

## PROJECT

To prepare a 6-10 page report on Operation BIGLIFT.

ARRB Staff Initiator: Tim Wray

Timetable: 4-6 days, one person.

Synopsis: Review all declassified and unclassified records from the Pentagon microfilm collection and archival documents relating to Operation BIGLIFT; write a report, similar to a term paper, summarizing the operation and addressing its significance.

Staff requirements: Retrieve from Pentagon microfilm collection and archival documents all cable traffic and other references to Operation BIGLIFT.

Summary/Background: In the movie *JFK*, director Oliver Stone asserted that “a third of a combat division returning from Germany (was) in the air above the United States at the time” of JFK’s assassination. Stone had his fictional “Col. X” charge that this was for “possible riot control” in case word of the alleged “coup” leaked out. This movement of troops did occur, as part of an ongoing military exercise called Operation BIGLIFT.

Using declassified Department of Defense records, the intern will write a report on this operation: its history, its parameters, its function, whether it had been performed prior to November 22, 1963, whether it was scheduled after 1963, and whether there is anything to the contention that this operation was somehow related to President Kennedy’s assassination.

The report should include a graph showing the flow of troops involved in BIGLIFT (i.e., was there a sudden increase in the number of troops participating just before the assassination, or were the levels constant?). In addition, the writer should do research at the Library of Congress in the newspaper room; coverage of BIGLIFT in *Stars and Stripes*, *Army Times*, *Navy Times*, *Air Force Times*, *the Washington Post*, and *the New York Times* should be checked; it appears that this operation was not a secret and was a well-known, well-publicized military exercise. The level and nature of this coverage should be included in the report.