

Sep 24, 2025

To OGIS

I'm requesting mediation assistance regarding a Department of State FOIA, case **F-2025-28025**.

**Dispute summary:**

- I submitted this FOIA on **August 4, 2025** seeking the Embassy Lomé consular file on U.S. Army veteran **Sgt. Kelvin Blas**, including communications with **Capt. Michael Burleson**.
- State failed to meet the 20-business-day statutory deadline (**Sept 4, 2025**).
- I received the first acknowledgment on **Sept 11, 2025** — **a week after** the deadline — citing “unusual circumstances.” A late notice does not cure the missed statutory determination.
- The records implicate an American’s safety abroad and the government’s handling of a stranded veteran; delays are harmful and contrary to the public interest.

**Relief sought:**

1. Prompt processing and rolling production;
2. Written explanation for the missed deadline;
3. Clear timeline for remaining searches and releases.

**Attachments (PDFs):**

1. Original FOIA request (filed Aug 4, 2025)
2. State Dept acknowledgment email (dated Sept 11, 2025)
3. My FOIA **appeal** for F-2025-28025 (today)

Please confirm receipt and let me know next steps.

**David Burger**

Director, Covenant for Forgotten Warriors