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Subject: Compliance Meeting Between Bethesda NNMCM and ARRB
FROM: JEREMY GUILTY/ARRBCC. DAVID IWAIWELL/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
Record
Body:
recstat:
DeliveryPriority: N
DeliveryReport: B
ReturnReceipt:
Categories: