Australian Government

Defence

DEFENCE FOI 134/23/24

STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

1.   I refer to the request by �ना (the applicant), dated and received on 21 August 2023 by the Department of Defence (Defence), for access to the following documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (FOI Act):

"Documents pertaining to the destruction details of all files relating to Operation Baritone (1997) in respect of Papua New Guinea held by Defence Archives. Please note: I do not request names nor OPSEC material. Please redact appropriately."

FOI decision maker

2.   I am the authorised officer pursuant to section 23 of the FOI Act to make a decision on this FOI request.

Documents identified

3.   A document was generated under section 17 of the FOI Act matching the description of the request:

a.   a document was produced containing the information by using 'a computer or other equipment that is ordinarily available to the agency for retrieving or collating stored information' s17(1)(c)(i); and

b.   producing the document did not substantially and unreasonably divert resources of the agency from its other operations s17(2).

Decision

4.   I have decided to;

a.   create and release one document in full in accordance with s17 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Material taken into account

5.   In making my decision, I have had regard to:

a.   the terms of the request;

b.   the content of the identified documents in issue;

c.   relevant provisions of the FOI Act; and

d.   the Guidelines published by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (the Guidelines).

FURTHER INFORMATION

6.   When it is determined that a record can be destroyed, it is marked for destruction and the relevant metadata recorded. This data includes the file name and number, the date of destruction and the authority used. This information is stored in Objectives and can be used for reference in the future.

Alex ▒▒▒▒▒▒▒

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Date: 2023.09.01 11:24:03 +10'00'

Alex ▒▒▒▒▒▒

Accredited Decision Maker

Security and Estate Group

Department of Defence