



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY
OF THE AIR FORCE


SUBJECT: Routinely Deployable Units - Names and Duty Addresses

This responds to the Air Force's request for advice on when a unit is considered routinely deployable with regard to release of names and duty addresses under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

The term, routinely deployable was originally defined by the Navy to include its units which routinely deploy from home ports on peacetime operational missions, thereby placing those units in foreign seas or airspace. After the Air Force's loss in Schwanner, this office announced the intent to place all names and duty addresses in the National Technical Information Service. At that point, the Army and the Air Force FOIA policy offices asked for advice on defining sensitive and routinely deployable units, as apparently such unit addresses had never been withheld by either Service. Consequently, we provided the definitions contained in our October 5, 1990 memorandum.

Due to the method by which the Air Force deploys units, it is not easy to determine when a unit, which has part of its personnel deployed, becomes eligible for denial under the routinely deployable definition. The Air Force (as well as all Services) may consider a unit deployed on a routine basis, or deployed fully overseas when 30 percent of the unit has been either alerted, or actually deployed. In this context, alerted means that a unit has received an official written warning of an impending operational mission outside the United States. After discussions between yourself and a member of my staff, and in light of combat training experiences at the National Training Center, it was determined that this percentage was a prudent figure offering the best of FOIA litigation possibilities, while meeting operational concerns of the Air Force.

This has been coordinated with the DoD OGC.


W. M. McDonald
Director
Freedom of Information
and Security Review