

**NR\_key\_name:** A059626E3654EB3C8525644200785492  
**SendTo:** CN=Joseph Freeman/O=ARRB @ ARRB;CN=Joseph Masih/O=ARRB @ ARRB  
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**BlindCopyTo:** CN=R ecord/O=ARRB  
**From:** CN=Douglas Horne/O=ARRB  
**DisplayFromDomain:**  
**DisplayDate:** 02/18/1997  
**DisplayDate\_Time:** 4:55:09 PM  
**ComposedDate:** 02/18/1997  
**ComposedDate\_Time:** 4:54:20 PM  
**Subject:** ARRB Interviewed Dennis David  
CALL REPORT: PUBLIC DOCUMENTS Author: Douglas Horne/ARRB Date Created: 02/14/97 The Playe  
Description of the Call Date: 02/14/97Subject: ARRB Interviewed Dennis DavidSummary of the Call:Doug  
Horne interviewed former Navy man Dennis David today, with Tim Wray and Joan Zimmerman serving as  
witnesses. As this was an initial assessment interview, it was not tape-recorded.I began by asking Mr. David to  
give us an overview of his Navy career; highlights are listed below:-Graduated High School in 1955;-After  
attending one semester of a college pre-med curriculum, he realized he could not afford college, and joined  
the Navy;-Completed Hospital Corpsman School in 1956;-Achieved E-4 status in 1956; E-5 in 1959; and E-6 in  
1961;-Transferred to Bethesda NNMC;-In 1963, his job involved reading medical textbooks and transforming  
them into Navy Correspondence Courses designed primarily for the training of Reservists;-Joined Medical  
Service Corps as a Limited Duty Officer (LDO) Ensign (O-1) in 1965;-Served in numerous assignments as a  
medical administrator while in the Medical Service Corps in various locations, including Memphis Tennessee,  
Vietnam, and Great Lakes;-Highest rank achieved in MSC was LCDR (O-4), in 1974;-Retired from active duty in  
1976, after 11 years' service in the Medical Service Corps as an officer.Events of Friday Afternoon, November  
22, 1963He said that on 11/22/63, his rank was E-6 (First Class Petty Officer), but that he had the duty, and  
was serving as Chief of the Day for the Bethesda medical school. During lunchtime, at about noon, he and  
others heard the President's assassination announced on the radio. At 2:30-3:00 P.M., the word was passed to  
"set the watch," which meant that all unessential personnel were told to go home, and all duty personnel  
were to commence standing their duty shifts. At about 5:00 P.M., he said he was with Dr. Boswell and they  
both heard on the radio that the President's body was being taken from Parkland Hospital in Texas to  
Bethesda NNMC for an autopsy. Realizing that all laboratory, morgue and x-ray facilities were part of the  
medical school where he was standing duty, he remembers saying to Dr. Boswell, "It's going to be one hell of a  
night." About 30 minutes later, at about 5:30 P.M., he said he was called to the office of the Chief of the Day  
for the National Naval Medical Center (NNMC--the entire Bethesda complex, including the medical school and  
the hospital), a Chief Ledbetter, who had 3 or 4 Secret Service agents in his office. The Secret Service agents  
told the Bethesda duty officers that the autopsy would be at NNMC Bethesda, and directed them to secure all  
entrances and exits to the Bethesda complex which would lead to the morgue and laboratory area. Mr. David  
rounded up Navy personnel from various barracks, and assigned them to security duties.Casket Entry Into  
Morgue At about 6:30 P.M., Mr. David said he received a telephone call in which someone said, "Your visitor is  
on his way; you will need some people to offload." He then got his own duty sailors together, borrowed some  
Record  
**Body:**  
**recstat:**  
**DeliveryPriority:** N  
**DeliveryReport:** B  
**ReturnReceipt:**  
**Categories:**