

American Battle Monuments Commission

Internal Review of Agency FOIA Reading Rooms

The American Battle Monuments Commission has completed a review of its compliance with Freedom of Information Act Reading Room requirements, as specified in 5 USC Section 552(a)(2).

Reading Room Deficiencies Addressed

The agency's internal review resulted in the following findings regarding records defined in 5 USC 552(a)(2) that must be made available to the public either solely in electronic Reading Rooms on agency Web sites or in a combination of electronic and conventional "paper" Reading Rooms.

- (A) Final opinions, including concurring and dissenting opinions, as well as orders, made in the adjudication of cases.

ABMC records meeting this definition are limited to Commission decisions made in accordance with the provisions of 36 CFR Parts 401, 402 and 403 – American Battle Monuments Commission Policies on Overseas Memorials. These records currently are available to the public only upon request, not through an Electronic Reading Room.

Expected Compliance Date

These records will be made available to the public through an Electronic Reading Room no later than December 31, 2008.

- (B) Those statements of policy and interpretations which have been adopted by the agency and are not published in the Federal Register.

ABMC has identified no records meeting this definition.

- (C) Administrative staff manuals and instructions to staff that affect a member of the public.

Nearly all ABMC records meeting this definition are published. The few documents that have not been published are available to the public only upon request, not through an Electronic Reading Room.

Expected Compliance Date

These records will be made available to the public through an Electronic Reading Room no later than December 31, 2008.

- (D) Copies of all records, regardless of form or format, which have been released to any person [in accordance with provisions of the FOIA] and which, because of the nature of their subject matter, the agency determines have become or are likely to become the subject of subsequent requests for substantially the same records.

Agency records accessed most frequently by the public are the databases of U.S. war dead buried or memorialized at the Commission's cemeteries and memorials. These records are presently available to the public electronically on the agency Web site at www.abmc.gov. ABMC has identified no other records meeting this definition.

- (E) A general index of the records referred to under subparagraph (D) above.

ABMC war dead databases referenced in (D) above are indexed on the agency Web site at www.abmc.gov. Files referenced in (A) and (C) will be added to the index when they are scanned and added to an Electronic Reading Room.

Partial Certification

The American Battle Monuments Commission is in partial compliance with the requirements of 5 USC Section 552(a)(2), in that records referenced in (D) and (E) above are available electronically on the agency Web site.

We are in the process of compiling scanned copies of records that meet the definitions of paragraphs (A) and (C) above and will have the required Electronic Reading Room links to them established on the agency Web site by December 31, 2008.

If additional records defined in paragraphs (A) through (E) are subsequently created or identified, they will be made available through the Electronic Reading Room.