

February 18, 1997

**Questions for Alexander G. Ayers, Jr.**

I. USMC Career Information

A. Provide Outline of USMC Active Duty Career (dates, commands, locations)

(Known: At Quantico: 17 Feb 56-14 Dec 56

Unclear: Doing What?

Known: 16 Sep 57-30 Apr 58: Stationed somewhere

Unclear: Where? Doing what?)

B. Describe duties as they evolved at MCAS El Toro

(Known: Arrived H & HS (Asst OIC Dft Sec): 1 May 58-24 May 58

Admin O OverDr: 25 May 58

Casualty Asst Off: 30 Sep 58-1 Mar 59

**OIC SepSection: 2 Mar 59-9 Apr 59**

**Admin Off/Overseas Draft Sec: 10 Apr 59-30 Jun 59**

Admin Off/Overseas Draft/Asst OIC SepSec/Casualty Asst Off: 1 Jul

**59-21 Nov 59**

Discharge Date: 21 Nov 59)

C. Did any of your duties require you to have a security clearance? Which duties? What level of clearance?

II. Describe Duties of OIC and Assistant OIC of Separation Section

III. Describe types of I.D.Cards Issued, by Regulation, to Marines Leaving Active Duty, as follows:

A. Marines going into the Reserves: after July 1959

(Known: DD Form 2MCR--"Red or Pink")

B. Marines going into the Reserves: between July 1957-July 1959

(Known: DD Form 1173--"Brown or Tan")

- C. Do you remember a change in procedures? What type of change? When was it implemented?

(Were these procedures always followed?)

(Known: Service records of 8 USMC personnel stationed at El Toro [MACS-9 or H & HS] and discharged after July 1959 were checked, and of these 8 people, 6 received the DD 1173, 1 received the DD 2MCR, and in the case of one individual, it is unclear--but was probably a DD 1173.)

- IV. Based on your recollections, were Marines allowed to apply for and receive U.S. passports while on active duty; that is, was there any prohibition against this, either by the Department of State or by the USMC?

- V. Please describe the normal "outprocessing" routine for enlisted Marines attached to the Separation Section at H & HS in 1959: who prepared which documents, and how much contact was there between the OIC/Assistant OIC and the personnel being discharged?

- A. Were Reserve I.D. cards ever issued prior to the day of discharge? If so, under what circumstances?

- VI. Do you remember anything about Lee Harvey Oswald? If so, what do you remember?

- A. Were you aware he applied for a passport on September 4, 1959? For example, did you ever receive a call from the Passport Office asking about his status, or release date? Was there scuttlebutt about Oswald applying for a passport? If so, did you perceive a conflict between a Marine getting a hardship discharge, and applying for a passport?

(Relevance: Oswald transferred out of MACS-9 on 3 September, joined H & HS on 4 September, and was discharged on 11 September. Whereas Oswald applied for a passport on 4 September, the Passport Office, however, did not "issue" the passport until 10 September, the day after they received the "To Whom It May Concern" memo which clarified the date of his impending discharge from active duty.)

- VII. "To Whom It May Concern" Memo: typewritten on plain bond, typed date "4 Sept 59", from

“Separation Section, H & HS., El Toro, Santa Ana, California,” typed signature block reads: “A.G. Ayers, JR, 1st Lt. USMCR,” but it is not signed by Ayers--instead by “Stout, 1st Sgt,” and finally, it is time-stamped by the Department of State Passport Office in Los Angeles as having been received at 9:54 A.M. on September 9, 1959. (Contents of memo inform the reader--the L.A. Passport Office--that Oswald will be released from active duty and transferred to the Marine Corps Reserve on 11 September, 1959.)

- A. Do you recall ever having seen such a memo in 1959?
- B. Have you seen it since?
- C. Did you know a 1st Sergeant Zack Stout? If so, what unit was he in, and what were his duties?

VIII. Oswald’s DD 1173 I.D. Card:

- A. Do you remember anything about issuing this card?
- B. Do you remember whether this card was issued “early” for any reason? If so, how early? One day? One week?

(Background: the typed issue date on the card is 11 Sep 1959. Oswald’s passport was “issued” on 10 September 1959--it is unclear whether the card was actually picked up by Oswald on that day from the passport office, or whether “issued” simply refers to the day the document was created, without reference to when it was picked up by the recipient. The unique I.D. card serial number for this 11 Sep 1959 card is typed on the passport application dated 4 September--this apparent anomaly is as yet unexplained.)

- C. How likely is it that an enlisted Marine about to be discharged would receive his Reserve I.D. card one day earlier than the day of discharge (i.e., 10 Sep 1959)? One week earlier (i.e., 4 Sep 1959)?

IX. Your Security Clearance

- A. Did you require a security clearance to perform any of your duties while attached to H & HS at El Toro? Which duties? What level of clearance?
- B. Do you remember receiving a clearance? What level? When? For what purpose?

Can you explain why you did not receive a security clearance until 1.5 months prior to your own discharge, and not earlier, in conjunction with any of your assignments at H & HS?

(Known: on the Administrative Remarks page of your service record, an entry is made indicating that you were granted a Secret Clearance on 11 Sep 1959; this is relatively close to your discharge date of 21 Nov 59.)

- C. Did your receipt of this clearance have anything to do, in any way, with the discharge, or passport application, of Lee Harvey Oswald? (With the defection of Lee Harvey Oswald?)

(Context: 1st Lt Ayers was granted a secret clearance on the same day Lee Harvey Oswald was discharged from the Marine Corps: 11 Sep 1959.)

- X. Prior to leaving active duty on November 21, 1959, were you aware of any investigation at El Toro by the USMC or the Navy (or any other agency of the government) into Lee Harvey Oswald?

(Context: Oswald attempted to renounce his U.S. citizenship in Moscow on October 31, 1959.)

- XI. FBI Interview on April 23, 1964: Any comments to make?

A. Was the interview in person? Do you remember the name of the FBI agent?

(Context: FBI interview reports that he could not remember anything about Oswald.)