

are prepared for the use of contracting officers and their release to the audited contractor shall be at the discretion of the contracting officer. Any FOIA request shall be referred to the appropriate contracting officer and the requester shall be notified of the referral.

(e) Within the Department of Defense, a Component shall ordinarily refer a FOIA request for a record that it holds, but that was originated by another DoD Component or that contains substantial information obtained from another DoD Component, to that Component for direct response, after direct coordination and obtaining concurrence from the Component. The requester then shall be notified of such referral. DoD Components shall not, in any case, release or deny such records without prior consultation with the other DoD Component.

(f) DoD Components that receive referred requests shall answer them in accordance with the time limits established by the FOIA and this Regulation. Those time limits shall begin to run upon receipt of the referral by the official designated to respond.

(g) Agencies outside the Department of Defense that are subject to the FOIA:

(1) A Component may refer as FOIA request for any record that originated in an agency outside the DoD or that is based on information obtained from an outside agency to the agency for direct response to the requester after coordination with the outside agency, if that agency is subject to FOIA. Otherwise, the Component must respond to the request.

(2) A DoD Component shall refer to the agency that provided the record any FOIA request for investigative, intelligence, or any other type of records that are on loan to the Department of Defense for a specific purpose, if the records are restricted from further release and so marked. However, if for investigative or intelligence purposes, the outside agency desires anonymity, a Component may only respond directly to the requester after coordination with the outside agency.

(3) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in § 518.26, a Component shall

notify requesters seeking National Security Council (NSC) or White House documents that they should write directly to the NSC or White House for such documents. DoD documents in which the NSC or White House has a concurrent reviewing interest shall be forwarded to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) (OASD(PA)), Attn: Directorate For Freedom of Information and Security Review (DFOISR), which shall effect coordination with the NSC or White House, and return the documents to the originating agency after NSC review and determination. NSC or White House documents discovered in Components' files which are responsive to the FOIA request shall be forwarded to OASD(PA), Attn: DFOISR, for subsequent coordination with the NSC or White House, and returned to the Component with a release determination.

(h) To the extent referrals are consistent with the policies expressed by this paragraph, referrals between offices of the same DoD Component are authorized.

(i) On occasion, the Department of Defense receives FOIA requests for General Accounting Office (GAO) documents containing DoD information. Even though the GAO is outside the Executive Branch, and not subject to the FOIA, all FOIA requests for GAO documents containing DoD information received either from the public, or on referral from the GAO, will be processed under the provisions of the FOIA. In DA, requests received for GAO documents that contain classified Army information will be handled by the Army Inspector General's Office.

§ 518.27 Authentication.

Records provided under this part shall be authenticated with an appropriate seal, whenever necessary, to fulfill an official Government or other legal function. This service, however, is in addition to that required under the FOIA and is not included in the FOIA fee schedule. DoD Components may charge for the service at a rate of \$5.20 for each authentication.