



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Aviation Safety
Office of Aerospace Medicine

P.O. Box 25082
Oklahoma City, OK 73125-9867
Phone: (405) 954-4821

FEB 23 2026

MAURICE MACEWEN
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
FOIA# 2025-03896CA

Dear Mr. MacEwen:

This is in response to your request of May 15, 2025, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, requesting a copy of the following:

...records related to the FAA's HIMS (Human Intervention Motivation Study) program:

1. Training Materials Provided to HIMS-Credentialed Providers

Please provide all instructional, training, and onboarding materials presented to FAA-authorized:

- *HIMS Aviation Medical Examiners (AMEs) HIMS psychiatrists*
- *HIMS neuropsychologists*

This includes:

- *Slide decks (PowerPoint, PDF, or online presentation)*
- *Handbooks, manuals, or course syllabi*
- *Zoom or recorded session outlines*
- *Checklists or role expectations*
- *Case management protocols*

2. Contracts or Agreements

Please provide copies of all contracts, memorandums of understanding (MOUs), or written agreements between the FAA and:

- *HIMS-designated AMEs*
- *HIMS-affiliated psychiatrists*
- *HIMS-affiliated neuropsychologists*

This includes any provider participation agreements, confidentiality terms, scope of services, or compensation structures.

Date Range: January 1, 2010 to Present

HIMS training for Aviation Medical Examiners (AME), psychologists, or neuropsychologists requires becoming a licensed professional in the field of medicine before obtaining specialized FAA training. For psychologists and neuropsychologists, this involves holding a doctoral degree, licensure, and experience in addiction or neuropsychology before applying to the FAA to train for HIMS. The training materials utilized to train HIMS AME's, HIMS Psychologist, and Neuropsychologists are available only to AME's that have applied for and received authorization to enroll in the program to begin training.

Therefore, the FAA is withholding the records under both FOIA Exemption 2, and Privacy Act Exemption (k)(6). FOIA Exemption 2 protects records related to the selection, placement, and training of employees including hiring and firing.¹ Privacy Act Exemption (k)(6) protects testing or examination material used solely to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in the Federal service the disclosure of which would compromise the objectivity or fairness of the testing or examination process. 5 U.S.C. § 552a(k)(6).

The FAA has also conducted a foreseeable harm analysis regarding its use of Exemption 2 and has determined that it is reasonably foreseeable that disclosure would harm the interests protected by this exemption. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8)(A)(i)(I).

Note that the FAA does post certain AME guidance materials to its website (see https://www.faa.gov/ame_guide). There is no charge for this request because the cost to process is under \$20.00.

The undersigned is responsible for this full denial determination. If you have any additional questions or need assistance, you may contact the FAA FOIA Public Liaison directly at (202) 267-7799 or by email to 9-afn-foia-public-liaison@faa.gov with "Public Liaison" in the subject line. If you believe the outcome of this determination is incorrect, you may request reconsideration by submitting an appeal via email at FOIA-Appeals@faa.gov or by writing to:

Assistant Administrator for Finance and Management (AFN-1)
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20591

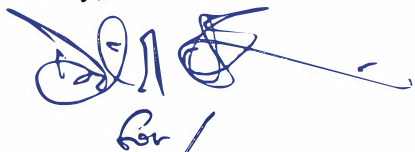
Appeals must be made in writing within 90 days from the signature date of the FAA's final response to your FOIA request. The appeal letter, the envelope, and the e-mail subject line should be clearly marked "FOIA Appeal". The request must also include your assigned FOIA tracking number, and a detailed explanation of why you believe the determination was in error.

¹ See *Milner v. Dep't of Navy*, 562 U.S. 562, 569, 131 S. Ct. 1259, 1264, 179 L. Ed. 2d 268 (2011); See also *Rojas v. Fed. Aviation Admin.*, 941 F.3d 392, 402 (9th Cir. 2019)

Additionally, you may contact the National Archives and Records Administration's Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to inquire about their FOIA mediation services. The contact information for OGIS is as follows:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS
College Park, Maryland 20740-6001
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Telephone: (202) 741-5770; Toll-free: 1 (877) 684-6448

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Melchor J. Antuñano', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Melchor J. Antuñano, M.D.
Director, Civil Aerospace Medical Institute

Enclosure

MJA/djy