
DRAFT
Final Report, Chapter 6
Section III(B)
Military Records on Vietnam
July 14, 1998

T:\Final\Chap6\Ch601DH.wpd

The Review Board staff located military records on Vietnam in three different collections of records.

First, personnel of the Information Management Division of the Joint Staff Secretariat spent approximately 210 man-hours searching for records related to both Cuba and Vietnam policy in Record Group 218 at the National Archives. As in the case of the Cuba records cited above in Section II, Vietnam records were flagged from within the 1961-1964 records of JCS Chairmen Lemnitzer, Taylor and Wheeler, and the Central Files of the Joint Staff for the same time period. Of the 146 flagged records that the Review Board staff agreed pertained to either Cuba or Vietnam, about one third were related to U.S. policy or activities in Vietnam. Most of the Vietnam records originated in 1963 or 1964; a small number dated from 1961.

Second, a small number of records (approximately 40) from the personal papers of Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara at the National Archives contain some records on Vietnam policy, and have had JFK Collection RIFs created for them by the Review Board staff under the Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD) "195" number series. Although from a Deed of Gift collection, these records are different from the autopsy materials in that the Deed of Gift does not restrict access of the materials to the government.

Third, a three-part Joint Chiefs of Staff official history titled "The Joint Chiefs of Staff and the War in Vietnam, 1960-1968," made available by the Joint Staff Secretariat, was photocopied for transmission to the Review Board staff and placement in the JFK Collection. The Review Board agreed to the Executive Director's recommendation to treat this document as an "EHU," with the proviso that it not be RIFed, and not be designated an

assassination record. As released to the Review Board staff, the document is reputed to be in the same “open” format in which it can be obtained at the OSD Office of History through any FOIA request, having already been sanitized by the CIA (with minimal redactions).
