Documents: Concerns of Legality Surrounded Gitmo Study

(MSC News)--The federal officials who conducted site surveys of Fort Leavenworth and other mainland sites for possible relocation of terrorist detainees from Guantanamo Bay were aware there were concerns about the legality of their activities.

That's revealed in newly released documents.

Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt Thursday released the sixth and final installment of records provided to him by the U.S. Department of Defense after a federal court ordered the Department of Defense to comply with Schmidt's Freedom of Information Act request for records related to planning for detainee relocation.

The 1,211 pages of documents brings to 2,481 the total number of pages released under court order in response to Schmidt's FOIA request. According to a press release from Schmidt's office, all or almost all of the content of almost every page was redacted to be unreadable, so very little could be learned from them. But a few notable provisions remained legible.

In December 2015, Schmidt filed a FOIA request for documents related to the Obama Administration's planning to relocate terrorist detainees from the facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to the U.S. mainland, possibly to Fort Leavenworth. When the documents were not forthcoming, Schmidt filed a federal lawsuit in July 2016, and a federal magistrate judge ordered the Defense Department to turn over the documents. That production of documents has been ongoing since September, and the most recent documents are the last scheduled to be produced.

The administration of President Donald Trump has indicated it does not intend to move detainees from Guantanamo Bay to the U.S. mainland.

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