

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

328 South 4th Street
Chillicothe, Illinois 61523
foia@covenantfowarriors.org

December 5, 2025

U.S. Department of State
Office of Information Programs and Services
A/GIS/IPS/PP
SA-2, Suite 8100
Washington, D.C. 20522-8100

Via Email: FOIARequest@state.gov

****RE: Status Inquiry and Demand for Action - FOIA Appeal F-2025-28025****

****Subject: Complete Embassy File - U.S. Army Veteran Kelvin Blas****

To Whom It May Concern:

Covenant for Forgotten Warriors is writing to demand an immediate status update and resolution of Freedom of Information Act request ****F-2025-28025****, filed August 4, 2025, and subsequently appealed after the Department failed to respond within statutory deadlines.

BACKGROUND AND TIMELINE

On August 4, 2025, we submitted a FOIA request seeking immediate access to the complete file maintained by the U.S. Embassy in Lomé, Togo, concerning U.S. Army veteran Kelvin Blas. Our request specifically sought:

1. ****Complete copy or detailed written inventory**** of the embassy's file related to Kelvin Blas, including:

- All email correspondence referencing Mr. Blas or his case
- Communications to or from Michael Burleson or any other military official
- Internal memos or determinations affecting his eligibility for consular support
- Any notations regarding his passport status and the embassy's decisions on assistance
- Internal handoff notes between outgoing and incoming Chargés d'Affaires

2. ****Explanation of how unverified personal commentary**** from Mr. Blas's former commanding officer was allowed to override or influence consular action on a stranded U.S. citizen and Army veteran

3. ****Clarification of current consular policy**** regarding repatriation or aid to veterans abroad without possession of a physical passport

On September 11, 2025—****more than one month after filing****—we received an acknowledgment from Tyeesha G. stating the request had been placed in "complex processing track" due to "unusual circumstances," specifically citing "the need to search for and collect requested records from other Department offices or Foreign Service posts."

****The Department's response was 10 days overdue.**** We subsequently filed an administrative appeal due to this delay and the inadequate response.

****We have received no substantive communication since.****

THE URGENCY OF THIS MATTER

This is not an academic exercise in government transparency. This FOIA request concerns ****a homeless, stranded U.S. Army combat veteran**** who has been abandoned in Togo for over ****six years**** despite repeated attempts to secure consular assistance and repatriation.

According to information provided by, a local legal advocate assisting Mr. Blas in Togo, the Embassy's file contains ****damaging and unverified remarks**** from Michael Burleson, Mr. Blas's former commanding officer, who allegedly characterized Mr. Blas's presence in Togo as "chasing wealth." This unsubstantiated hearsay appears to have poisoned the well and heavily influenced the Embassy's decision to deny assistance to a U.S. citizen and wounded veteran.

While the Department has taken ****months**** to process this request, Mr. Blas has endured:

- Homelessness and living in parking lots
- Multiple bouts of malaria
- Ongoing threats and extortion
- Denial of basic consular services despite being a U.S. citizen
- Alleged racial discrimination by consular staff (documented in previous correspondence)
- ****Most recently, on November 11, 2025****, Mr. Blas approached the Embassy seeking assistance due to lack of food. According to his account, a secretary (believed to be Kim McClure) instructed the guard that "Kelvin is not welcomed here." Upon leaving the premises, ****the guard physically assaulted Mr. Blas with a two-handed shove to the chest****. Two days later, on November 13, 2025, embassy staff member Mr. Agawu Raymond told an intermediary that ****"from today onward, if Kelvin ever comes to the embassy without holding his American passport in his own hands, he will be arrested or sack."**** This threat is legally absurd given that Mr. Blas's passport was confiscated by Togolese authorities and the Embassy's statutory duty is to assist citizens who have lost or had passports taken.

This November 11th incident represents a dangerous escalation. A U.S. citizen and Army veteran seeking emergency assistance at his own embassy was not only turned away while hungry, but ****physically assaulted**** by embassy security personnel acting on instructions from embassy staff. This occurred while the Department has spent months stonewalling our attempts to understand why Mr. Blas continues to be denied the consular assistance to which he is legally entitled.

DEMANDS

We demand the following immediate actions:

1. ****Complete status update**** on the administrative appeal of F-2025-28025
2. ****Expected completion date**** for production of responsive records
3. ****Detailed explanation**** for the months-long delay on a matter involving the welfare of a stranded U.S. veteran
4. ****Interim production**** of any records already located and reviewed, rather than holding all materials until the entire request is complete

If the Department cannot provide a substantive response within ****7 business days**** of receipt of this letter, we will:

- File a formal complaint with the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)
- Escalate this matter to the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability
- Escalate to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs
- Notify the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General
- Bring this matter to the attention of media outlets covering veterans' issues and government accountability
- Pursue all available legal remedies, including litigation under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B)

CONCLUSION

The Department of State has a legal obligation to respond to FOIA requests in a timely manner. More importantly, you have a moral obligation to provide transparency regarding how and why a U.S. Army veteran has been left to suffer in a foreign country for nearly a decade.

We expect immediate action on this matter. The time for bureaucratic delay has long since passed.

For questions or to provide the demanded status update, contact us at foia@covenantfowarriors.org.

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>

This transparency ensures public accountability for agency compliance with FOIA's statutory obligations and documents patterns of obstruction that may warrant Congressional oversight or Inspector General review.

Respectfully but urgently,

****David Burger****

Founder and Director

Covenant for Forgotten Warriors