

August 21, 1996

Mr. Duane L. Cooper  
2413 Big Pine Dr.  
St. Joseph, MO 64503

Dear Mr. Cooper:

The Assassination Records Review Board (ARRB) is an independent Federal Agency established pursuant to the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (Supp. V 1994). The Review Board, whose members are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, is charged with the responsibility of collecting records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. The Review Board is not seeking to reach any conclusions regarding the assassination, but is primarily concerned with identifying, clarifying, locating, and making available assassination records. I am enclosing some explanatory material about the Review Board and its mandate.

Mr. Christopher Barger, a member of my staff, was given your name by Mr. Steve Billick. Mr. Billick read an article in the Pentagon newspaper, Pentagram, which detailed the Review Board's search for additional military records and information. Mr. Billick believed that you might be able to contribute in some way to the Board's efforts. It is our understanding that you were a pilot in the presidential helicopter squadron during the late 1950's and early 1960's, and that you might have been in Dallas on November 22, 1963. If this is correct, we would very much like to speak to you in the near future about your experiences and recollections of that day. There are a few aspects of the official record that the Review Board would like to clarify, and, to the extent you can recall the events you were involved in on November 22-23, 1963, we feel you can assist with this process.

Mr. Barger will attempt to contact you by phone some time during the next few weeks. Our goal is to conduct a telephone interview with you either at that time or at your earliest convenience. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Board, calling collect if you so wish, at (202) 724-0088. Mr. Barger's extension is 259.

Sincerely,

David G. Marwell  
Executive Director