

Working with CIA

The Review Board's work with the CIA has been through the auspices of the Agency's Historical Review Program (previously the Historical Review Group) under JFK Program Chief J. Barry Harrelson. HRP reviewed documents, referred documents within CIA, answered questions, negotiated issues with the Review Board staff, and, after the Board's vote, processed the documents for release to the National Archives. The HRG reviewers were all CIA annuitants with twenty years or more experience working as independent contractors. Beginning with a staff of 14 in 1992, by the summer of 1998, the staff had grown steadily to encompass most of HRP's resources with 29 reviewers and 9 administrative and support personnel. HRP also drew on CIA-Wide resources for searches, reviews answers to questions, and additional materials. From 1993 until December 1997, HRG functioned as part of the Center for Studies in Intelligence and, its chief, John F. Pereira, was the Director of Central Intelligence's personal representative to the Review Board. In January 1998, an internal CIA re-organization renamed HRG the Historical Review Program and moved it to join other Agency declassification, release, and publication efforts in the Office of Information Management under its director Edmund Cohen.

Working with NSA

The National Security Agency began its efforts in compliance with the JFK Act with the passage of the Act in 1993. NSA staff officer Lee Schroyer was assigned as the JFK Act project officer. Schroyer and the Review Board staff worked to process previously identified records and negotiated redactions to develop acceptable compromises of competing interests. After Board votes, the documents were returned to NSA for redaction and declassification. NSA then returned the redacted and released documents to the Review Board for shipment to the National Archives. Schroyer also coordinated Review Board requests for additional searches, three requests to NSA for additional information and records, an NSA briefing for Review Board members, and a meeting between NSA experts and historians and a Review Board member to discuss NSA capabilities and Cuba in the early 1960's. NSA demonstrated a willingness to devote the necessary resources to compete Review Board requests for additional searches and information--at one point marshaling 35 people for a hand search of newly discovered records. The Review Board has appreciated the excellent work of JFK Act project officer Lee Schroyer and Information Security Policy Chief Claudia Collins in their efforts to facilitate NSA's compliance with the JFK Act and in their willingness to work with the Review Board and its staff.

Working with NSC

The National Security Council assigned one individual as the contact point for the Review Board, first Dave Van Tassel, Director of Access Management, and then Lisa Salvetti, Deputy Director of Access Management. The Review Board staff reviewed the NSC holdings from the relevant time period and selected documents from the NSC archives. NSC referred and processed the documents. Only a few redactions required negotiation with the Review Board staff. No additional searches were requested from NSC.