

This is important because at that time our covert operations were under the direction of NSC 5412 that absolutely prohibited the use of military units or equipment in covert operations. JFK did not have the discretion to use Navy aircraft...unless he had convened the NSC and gone through the elaborate process of nullifying the long-time directive "5412." We all knew that. And because everyone at the meeting that Sunday, Apr 16, 1961 knew that, this is why they all approved the B-26 strike before dawn to destroy those last three aircraft.

When the whole thing collapsed because of the Bundy call the CIA and many of the Cubans began this story about navy planes. Of course the navy planes could have done it, but they were not needed and they were not permissible. When Gen Taylor, Adm Burke, Allen Dulles and Bobby met during Apr-May-June 1961 and reviewed the whole thing, they came up with the Bundy call as the basic reason for the failure. They did...unanimously. See "Taylor Letter to the President" June 13, 1961 from JFK Library files.

You hit the nail on the head about "pushing" my garden cart. My yard is small. I push the cart with small loads and on the level. I pull the cart up any incline, and I set it on end and put a bag of fertilizer (or other heavy item) on its front end and then tip it back levering the load into the cart. No lift! That's good for up to 100 pounds. It's a great cart.

As I may have told you, I do consultant work from time to time. I like it. It keeps me going and gives me new things to work on. I have been busy with a major project that is a Phase Two of one I had done a long time ago. It pays well, keeps me busy, but I get far behind on correspondence and other such things. I find that all a guy needs is a computer and a FAX machine, and he'll have more work than he can handle.

Ciao, always glad to hear from you,

*Fletcher*  
L. Fletcher Prouty