FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) ANNUAL REPORT

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Fiscal Year 2016

I. Basic Information Regarding Report

A. Name, title, address, and telephone number of person(s) to contact with questions about the report.

John Brennan American Battle Monuments Commission 2300 Clarendon Blvd, Suite 500 Arlington, Virginia 22201 Telephone: 703-696-0129

Wilson A. (Bud) Shatzer American Battle Monuments Commission 2300 Clarendon Blvd, Suite 500 Arlington, Virginia, 22201 Telephone: 703-696-6900

B. Electronic address for report on the World Wide Web: <u>www.abmc.gov</u>

C. How to obtain a copy of the report in paper form.

Contact Mr. Brennan or Mr. Shatzer at the address or telephone numbers listed above.

II. How to Make a FOIA Request

A. Names, addresses, telephone numbers of all individual agency components and offices that receive FOIA requests.

John Brennan American Battle Monuments Commission 2300 Clarendon Blvd, Suite 500 Arlington, VA 22201 Telephone: 703-696-0129

Wilson (Bud) Shatzer American Battle Monuments Commission 2300 Clarendon Blvd, Suite 500 Arlington, Virginia 22201 Telephone: 703-696-6900

B. The following agency records may be subject to FOIA exemptions:

Most ABMC documents, records, and publications are accessible through FOIA. However, the FOIA contains nine types of records which the agency may routinely exempt from disclosure. See 5 U.S.C. Sections 552 (b)(1) though (b)(9). As to ABMC records, potentially applicable exemptions are most likely to be limited to:

- 1. Internal personnel rules and agency practices, 5 U.S.C. & 552(b)(2).
- 2. Information specifically exempted from disclosure by another statue, 5 U.S.C. & 552(b)(3).
- 3. Trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential, 5 U.S.C. & 552(b)(4).
- 4. Inter- or intra-agency memoranda or letters which would not be available to a party in litigation with the agency, 5 U.S.C. & 552(b)(5).
- 5. Personnel, medical and similar files, disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, 5 U.S.C. & 552(b)(6).

Even if a record falls within one of these FOIA exemptions, ABMC may, in some circumstances, release the records, depending upon the exemption at issue and the circumstances of the FOIA request.

III. ACRONYMS, DEFINITIONS, AND EXEMPTIONS

- 1. Agency-specific acronyms or terms used in this Report:
 - ABMC American Battle Monuments Commission
- 2. Glossary of terms used in this Report:
 - a. **Administrative Appeal** a request to a federal agency asking that it review at a higher administrative level a FOIA determination made by the agency at the initial request level.
 - Average Number the number obtained by dividing the sum of a group of numbers by the quantity of numbers in the group. For example, of 3, 7, and 14, the average number is 8.
 - c. **Backlog** the number of requests or administrative appeals that are pending at an agency at the end of the fiscal year that are beyond the statutory time period for a response.
 - d. Component for agencies that process requests on a decentralized basis, a "component" is an entity, also sometimes referred to as an Office, Division, Bureau, Center, or Directorate, within the agency that processes FOIA requests. The FOIA now requires that agencies include in their Annual FOIA Report data for both the agency overall and for each principal component of the agency.

- e. **Consultation** the procedure whereby the agency responding to a FOIA request first forwards a record to another agency for its review because that other agency has an interest in the document. Once the agency in receipt of the consultation finishes its review of the record, it responds back to the agency that forwarded it. That agency, in turn, will then respond to the FOIA requester.
- f. **Exemption 3 Statute** a federal statute that exempts information from disclosure and which the agency relies on to withhold information under subsection (b)(3) of the FOIA.
- **FOIA Request** a FOIA request is generally a request to a federal agency g. for access to records concerning another person (i.e., a "third-party" request), or concerning an organization, or a particular topic of interest. FOIA requests also include requests made by requesters seeking records concerning themselves (i.e., "first-party" requests) when those requesters are not subject to the Privacy Act, such as non-U.S. citizens. Moreover, because all first-party requesters should be afforded the benefit of both the access provisions of the FOIA as well as those of the Privacy Act, FOIA requests also include any first-party requests where an agency determines that it must search beyond its Privacy Act "systems" of records" or where a Privacy Act exemption applies, and the agency looks to FOIA to afford the greatest possible access. All requests which require the agency to utilize the FOIA in responding to the requester are included in this Report. Additionally, a FOIA request includes records referred to the agency for processing and direct response to the requester. It does not, however, include records for which the agency has received a consultation from another agency. (Consultations are reported separately in Section XII of this Report.)
- h. **Full Grant** an agency decision to disclose all records in full in response to a FOIA request.
- i. Full Denial an agency decision not to release any records in response to a FOIA request because the records are exempt in their entireties under one or more of the FOIA exemptions, or because of a procedural reason, such as when no records could be located.
- j. **Median Number** the middle, not average, number. For example, of 3, 7, and 14, the median number is 7.
- Multi-Track Processing a system in which simple requests requiring relatively minimal review are placed in one processing track and more voluminous and complex requests are placed in one or more other tracks. Requests granted expedited processing are placed in yet another track. Requests in each track are processed on a first in/first out basis.

- Expedited Processing an agency will process a FOIA request on an expedited basis when a requester satisfies the requirements for expedited processing as set forth in the statute and in agency regulations.
- Simple Request a FOIA request that an agency using multi-track processing places in its fastest (nonexpedited) track based on the low volume and/or simplicity of the records requested.
- iii. Complex Request a FOIA request that an agency using multi-track processing places in a slower track based on the high volume and/or complexity of the records requested.
- Partial Grant/Partial Denial in response to a FOIA request, an agency decision to disclose portions of the records and to withhold other portions that are exempt under the FOIA, or to otherwise deny a portion of the request for a procedural reason.
- m. **Pending Request or Pending Administrative Appeal** a request or administrative appeal for which an agency has not taken final action in all respects.
- n. **Perfected Request** a request for records which reasonably describes such records and is made in accordance with published rules stating the time, place, fees (if any) and procedures to be followed.
- Processed Request or Processed Administrative Appeal a request or administrative appeal for which an agency has taken final action in all respects.
- p. **Range in Number of Days** the lowest and highest number of days to process requests or administrative appeals.
- q. Time Limits the time period in the statute for an agency to respond to a FOIA request (ordinarily twenty working days from receipt of a perfected FOIA request).
- 3. The Nine FOIA Exemptions:
 - a. **Exemption 1**: classified national defense and foreign relations information
 - b. **Exemption 2**: internal agency rules and practices
 - c. **Exemption 3**: information that is prohibited from disclosure by another federal law
 - d. **Exemption 4**: trade secrets and other confidential business information
 - e. **Exemption 5**: inter-agency or intra-agency communications that are protected by legal privileges
 - f. **Exemption 6**: information involving matters of personal privacy
 - g. Exemption 7: records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, to the extent that the production of those records (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an

impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual

- h. **Exemption 8**: information relating to the supervision of financial institutions
- i. **Exemption 9**: geological information on wells

3. Agency Component Abbreviations

Component Abbreviation	Component Name							

IV. EXEMPTION 3 STATUTES

Statute	Type of Information Withheld	Case Citation	Agency / Component	Number of Times Relied upon by Agency / Component	Total Number of Times Relied upon by Agency Overall
N/A	N/A	N/A	ABMC	0	0

V.A. FOIA REQUESTS -- RECEIVED, PROCESSED AND PENDING FOIA REQUESTS

Agency / Component	Number of Requests Pending as of Start of Fiscal Year	Number of Requests Received in Fiscal Year	Number of Requests Processed in Fiscal Year	Number of Requests Pending as of End of Fiscal Year
ABMC	0	17	17	0
				0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	17	17	0

V.B.(1). DISPOSITION OF FOIA REQUESTS -- ALL PROCESSED REQUESTS

	Number	Number			Numbe	r of Full De	nials Base	ed on Reaso	ns Other th	nan Exem	ptions		
Agency / Component		of Partial	Number of	No Records	All Records Referred to Another Component or Agency	Request Withdrawn	Fee- Related Reason	IReasonaniv	tor Other	• •	Duplicate Request	Other *Explain in Chart Below	TOTAL
ABMC	13	0	0	4	0	0	C	0	0	C	0 0	0	17
													0
AGENCY OVERALL	13	0	0	4	0	0	C	0	0	C	0	0	17

V.B.(2). DISPOSITION OF FOIA REQUESTS -- "OTHER" REASONS FOR "FULL DENIALS BASED ON REASONS OTHER THAN EXEMPTIONS"

Agency / Component	Description of "Other" Reasons for Denials from Chart B(1)	Number of Times "Other" Reason Was Relied Upon	TOTAL
ABMC	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL			0

Agency / Component	Ex. 1	Ex. 2	Ex. 3	Ex. 4	Ex. 5	Ex. 6	Ex. 7(A)	Ex. 7(B)	Ex. 7(C)	Ex. 7(D)	Ex. 7(E)	Ex. 7(F)	Ex. 8	Ex. 9
ABMC	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	C	C	0	0	0

VI.A. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OF INITIAL DETERMINATIONS OF FOIA REQUESTS --RECEIVED, PROCESSED, AND PENDING ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

Agency / Component	Number of Appeals Pending as of Start of Fiscal Year	Number of Appeals Received in Fiscal Year	Number of Appeals Processed in Fiscal Year	Number of Appeals Pending as of End of Fiscal Year
ABMC	0	0	0	0
				0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0

There were no Administrative Appeals in FY 2015

VI.B. DISPOSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS -- ALL PROCESSED APPEALS

Agency / Component	Number Affirmed on Appeal	Number Partially Affirmed & Partially Reversed/Remanded on Appeal	Number Completely Reversed/Remanded on Appeal	Number of Appeals Closed for Other Reasons	TOTAL
ABMC	0	C	0	0	0
					0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	C	0	0	0

There were no Administrative Appeals in FY15

VI.C.(1). REASONS FOR DENIAL ON APPEAL -- NUMBER OF TIMES EXEMPTIONS APPLIED

Agency / Component	Ex. 1	Ex. 2	Ex. 3	Ex. 4	Ex. 5	Ex. 6	Ex. 7(A)	Ex. 7(B)	Ex. 7(C)	Ex. 7(D)	Ex. 7(E)	Ex. 7(F)	Ex. 8	Ex. 9
ABMC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	C	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

There were no Administrative Appeals in FY15

VI.C.(2). REASONS FOR DENIAL ON APPEAL -- REASONS OTHER THAN EXEMPTIONS

Agency / Component	No Records	Records Referred at Initial Request Level	Request Withdrawn	Fee- Related Reason	Records not Reasonably Described		Not Agency Record	Duplicate Request or Appeal		Appeal Based Solely on Denial of Request for Expedited Processing	Other *Explain in chart below
ABMC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Ther were no Administrative Appeals in FY 2015

VI.C.(3). REASONS FOR DENIAL ON APPEAL -- "OTHER" REASONS

Agency / Component	Description of "Other" Reasons for Denial on Appeal from Chart C(2)	Number of Times "Other" Reason Was Relied Upon	TOTAL
ABMC	N/A	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL			0

VI.C.(4). RESPONSE TIME FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

Agency / Component	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
AGENCY OVERALL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

VI.C.(5). TEN OLDEST PENDING ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

Agency / Component		10th Oldest Appeal	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Appeal
	Date of Appeal										
	Number of Days Pending										
AGENCY	Date of Appeal	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
OVERALL	Number of Days Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

VII.A. FOIA REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME FOR ALL PROCESSED PERFECTED REQUESTS

	SIMPLE					COM	PLEX		EXPEDITED PROCESSING			
Agency / Component	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
AGENCY OVERALL	12	10	4	22	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

VII.B. PROCESSED REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME FOR PERFECTED REQUESTS IN WHICH INFORMATION WAS GRANTED

		SIM	PLE			COM	PLEX		EXPEDITED PROCESSING			
Agency / Component	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
AGENCY OVERALL	12	11	4	22	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

VII.C. PROCESSED SIMPLE REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME IN DAY INCREMENTS

Agency / Component	<1-20 Days	21-40 Days	41-60 Days	61-80 Days	81-100 Days	101-120 Days	121-140 Days	141-160 Days	161-180 Days	181-200 Days	201-300 Days	301-400 Days	401+ Days	TOTAL
ABMC	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
														0
AGENCY OVERALL	5	0	0	0	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5

VII.C. PROCESSED COMPLEX REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME IN DAY INCREMENTS

Agency /	<1-20	21-40	41-60	61-80	81-100	101-120	121-140	141-160	161-180	181-200	201-300	301-400	401+	TOTAL
Component	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	TOTAL
								_						
ABMC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0
														0
														Ĵ

AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	C	C	C	C	0	0	C	C
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VII.C. PROCESSED REQUESTS GRANTED EXPEDITED PROCESSING -- RESPONSE TIME IN DAY INCREMENTS

Agency / Component	<1-20 Days	21-40 Days	41-60 Days	61-80 Days	81-100 Days	101-120 Days	121-140 Days	141-160 Days	161-180 Days	181-200 Days	201-300 Days	301-400 Days	401+ Days	TOTAL
ABMC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
														0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	C	0	0	C	0	0	0

VII.D. PENDING REQUESTS -- ALL PENDING PERFECTED REQUESTS

Agonov / Component		SIMPLE			COMPLEX		EXPEDITED PROCESSING			
Agency / Component	Number Pending	Median Average Number of Number of Days Days		Number Pending	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Number Pending	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	
AGENCY OVERALL	C	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	C	N/A	N/A	

VII.E. PENDING REQUESTS -- TEN OLDEST PENDING PERFECTED REQUESTS

Agency / Component	10th Oldest Request	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Request	
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	Date of Receipt										
	Number of Days Pending										
AGENCY	Date of Receipt	N/A									
OVERALL	Number of Days Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

VIII.A. REQUESTS FOR EXPEDITED PROCESSING

Agency / Component	Number Granted	Number Denied	Median Number of Days to Adjudicate	Average Number of Days to Adjudicate	Number Adjudicated Within Ten Calendar Days
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A

VIII.B. REQUESTS FOR FEE WAIVER

Agency / Component	Number Granted	Number Denied	Median Number of Days to Adjudicate	Average Number of Days to Adjudicate
AGENCY OVERALL	0	C	N/A	N/A

IX. FOIA PERSONNEL AND COSTS

	PERSONNEL			COSTS		
Agency / Component	Number of "Full- Time FOIA Employees"	Number of "Equivalent Full- Time FOIA Employees"	Total Number of "Full-Time FOIA Staff"	Processing Costs	Litigation-Related Costs	Total Costs
ABMC	0	0.07	0.07	\$8050.00	\$0.00	\$8050.00
			0			\$0.00
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0.07	0.07	\$8050.00	\$0.00	\$8050.00

X. FEES COLLECTED FOR PROCESSING REQUESTS

Agency / Component	Total Amount of Fees Collected	Percentage of Total Costs
ABMC	\$0.00	0.00%
AGENCY OVERALL	\$0.00	0.00%

XII.A. BACKLOGS OF FOIA REQUESTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

Agency / Component	Number of Backlogged Requests as of End of Fiscal Year	Number of Backlogged Appeals as of End of Fiscal Year
ABMC	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0

XII.B. CONSULTATIONS ON FOIA REQUESTS -- RECEIVED, PROCESSED, AND PENDING CONSULTATIONS

	Number of		Number of	Number of
Agency / Component	Consultations Received	Number of	Consultations Received	Consultations Received
	from Other Agencies	Consultations Received	from Other Agencies	from Other Agencies
	that were <u>Pending at</u> the	from Other Agencies	that were Processed by	that were <u>Pending at</u> the
	Agency as of Start	During the Fiscal Year	the Agency During the	Agency as of <u>End</u>
	of the Fiscal Year		Fiscal Year	of the Fiscal Year
ABMC	0	0	0	0
				0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0

XII.C. CONSULTATIONS ON FOIA REQUESTS -- TEN OLDEST CONSULTATIONS RECEIVED FROM OTHER AGENCIES AND PENDING AT THE AGENCY

Agency / Component		10th Oldest Consultation	yth	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Consultation
	Date										
	Number of Days										
AGENCY	Date	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
OVERALL	Number of Days	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

XII.D.(1). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF REQUESTS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT --REQUESTS RECEIVED AND PROCESSED

	NUMBER OF REQ	UESTS <u>RECEIVED</u>	NUMBER OF REQUESTS PROCESSED		
Agency / Component	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report	
ABMC	5	17	5	17	
AGENCY OVERALL	5	17	5	17	

XII.D.(2). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF REQUESTS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- BACKLOGGED REQUESTS

	Number of Backlogged	Number of Backlogged
Agency / Component	Requests as of End of the	Requests as of End of the
Agency / Component	Fiscal Year from Previous	Fiscal Year from Current
	Annual Report	Annual Report
ABMC	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0

XII.E.(1). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- APPEALS RECEIVED AND PROCESSED

	NUMBER OF APP	EALS <u>RECEIVED</u>	NUMBER OF APPEALS <u>PROCESSED</u>		
Agency / Component	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report	
ABMC	0	0	0	0	
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0	

XII.E.(2). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT --BACKLOGGED APPEALS

	Number of Backlogged	Number of Backlogged				
Agapay / Component	Appeals as of End of the	Appeals as of End of the				
Agency / Component	Fiscal Year from Previous	Fiscal Year from Current				
	Annual Report	Annual Report				
1.51.40						
ABMC	0	0				
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0				
-End-						

-End-