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**Subject:** Compliance Meeting Between Bethesda NNMCM and ARRB  
TO: JEREMY GUNN/ARRBCC. DAVID WIDALWELL/ARRB, RON HARON/ARRB FROM: DOUGLAS HORNE/ARRB DATE: 02/04/97  
03:14:38 PMSubject: Compliance Meeting Between Bethesda NNMCM and ARRBMEETING REPORTDocument's  
Author: Douglas Horne/ARRB Date Created: 02/03/97Meeting Logistics Date: 02/03/97Agecny Name:  
Department of the Navy -- National Naval Medical Center, BethesdaAttendees: LCDR Paul M. DeLaney, JAGC,  
USN, James B. Norman, JAGC, USN, Commander Jeanne Rushin, MC, USN, Ron Haron (ARRB), and Doug Horne  
(ARRB).Topic: Compliance Meeting Between Bethesda NNMCM and ARRBSummary of the Meeting A  
compliance meeting was held this date between officials from Bethesda NNMCM and the ARRB. Place: 6th floor  
conference room, Bethesda Tower; Time: 1100-1300; Attendee roles were as follows:-CDR Norman:  
represented BUMED-LCDR Delaney: represented Bethesda NNMCM-CDR Jeanne Rushin: Bethesda Laboratories-  
Ron Haron: ARRB Compliance Official-Doug Horne: Senior Analyst, ARRBRon Haron opened with a discussion  
of the JFK Act and ARRB's mandate. Following this, Mr. Haron asked the Navy's representatives at the meeting  
to explain in further detail searches for records referred to in their Initial Statement of Compliance letter (Ser  
00J/4698, dtd Jan 1, 1997). [Documents applicable to this meeting are ARRB's letter to Bethesda NNMCM of  
December 6, 1996; Bethesda NNMCM's Statement of Intent to Comply with the JFK Act/Designation of Agency  
Compliance Officials (Ser 00J/4616, dtd December 18, 1996); and Bethesda NNMCM's Initial Statement of  
Compliance (Ser 00J/4698, dtd Jan 1, 1997).]Highlights of the meeting included the following: -CDR Rushin  
explained that Laboratory records (such as autopsy reports and/or histology slides, paraffin blocks and  
associated paperwork) are/were never retired anywhere outside of Bethesda, and specifically stated that  
Laboratory records were never retired to Suitland, Md. She has been stationed at Bethesda since 1988 (longer  
than anyone else in the Laboratories Directorate), and was detailed to search for JFK records by Commander  
Ogorzalek, Head, Laboratory Department. She said the normal retention schedule for paraffin blocks is 5  
years, and for tissue slides is 20 years. Paraffin blocks and tissue slides were transferred from underground  
tunnels to BLDG 14 during the 1987-1988 period, and were further transferred from the basement of BLDG 14  
to the basement of BLDG 9, a room adjacent to the present morgue, in 1993. During each of these transfers,  
excess/out-of-date material was disposed of: paper laboratory records (re: paraffin blocks and tissue slides)  
were shredded, and paraffin blocks and tissue slides were incinerated. Following the meeting, Mr. Haron and  
Mr. Horne were allowed to inspect all existing laboratory records in the basement of BLDG 9 (next to the  
current morgue), and were able to ascertain, through personal inspection, that the oldest autopsy reports on  
file commence in 1966, and the oldest paraffin blocks and tissue slides (and associated records) on file  
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