

§ 321.7

abeyance until completion of the investigation and the requester will be so notified.

(b) *Manner of access.* (1) Requests by mail or in person for access to DIS records should be made to the Offices specified in the record systems notices published in the FEDERAL REGISTER by the Department of Defense or to the Office of Information and Legal Affairs, 1900 Half St. SW, Washington, DC 20324.

(2) Any individual who makes a request for access in person shall:

(i) Provide identification as specified in § 321.5.

(ii) Complete and sign a request form.

(3) Any individual making a request for access to records by mail shall include a signed and notarized statement to verify his identity, which may be the DIS request form if he has received one.

(4) Any individual requesting access to records in person may be accompanied by an identified person of his own choosing while reviewing the record. If the individual elects to be accompanied, he shall make this known in his written request, and include a statement authorizing disclosure of the record contents to the accompanying person. Without written authorization of the subject individual, records will not be disclosed to third parties accompanying the subject.

(5) Members of DIS field elements may be given access to records maintained by the field elements without referral to the Office of Information or the records system manager at headquarters. An account of such access will be kept for reporting purposes.

(6) In all requests for access, the requester must state whether he or she desires access in person or mailed copies of records. During personal access, where copies are made for retention, a fee for reproduction and postage may be assessed as provided in § 321.12. Where copies are mailed because personal appearance is impractical, there will be no fee.

(7) All individuals who are not affiliates of DIS will be given access to records in the Office of Information and

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Legal Affairs, or by means of mailed copies.

[40 FR 55546, Nov. 28, 1975, as amended at 46 FR 35641, July 10, 1981. Redesignated at 56 FR 55631, Oct. 29, 1991, as amended at 56 FR 57802, Nov. 14, 1991]

§ 321.7 Medical records.

(a) *General.* Medical records that are part of DIS records systems will generally be included with those records when access is granted to the subject to which they pertain. However, if it is determined that such access could have an adverse effect upon the individual's physical or mental health, the medical record in question will be released only to a physician named by the requesting individual.

[40 FR 55546, Nov. 28, 1975, as amended at 46 FR 35641, July 10, 1981. Redesignated at 56 FR 55631, Oct. 29, 1991]

§ 321.8 Request for correction or amendment.

(a) *General.* Upon request and proper identification by any individual who has been granted access to DIS records pertaining to himself or herself, that individual may request, either in person or through the mail, that the record be amended. Such a request must be made in writing and addressed to the Office of Information and Legal Affairs, 1900 Half St., SW, Washington, DC 20324.

(b) *Content.* The following information must be included to insure effective action on the request:

(1) *Description of the record.* Requesters should specify the number of pages and documents, the titles of the documents, form numbers if there are any, dates on the documents and names of individuals who signed them. Any reasonable description of the document is acceptable.

(2) *Description of the items to be amended.* The description of the passages, pages or documents to be amended should be as clear and specific as possible.

(i) Page, line and paragraph numbers should be cited where they exist.

(ii) A direct quotation of all or a portion of the passage may be made if it isn't otherwise easily identifiable. If the passage is long, a quotation of its beginning and end will suffice.

(iii) In appropriate cases, a simple substantive request may be appropriate, e.g., "delete all references to my alleged arrest in July 1970."

(iv) If the requester has received a copy of the record, he may submit an annotated copy of documents he wishes amended.

(3) *Type of amendment.* The requester must clearly state the type of amendment he is requesting.

(i) Deletion or expungement, i.e., a complete removal from the record of data, sentences, passages, paragraphs or documents.

(ii) Correction of the information in the record to make it more accurate, e.g., rectify mistaken identities, dates, data pertaining to the individual, etc.

(iii) Additions to make the record more relevant, accurate or timely may be requested.

(iv) Other changes may be requested; they must be specifically and clearly described.

(4) *Reason for amendment.* Requests for amendment must be based on specific reasons, included in writing. Categories of reasons are as follows:

(i) *Accuracy.* Amendment may be requested where matters of fact are believed incorrectly recorded, e.g., dates, names, addresses, identification numbers, or any other information concerning the individual. The request, whenever possible, should contain the accurate information, copies of verifying documents, or indication of how the information can be verified.

(ii) *Relevance.* Amendment may be requested when information in a record is believed not to be relevant or necessary to the purposes of the record system. (See DoD FEDERAL REGISTER Descriptions.)

(iii) *Timeliness.* Amendment may be requested when information is thought to be so old as to no longer be pertinent to the stated purposes of the records system. It may also be requested when there is recent information of a pertinent type that is not included in the record.

(iv) *Completeness.* Amendment may be requested where information in a record is incomplete with respect to its purpose. The data thought to have been omitted should be included or identified with the request.

(v) *Fairness.* Amendment may be requested when a record is thought to be unfair concerning the subject, in terms of the stated purposes of the record. In such cases, a source of additional information to increase the fairness of the record should be identified where possible.

(vi) *Other reasons.* Reasons for requesting amendment are not limited to those cited above. The content of the records is authorized in terms of their stated purposes which should be the basis for evaluating them. However, any matter believed appropriate may be submitted as a basis of an amendment request.

(vii) *Court orders and statutes may require amendment of a file.* While they do not require a Privacy Act request for execution, such may be brought to the attention of DIS by these procedures.

(c) [Reserved]

(d) *Assistance.* Individuals seeking to request amendment of records pertaining to themselves that are maintained by DIS will be assisted as necessary by DIS officials. Where a request is incomplete, it will not be denied, but the requester will be contacted for the additional information necessary to his request.

(e) This section does not permit the alteration of evidence presented to courts, boards and other official proceedings.

[40 FR 55546, Nov. 28, 1975, as amended at 46 FR 35641, July 10, 1981. Redesignated at 56 FR 55631, Oct. 29, 1991]

§321.9 DIS review of request for amendment.

(a) *General.* Upon receipt from any individual of a request to amend a record pertaining to himself and maintained by the DIS, the Office of Information and Legal Affairs will handle the request as follows:

(1) A written acknowledgment of the receipt of a request for amendment of a record will be provided to the individual within 10 working days, unless final action regarding approval or denial can be accomplished within that time. In that case, the notification of approval or denial will constitute adequate acknowledgment.

(2) Where there is a determination to grant all or a portion of a request to