

**Military Records Overview, as of July 9, 1997:
Talking Notes for Review Board Briefing**

I. Army:

A. Early Compliance in 1993:

(1) Shortly after passage of the JFK Act, the Army independently canvassed its major commands for assassination records, and located working notes and some of the test bullets from the Edgewood Arsenal ballistics tests conducted in 1964, and turned them over to NARA.

B. Pentagon Telecommunication Center Message Traffic (99% completed)

- (1) 392 documents in all
- (2) All are unclassified except:
 - (a) 4 CIA telexes with minor redactions
 - (b) 1 DIA telex with a minor redaction
 - (c) 3 DIA originated documents with CIA equities presently undergoing CIA review; upon completion of CIA review of these 3 records, the entire collection can be transferred to the JFK Collection

C. IRR (Investigative Records Repository) Investigative Files

- (1) Investigative files on 34 individuals in whom the HSCA expressed an interest have been sequestered by IRR for years; IRR has referred these files to 3rd agencies for declassification review and is awaiting responses. (Most names are anti-Castro Cubans; others are soldier of fortune Gerry Patrick Hemming, arms dealer Mitch Werbell, and former Army CIC officer Richard Case Nagell.)
- (2) Selected portions of two additional investigative files, identified by ARRB staff, are undergoing declassification review by IRR:
 - (a) Clemard Joseph Charles: (Haitian Banker and government official who was actively promoting himself as a replacement for Papa Doc Duvalier; these documents record that Charles was trying to obtain U.S. Army sponsorship for his own political goals in Haiti, but that the State Department was not enthusiastic about him; but that George DeMohrenschildt and other businessmen were strongly supporting him as a candidate to replace Duvalier;

also documented is a claimed pre-assassination relationship between DeMohrenschildt and Vice-President Johnson--DeM. Was anxious to introduce Charles to LBJ.)

(b) Jordan James Pfuntner: (U.S. Businessman very close to anti-Castro covert action group Alpha-66 who said he had some control over the group's actions, and who was being used as a source by Army intelligence.)

- (3) Compliance status for IRR: initial compliance statement received, and compliance interview already conducted. Final statement due August 1.

D. Joseph Califano Papers [Distribute Handouts]

- (1) The subject matter is almost exclusively Cuba--specifically, the formulation of Cuban foreign policy and discussion of covert operations during 1962 and 1963.
- (2) Most documents in this collection have multiple agency equities, usually 3 to 4 agencies besides the Army. Under the normal referral process, declassification could take 3 years or more. Accordingly, we have opted to commence joint declassification review sessions, en mass, in an attempt to expedite release of these documents. The first session will be the week of July 21 here in this room; attendees will be Army representatives (3--ADA, Intell., and General Counsel), NSC, State, CIA, and Joint Staff.
- (3) [Distribute Examples for Board Member examination.]

- E. Compliance status for Army (less IRR): initial compliance statement received, but initial compliance meeting not yet held due to Army reorganization.

Joint Staff:

- A. Selected Papers of JCS Chairmen Lemnitzer, Taylor, and Wheeler from 1961-1964; and selected papers from the JCS Central Files from 1962-63. [Distribute handouts.]
- (1) 147 documents related to the formulation of Cuba and Vietnam foreign policy and covert operations in Cuba and Vietnam were selected by the Joint Staff from 40 boxes of material, using criteria provided by ARRB staff.

- (2) Joint Staff declassifiers will commence declassification review of these documents Thursday and Friday of this week. Those that have 3rd agency equities identified will be added to the agenda for the Califano papers declassification session(s).
 - (3) [Distribute examples for Board Member examination.]
- B. Compliance status: initial compliance statement received, and initial compliance meeting scheduled for July 15 (next week).

Navy:

- A. SECNAV administrative files:
- (1) [Distribute handout on McNamara and Taylor affidavits.] SECNAV records search provided both the DIA request for information, and the ONI response from Rear Admiral Taylor. Discuss.
 - B. ONI: The existing "ONI file" on LHO, consisting of telexes about his defection to and from Moscow (Navy and State) and Washington (Navy and State), and resulting internal U.S. government interdepartmental memoranda, was given to NARA in 1993 by NCIS.
 - (1) At ARRB request, ONI proper conducted its own search of 123 cubic feet of records, and culled about one cubic foot of records on defectors--both American defectors, and incoming Cuban and Soviet Block defectors. Declassification review is almost completed and transfer of these records to the ARRB should occur soon.
 - (2) ARRB will asking ONI to conduct additional searches for records on intelligence operations run out of Moscow and Minsk (to see whether any pertain to Oswald).
- B. USMC:
- (1) Already obtained by the ARRB and turned over to NARA: Lee Harvey Oswald's original Enlisted Personnel File and his original medical record.
 - (2) ARRB has obtained copies of unit diary entries for all units to which Oswald was attached for the applicable time periods, so that researchers can compare

service record entries with unit diaries, if they so wish.

- (3) ARRB has requested that USMC search Commandant's files and general counsel's files for all correspondence with Warren Commission and HSCA, and also for any possible damage control assessments from 1959 or 1960 following Oswald's defection, and for any possible investigation of Oswald following the assassination (an issue which the HSCA could not resolve). Extra time has been granted for these in-depth searches, and we have ascertained independently that the searches are actually being conducted.

- C. Compliance status: initial compliance statement received, and compliance meeting held. Due date for final compliance statement postponed until September 15 to allow USMC additional time for more comprehensive records search.

Air Force:

- A. Logbook of Andrews Air Force Base special activities related to the assassinations of JFK and RFK (covering the periods 22-25 November, 1963, and 05-06 June, 1968): literally retrieved from the trash by USAF Civil servant Chuck Holmes during an office move.
- B. ARRB is still awaiting a substantive Air Force response to our requests that they search for flight or tower logs from Andrews Air Force Base for November 22, 1963, and for OSI files on Oswald's stepbrother, John Edward Pic, whom we know was investigated by OSI in 1959 following Oswald's defection.
- C. Compliance status: initial compliance statement received, and follow-on meeting held.

DIA:

- A. Has already completed declassification review of 17 PTC telexes; they only requested redactions in one, and referred 3 others to the CIA.
- B. ARRB has requested that they conduct records searches for Cuban covert operations for the period November 1961-August 1963; and that they conduct searches for attache records for Moscow for the period 1957-1964. (Their records custodian has said that they do not hold either category of records; their historian has said that their operations section may hold records related to covert operations against Cuba, and that

they "should" have records of attache activity from the late 1950s, which would have been passed to DIA after that agency came into being in 1961, and should certainly have records of attache activity from 1962, the year after DIA's incorporation.)

- C. In the near future we will request that DIA search for records related to information gathered from the armed services in support of the McNamara Affidavit sent to Earl Warren affirming that Oswald was not an agent or informant.
- D. Compliance status: initial compliance statement received, and follow-on meeting held. Due date for final compliance statement extended until September 1.

NSA:

- A. NSA has sent us two groups of documents to date. Of the first group of 85 documents, ARRB staff identified errors (either in redactions, substitute language, or on RIFs) in about 50 of the 85 documents; NSA should have them rectified by the end of July, so that we can then send this initial group up to NARA to be placed in the JFK Collection.
- B. The second group consisted of 49 documents, of which 32 were consent releases, and 17 were green documents withholding names.
- C. NSA informs us that they are currently conducting declassification review on a large body of documents received from the JFK Library about two months ago.

White House Communications Agency:

- A. Only one small folder of records has been located to date. It contains several documents previously released (written by the flight crew of Air Force One), and one document not yet seen--a telex sent from WHCA to President Johnson at the LBJ Ranch on December 29, 1966 which details calls in-and-out of the White House on November 22, 1963. [Distribute copies to Board Members.]
- B. ARRB staff has maintained a full-court press on the issue of Air Force One audiotapes. (Background: For years, edited recordings of Air Force One audiotaped radio transmissions recorded during the flight from Love Field to Andrews AFB have been available from the LBJ Library. The edited recording is about 90 minutes long; however, other documents show that Air Force One had 4 radio circuits up and that 3 were in continuous use during the 2 hour, 17 minute flight, which means that an unedited tape of all of these conversations could be about 7.5 hours in length, vice the

90 minutes currently available.) We would love to locate the original, unedited tape recordings of the conversations on all four frequencies, or at a minimum determine definitively what happened to the unedited master tapes; to date we have not yet received a substantive response. The tapes are of great interest to researchers and historians because the subject matter includes conversations between the plane's occupants and the White House situation room, with Dean Rusk's aircraft over the Pacific, and detailed discussion of autopsy arrangements (and in this regard indicates a split in thinking between whether it should be done at Walter Reed hospital or Bethesda).

- C. Compliance status: modified (lesser) compliance declaration requested; no meetings held yet, but there has been much communication via telephone and letters.

OSD:

- A. Limited numbers--approximately 20--of assassination records have been found and are undergoing declassification review.
- B. Compliance status: Initial compliance statement received; initial meeting scheduled for July 17 (next week).

Medical Records:

- A. AFIP: AFIP has submitted both its initial and final compliance statements, and we have found their efforts satisfactory in every respect. Submitted to NARA in 1993 were the following 3 documents:

- (1) Dr. Finck's written report to General Blumberg of the JFK Autopsy, dated January 25, 1965;
- (2) Dr. Finck's expanded notes on the JFK Autopsy, and on his Warren Commission testimony, dated February 1, 1965; and
- (3) Dr. Finck's trip report of his trip to New Orleans in 1969 to testify at the Shaw Trial.

Staff is satisfied that AFIP cannot find any other records, and that they do not possess any organ or tissue samples from the President's Autopsy.

[Possibly show Board Members color copy of Blumberg reports, and compare with versions submitted to Archives in 1993.]

- B. Bethesda Naval Hospital: Bethesda has submitted both its initial and final compliance statements, and we have found their efforts satisfactory. They have found no additional documents related to the autopsy on President Kennedy beyond those that have been in the Archives for many years, but staff is satisfied that their searches have been exhaustive. They have also persuaded us that Bethesda has no organ or tissue samples from the President's autopsy.