

Assassination Records Review Board

600 E Street NW ▪ Suite 208 ▪ Washington, DC 20530

December 21, 1994

Chief of Naval Personnel
Naval Reserve Personnel Center
PERS 913
Washington, D.C. 20370
Attn: Chief Lawhorn

RE: Christopher Barger

Dear Chief Lawhorn:

The Assassination Records Review Board is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1992 to oversee the collection and public release of records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The Board wishes to employ as one of its staff analysts Christopher Barger, an individual who also currently is a member of the Naval Reserve.

However, under the terms of the Board's enabling statute, 44 U.S.C. section 2107, Congress instructed that "[a] person appointed to the staff of the Review Board shall be a private citizen . . . who is not a present employee of any branch of the government." *Id.* at Sec. 8 (b) (2). (copy attached) Thus, as long as Mr. Barger retains his affiliation with the Naval Reserve in any way, including an obligation to complete the years remaining on his contract after the Board's work is ended approximately three years from now, the Board is prohibited from appointing him to an analyst position on the Board's staff.

It is our understanding that Mr. Barger has requested a discharge from the Naval Reserve in order to accept appointment to the Board staff. If Mr. Barger is released from his service obligation to the Naval Reserve, it is the Board's intent to appoint him to the staff effective February 6, 1994. We greatly appreciate your and the Naval Reserve's cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Board's general counsel, Sheryl Walter, at (202) 724-0815.

Sincerely,

David Marwell
Executive Director

