



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL SEA SYSTEMS COMMAND  
1333 ISAAC HULL AVE SE  
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20376-0001

IN REPLY TO:

5720

Ser 00D3J/2007F [REDACTED] TD

AUG 16 2007

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

This is in reference to your May 30, 2007 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, originally addressed to Chief of Naval Operations, in which you seek any and all documents that relate to the explosion of the Helderberg Boeing 747 Commercial Airliner (South African Airlines Flight SA-295, SAA ZS-SAS) on November 28, 1987 off the coast of Mauritius, killing all on board.

We are currently processing your request and will provide a final decision in the most prompt manner possible. Although the FOIA stipulates a response to you within 20 days, in "unusual circumstances" an agency can extend the twenty-day time for processing a FOIA request if it informs requester of why it needs the extension and of when it will make a determination on the request. The FOIA defines unusual circumstances as 1) the need to search for and collect records from separate offices; (2) the need to examine a voluminous amount of records required by the request; (3) the need to consult with another agency or agency component. In this case, we must consult with other NAVSEA components and rely upon them to provide responsive documents in a timely manner. We anticipate a final response on your request within the next 60 - 90 days.

If, ultimately, any information is denied under the FOIA in our final decision, we will inform you of your right to file an appeal of the final decision at that time.



Meanwhile, you may appeal our delay in providing a final decision on your request. Your appeal must be postmarked no later than 60 calendar days from the date of this letter. Attach a copy of this letter to the appeal and mark the appeal and the envelope **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT APPEAL**. Mail the original appeal to the Department of the Navy, Office of the General Counsel, 1000 Navy Pentagon, Washington, DC 20350. Please send a copy of your appeal to the Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command (SEA 00D3), 1333 Isaac Hull Avenue S.E., Washington Navy Yard, DC 20376-1080.

If you have any questions regarding the status or processing of your request, please contact Ms. [REDACTED] (202)781-3038, or email [navseafoia@navy.mil](mailto:navseafoia@navy.mil), citing your FOIA case number: [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
/ Head, Freedom of Information  
and Privacy Act Program Office  
By Direction of the Commander