

January 2, 1997

MEMORANDUM

To: File
From: Christopher Barger
Subj: Recommendation for further research
File: 4.12.3

As we begin 1997, it is foreseen that, precluding any efforts to gain the ARRB an extension, we will be closing down and ending operations in October of this year. Predictably, the last few months of the life of this agency will be taken up by the task of closing down a Federal agency and ensuring that the documents we have released are available at the National Archives. It is conceivable, then, that only approximately six months remain for us to do research and follow up leads for documents not yet obtained or reviewed.

Due to the limited amount of time we have remaining, it will be necessary to prioritize our areas of new research and document review. Unfortunately, we will have to let some areas "slide" if we believe that they are less likely to be fruitful than others. This may result in our leaving some stones unturned, to borrow the idiom. Others, however, may be of such importance that we will find ourselves obligated to follow them up.

The purpose of this memo is to express my strong belief that the possibility of the existence of a military "fake defector" program or programs is one of the areas that we must make a priority in the remaining months of our existence.

I will first present the evidence and questions surrounding this possibility, followed by a hypothesis to explain them, and possible results or ramifications of research.

I. Questions regarding Oswald's defection to the Soviet Union

Some of the questions surrounding Oswald's defection are myriad and well known. How could a defector who had allegedly given military secrets to the enemy have been allowed back into the country with a Russian wife? How could he have been given a job with Jagers-Chiles-Stovall, which did work for the Defense Mapping Agency? How did he get the money to travel to the Soviet Union when he had only \$203 in his bank account? How was Oswald able to support a lifestyle far more extravagant than other enlisted marines at Atsugi? Other questions have been developed from

our work: Why did Oswald's administrative officer receive an upgraded clearance *the day* he discharged Oswald from the Marines? Why was Oswald, whose Russian studies and political mailings were well known to his colleagues and supervisors in the Marines, not placed on a military postal watch list, when we have seen in other instances, soldiers were placed on such lists simply for receiving leftist literature?

Anything that the ARRB could find that might help explain the answers to these questions would be of immense historical import.

II. Other theories researched

A number of suggestions have been offered to explain some of these conundrums. One of the most often offered is that Oswald was on a mission for American intelligence. Most aspects of this theory have been followed up. There is no indication that the CIA ever had a fake defector program; further, by combining both what CIA has told us and what we have observed in their files, it seems unlikely that Lee Harvey Oswald was the type of asset the Agency would recruit. From what we can glean from KGB files available, it appears that the KGB did not believe Oswald to have been working for the CIA.

Nothing in Oswald's military file or CIA gives any indication that he had any connection to the CIA. It appears to this analyst that the only avenue of possibility that the ARRB has not yet pursued is the idea that a military false defector program may have existed.

III. Unexplained and/or unexplored leads

THIS SECTION, WHILE NOT OFFICIALLY CLASSIFIED, SHOULD BE TREATED AS SECURED AND COMPARTMENTED INFORMATION AND SHOULD BE HANDLED ACCORDINGLY.

There are a number of things found in the research done by ARRB which can be seen as curious at least, and which suggest that further research in this area is warranted.

1. The military/postal mail list problem.

[Place Joe Masih's description/explanation of the problem here.]

2. The issue of the upgraded clearances at Oswald's last command.

[Place Doug's description/explanation of the issue here.]

3.