

MEMORANDUM

May 30, 2017

TO: Jeremy Gunn

CC: Doug Horne, Michelle Combs, Eileen Sullivan

FROM: Jim Goslee

SUBJECT: Sensitive Records and Information Agency

Background

A letter, dated 18 Feb 1998, was sent by Mr. Michael Ravnitzky to the Assassination Records Review Board regarding the possibility that the Sensitive Records and Information Agency (SRIA) possesses assassination related documents. Michelle Combs contacted this agency by telephone using the number provided by Mr. Ravnitzky and spoke with the Sgt. Klemtke, the non-commissioned officer in charge (NCOIC). Sgt. Klemtke stated that SRIA is a staff support agency of the Technical Management Office (TMO) of the U.S. Army and that Army Regulation 380-381 contains the charter for TMO and describes SRIA. Sgt. Klemtke stated that SRIA was created in 1993 and that they do not have any files older than 1986. Older materials would be held at the National Archives, the U.S. Army's Intelligence and Security Command, and the U.S. Army's Investigative Records Repository. Michelle Combs asked me, as the staffer working with the Army, to review this Army regulation and to prepare an unclassified summary of the contents of the regulation, so that the ARRB can respond to Mr. Ravnitzky.

Investigation

I contacted Elaine Rogic at the Army's Investigative Records Repository and set up an appointment to review this Army regulation. Army Regulation 380-381, entitled Special Access Programs (U), is a classified Army regulation, effective 4 Jan 93, that controls policies and procedures for administering Special Access Programs (SAPs).

Goslee e:\wp-docs\SRIA1.wpd

File: 4.0.4 and 4.13.3

A SAP is a security program established as a result of E.O. 12356 and authorized by the Secretary of Defense to administer Extraordinary Security Measures necessary to control access, distribution and protection for Particularly Sensitive Information. The nature of this Particularly Sensitive Information is classified Confidential and is addressed in Paragraph 1-4 of AR 380-381. The general nature of this information is that it involves technical programs, to include ongoing research and development projects of a highly classified nature, accessible on a compartmented, need to know basis.

SAPs are considered so sensitive that the security provisions under AR 380-5 are not sufficient to insure necessary limitations on access, and that the “proposed activity is so sensitive that the cost, loss of advantage, or damage to national security which would result from compromise is unacceptable”.

Each of the Armed Services has some type of program for dealing with SAPs. The SRIA is the Army’s support agency for Army SAPs and falls under the Technical Management Office (TMO). The TMO is not part of INSCOM and is managed under the auspices of the Director of the Army Staff. SRIA only manages the limited number of documents that are not eligible for transfer to another agency under the security provisions of AR 380-5. Paragraph 4-7 of AR 380-381 identifies SRIA’s role in managing SAP files.

All SAPs must be approved by the Secretary of the Army and Deputy Secretary of Defense and are reviewed annually for continuance. A SAP will automatically terminate after 5 years unless reestablished in accordance with AR 380-381.

Conclusions

The SRIA and its Special Access Programs are not believed relevant to the Kennedy Assassination and do not fall within the mandate of the Assassination Records Review Board. Any member of the public who inquires about Sensitive Records and Information Agency should be informed that the SRIA manages highly classified post-1985 information regarding technical programs and that ARRB staff has determined that none of the information they hold is relevant to the Kennedy assassination.