I am writing in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for a copy of the letter of request and the letter of response for United States Central Command FOIA case 07-0033.

We conducted a thorough and good faith search and located the two requested letters. After a thorough review of the information, I am happy to inform you I am releasing the letters to you. However, portions are exempt from release and are withheld pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(2), which protects phone numbers and (b)(6) concerning personal privacy information.

Accordingly, in my capacity as the Initial Denial Authority, by withholding this information I am partially denying your request. Fees were not assessed for this request. If you are not satisfied with this action, you may appeal to the appellate authority, the Director of Administration and Management, Office of the Secretary of Defense. To submit your appeal, you should write directly to the Defense Freedom of Information Policy Office, Attn: Mr. James Hogan, 1155 Defense Pentagon, Washington D.C. 20301-1155. Your appeal should be postmarked within 60 calendar days of the date of this letter, should cite to case number 11-0056, and should be clearly marked “Freedom of Information Act Appeal”.

If you have any questions regarding your request, please contact my FOIA Requester Service Center at (813) 827-1810, e-mail foiaoffice@centcom.mil and refer to USCENTCOM FOIA #11-0056.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL D. JONES
Major General, U.S. Army

Enclosures:
1. Department of Navy Referral/Original Request USCENTCOM 28 Sep 06
2. USCENTCOM FOIA Response (07-0033), 5 Dec 06
Headquarters
Multi-National Corps Iraq
Baghdad, Iraq
APO AE 09342

Dear Sir/Madam:

While processing the request of The Honorable Samir Shakir M. Sumaida’ie (enclosure (1)), we found documents proprietary to your agency. We are forwarding those documents to you as enclosure (2) for processing and direct response to the requester, who has been advised of this referral.

We have marked deletions in red pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(7)(C). You may instruct the requester that he/she may appeal any denials cited by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. Appeals should be in writing to: Judge Advocate General (Code 14), Department of the Navy, 1322 Patterson Avenue, S.E., Suite 3000, Washington Navy Yard, D.C. 20374-5066. The appeal must be received in that office within 60 calendar days from the date of your letter in order to be considered. The requester should provide a statement regarding why the appeal should be granted. It is recommended that the letter of appeal and the envelope both bear the notation "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

If you have any questions, the point of contact is (b)(2) who may be reached at (b)(2)

(b)(6)

Encl:
(1) Request Letter
(2) Documents

Lcdr, JAGC, USN
10 USC 936
10 USC 1044a

Received
6 Nov 00
USCENTCOM FOIA
C/o 9
07-0033
31st March 2006

Naval Criminal Investigative Service Headquarters (Code 00JF)
716 Sicard Street SE 2000
Washington Navy Yard DC, 20388-5380

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Sir:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. I request that a copy of the following document to be provided to me:

Naval Criminal Investigative Service Investigation, control number 10AUG05-MEBJ-533-7HMA/C, Subj: Vi/Sumaidic.

In order to help to determine my status for purposes of determining the applicability of any fees, you should know that I am the Iraqi Ambassador to the United States.

I request a waiver of all fees for this request but I am willing to pay all fees if necessary. Disclosure of the requested information to me is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in my commercial interest. As the father of the deceased is my cousin, I and my family also need to know.

Thank you for your consideration of this request:

Sincerely,

Amb. Samir Shakir M. Sumaida’ie

PS As of 17th April, I shall be in Washington DC and my postal address will be:

c/o Embassy of the Republic of Iraq
1801 P Street NW
Washington DC, 20036
The Honorable Samir Shakir M. Sumaida'ie
Care of Embassy of the Republic of Iraq
1801 P. Street Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Ambassador Sumaida'ie,

First and foremost, we at the United States Central Command share in your bereavement and acknowledge that Mr. Mohammed Al-Summaidia'ies tragic and unfortunate death is a tremendous loss to you and your entire family.

This letter provides more information in response to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request you sent to NCIS Headquarters, dated 31 March 2006, for a copy of the NCIS Investigation, control number 10AUG05-MEBJ-533-7HMA/C, Subj: V/Summaidia'; regarding your young cousin's death.

When NCIS gave you a public releasable version of their report on 28 September 2006, they could not provide you with certain documents included in their report because they were proprietary to United States Central Command. They referred these withheld documents to us to determine what could be released.

The NCIS report included what is labeled as: United States Army Regulation 15-6 Investigation, Haditha Dam Village, 25 June 2005, Multi-National Force-West. This United States Army report of investigation included within it a United States Marine Corps Reportable Incident Assessment Team (RIAT) report. In reviewing NCIS' copy of these documents, we found that their report is missing some pages that are part of our report. In keeping with the spirit of your request, I am directing - to the extent allowed by law - these additional documents be provided to you even though they were not included in the specific NCIS report of investigation you requested.

In my capacity as an Initial Denial Authority, I have determined that some of the information in the records is "non-releasable" because of certain legal requirements and has been redacted. This information was redacted for one of the following reasons:

Certain withheld portions of the records provided to you are exempt from release in accordance with Executive Order 12958 as
amended, section 1.4(a) and (g), as it pertains to military plans, weapons systems or operations, and contains information concerning vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, projects, or plans relating to national security.

Other excluded information relates to the protection of records which, if disclosed, would substantially hinder, risk circumvention, or affect the performance of a significant function, internal practice, statute, instruction or policy; and or information having a trivial nature, the release of which, would provide no added benefit to the public.

Further, some information is exempted by statute, and in this cases, as it relates to 10 U.S.C. 130(b), which pertains to withholding personal, identifying information of personnel in sensitive, routinely deployed or overseas units.

Other exemptions pertain to information withheld, which if disclosed, constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy and reveal inter or intra-agency records that are deliberative in nature, predecisional, and contain opinions and recommendations. Therefore, all redacted information is withheld pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552 (b)(1), (b)(2)(high), (b)(2)(low), (b)(3), (b)(5), (b)(6); and pursuant to DoD 5400.7-R, paragraph C3.2.1.1., C3.2.1.2., C3.2.1.3., C3.2.1.5. and C3.2.1.6.

Accordingly, in my capacity as an Initial Denial Authority, by withholding the redacted portions of the information, I am partially denying your request. You may appeal this decision within 60 calendar days of the date of this letter to the Office of Freedom of Information, 1155 Defense Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20301-1155.

You will notice redactions were made to correspondence you personally sent to U.S. officials. These redactions were made in the event that some other person were to make a FOIA request for these same documents. We are nonetheless returning a complete copy of your information back to you.

If you have any questions regarding our command’s efforts with regard to your FOIA request, please contact the USCENTCOM Requester Service Center at (813) 827-6413. Please refer to USCENTCOM FOIA #07-0033, when inquiring.

On behalf of the men and women of the United States Central Command, let me again offer our heartfelt condolences on the tragic loss of Mr. Mohammed Al-Summaida’ie. I earnestly hope and trust that our two nations can, in part, redeem some measure of your family’s loss, by continuing to work together towards the
safety, security, and progress of a free and democratic Iraqi people and Government of Iraq.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

TIMOTHY F. GHORMLEY
Major General, USMC

Encl

as