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Jg/sg/08/29/06

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