

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY – ARGENTINA RECORDS REVIEW

This narrative provides a summary of the Department of the Navy's (Navy) actions responding to a Presidential Tasking via the Executive Secretary of the National Security Council (NSC) on June 13, 2016. The Presidential Task directed agencies to search for records relating to human rights abuses committed in Argentina between January 1, 1975, and December 31, 1984, and also review responsive records for public access. In response, the Navy assembled staff, including records managers, historians, Freedom of Information specialists and declassifiers, and developed a plan to complete the task. In conducting its search, the Navy used search strategies tailored to its specific missions and record-keeping systems. The Navy focused its searches on those record series determined to likely contain responsive records and searched both electronic and paper document files in classified and unclassified systems. The Navy evaluated records for responsiveness, erring on the side of inclusiveness. Those records determined to be responsive were reviewed for public access on a word-for-word basis, using standards established in section 3 of Executive Order 13526, "Classified National Security Information," and common public release standards agreed to by all participating agencies.

The Department of the Navy Declassification Program coordinated this effort with assistance from the Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC). NHHC serves as the Navy's institutional memory by preserving, acquiring, producing, and disseminating history and heritage products and resources through Navy historical, archival, museum, curatorial, art, and underwater archeological programs. In accordance with the Naval Records Management Manual, NHHC preserves various record series, including Command Operations Reports, Deck Logs, and the Chief of Naval Operations Immediate Office Files.

Search Methodology

The Department of the Navy's Declassification Programs maintain databases for all declassification reviews conducted by the Navy. The databases include information on both the subjects and dates or records. The legacy database captured metadata at the folder level while the current database captures metadata at the box level. These databases served as the primary electronic systems searched for this project. However, the Navy also searched other electronic systems, including:

- Records Information Management System (RIMS)
- The Total Records Information Management (HP TRIM), the Navy's approved record-keeping system where NHHC stores both records and descriptive information about records collections (finding aids and guides) that direct users to physical records.
- The OPNAV N3/N5 Shared Drive
- The NHHC Shared Drive, which includes additional descriptive information about records collections (finding aids and guides), including ones in draft that have not yet been added to HP TRIM, above.
- The Archives and Records Centers Information System (ARCIS), the system maintained by NARA used to search for box and folder level information for records stored at the Federal Records Center.

- The Department of the Navy 01 report, a monthly inventory of all Department of the Navy records stored at Federal Record Centers.

A team of six Department of the Navy Declassification Program analysts and two NHHC senior reference archivists applied each word or phrase from the 19-page list of search terms provided by the National Security Council. The team applied each term as queries to the electronic systems listed above. Each responsive match to the search term list was then further examined to determine if it fit within the responsive time period for this project. All boxes of records with a dual match of a search term and time period were then sent to the Department of the Navy Declassification Program facility for a record-by-record review.

In addition to the electronic systems search, the Department of the Navy Declassification Program also sent out a data call to all Navy activities asking them to search their files for information responsive to the Presidential Tasking. However, all Navy activities reported negative results.

Of the eight databases that the Navy team searched, only three yielded positive results: the two declassification databases and NHHC database. While the keyword searches in the NHHC Shared Drive and in the HP TRIM database were negative, the NHHC senior archivists believed that the Chief of Naval Operations Immediate Office Files would be the most likely series to contain responsive records. NHHC archivists reviewed the finding aids for this series and identified specific boxes for a record-by-record search. These boxes were then brought to the Department of the Navy Declassification Program facility for review.

From the search of the two declassification databases and the holdings of NHHC, a total of 32 boxes of records (41,826 pages) were deemed responsive to both a search term and the time period. Nine boxes (22,500 pages) were located at the Washington National Records Center (WNRC) and 23 boxes (19,326 pages) were located at NHHC. The Navy did not identify any potentially responsive records previously accessioned to the National Archives and Records Administration. The list of responsive boxes and their identifying information is specified below:

WNRC Boxes with Search Term and Time Period Matches:

Record Group	Accession Number	Specific Box
038	91-0002	10
038	91-0002	13
127	78-0025	2
127	80-0028	3
343	75-0121	1
344	76-0024	1
344	76-0025	1
347	85-0007	6
526	00-0026	6

NHHC Boxes with Search Term and Time Period Matches:

Collection Title	Specific Box
WSEG	18
Politico Military Division	506

Politico Military Division	509
Politico Military Division	526
Politico Military Division	551
Politico Military Division	624
Politico Military Division	719
Double Zero Files Addition	9
Personal Papers/Holloway, J.L.	4-1
CNO 1974-1978	25
Double Zero Files Addition	5
COMNAVFORV Files	532
CNO Executive Panel 1962-92	6
Double Zero Files Addition	5
Double Zero Files Addition	6
FIELD HIST RECORDS Accession 038-900017	83
NRS Drawer 1974-15-1974-87	54
Personal Papers	2-2
Master Safe Files (AVH)	50-2
Post 1974 Command File-President of the U.S.	27
Double Zero Files 1979	167
ARCH BRCH HIST RECORDS Accession 038-840088	67
CNO Immediate Office Files (AR/162), 1970-1979 (1978)	105

All 32 boxes listed above received a record-by-record review by a team of ten Department of the Navy Declassification Program analysts. They determined that 69 records (1,062 pages) were responsive to the Presidential Task. The Department of the Navy Declassification Program analysts then conducted a declassification and public release review of these records as described in the next section of this report.

Records Deemed Responsive

The Navy spreadsheet included in the appendix contains a detailed summary of DON actions on all 69 responsive documents. Of the 69 total responsive documents, DON determined that five records (363 pages) would be declassified in part. The five records also contained other Executive branch agency information that required review by those agencies. For those five records, DON has withheld declassification for the following reasons:

- One record was redacted in accordance with Section 3.3(b)(1) of Executive Order 13526. The redaction on this record is marked “25X1.” Approximately one page of National Security Information was redacted from this 70-page record.
- One record was redacted in accordance with Section 3.3(b)(5) of Executive Order 13526. The redaction on this record is marked “25X5.” Approximately one-half paragraph of National Security Information was redacted from this 97-page record.
- Three records received minor redactions in accordance with 10 U.S.C. 130(b). The redactions on these records are marked as “B3.”

The Department of the Navy has no objection to declassification of the remaining 64 records (699 pages). However, 28 of those records contained other Executive branch agency information that required review by those agencies. Thus, a total of 33 records were referred to other government agencies for declassification review in accordance with procedures for this project.

Of those 33 referred records, the Navy received the following summarized responses from those agencies: ten records with requests to release in part and 23 records with no objection to release.

Upon receiving all other agency responses, the Navy completed processing all 69 records for declassification and public release. This process included a review for sanitization of Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act information.

The Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Director Navy Staff (DNS) is the Director for the SECNAV and CNO FOIA Office (DNS-36), and will be responsible for posting all 69 responsive records to the Navy's Public FOIA website at <http://www.secnav.navy.mil/foia/> under the "Hot Topics" tab. All publicly releasable portions will be accessible in the "Argentina Declass Project" folder. The point of contact for the electronic posting effort is Mr. Richard Strong, DNS-36B, 202-685-6546 or email: richard.r.strong@navy.mil or Toussaint.harvest1@navy.mil.

Approximate Number of Hours Worked:

- 712 hours
- 22 Personnel

Questions regarding DON's search should be directed to Maurice King, DON/AA DRMD, 703-693-9930, or email: maurice.king@navy.mil.