

****COVENANT FOR FORGOTTEN WARRIORS****

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December 5, 2025

U.S. Department of State
Office of the General Counsel
FOIAAppeals@state.gov

****RE: URGENT DEMAND - Improper Closure Appeal F-2025-30610****

****No Response to Appeal - Procedurally Void Closure****

To Whom It May Concern:

On November 27, 2025, Covenant for Forgotten Warriors filed an administrative appeal of the improper closure of FOIA Request ****F-2025-30610****. We have received no response, no tracking number, and no acknowledgment.

The underlying closure was ****procedurally void**** and demands immediate reversal.

TIMELINE OF IMPROPER CLOSURE

****September 29, 2025:**** FOIA F-2025-30610 filed via FOIA.gov (Submission ID: 2420071)
****September 29, 2025:**** "Received" acknowledgment from State Department
****September 30, 2025:**** Request marked ****Closed**** - ****one day after filing****
****No documents provided. No search conducted. No exemptions cited. No explanation given.****
****November 27, 2025:**** Administrative appeal filed to FOIAAppeals@state.gov
****December 5, 2025:**** Still no response to appeal (8+ days)

WHAT WAS REQUESTED

F-2025-30610 sought:

"All records, including but not limited to duty logs, emails, cables, memos, consular notes, and call records, maintained by the U.S. Embassy Lomé Consular Section, mentioning or referring to Sgt Kelvin Blas from March 1, 2020 to present. This includes: Consular welfare and whereabouts inquiries, Internal communications among consular staff, Correspondence with the Department of State in Washington, Any record of coordination with the Department of Defense or Department of Veterans Affairs."

This is a ****specific, legitimate, properly-scoped request**** concerning a U.S. Army veteran stranded abroad for over eight years. It is not duplicative, not overly broad, and not frivolous.

THE CLOSURE WAS PROCEDURALLY VOID

The Department closed this request ****one day after filing**** without:
- Conducting any search

- Producing any records
- Claiming "no records exist"
- Citing any exemptions
- Providing any explanation whatsoever

The only communication received was a generic system-generated email stating the status was updated to "Closed" and instructing us to check our email or wait for mail. ****We received nothing.****

Under 5 U.S.C. § 552, agencies cannot simply close FOIA requests without:

1. Conducting a reasonable search, AND
2. Either producing responsive records OR providing specific legal justification for withholding

The Department did ****neither****. This closure is void.

APPEAL HAS BEEN IGNORED

Our November 27, 2025 appeal clearly documented this improper closure and demanded the request be reopened and properly processed. ****Eight days later, we have received no response.****

The Office of General Counsel cannot ignore appeals of procedurally defective closures while the underlying violations remain unaddressed.

DEMANDS

We demand within ****7 business days****:

- **1. Grant the appeal**** and order the request reopened and properly processed
- **2. Confirm a search will be conducted**** across Embassy Lomé Consular Section files and relevant Department of State offices
- **3. Provide estimated completion timeline**** for production of responsive records
- **4. Explain why the request was improperly closed**** one day after filing with no processing

If the Office of General Counsel fails to respond within 7 business days, we will:

- File formal complaint with OGIS documenting void closure and ignored appeal
- Notify House Committee on Oversight and Accountability of systematic FOIA abuse
- Notify Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs of obstruction regarding veteran welfare records
- Pursue all available legal remedies for wrongful denial

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

Covenant for Forgotten Warriors maintains comprehensive public documentation of all FOIA requests and appeals filed on behalf of abandoned American veterans. This includes tracking response times, procedural compliance, and agency obstruction.

The public tracking of this request and appeal, along with all other State Department FOIAs concerning Sgt. Kelvin Blas, is available at:

****<https://truesignalmedia.news/foia-tools>****

CONCLUSION

Closing a FOIA request one day after filing with no processing is not a "response" - it is obstruction. Ignoring the appeal compounds the violation.

We expect immediate action.

****David Burger****

Founder and Director

Covenant for Forgotten Warriors

foia@covenantfowarriors.org

CC:

FOIAStatus@state.gov