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Subject: Interview with William McKinney
CALL REPORT. PUBLIC DOCUMENT'S AUTHOR: Christopher Barger/ARRB Date Created: 05/02/97 THE PLAYERS WHO initiated the call? Review Board's representative in the call: Christopher BargerWitnesses/Consultants's representative in the call: William A. McKinneyDescription of the Call Date: 05/02/97Subject: Interview with William McKinney Summary of the Call:Background: Through the course of his writings, Fletcher Prouty has never named his acquaintance in the 112th or 316th INTC Groups. In our interview with him on September 24, 1996, Prouty also declined to name the person; he even went as far as saying that he didn't see the person's name on the roster we provided him. A few months after our interview with him, however, on the "Fletcher Prouty Reference Web Site," Prouty abruptly named his source one William McKinney, formerly of the 112th INTC Group [Prouty references him as such; as it turns out, McKinney was attached to the 316th.] Obviously, we felt it important to contact McKinney ourselves and hear what he had to say. Interview of William McKinney, 5.1.97On May 1, 1997, I conducted a telephone interview of William A. McKinney of Erie, PA. Doug Hone was also present, taking notes and suggesting questions. The interview was cordial and friendly.McKinney confirmed for us that he was a member of the 316th INTC Detachment (not the 112th as Prouty cites). In November 1963, he was a PFC who had just completed basic training and was attending intelligence training at Ft. Holabird, MD. It is important to note that McKinney had not yet reported to the 316th on November 22, 1963, and was not in Texas. McKinney's title at the 316th was "Intelligence Coordinator;" he says it was a fancy title for clerk-typist. The 316th was, according to McKinney, a STRAC (Strategic Army Command) unit which "painted rocks when we weren't doing anything." McKinney has run of the mill recollections of the day of the shooting. However, he said that when he reported to the 316th in January 1964, he found that "there were still people who were upset...angry...or just unhappy, that the 112th... had been told that perimeter security wasn't needed by them." He said that there were "hard feelings" about that for some time afterward. He did say that the 112th had, in the past, provided perimeter security and "checked things out" when other visiting dignitaries were in the area-- if the 112th was needed. I asked him if the 316th had ever performed such function, and he said they never had; theoretically, this would have been the responsibility of the 112th. Later, I presented him with two alternatives, and asked him which he felt was more accurate: one, that the 112th could have provided extra security (not primary security, only supplemental perimeter security) and just was told that it would not be necessary; or two, that the 112th should have been providing security as part of its regular duties and was specifically told to stand down. He was fairly emphatic that the second option did not occur, and that he believed the first option far more likely.

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