

b. The record groups and the standards applied to each.

Once the Review Board promulgated its regulation defining “assassination record,” it turned its attention to those assassination records that were clearly within the scope of the statutory definition of “assassination record.” Prior to the Review Board’s nomination and appointment in 1994, some of the agencies had started to identify and process the following assassination record groups:

I. The FBI’s “Core and Related” Files.

The FBI’s “core and related” files consist of those records that the FBI gathered in response to FOIA requests that it received in the 1970s for records relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. The “core” files include the FBI files on Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby, as well as the FBI’s Warren Commission files and the JFK assassination investigation file. The “related” files include FBI files on Marina Oswald, Marguerite Oswald, George DeMohrenschildt, Ruth Paine, and Michael Paine. The FBI began its processing of the “Core and Related” files in 1993. The Review Board applied very strict standards in its review of the core and related files.

ii. CIA’s Lee Harvey Oswald “201” file.

CIA opens a 201 file on when there is some sort of operational interest in an individual. The Agency opened Lee Harvey Oswald’s 201 file on December 9, 1960 in response to a request from the Department of State on defectors. But the Oswald 201 file is not a typical 201 file. After the Assassination of President Kennedy, it served as a depository for records gathered and created in CIA’s wide-ranging investigation of the assassination. Thus, the file is the most complete record of CIA’s inquiry in the months and years immediately following the assassination rather than an operational file on Lee Harvey Oswald.

iii. The FBI’s “House Select Committee on Assassinations” Subject Files.

During the HSCA’s tenure, the Committee made a number of requests to the FBI for records that the Committee believed might produce records relevant to their investigation of the Kennedy assassination. In response to the HSCA’s requests, the FBI made available to the HSCA staff approximately 200,000 pages of FBI files. The FBI began its processing of the “HSCA Subject” files in 1993. The Review Board applied the “Segregated Collection” guidelines to the HSCA subject files.

iv. The CIA’s “Segregated Collection” files.

During the investigation conducted by the House Select Committee on Assassinations, HSCA investigators gained access to CIA files. Upon completion of the HSCA’s work, the CIA files that had been made available to the HSCA were segregated and

retained as a group, known as the Sequestered Collection. The Collection is divided into two parts: hard copy records and microfilm. The hard copy records, which can be found in the first 63 boxes of the collection, were available to the HSCA staffers during their investigation. Box 64 contains 72 reels of microfilm which were copied from the complete files of the records to which the HSCA had gained access. In many cases the microfilmed files contain material well beyond the scope of the HSCA investigation, for example, covering an agent's entire career when only a small portion of it intersected with the assassination story.

v. FBI records on the Congressional Committees that investigated the assassination.

The JFK Act defines "assassination record" to include records relating to the Kennedy assassination that were used by the following congressional committees who investigated events surrounding the assassination: the Commission on CIA Activities within the United States (the Rockefeller Commission), the Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities (the Church Committee), the Select Committee on Intelligence (the "Pike Committee") of the House of Representatives, and the House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations (the "HSCA").¹

Before President Clinton appointed the Review Board, the FBI collected and began to process its administrative files from each of these committees. In large part, the records contained in the Bureau's administrative files related to topics other than the Kennedy assassination. To the extent that the Review Board reviewed records that related to non-Kennedy assassination related topics, it designated the records, "NBR" and removed them from further consideration.² All Kennedy assassination related information present in these files was processed according to the strict "core" file standards.

vi. Requests for Additional Information.

In order to ensure the success of the Review Board, Congress included in the JFK Act a provision that allowed the Review Board to obtain additional information and records beyond those that were reviewed by previous investigations. Chapter 6 of this report explains in great detail the requests that the Review made and the assassination records designated as a result of those requests. Because Congress considered these records to be of very high public interest, the Review Board processed the "requests for additional information" files using strict "core" file standards.

¹JFK Act, section 3(2).

²*add NBR footnote with language from guidelines*

vii. Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) Records on Cuba and Vietnam from 1961-1964.

Personnel of the Information Management Division of the Joint Staff Secretariat identified approximately 146 records at NARA related to JCS involvement with either Cuba policy or Vietnam policy from 1961-1964. These policy documents are considered to be “EHUs,” that is, records that enhance the understanding of the Kennedy administration and its policies in these areas, and thus provide context for those who would study either the assassination, or the Kennedy administration and its policies--how those policies evolved during the administration, and may (or may not) have changed after the assassination. These records are identified in the NARA data base by the “202” number series, and consist of records of Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairmen Lyman Lemnitzer, Maxwell Taylor, and Earle Wheeler, as well as documents from the Central Files of the Joint Staff for that same time period, 1961-1964. Generally speaking, the JCS Vietnam records document withdrawal plans in 1963 prior to the assassination, and an acceleration of the war effort by U.S. forces in 1964 following the assassination. In addition, the Joint Staff Secretariat procured from the OSD history office a 3-volume history written in 1970 titled “The Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Vietnam War, 1960-1968,” which also qualifies as an EHU; although placed in the JFK Collection, it has been reviewed only under FOIA standards and there are a small number of excisions in the volumes, following review by OSD, the Joint Staff, and the CIA. [Time precluded review under JFK Act standards, but the document will now be available for the first time to members of the public without them having to file a FOIA request.] The JCS records on Cuba document the development by the Joint Staff in 1962 of pretexts for the possible U.S. invasion of Cuba (in support of taskings received from General Lansdale, Operations Officer for Operation Mongoose), as well as detailed contingency plans for the possible invasion of Cuba by U.S. military forces in both 1962 and 1963.

viii. Secretary of the Army Records on Cuba Policy (“Califano Papers”).

Mr. Steven Tilley, JFK Liaison at NARA, identified 6 boxes of records (accession number 69A6412) that proved to be the Cuba files kept by Mr. Joseph Califano, General Counsel to Secretary of the Army (as well as Special Assistant to the Army Secretary), documenting the evolution of Cuba policy within the executive branch of the U.S. government in 1963. During this period the Secretary of the Army (Mr. Cyrus Vance) was designated “DOD Executive Agent for Cuba” on the Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee for Cuban Affairs (ICCCA), an interdepartmental body established in January of 1963 by a National Security Action Memorandum; as his General Counsel and Special Assistant, Mr. Califano was “in the loop” on all ICCCA policy deliberations; thus, this collection is a unique find, and reflects much of the U.S. government’s interagency planning activities related to Cuba during 1963, as well as the ICCCA’s final policy position on an evolved, post-Missile Crisis U.S. foreign and military policy toward Cuba, finalized at the working level during October 1963, and formally signed off on at the Cabinet level in January 1964. The “Califano Papers” are assigned the “198” (Secretary of the Army) numbered series.

ix. U.S. Army Investigative Records Repository (IRR) Files.

In 1995 the Review Board staff determined that the Army's Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM), specifically the Investigative Records Repository (IRR), held several voluminous counterintelligence case files on individuals investigated by Army Intelligence. Of the 37 case files on individuals, 34 had been examined by the HSCA and were therefore automatically designated assassination records; 3 additional case files were designated assassination records by the Review Board staff. The number series "194" is assigned to these records.

x. Other Military Records.

In far lesser quantities, the number series for other military records are as follows: U.S. Air Force-"161"; U.S.M.C.-"166"; Navy-"168"; Office of Secretary of Defense-"195"; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-"197"; Department of the Army-"199"; White House Military Office-"200;" and Armed Forces Institute of Pathology-"205."

***** SPACE HOLDER FOR RECORD GROUPS of OTHER AGENCIES *****