Extent

270 folders, approximately 39,654 pages

Summary

This collection contains records from Alexander Vershbow, National Security Council European Affairs Senior Director. These records include correspondence, memoranda, reports, briefing and meeting materials, schedules, newspaper articles, emails, and notes regarding Bosnia and the enlargement of NATO.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2016-0156-F are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related material. FOIA 2016-0156-F contains the National Security Council (NSC) files of Alexander “Sandy” Vershbow, Senior Director for European Affairs from 1994 through 1997. The files also contain correspondence, memorandums, briefing materials, press materials, and notes concerning a variety of European issues, most significantly regarding the crisis in the Balkans and the enlargement of NATO. A large number of notepads containing Vershbow’s handwritten notes were processed in response to this FOIA request. However, all of these have been withheld in whole for national security reasons. The researcher should note that a majority of records related to this FOIA case are also closed for national security reasons.

Biographical Note

Vershbow came to the NSC as Senior Director for European Affairs in June 1994. As Senior Director in the European Directorate, Vershbow was responsible for U.S. policy toward Western and Southern Europe, NATO, the European Union, as well as the conflict in the Balkans. Before his work at the NSC, Vershbow had served in a

variety of Department of State positions, including Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian Affairs and Director of the State Department's Office of Soviet Union Affairs. After leaving the NSC, Vershbow moved back to the Department of State, first as U.S. Ambassador to NATO from 1998 to 2001, then U.S. Ambassador to the Russian Federation from 2001 to 2005, and finally as U.S. Ambassador to South Korea from 2005 to 2008. In 2009, he was nominated by President Obama to serve as the Assistant Secretary for International Security Affairs in the Department of Defense. By 2012, he left the Department of Defense to be the Deputy Secretary General of NATO and the first American to serve in such a position. As of September 2016, he remains the Deputy Secretary General in Brussels. The records responsive to this FOIA consist of the remainder of Alexander Vershbow's systematically processed NSC files. These files include copies of the NSC Records Management numbered documents that he received or worked on during his time in the Clinton Administration.

Record Type

Textual

System of Arrangement

Records that are responsive to this FOIA request were found in this collection area—Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files. Staff and Office files were maintained at the folder level by staff members within their individual offices and document all levels of administration activity. Staff and Office files are processed at the folder level, that is, individual documents are not selected and removed from a folder for processing. While this method maintains folder integrity, it frequently results in the incidental processing of documents that are not wholly responsive to the subject area.

Access

Collection is open to all researchers. Access to Clinton Presidential Records is governed by the Presidential Records Act (PRA) (44 U.S.C. Chapter 22, as amended)

and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552, as amended) and therefore records may be restricted in whole or in part in accordance with legal exemptions.

Copyright

Documents in this collection that were prepared by officials of the United States government as part of their official duties are in the public domain. Researchers are advised to consult the copyright law of the United States (17 U.S.C. Chapter 1) which governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

Provenance

Official records of William Jefferson Clinton’s presidency are housed at the Clinton Presidential Library and administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) under the provisions of the Presidential Records Act (PRA).

Processed by

Staff Archivist, 2016. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

Last Modified Date

2017-01-11

Container List

The following is a list of documents and folders processed in response to FOIA 2016-0156-F:
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