

EXHIBIT A

Begin forwarded message:

From: dha.ncr.pcl.mbx.foia-requests@mail.mil
Subject: Your TMA FOIA Request - Online Submission
Date: November 16, 2015 at 10:42:57 AM EST
To: onur.baser@mac.com

Dear Requester:

Thank you for your electronic submission to the Defense Health Agency (DHA) Freedom of Information Service Center. The FOIA staff will promptly review your request and provide you with a case tracking number and a point of contact. This communication is a confirmation you have completed the submission form properly. The FOIA response period does not begin until the request is received by the staff and confirms it complies with the FOIA regulations. Your request will be assigned a case number, based upon its receipt in this office, and it will be processed as quickly as possible, in accordance with procedural requirements promulgated in Department of Defense (DoD) Regulation 5400.7-R at 32 CFR 286. The actual processing time will depend upon its complexity: whether it involves sensitive records, voluminous records, extensive searches, consultation among DoD components, contractors, or other agencies, and our administrative workload.

With the Freedom of Information Reform Act of 1986, Congress amended the FOIA to provide that some of the processing costs be passed on to the requesters, particularly commercial category requesters. In addition, the DoD Regulation 5400-7.R states that regardless of the requester's fee category, all requesters must agree to pay the likely chargeable fees associated with processing their requests. This regulation also allows the assessment of search fees even if no responsive records are located or if responsive records are located but determined to be exempt from release.

Currently established DoD fees are: \$20.00 per hour for clerical search or review; \$44.00 per hour for professional search or review; \$75.00 per hour for executive review; computer searches vary in accordance with the system used and are billed per minute; microfiche searches are \$0.25 per page; office copy reproductions are \$0.15 per page; and printed publications or reports are \$0.02 per page.

Should you have any questions about the processing of your request under the FOIA, please contact us using the information below:

Chief, DHA Freedom of Information Service Center
7700 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 5101
Falls Church, Virginia 22042-5101

DHA FOIA Office:

(703) 681-7500 (Telephone)

(303) 681-5138 (Fax)

Website: <http://www.health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Privacy-and-Civil-Liberties/FOIA>

Email: dha.ncr.pcl.mbx.foia-requests@mail.mil



DEFENSE
HEALTH AGENCY

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
HEALTH AFFAIRS**

7700 ARLINGTON BOULEVARD, SUITE 5101
FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22042-5101

November 19, 2015

Mr. Onur Baser
330 Evergreen Place
Ann Arbor, MI, 48104

Dear Mr. Baser:

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, received by the Defense Health Agency (DHA) on November 16, 2015. Your request has been assigned Control Number 2016-052(FOIA). Please refer to this number in any future correspondence on this matter. A review of your request shows that you are seeking the following:

{ I request that you submit an electronic copy of the attached files (DEERS Enrollment File, SIDR, SADR, Vitals, Radioogy, Ancillary LabRad, CADRE Lab, Pharmacy, Medication, Pathology, Immunization, CAPER, and Microbiology) datasets for the most recent 5 years. The specific variable lists requested from these files are attached. Please note that in order to be HIPAA compliant only 90% of the sample, only birth year (not exact date) can be provided. There is no need for zip code and certain combat specific injuries that might pose a higher risk of identification can be removed. We removed many variables from the datasets; therefore the requested data can be Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliant. If there are additional redactions that need to be made or variables that the DoD Feels need to be removed, please let me know. See attachment }

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In your FOIA request, you indicated that you are willing to pay \$50,000.00 for your request. In the event the cost to process your request exceeds \$50,000.00, this office will notify you prior to proceeding.

If you have any questions regarding the processing of your request under the FOIA, please contact me at (703) 275-6009 or Paul Saenz at (703) 275-6013.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nadine Brown".

Nadine Brown
FOIA Manager, Freedom of Information Service Center
DHA Privacy and Civil Liberties Office