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CN=Brian Rosen/O=ARRB @ ARRB;CN=Tim Wray/O=ARRB @ ARRB;CN=Christopher Barger/O=ARRB @ ARRB;CN=Douglas Horne/O=ARRB @ ARRB

SendTo: ARRB;CN=Douglas Horne/O=ARRB @ ARRB

CopyTo: CN=Jeremy Gunn/O=ARRB @ ARRB;CN=Joan Zimmerman/O=ARRB @ ARRB

DisplayBlindCopyTo:

BlindCopyTo: CN=R ecord/O=ARRB

From: CN=Dave Montague/O=ARRB

DisplayFromDomain:

DisplayDate: 08/08/1996

DisplayDate_Time: 11:59:05 AM

ComposedDate: 08/08/1996

ComposedDate_Time: 11:55:31 AM

Subject: Initial conversation w/ Ruffin Gray of the US Strike Force
CALL REPORT ISSUE # 70DOCUMENTS Author: Dave Montague/ARRB Date Created: 08/08/96WHO initiated the call? Review Board's representative in the call: Dave MontagueDescription of the Call Subject: Initial conversation w/ Ruffin Gray of the US Strike ForceMilitary Support of the Secret Service I spoke with Gray (who goes by the name "Ruff"), identified myself & explained the purpose of the Review Board. I told him that I was trying to confirm his identity & that he would be called for an interview at a later date. He confirmed that he is the same Gray who was part of the US Strike Force in 1963 & then said the following:-he is a retired Air Force Colonel & did 1 or 2 tours at the Pentagon-he was a member of the US Strike Force located at McDill Air Force Base in Tampa, FL-he was the "project officer" for JFK's visit to the base prior to the assassination-about a month prior to JFK's visit, Lt. General Bruce K. Halloway (Vice Commander of the Strike Force) called him into his office & said: "Ruff, I know you have nothing to do with protocol, but we're placing you & some others in charge of JFK's security in Tampa"-he met with a Secret Service agent named "Jerry Blaine" a few days later in Tampa & Blaine had another agent w/him-around the same time, JFK's aid (he doesn't remember the name) who was an Air Force Brigadier General, visited from the White House to ensure the security team had all of the correct info about JFK's visit (i.e.: locations, functions, accommodations, etc...)-Blaine & Gray worked very close throughout the preparations & also with the FBI, Tampa Police, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office & local Military Police on base-during the final preparations another team visited from the White House...This team included: Press Secretary Pierre Sallinger (who headed the team), the Head of White House Communications & some other people...(I asked Gray if he meant "a communications person" & he said: "No, I said the Head of White House Communications...You see, we had to have instant contact with everyone, so it was important to have good communication"After a pause in his statement, I asked him if he knew of any possible assassination records in his possession. He told me the only things he has are:1) an invitation for the 4 Star General Luncheon held in Tampa2) JFK's tie clip in the shape of PT Boat #109He's very proud of his momentous & said JFK told him he was so pleased with his help during the visit, that he'd place a letter of appreciation in his file. Gray then said that I might be interested to know that they had to do background checks on all the luncheon guests & the staff. He initially said "FBI checks", then changed this to "government checks" because he didn't want to say the FBI did them if they really may not have.Gray then said he learned the food security process that day which he said was:"...I asked the agent in the kitchen how they knew if JFK's food was poisoned & he told me to look at the plates in front of us...There were around a hundred plates of food being prepared & they were side-by-side...The guy told me to look at one of the plates

Body: Record

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