



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

*86 Chambers Street, 3rd floor
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January 6, 2022

By ECF

Hon. Lorna G. Schofield
United States District Judge
Southern District of New York
Daniel P. Moynihan U.S. Courthouse
500 Pearl Street
New York, NY 10007

Re: *New York Times Co. et al. v. United States Central Command,*
No. 21 Civ. 8297

Dear Judge Schofield:

Defendant the United States Central Command (“CENTCOM”) writes respectfully, and with the consent of plaintiffs, to request a six-day extension, to January 12, 2022, of the deadline for CENTCOM to make a final determination with regard to plaintiffs’ request under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) for release of certain aerial footage of a strike in Afghanistan on August 29, 2021. Under the parties’ proposed schedule, which the Court endorsed on December 3, 2021 (ECF No. 11), CENTCOM is to make a final determination and release any part of the footage deemed disclosable by today. The requested footage is currently classified in full, and CENTCOM is engaged in high-level consultations regarding whether any portions can be declassified and publicly released. CENTCOM respectfully requests six additional days (four business days) to complete these consultations and issue a final determination. The remaining deadlines would remain the same. Specifically, by January 20, the parties will meet and confer as to whether cross-motions for summary judgment will be necessary, and by January 21, the parties will provide a status report to the Court and propose a summary judgment briefing schedule if needed.

As noted, plaintiffs consent to the requested extension of time.

We thank the Court for its consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

DAMIAN WILLIAMS
United State Attorney for the
Southern District of New York

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