

May 21, 1996

**NOTES FOR ARMY/NAVY/AIR FORCE TIMES PROJECT:**

*How to get Times interested in project:*

Since 1994, the Assassination Records Review Board has released or been responsible for the release of thousands of CIA and FBI documents relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Now, members of the Review Board staff are setting their sights on the Department of Defense.

The Review Board, established by a 1992 act of Congress, is charged with reviewing for eventual release all government records relating to the assassination.

The military team has begun to work with the Defense Department, meeting with officials of the various services' historical staffs and the DoD General Counsel's office. These efforts have paid off: the Board recently received Lee Harvey Oswald's original personnel and medical files from the Marines; currently, the ARRB's military staff is reviewing large amounts of microfilm from the Pentagon Telecommunications Center of message traffic in and out of the Pentagon from the early 1960's.

*Anecdotes we can tell for filler:*

The New Orleans/Harry Connick situation. (Check with Tom for latest developments and what our "public line" is.)

Navy doctors Humes and Boswell have been deposed by the Board and asked to re-examine some of the medical evidence from the autopsy they performed in 1963.

Staff has interviewed an individual who was assigned to the 112th INTC, based in Texas, who happened to be in Dealey Plaza near the Texas School Book Depository on November 22, 1963, and took a series of photographs of the Depository and Dealey Plaza seconds after the shots were fired.

*What our overall goal is in checking military (and other) records:*

Looking for records, not answers... give the info to the people and let them decide. Also have authority to interview witnesses or those peripherally involved, in order to find more records.

*Specific individuals we would like to talk to, and topics of discussion for each:*

**Persons on duty at NMCC (National Military Command Center) at the Pentagon on November 22, 1963.** What happened at NMCC that day? What kind of message traffic came in? Were there any phone calls coming in from persons high in the chain of command? What kind of contact was there from Secretary McNamara? Was there a change in DEFCON status? (I know that we know there was, but it might be good to ask this for verification purposes.)

**Persons on or involved in the NEACP (National Emergency Airborne Command Post) flight on November 22, 1963.** Same questions as above. Were any of the ground-to-air or air-to-air transmissions recorded?

**Persons on the flight or ground crews of Air Force One and Air Force Two on November 22, 1963.** What happened on those planes? Any transmissions of note?

**Persons who served in a unit with Lee Harvey Oswald.** General impressions, anecdotes, record clarification.

**Persons who took part in a Marine Corps investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald in Atsugi, Japan, which took place in either December 1963 or early 1964.** Also, Air Force personnel who might have helped transport the investigative crew. What happened during this investigation? Can you confirm the dates for us? Which personnel were in charge of the investigation? Who ordered the investigation? Where was it organized out of? Was a final report created? Who was it sent to? What were the results/findings? Who did you talk to in compiling it? Who was this report sent to?

**Persons assigned to the 112th INTC, based in Texas, during 1962-1964.** What were the instructions received on presidential protection, either on the Dallas trip or any others? What was the reaction within the unit to the assassination? *For persons assigned to the New Orleans office:* Were you ever part of a domestic surveillance program of Communists or either pro or anti-Castro movements in New Orleans that turned up Lee Harvey Oswald? (The 112th had a personnel file on Oswald.) We also would want to talk to persons assigned to ONI or Air Force OSI involved in domestic surveillance of pro and anti-Castro groups in New Orleans and Miami.

**Military personnel assigned to work with anti-Castro exile groups, especially at the CIA station in Miami, JMWAVE.** Which groups did you work with? Did you ever come across Lee Harvey Oswald? What were the attitudes of the exile groups toward the US intelligence community and toward John F. Kennedy in particular? How extensive was the military presence at JMWAVE?

**NEEDS/GOALS OF ARRB:**

- Talking points. If there are standard comments or positions on issues we are discussing, we should get them from Tom. If the reporters want to do an interview with Jack or any other Board member, we should ask Tom to arrange it. Other than that, it is expected that Christopher and Tim will handle the information going to the reporter.
- Convenience for the *Times*. We can either meet with their accredited reporter over at the Pentagon, or we will receive them here.
- Our goal is to have a feature story run that will explain who the ARRB are and what their mandate is. It should conclude by mentioning that we are attempting to locate persons from the above mentioned groups for interviews, in order to determine possible additional military records, and to enlarge the public record of comments and impressions by those who were personally involved in the events of November 22, 1963. The paper gets a decent feature story, we get some favorable press, and hopefully, we will get some leads on interviewees while circumventing any bureaucracy and/or institutional reluctance we may have encountered.