

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20372

MED: 001B: MDH
5 March 1981

Mr. Harold Weisberg 7627 Old Receiver Road Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 23, 1981, to the Department of Defense concerning a Freedom of Information Act request pertaining to materials previously provided by the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery to Mr. David Lifton.

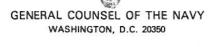
Enclosed please find those documents to which you are referring. Based upon your statement that several courts have held that you qualify for a fee waiver, fees in this matter are hereby waived.

Sincerely,

M. D. HANNAS

Commander, JAGC, USN Special Assistant to the Surgeon General for Medico-Legal Affairs

Enclosures



1 March 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SURGEON GENERAL

Subj: Response to request of Select Committee on Assassinations

Encl: (1) Copy of General Counsel of the Navy letter to Congress man Stokes dtd 1 Mar '78

The enclosed letter is forwarded for your information. You are hereby requested to notify the appropriate naval personnel accordingly.

Togo D. West, Jr.

RECEIVED

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GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE NAVY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350

1 March 1978

Honorable Louis Stokes Chairman Select Committee on Assassinations House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In response to your request of February 27, 1978, regarding Navy personnel present at the autopsy of President John F. Kennedy, the Department of the Navy interposes no objection to such persons, should they wish to do so, discussing with designated members of the Select Committee's staff, matters pertaining to the request that are within the Select Committee's jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

TOGO D. WEST, JR.





IN REPLY REFER TO BUMED:003:mcp 22 November 1977

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center,

Bethesda, Maryland 20014

Subj: Inquiry of House Select Committee on Assassinations concerning verbal orders issued by the Surgeon General on or about 22-23 November 1963

(a) NATNAVMEDCEN ltr NNMC:C02:bsz of 16 September 1977

- On or about 22-23 November 1963, the Surgeon General issued verbal orders to various naval personnel, military and civilian, who were involved with the autopsy of President John F. Kennedy at National Naval Medical Center (NNMC). These personnel were ordered to discuss with no one the events connected with their official duties on the evening of 22-23 November 1963. The verbal orders were later confirmed in writing.
- 2. Reference (a) reported that several of the personnel who were recipients of these orders had been requested to provide information concerning the autopsy of President Kennedy to the House Select Committee on Assassinations. Reference (a) also advised that the Committee was experiencing difficulty in obtaining information from the personnel involved in the autopsy as a result of the 1963 orders issued by the Surgeon General.
- The Bureau of Medicine and Surgery has been advised that the House Select Committee on Assassinations has been informed by the Department of Defense that the Department cannot rescind the orders in question. All personnel who received these orders and are still assigned to NNMC should be advised to immediately notify BUMED (Code 003, telephone 254-4388) if they are requested by the Committee to provide information concerning the autopsy of President Kennedy. Personnel who are no longer assigned to NNMC but who make inquiries to NNMC about these orders or indicate that they have been requested to provide information about the autopsy should also be referred to BUMED.

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Copy to: OLA



GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

November 3, 1977

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G. Robert Blakey
Chief Counsel and Director
Select Committee on Assassinations
U.S. House of Representatives
3331 House Office Building, Annex 2
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Blakey:

Your letter of October 4, 1977 to Adm. Kinnear requests certain information with respect to the autopsy of President John F. Kennedy. All of the records, notes and other materials related to the autopsy were delivered by the Navy to the White House physician, Dr. George G. Burkley. The Department of Defense has no such documents or materials in its possession at this time.

The record with respect to the autopsy is complete and has been preserved intact. Under these circumstances, the Department cannot rescind the order to personnel who were involved in the autopsy prohibiting disclosure of any information about the autopsy acquired in the course of their official duties.

Sincerely,

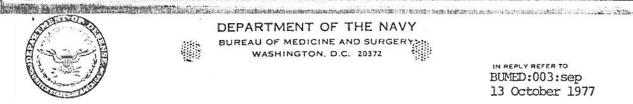
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Deanne C. Siemer

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20372

> IN REPLY REFER TO BUMED:003:sep 13 October 1977

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Subj: Recission of verbal orders issued by the Surgeon General on or about 22-23 November 1963

Ref: (a) CHBUMED 1tr BUMED:003:mcp to OLA of 30 September 1977

- 1. On or about 22-23 November 1963, the Surgeon General of the Navy issued verbal orders to various naval personnel and civilian employees of the Navy who were involved with the autopsy of President John F. Kennedy at National Naval Medical Center. These personnel were ordered to discuss with no one events connected with their official duties on the evening of 22-23 November 1963. The verbal orders were later confirmed in writing. See enclosure (1) to reference (a).
- 2. I have no objections to higher authority, such as OSD, rescinding the above mentioned orders.

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Vice Admiral, Medical Corps United States Navy

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY







IN REPLY REFER TO

BUMED:003:mcp 30 September 1977

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

To: Office of Legislative Affairs (Attn: CDR AVERNA)

Subj: House Select Committee on Assassinations inquiry to Navy Medical Department

Ref: (a) PHONECON between CDR AVERNA (OLA) and LCDR BROACH (BUMED) of 28 September 1977

Encl: (1) NATNAVMEDCEN 1tr NNMC:CO2:bsz to CHBUMED of 28 September 1977 w/encls

1. Enclosure (1), which contains copies of letters to 14 naval personnel and 2 civilian employees regarding orders concerning their duties on 22-23 November 1963, is forwarded as discussed in reference (a).

ROBERT E. BROACH By direction

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



MATIONAL NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER BETHESDA, MARYLAND - 20014

NNMC:CO2:bsz 28 September 1977

From: Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center,

Bethesda, Maryland 20014

To: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (ATT: Code 003),

Department of the Navy, Washington, D. C. 20370

Subj: Information; submission of

Ref: (a) Telecon between LCDR Broach, JAGC, USN (BUMED) and LCDR Hopkins, MSC, USN (NNMC) of 9-27-77

Encl: (1) Copies of letters (16) held this Command

 Enclosure (1) is forwarded as requested during reference (a).

> H. P. MILLER By direction

> > RECEIVED

SEP 29 1977

Burned Code 003

MC43-312-DEB:ajl 1326/5

From: Commanding Officer, U.S.Naval Medical School, NNMC, Bethesda, Mil To: RYDBERG, Harold Alfred, 519 04 10, HM2 (HM-8497), USN

Subj: Special Duty Assignment

1. You are hereby assigned special duty of a nature which will require your utmost attention to the duties to be described to you. You will discuss this assignment with no one other than the following:

Commanding Officer, U.S.Naval Medical School, NNMC, Bethesda, Md Commander James J. HUMES, MC, U. S. Navy Commander "J" T. BOSWELL, MC, U. S. Navy.

Colonel Pierre A. FINCK, MC, U.S.Army

2. You are under orders of the Surgeon Ceneral, U.S.Navy to discuss with no one other than the parties listed above any matters pertaining to these official duties. Any infraction of these orders makes you liable to Court-Martial action under appropriate articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice 1951.

J. H. STOVER, JR.

NC43-312-DEB:ajl 1326/5

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

From: RYDBERG, Harold Alfred, 519 04 10, HE12 (HM-8497), USN To: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School, HNWL, Bethesda, Md

- 1. Orders received this date.
- 2. I have read and fully understand them and am aware of the possible disciplinary action in the event that I disobey them.

Harold Alfred RYDBERG

From: Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center To: Mrs. Elsie Boehm CLOSSON, GS-9

- 1. You are reminded that you are under verbal orders of the Surgeon General, United States Navy, to discuss with no one events connected with your official duties on 24 November 25 November 1963.
- 2. This letter constitutes official notification and reiteration of these verbal orders. You are warned that infraction of these orders may subject you to disciplinary action pursuant to applicable laws, regulations and instructions.

C. B. GALLOWAY

26 November 1963

From: Mrs. Elsie Boehm CLOSSON, GS-9

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- 1. Above orders received this date.
- 2. I have read and fully understand them and am aware of the disciplinary action possible in the event that I disobey these orders.

Elsie Boehm Classon

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From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School To: CDR James Joseph HUMES, MC, USN, 497831/2100

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- You are reminded that you are under verbal orders of the Surgeon General, United States Navy, to discuss with no one events connected with your official duties on the evening of 22 November - 23 November 1963.
- 2. This letter constitutes official notification and reiteration of these verbal orders. You are warned that infraction of these orders makes you liable to Court Martial proceedings under appropriate articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

J. H. STOVER, JR.

27 Nov 63 (Date)

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

From: CDR James Joseph HUMES, MC, USN, 497831/2100
To: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School

- 1. Above orders received this date.
- 2. I have read and fully understand them and am aware of the disciplinary action possible in the event that I disobey these orders.

JAMES JOSEPH HUMES

27 Nov 63
(Date)

SECOND ENDORSEMENT

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School To: Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center

1. Forwarded to you this date for retention in your files.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY OF TH

J. H. STOVEK, JR.

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School To: JENKINS, James Curtis, 549-96-76, HM3, USN

- 1. You are reminded that you are under verbal orders of the Surgeon General, United States Navy, to discuss with no one events connected with your official duties on the evening of 22 November 23 November 1963.
- 2. This letter constitutes official notification and reiteration of these verbal orders. You are warned that infraction of these orders makes you liable to Court Martial proceedings under appropriate articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

J. H. STOVER, #R.

29 Nov 63
(Date)

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

From: JENKINS, James Curtis, 549-96-76, HM3, USN
To: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School

- 1. Above orders received this date.
- 2. I have read and fully understand them and am aware of the disciplinary action possible in the event that I disobey these orders.

JAMES CURTIS JOHRINS

27 Nov 63

(Date)

SECOND ENDORSEMENT

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School To: Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center

1. Forwarded to you this date for retention in your files.

H. STOVER. DR.

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School To: METZLER, James Eugene, 593-94-40, HM3, USN

- 1. You are reminded that you are under verbal orders of the Surgeon General, United States Navy, to discuss with no one events connected with your official duties on the evening of 22 November 23 November 1963.
- 2. This letter constitutes official notification and reiteration of these verbal orders. You are warned that infraction of these orders makes you liable to Court Martial proceedings under appropriate articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

f. H. STOVER, GR

(Date)

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF

From: METZLER, James Eugene, 593-94-40, HM3, USN To: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School

- 1. Above orders received this date.
- 2. I have read and fully understand them and am aware of the disciplinary action possible in the event that I disobey these orders.

JAMES EUGENE METZLER

(Date)

St. 20 18. 1

SECOND ENDORSEMENT

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School
To: Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center

1. Forwarded to you this date for retention in your files.

H. STOVER JR.

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School To: CDR "J" Thornton BOSWELL, MC, USN, 489878/2100

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- You are reminded that you are under verbal orders of the Surgeon General, United States Navy, to discuss with no one events connected with your official duties on the evening of 22 November - 23 November 1963.
- 2. This letter constitutes official notification and reiteration of these verbal orders. You are warned that infraction of these orders makes you liable to Court Martial proceedings under appropriate articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice,

H. Stover JR.

2.7 November 1463
(Date)

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

From: CDR "J" Thornton BOSWELL, MC, USN, 489878/2100 To: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School

- 1. Above orders received this date.
- 2. I have read and fully understand them and am aware of the disciplinary action possible in the event that I disobey these orders.

"J" THORNTON BOSWELL

27 Nor 63

(Date)

SECOND ENDORSEMENT

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School To: Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center

1. Forwarded to you this date for retention in your files.

H. STOVER . IR

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School
To: LT Robert Frederick KARNEI, JR., MC, USN, 622774/2100

- You are reminded that you are under verbal orders of the Surgeon General, United States Navy, to discuss with no one events connected with your official duties on the evening of 22 November - 23 November 1963.
- 2. This letter constitutes official notification and reiteration of these verbal orders. You are warned that infraction of these orders makes you liable to Court Martial proceedings under appropriate articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

j. H. Stover, Jr.

Z.7 Nov 63

(Date)

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

From: LT Robert Frederick KARNEI, JR., MC, USN, 622774/2100 To: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School

- 1. Above orders received this date.
- 2. I have read and fully understand them and am aware of the disciplinary action possible in the event that I disobey these orders.

ROBERT FREDERICK KARNEI, JR.

27 Nov 63 (Date)

SECOND ENDORSEMENT

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School
To: Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center

1. Forwarded to you this date for retention in your files.

. H. STOVER JR.

alle.

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School
To: BOYERS, Chester Herschel, Jr., 339-65-16, HMCA, USN

- 1. You are reminded that you are under verbal orders of the Surgeon General, United States Nevy, to discuss with no one events connected with your official duties on the evening of 22 November 23 November 1963.
- 2. This letter constitutes official notification and reiteration of these verbal orders. You are warned that infraction of these orders makes you liable to Court Martial proceedings under appropriate articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

J. H. STOVER, JR.

(Date)

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

the transfer of the control of the c

From: BOYERS, Chester Herschel, Jr., 339-65-16, IMCA, USN To: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School

- 1. Above orders received this date.
- 2. I have read and fully understand them and am aware of the disciplinary action possible in the event that I disobey these orders.

CHESTER HERSCHEL BOYERS, JR.

27 Nov 63

(Date)

SECOND ENDORSEMENT

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School
To: Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center

1. Forwarded to you this date for retention in your files.

II. STOVER

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School To: O'CONNOR, Paul Kelly, 531-75-34, HM3, USN

- 1. You are reminded that you are under verbal orders of the Surgeon General, United States Navy, to discuss with no one events connected with your official duties on the evening of 22 November 23 November 1963.
- 2. This letter constitutes official notification and reiteration of these verbal orders. You are warned that infraction of these orders makes you liable to Court Martial proceedings under appropriate articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

J. H. STOVER, JR.

November 27, 1463
(Date)

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

From: O'CONNOR, Paul Kelly, 531-75-34, HM3, USN
To: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School

- 1. Above orders received this date.
- 2. I have read and fully understand them and am aware of the disciplinary action possible in the event that I disobey these orders.

PAUL KELLY O'CONNOR

NUCLUMBER 27

SECOND ENDORSEMENT

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School
To: Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center

1. Forwarded to you this date for retention in your files.

A. H. STOVER, JR.

From: Commanding Officer, E. S. Naval Medical School To: RIEBE, Floyd Albert, 458-47-93, HM2, USN

- 1. You are reminded that you are under verbal orders of the Surgeon General, United States Navy, to discuss with no one events connected with your official duties on the evening of 22 November 23 November 1963.
- 2. This letter constitutes official notification and reiteration of these verbal orders. You are warned that infraction of these orders makes you liable to Court Martial proceedings under appropriate articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice

Stover, on.

H. STOVER, on.

November 1963

(Date)

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

From: RIEBE, Floyd Albert, 458-47-93, HM2, USN
To: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School

- 1. Above orders received this date.
- 2. I have read and fully understand them and am aware of the disciplinary action possible in the event that I disobey these orders.

Slas Albert Kith

27 Nov 63 (Date)

SECOND ENDORSEMENT

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School To: Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center

1. Forwarded to you this date for retention in your files.

H. STOVER JR.

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School To: RUDNICKI, Jan Gail, 547-56-35, HM3, USN

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- You are reminded that you are under verbal orders of the Surgeon General, United States Navy, to discuss with no one events connected with your official duties on the evening of 22 November - 23 November 1963.
- 2. This letter constitutes official notification and reiteration of these verbal orders. You are warned that infraction of these orders makes you liable to Court Martial proceedings under appropriate articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

H. STOVER, JR.

(Date)

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

From: RUDNICKI, Jan Gail, 547-56-35, HM3, USN
To: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School

- 1. Above orders received this date.
- 2. I have read and fully understand them and am aware of the disciplinary action possible in the event that I disobey these orders.

JAN GAIL RUDNICKI

27 Nov 63
(Date)

SECOND ENDORSEMENT

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School
To: Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center

1. Forwarded to you this date for retention in your files.

H. STOVER, SR.

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School To: RITTMEYER, Robert William, 864-71-27, HM1, USN

- You are reminded that you are under verbal orders of the Surgeon General, United States Navy, to discuss with no one events connected with your official duties on the evening of 22 November - 23 November 1963.
- 2. This letter constitutes official notification and reiteration of these verbal orders. You are warned that infraction of these orders makes you liable to Court Martial proceedings under appropriate articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice,

1. H. STOVER, JR.

27 Merende, 1963

(Date)

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

From: RITTMEYER, Robert William, 864-71-27, HM1, USN To: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School

- 1. Above orders received this date.
- 2. I have read and fully understand them and am aware of the disciplinary action possible in the event that I disobey these orders.

ROBERT WILLIAM RITTMEYER

27 NOV

SECOND ENDORSEMENT

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School
To: Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center

1. Forwarded to you this date for retention in your files.

J. H. STOVER. DR.

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School
To: Mr. John Thomas STRINGER, JR., GS-11

- You are reminded that you are under verbal orders of the Surgeon General, United States Navy, to discuss with no one events connected with your official duties on the evening of 22 November - 23 November 1963.
- 2. This letter constitutes official notification and reiteration of these verbal orders. You are warned that infraction of these orders may subject you to disciplinary action pursuant to applicable laws, regulations and instructions.

J. H. STOVER, JR.

22 November (1963

(Date)

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

From: Mr. John Thomas STRINGER, JR., GS-11
To: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School

- 1. Above orders received this date.
- 2. I have read and fully understand them and am aware of the disciplinary action possible in the event that I disobey these orders.

John THOMAS STRINGER, JR. 5

SECOND EMDORSEMENT

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School To: Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center

1. Forwarded to you this date for retention in your files.

H. STOVER, GR.

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School To: CDR John Henry EBERSOLE, MC, USN, 495535/2100

- 1. You are reminded that you are under verbal orders of the Surgeon General, United States Navy, to discuss with no one events connected with your official duties on the evening of 22 November 23 November 1963.
- 2. This letter constitutes official notification and reiteration of these verbal orders. You are warned that infraction of these orders makes you liable to Court Martial proceedings under appropriate articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

J. H. STOVER, JR.

27 Montinger 1963

(Date)

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

From: CDR John Henry EBERSOLE, MC, USN, 495535/2100 To: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School

1. Above orders received this date.

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 I have read and fully understand them and am aware of the disciplinary action possible in the event that I disobey these orders.

John HENRY EBERSOLE

27 Nov 63 (Date)

SECOND ENDORSEMENT

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School
To: Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center

1. Forwarded to you this date for retention in your files.

H. STOVER JR.

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Hospital To: RESD, Edward F., Jr., 588 68 96, HM3, USN

- 1. You are reminded that you are under verbal orders of the Surgeon General, United States Navy, to discuss with no one events connected with your official duties on the evening of 22 November 23 November 1963.
- 2. This letter constitutes official notification and reiteration of these verbal orders. You are warned that infraction of these orders makes you liable to Court Martial proceedings under appropriate articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

R. O. CANADA

(Date)

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

From: REED, Edward F., Jr., 588 68 96, HM3, USN To: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Hospital

- 1. Above orders received this date.
- I have read and fully understand them and am aware of the disciplinary action possible in the event that I disobey these orders.

Edward F. Reed Ja.

(Date)

SECOND ENDORSEMENT

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Hospital
To: Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center

1. Forwarded to you this date for retention in your files.

R. O. CANADA

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Hospital To: CUSTER, Jerrol F., 545 40 77, HM3, USN

- 1. You are reminded that you are under verbal orders of the Surgeon General, United States Navy, to discuss with no one events connected with your official duties on the evening of 22 November 23 November 1963.
- 2. This letter constitutes official notification and reiteration of these verbal orders. You are warned that infraction of these orders makes you liable to Court Martial proceedings under appropriate articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

R. O. CANADA

(Date)

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

From: CUSTER, Jerrol F., 545 40 77, HM3, USN To: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Hospital

- 1. Above orders received this date.
- 2. I have read and fully understand them and am aware of the disciplinary action possible in the event that I disobey these orders.

JERROL F. CUSTER

(Date)

SECOND ENDORSEMENT

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Hospital
To: Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center

1. Forwarded to you this date for retention in your files.

R. O. CANADA





BUMED:003:mcp 29 September 1977

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

To: Office of Legislative Affairs (Attn: CDR AVERNA)

Subj: House Select Committee on Assassinations contacts with Navy Medical Department

Ref: (a) PHONECON between CDR AVERNA, OLA, and LCDR BROACH, BUMED, of 28 September 1977

Encl: (1) Summary of events concerning House Select
Committee on Assassinations with Navy Medical
Department

 Enclosure (1) is forwarded as discussed in reference (a).

> ROBERT E. BROACH By direction

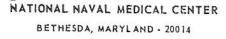
SUMMARY OF EVENTS CONCERNING CONTACTS BETWEEN HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (MSCA) AND NAVY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

- 1. On Friday, 16 September 1977, LCDR Broach received a letter from CO, National Naval Medical Center (NNMC), addressed to CHBUMED (Tab "A"). This letter advised that Mr. D. A. Purdy, Staff Counsel, House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) had contacted NNMC requesting assistance in obtaining testimony from naval personnel who were involved with the autopsy on President Kennedy. Apparently some of the naval personnel were refusing to provide information to HSCA because they had received letters from their commanding officers confirming previous oral orders from the Surgeon General that they were to discuss with no one the events connected with their official duties on the evening of 22-23 November 1963 (the date of the Kennedy autopsy).
- 2. On 16 September, LCDR Broach called CAPT Miller, Director of Administrative Services, NNMC, to determine if NNMC had anything in its files concerning the background to the above order. The NNMC files contained no pertinent information other than copies of the letters to the naval personnel confirming the oral orders. CAPT Miller advised that more information might be obtained from VADM George G. Burkley, MC, USN (Ret.), the White House Physician in 1963, and RADM Edward C. Kenney, MC, USN (Ret.), the Surgeon General in 1963. LCDR Broach was unable to make contact with either VADM Burkley or RADM Kenney on 16 September.
- 3. On Thursday, 22 September, Mr. Purdy called LCDR Broach who was on TAD in Quantico, Virginia. Mr. Purdy said CBS News had informed the HSCA that they had seen a copy of a 1963 letter from the Surgeon General to CDR J. J. Humes, MC, USN, now retired. CDR Humes was the Navy physician in charge of the Kennedy autopsy, and the letter in question allegedly gave CDR Humes various directions as to how he was to handle the autopsy report and other matters associated with the autopsy. Mr. Purdy said he had as yet beeen unable to locate a copy of the letter in the Archives records on the autopsy and wanted to know if BUMED had a copy in its LCDR Broach advised Mr. Purdy that BUMED files would be checked for the letter to CDR Humes. LCDR Broach also advised Mr. Purdy that BUMED was attempting to determine the background to the order regarding comments by naval personnel involved in the Kennedy autopsy.

- 4. On 22 September, VADM Burkley called BUMED and advised CDR Thempson, Executive Assistant to the Surgeon General, that he, as the White House Physician, had given the order for the naval personnel not to comment on their duties involving the autopsy. RADM Kenney's role in the transmission of this order is still not clear.
- 5. On 27 September, LCDR Broach called Mr. Liebman in OLA in order to have Mr. Purdy rechannel HSCA inquiries through OLA. On 28 September, CDR Averna, OLA, and LCDR Broach discussed Mr. Purdy's contacts with BUMED/NNMC. OLA will handle all future contacts with Mr. Purdy and HSCA.
- 6. Neither BUMED nor NNMC files contain copies of the autopsy results, allied papers, or materials associated with the autopsy. Letters in BUMED files (Tabs "B," "C," and "D") indicate that these materials were turned over to the White House Physician, VADM Burkley, after the autopsy was completed. The role of the Secret Service in the transmittal of the documents, as mentioned in Tab "D," is not clear; however it is likely that the Secret Service probably delivered the materials from the autopsy team to VADM Burkley. More information is being sought in this regard. NNMC files contain copies of the letters to naval personnel confirming the previous oral orders from the Surgeon General restricting their discussion of their official duties in connection with the autopsy. These letters have been requested from NNMC and will be forwarded on receipt. Neither BUMED nor NNMC has a copy of the Surgeon General letter to CDR Humes concerning his handling of the autopsy report and other related matters.

Prepared by: LCDR ROBERT E. BROACH, JAGC, USN BUMED Code 003 254-4388 29 September 1977





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NNMC:CO2:bsz 16 September 1977

From: Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center,

Bethesda, Maryland 20014

To: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Subj: Request from the Select Committee on Assasinations of the House of Representatives for rescission of a verbal order issued by the Surgeon General, United States Navy, on or about 22 November 1963

1. Mr. Donald A. Purdy, Staff Counsel for subject Committee advises that the Committee is experiencing difficulty in obtaining information from personnel who were on duty and involved with the remains of President John F. Kennedy at this Center on 22 and 23 November 1963. The difficulty arises from the refusal of these personnel to provide information to the Committee because they were advised in writing as follows by the Commanding Officers, Naval Hospital, Naval Medical School and National Naval Medical Center:

- "1. You are reminded that you are under verbal orders of the Surgeon General, United States Navy, to discuss with no one events connected with your official duties on the evening of 22 November -23 November 1963.
- "2. This letter indicates official notification and reiteration of those verbal orders. You are warned that infraction of these orders makes you liable to Court Martial proceedings under appropriate articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice."

The notification to the civilians involved makes reference to disciplinary action "pursuant to applicable laws, regulations and instructions" vice the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

- 2. These letters were addressed:
- a. By Commanding Officer, Naval Hospital, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda to:

HM3 Jerrol F. Coster, USN, 545 4077 HM3 Edward F. Reed, Jr., USN, 588 6896

> RECEIVED SEP 基 1977

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NNMC:CO2:bsz 16 September 1977

b. By Commanding Officer, Naval Medical School, National Naval Medical Center to:

CDR John H. Ebersole, MC, USN, 495 535/2100
CDR "J" Thornton Boswell, MC, USN, 489 878/2100
CDR James Joseph Humes, MC, USN, 497 831/2100
Lt Robert F. Karnei, Jr., MC, USN, 622 774/2100
HMCA Chester Herschel Boyers, Jr., USN, 339 65 16
HM1 Robert W. Rittmeyer, USN, 864 71 27
HM2 Floyd Albert Riebe, USN, 458 47 93
HM2 Harold Alfred Rydbery, USN, 519 04 10 (HM-8497)
HM3 James Curtis Jenkins, USN, 549 96 76
HM3 James E. Metzler, USN, 593 94 40
HM3 Paul Kelly O'Connor, USN, 531 75 34
HM3 Jan Gail Rudnicki, USN, 547 56 35
Mr. John T. Stringer, Jr., GS-11

c. By Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center to:

Mrs. Elsie Boehm Closser, GS-9

3. In order that the work of the Committee may not be inhibited by the proper reticence of these personnel to provide information as requested by it, it is suggested that the verbal order of the Surgeon General be rescinded or modified by his successor in office so that any of the aformentioned members or prior members summoned before it may provide such information as may be requested by the Committee.

J. T. HORGAN





BUMED:003:mcp 16 March 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL, DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Subj: House Select Committee on Assassinations

Encl: (1) Copy of Surgeon General letter of 13 March 1978 to Mr. Chester Boyers, Jr.

(2) List of Navy personnel (military and civilian) involved in the autopsy of President Kennedy

Enclosure (1) is a copy of the letter from the Surgeon General to Mr. Boyers regarding the Navy's position as to Mr. Boyers speaking with the Select Committee about the autopsy of President Kennedy. Identical letters were sent to the individuals listed in enclosure (2).

ROBERT E. BROACH

Lieutenant Commander, JAGC, USN Special Assistant to the Surgeon General for Medico-Legal Affairs



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20372

BUMED:003:mcp 13 March 1978

REGISTERED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Chester Herschel Boyers, Jr. Route 1 Box 447 Smithfield, Virginia 23430

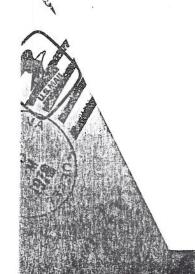
Dear Mr. Boyers:

In November 1963, you were ordered to discuss with no one the events connected with your official duties regarding the autopsy performed on President John F. Kennedy on the evening of 22-23 November 1963.

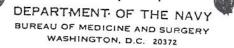
The Select Committee on Assassinations of the U.S. House of Representatives is presently conducting an inquiry into the death of President Kennedy. You are advised that the Department of the Navy interposes no objection to you, should you wish to do so, discussing with designated members of the Select Committee's staff, matters pertaining to the autopsy of President Kennedy.

Sincerely,

W. P. ARENTZEN USN Vice Admiral, MC, USN







BUMED: 003: mcp 13 March 1978

REGISTERED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Captain Robert Frederick Karnei, Jr., MC, USN National Naval Medical Center Bethesda, Maryland 20014

Dear Captain Karnei:

In November 1963, you were ordered to discuss with no one the events connected with your official duties regarding the autopsy performed on President John F. Kennedy on the evening of 22-23 November 1963.

The Select Committee on Assassinations of the U.S. House of Representatives is presently conducting an inquiry into the death of President Kennedy. You are advised that the Department of the Navy interposes no objection to you, should you wish to do so, discussing with designated members of the Select Committee's staff, matters pertaining to the autopsy of President Kennedy.

Sincerely,

W. P. ARENTZEN

Vice Admiral, MC, USN





BUMED:003:mcp 13 March 1978

REGISTERED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

J. Thornton Boswell, M.D. 11134 Stephalee Lane Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Dr. Boswell:

In November 1963, you were ordered to discuss with no one the events connected with your official duties regarding the autopsy performed on President John F. Kennedy on the evening of 22-23 November 1963.

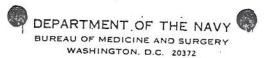
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Sincerely,

W. P. ARENTZEN (

Vice Admiral, MC, Surgeon General





BUMED:003:mcp 13 March 1978

REGISTERED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

John Henry Ebersole, M.D. 1440 Hunsicker Road Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17601

Dear Dr. Ebersole:

In November 1963, you were ordered to discuss with no one the events connected with your official duties regarding the autopsy performed on President John F. Kennedy on the evening of 22-23 November 1963.

The Select Committee on Assassinations of the U.S. House of Representatives is presently conducting an inquiry into the death of President Kennedy. You are advised that the Department of the Navy interposes no objection to you, should you wish to do so, discussing with designated members of the Select Committee's staff matters pertaining to the autopsy of President Kennedy.

Sincerely,

W. P. ARENTZEN

Vice Admiral, MC, USN



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20372

BUMED:003:mcp 13 March 1978

REGISTERED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

James Joseph Humes, M.D. 1336 Lochmoor Boulevard Grosse Pointe, Michigan 48236

Dear Dr. Humes:

In November 1963, you were ordered to discuss with no one the events connected with your official duties regarding the autopsy performed on President John F. Kennedy on the evening of 22-23 November 1963.

The Select Committee on Assassinations of the U.S. House of Representatives is presently conducting an inquiry into the death of President Kennedy. You are advised that the Department of the Navy interposes no objection to you, should you wish to do so, discussing with designated members of the Select Committee's staff, matters pertaining to the autopsy of President Kennedy.

Sincerely,

W. P. ARENTZEN Vice Admiral, MC, USN



BUMED:003:mcp 13 March 1978

REGISTERED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mrs. Elsie Boehm Closson 1348 Killian Street Daytona Beach, Florida 32014

Dear Mrs. Closson:

In November 1963, you were ordered to discuss with no one the events connected with your official duties regarding the autopsy performed on President John F. Kennedy on the evening of 22-23 November 1963.

The Select Committee on Assassinations of the U.S. House of Representatives is presently conducting an inquiry into the death of President Kennedy. You are advised that the Department of the Navy interposes no objection to you, should you wish to do so, discussing with designated members of the Select Committee's staff, matters pertaining to the autopsy of President Kennedy.

Sincerely,

W. P. ARENTZEN

Vice Admiral, MC, USN





DEPARTMENT OF THE NAV BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20372

BUMED: 003:mcp 13 March 1978

REGISTERED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Jerrol F. Custer 3966 Catherine Street Allison Park, Pennsylvania 15101

Dear Mr. Custer:

In November 1963, you were ordered to discuss with no one the events connected with your official duties regarding the autopsy performed on President John F. Kennedy on the evening of 22-23 November 1963.

The Select Committee on Assassinations of the U.S. House of Representatives is presently conducting an inquiry into the death of President Kennedy. You are advised that the Department of the Navy interposes no objection to you, should you wish to do so, discussing with designated members of the Select Committee's staff, matters pertaining to the autopsy of President Kennedy.

Sincerely,

W. P. ARENTZEN Vice Admiral, MC,



BUMED: 003:mcp 13 March 1978

REGISTERED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. James Curtis Jenkins Box 244 Summit, Mississippi 39666

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

In November 1963, you were ordered to discuss with no one the events connected with your official duties regarding the autopsy performed on President John F. Kennedy on the evening of 22-23 November 1963.

The Select Committee on Assassinations of the U.S. House of Representatives is presently conducting an inquiry into the death of President Kennedy. You are advised that the Department of the Navy interposes no objection to you, should you wish to do so, discussing with designated members of the Select Committee's staff, matters pertaining to the autopsy of President Kennedy.

Sincerely.

W. P. ARENTZEN Vice Admiral, MC, USN



BUMED:003:mcp 13 March 1978

REGISTERED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. James Eugene Metzler 1325 South Street Pottstown, Pennsylvania 19464

Dear Mr. Metzler:

In November 1963, you were ordered to discuss with no one the events connected with your official duties regarding the autopsy performed on President John F. Kennedy on the evening of 22-23 November 1963.

The Select Committee on Assassinations of the U.S. House of Representatives is presently conducting an inquiry into the death of President Kennedy. You are advised that the Department of the Navy interposes no objection to you, should you wish to do so, discussing with designated members of the Select Committee's staff, matters pertaining to the autopsy of President Kennedy.

Sincerely,

W. P. ARENTZEN (

Vice Admiral, MC, USN





BUMED:003:mcp 13 March 1978

REGISTERED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Paul Kelly O'Connor 319 Howard Lane Eau Gallie, Florida 32935

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

In November 1963, you were ordered to discuss with no one the events connected with your official duties regarding the autopsy performed on President John F. Kennedy on the evening of 22-23 November 1963.

The Select Committee on Assassinations of the U.S. House of Representatives is presently conducting an inquiry into the death of President Kennedy. You are advised that the Department of the Navy interposes no objection to you, should you wish to do so, discussing with designated members of the Select Committee's staff, matters pertaining to the autopsy of President Kennedy.

Sincerely,

W. P. ARENTZEN ()
Vice Admiral, MC, USN



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VASHINGTON, D.C. 20372

BUMED:003:mcp 13 March 1978

REGISTERED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Edward F. Reed, Jr. 859 Fairview Drive Warminster, Pennsylvania 18974

Dear Mr. Reed:

In November 1963, you were ordered to discuss with no one the events connected with your official duties regarding the autopsy performed on President John F. Kennedy on the evening of 22-23 November 1963.

The Select Committee on Assassinations of the U.S. House of Representatives is presently conducting an inquiry into the death of President Kennedy. You are advised that the Department of the Navy interposes no objection to you, should you wish to do so, discussing with designated members of the Select Committee's staff, matters pertaining to the autopsy of President Kennedy.

Sincerely,

W. P. ARENTZEN
Vice Admiral, MC, USN
Surgeon General





DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20372

IN REPLY REFER TO

BUMED:003:mcp 13 March 1978

REGISTERED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Floyd Albert Riebe 1001 Tenth Street Racine, Wisconsin 53403

Dear Mr. Riebe:

In November 1963, you were ordered to discuss with no one the events connected with your official duties regarding the autopsy performed on President John F. Kennedy on the evening of 22-23 November 1963.

The Select Committee on Assassinations of the U.S. House of Representatives is presently conducting an inquiry into the death of President Kennedy. You are advised that the Department of the Navy interposes no objection to you, should you wish to do so, discussing with designated members of the Select Committee's staff, matters pertaining to the autopsy of President Kennedy.

Sincerely,

W. P. ARENTZEN USN



N REPLY REFER TO

BUMED:003:mcp 13 March 1978

REGISTERED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Robert William Rittmeyer 4525 South Trask Street Tampa, Florida 33611

Dear Mr. Rittmeyer:

In November 1963, you were ordered to discuss with no one the events connected with your official duties regarding the autopsy performed on President John F. Kennedy on the evening of 22-23 November 1963.

The Select Committee on Assassinations of the U.S. House of Representatives is presently conducting an inquiry into the death of President Kennedy. You are advised that the Department of the Navy interposes no objection to you, should you wish to do so, discussing with designated members of the Select Committee's staff, matters pertaining to the autopsy of President Kennedy.

Sincerely,

W. P. ARENTZEN

Vice Admiral, MC, USN



BUMED:003:mcp 13 March 1978

REGISTERED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Jan Gail Rudnicki 10412 Montgomery Avenue Bethesda, Maryland 20015

Dear Mr. Rudnicki:

In November 1963, you were ordered to discuss with no one the events connected with your official duties regarding the autopsy performed on President John F. Kennedy on the evening of 22-23 November 1963.

The Select Committee on Assassinations of the U.S. House of Representatives is presently conducting an inquiry into the death of President Kennedy. You are advised that the Department of the Navy interposes no objection to you, should you wish to do so, discussing with designated members of the Select Committee's staff, matters pertaining to the autopsy of President Kennedy.

Sincerely,

W. P. ARENTZEN OVICE Admiral, MC, USN



BUMED:003:mcp 13 March 1978

REGISTERED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Harold Alfred Rydberg 701 Howell Avenue Brooksville, Florida 33512

Dear Mr. Rydberg:

In November 1963, you were ordered to discuss with no one the events connected with your official duties regarding the autopsy performed on President John F. Kennedy on the evening of 22-23 November 1963.

The Select Committee on Assassinations of the U.S. House of Representatives is presently conducting an inquiry into the death of President Kennedy. You are advised that the Department of the Navy interposes no objection to you, should you wish to do so, discussing with designated members of the Select Committee's staff, matters pertaining to the autopsy of President Kennedy.

Sincerely.

W. P. ARENTZEN (Vice Admiral, MC,

Surgeon General

USMAIL

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003



IN REPLY REFER TO

BUMED:003:mcp 13 March 1978

REGISTERED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. John Thomas Stringer 23 Dolphin Drive Vero Beach, Florida 32960

Dear Mr. Stringer:

In November 1963, you were ordered to discuss with no one the events connected with your official duties regarding the autopsy performed on President John F. Kennedy on the evening of 22-23 November 1963.

The Select Committee on Assassinations of the U.S. House of Representatives is presently conducting an inquiry into the death of President Kennedy. You are advised that the Department of the Navy interposes no objection to you, should you wish to do so, discussing with designated members of the Select Committee's staff, matters pertaining to the autopsy of President Kennedy.

Sincerely,

W. P. ARENTZEN

Vice Admiral, MC, USN

Captain Robert Frederick Karnei, Jr., MC, USN National Naval Medical Center
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

J. Thornton Boswell, M.D.
11134 Stephalee Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20850

John Henry Ebersole, M.D.

1440 Hunsicker Road
Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17601

James Joseph Humes, M.D.

2) 201336 Lochmoor Boulevard

Grosse Pointe, Michigan 48236

Mr. Chester Herschel Boyers, Jr. Route 1 Box 447
Smithfield, Virginia 23430

Mrs. Elsie Boehm Closson
2)20 1348 Killian Street
2)16 Daytona Beach, Florida 32014

Mr. Jerrol F. Custer 3966 Catherine Street Allison Park, Pennsylvania 15101

3/20 Mr. James Curtis Jenkins Box 244 Summit, Mississippi 39666

Mr. James Eugene Metzler 1325 South Street Pottstown, Pennsylvania 19464

Mr. Paul Kelly O'Connor 319 Howard Lane Eau Gallie, Florida 32935

Mr. Edward F. Reed, Jr. 859 Fairview Drive Warminster, Pennsylvania 18974

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20 Mr. John Thomas Stringer 23 Dolphin Drive 3/16) Vero Beach, Florida 32960

2