

NR_key_name: 8A0FC9E3450C871C85256448005D5CFF
SendTo: CN=Dave Montague/O=ARRB @ ARRB
CopyTo:
DisplayBlindCopyTo:
BlindCopyTo: CN=R ecord/O=ARRB
From: CN=Douglas Horne/O=ARRB
DisplayFromDomain:
DisplayDate: 02/24/1997
DisplayDate_Time: 12:00:06 PM
ComposedDate: 02/24/1997
ComposedDate_Time: 11:59:47 AM
Subject: ARRB Interviewed Dennis David (Revised 2/19/97)
CALL REPORT: PUBLIC DOCUMENTS AUTHOR: DOUGLAS HORNE/ARRB Date Created: 02/14/97 THE PLAYERS
Description of the Call Date: 02/14/97 Subject: ARRB Interviewed Dennis David (Revised 2/19/97) Summary 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, 1963 He 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,
Body: Record
recstat:
DeliveryPriority: N
DeliveryReport: B
ReturnReceipt:
Categories: