

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
3 OAKLAND DIVISION  
4

5 VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, *et al.*,

6 Plaintiffs,

7 v.

8 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, *et al.*,

9 Defendants.

Case No. CV 09-0037-CW

DECLARATION OF MR. RICHARD  
L. WILTISON, U.S. ARMY  
RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND  
ENGINEERING COMMAND

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11 I, Richard L. Wiltison, am familiar with the details of this present litigation and am  
12 providing the following statement based on my personal knowledge of my organization's  
13 historical documents collection and of the research efforts employed to search it. It is within this  
14 professional capacity that I make the following statement:

15 1. I am a federal employee working for the Department of the Army as the Deputy  
16 Command Historian for the US Army Research, Development and Engineering Command  
17 (RDECOM). I am the Team Lead for the Research and Publications Branch of the Historical  
18 Operations Division. I research, write, and publish annual histories, special studies, and  
19 monographs as directed; research and respond to inquiries for historical information from  
20 RDECOM's internal and external customers, including Congress, government agencies, higher  
21 headquarters, and the general public, including Freedom of Information Act inquiries. As such, I  
22 preserve the history of RDECOM using contemporary archival preservation methodologies, and  
23 prepare databases, conduct oral histories interviews, and assist researchers with access to the  
24 RDECOM historical information collection. I prepare and provide training to organizational  
25 staff and others upon request. I conduct and lead briefings, presentations, staff rides, and tours  
26 as directed. I exercise supervisory and management functions as directed, and represent  
27 RDECOM on boards, committees, and at conferences as needed. I represent the command as a  
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1 non-voting member of the Materials Assessment Review Board (MARB), and chair select  
2 committees on local history and events.

3           2.       The Historical Operations Division's documents collection is comprised of both a  
4 digital as well as physical archive. The digital collection is currently comprised of 2,791,742  
5 pages and accounts for 60% of our total collection. The physical collection is comprised of and  
6 spread throughout a total of 350 filing cabinets (294 located in our primary offices and the  
7 remainder located offsite). Combined, the two collections contain more than 5,025,135 pages of  
8 documents.

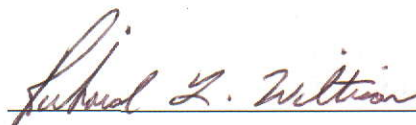
9           3.       The process used to identify information related to the present litigation included  
10 both a digital and physical search of our collection. The documents in our digital collection are  
11 .pdf formatted and searchable using Optical Character Recognition software (OCR). When such  
12 software is not effective, metadata was embedded in the properties section of those documents  
13 using specific key words. While an automated search of our digital collection requires only a  
14 few hours to complete per item depending on breadth of the search criterion; a thorough reading  
15 of each of the documents identified in a search was still required to ensure identified documents  
16 were relevant to the topic being searched. So while a digital search may take a few hours to  
17 complete, it can still take several days to review all documents found in a given search.

18           4.       The process used to identify documents in our physical collection is an entirely  
19 different matter. The physical documents collection lacks a detailed inventory and is not  
20 compartmented; meaning it is a collection of documents but some documents of the same topic  
21 may reside in different locations within the collection (this has been the impetus behind our  
22 digitization efforts). Nevertheless, this lack of continuity makes physical searches both  
23 problematic and time consuming—problematic in the sense that a search of a given topic  
24 requires a review of the entire physical collection in most cases. The most documents a single  
25 employee can search given a nine hour day equates to, on average, six file drawers per day. This  
26 is about ten linear feet of documents per day. Put another way, a thorough review of our  
27 physical collection (if done page by page) would take one person 98.3 days to complete. A team  
28 of three could complete the same search in roughly 32.7 days. However, when multiple search

1 terms are requested this only increases the time required to complete each document review as  
2 each must be re-read for each specific request.

3 The review of both our digital and physical collections in reference to this litigation has  
4 required the use of three government employees. My office has searched for documents  
5 responsive to the requests for production and Department of the Army Inspector General's  
6 Report 21-75, published in March 1976. The search for specific references from the Inspector  
7 General's Report is complete and resulted in only 11 documents. In regards to the RFP Search  
8 Questions 6, 79, 80-85, 92, 96-99, 106, 119, 176, 179-183, and 187, only the digital search was  
9 completed. It is expected, given the statistics relevant to physical searches of our non-digital  
10 collection, that a physical search could take an additional 30 days to complete.

11  
12 I hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed  
13 this 15 day of September, 2010.

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17 Richard L. Wiltison

18 U.S. Army Research, Development, and  
19 Engineering Command  
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