(c) A record has not been described with sufficient particularity to enable the DoD Component to locate it by conducting a reasonable search.

(d) The requester has failed unreasonably to comply with procedural requirements, including payment of fees imposed by this part or DoD Component supplementing regulations.

(e) The request is withdrawn by the requester.

(f) The information requested is not a record within the meaning of the FOIA and this Regulation.

(g) The record is denied in accordance with procedures set forth in the FOIA and this part.

§518.60 Denial tests.

To deny a requested record that is in the possession and control of a DoD Component, it must be determined that the record is included in one or more of the nine categories of records exempt from mandatory disclosure as provided by the FOIA and outlined in subpart C of this part.

[56 FR 56010, Oct. 31, 1991]

§518.61 Reasonably segregable portions.

Although portions of some records may be denied, the remaining reasonably segregable portions must be released to the requester when it reasonably can be assumed that a skillful and knowledgeable person could not reconstruct the excised information. When a record is denied in whole, the response advising the requester of that determination will specifically state that it is not too reasonable to segregate portions of the records for release. The excised copies shall reflect the denied information by means of Blackened areas, which are Sufficiently Blackened as to reveal no information. The best means to ensure illegibility is to cut out the information from a copy of the document and reproduce the appropriate pages. If the document is classified, all classification markings shall be lined through with a single black line, which still allows the marking to be read. The document shall then be stamped ''Unclassified''.

[56 FR 56010, Oct. 31, 1991]

§518.62 Response to requester.

(a) Initial determinations to release or deny a record normally shall be made and the decision reported to the requester within 10 working days after receipt of the request by the official designated to respond. The action command or office holding the records will date- and time-stamp each request on receipt. The 10-day limit will start from the date stamped.

(b) When a decision is made to release a record, a copy should be made available promptly to the requester once he has complied with preliminary procedural requirements.

(c) When a request for a record is denied in whole or in part, the official designated to respond shall inform the requester in writing of the name and title or position of the official who made the determination, and shall explain to the requester the basis for the determination in sufficient detail to permit the requester to make a decision concerning appeal. The requester specifically shall be informed of the exemptions on which the denial is based. When the initial denial is based in whole or in part on a security classification, the explanation should include a summary of the applicable criteria for classification, as well as an explanation, to the extent reasonably feasible, of how those criteria apply to the particular record in question. The requester shall also be advised of the opportunity and procedures for appealing an unfavorable determination to a higher final authority within the DoD Component. The IDA will inform the requester of his or her right to appeal, in whole or part, the denial of the FOIA or fee waiver request and that the appeal must be sent through the IDA to the Secretary of the Army (Attn: General Counsel). (See §518.69).

(d) The response to the requester should contain information concerning the fee status of the request, consistent with the provisions of subpart F, this regulation. Generally, the information shall reflect one or more of the following conditions:

(1) All fees due have been received.

(2) Fees have been waived because they fall below the automatic fee waiver threshold.

(3) Fees have been waived or reduced from a specified amount to another specified amount because the rationale provided in support of a request for waiver was accepted.

(4) A request for waiver has been denied.

(5) Fees due in a specified amount have not been received.

(e) The explanation of the substantive basis for a denial shall include specific citation of the statutory exemption applied under provisions of this Regulation. Merely referring to a classification or to a ''For Official Use Only'' marking on the requested record does not constitute a proper citation or explanation of the basis for invoking an exemption.

(f) When the time for response becomes an issue, the official responsible for replying shall acknowledge to the requester the date of the receipt of the request.

§ 518.63 Extension of time.

(a) In unusual circumstances, when additional time is needed to respond, the DoD Component shall acknowledge the request in writing within the 10-day period, describe the circumstances requiring the delay, and indicate the anticipated date for substantive response that may not exceed 10 additional working days. Unusual circumstances that may justify delay are:

(1) The requested record is located in whole or in part at places other than the office processing the request.

(2) The request requires the collection and evaluation of a substantial number of records.

(3) Consultation is required with other DoD Components or agencies having substantial interest in the subject matter to determine whether the records requested are exempt from disclosure in whole or in part under provisions of this Regulation or should be released as a matter of discretion.

(b) The statutory extension of time for responding to an initial request must be approved on a case-by-case basis by the final appellate authority for the DoD Component, or in accordance with regulations of the DoD Component, or in accordance with regulations of the DoD Component that establish guidance governing the circumstances in which such extensions may be granted. The time may be extended only once during the initial consideration period. Only the responsible IDA can extend it, and the IDA must first coordinate with the Office of the Army General Counsel.

(c) In these unusual cases where the statutory time limits cannot be met and no informal extension of time has been agreed to, the inability to process any part of the request within the specified time should be explained to the requester with notification that he or she may treat the delay as an initial denial with a right to appeal, or with a request that he agree to await a substantive response by an anticipated date. It should be made clear that any such agreement does not prejudice the right of the requester to appeal the initial decision after it is made. Components are reminded that the requester still retains the right to treat this delay as a de facto denial with full administrative remedies.

(d) As an alternative to the taking of formal extensions of time as described in § 518.63 (a), (b), and (c), the negotiation by the cognizant FOIA coordinating office of informal extensions in time with requesters is encouraged where appropriate.

§ 518.64 Misdirected requests.

Misdirected requests shall be forwarded promptly to the DoD Component with the responsibility for the records requested. The period allowed for responding to the request misdirected by the requester shall not begin until the request is received by the DoD Component that manages the records requested.

§ 518.65 Records of non-U.S. Government source.

(a) When a request is received for a record that was obtained from a non-U.S. Government source, or for a record containing information clearly identified as having been provided by a non-U.S. Government source, the source of the record or information (also known as ''the submitter'' for matters pertaining to proprietary data under 5 U.S.C. 552 (reference (a) Exemption (b)(4) subpart C, exemptions, § 518.37, paragraph (d) and reference