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JFK Assassination System

Identification Form

Agency Information

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## Memorandum



Dep. Dir.

ADD Inv Asst. Di<del>r.:</del> Adm. Servs. Crim.Inv. Info.Mant. insp. Lab. Legal Coun.

Tech. Servs Training

Off. of Public Affs. Telephone Rm.

Director's Office

Baugh

Date 9/20/93

From

Terry T. O'Connor Inspector-in-Charge

Subject :

OPERATIONAL STATUS OF COMPUTER HARDWARE/SOFTWARE **U**JFK TASK FORCE

To set forth the operational status of the computers in use on the JFK Task Force.

None, for information. RECOMMENDATION:

| APPROVED: | Adm. Corve.          | Inspection  | Off. of EFO Affe |
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The JFK Task Force uses two distinct computer operations (1) the inventorying of each document in each of our files and (2) the creation of Identification Aids.

Operation #1 is using R-Base via token ring to store for later research the description of each document. Eight IWS computers are available to create the inventory. During the day shift (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) five of the eight computers are used to enter/edit inventory data. The other three computers are used by analysts to inquire about the data stored. During the night shift (4 p.m. - midnight) four employees are entering or editing During the midnight shift (midnight - 8 a.m.) two employees are entering data. At times (normally 3 - 4 times per week) the hardware and/or software is unresponsive and we cannot enter data. This requires technical adjustment by Manfred Patterson or Carrie Perry. When more than two people are making inquiries we usually experience delays as the computer searches for the document we need. We are told that the delays are the result of the inadequate size of the R-Base and/or the result of too many people inquiring at one time.

62A-HQ-1029205

1 - IMD Front Office

1 - Mr. Cantamessa

1 - Mr. O'Connor

1 - Mr. Harmon

H:cep (5)

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Memorandum from Terry T. O'Connor to Mr. Baugh, dated 9/20/93
Re: Operational Status of Computer
Hardware/Software
JFK Task Force

The JFK Task Force began using computers for Operation #1 in August, 1992, and the Task Force was advised that R-Base was the most logical storage mechanism which was available to the FBI for our inventory which inventory would eventually exceed 157,000 documents. Jack Sobolewski and Manfred Patterson have provided excellent computer support for the task force and they have always responded promptly to any requests for assistance. Mr. Patterson has even split the database in two components to help us expedite our searches. The Task Force recommended and it was approved that Mr. Patterson receive an on-the-spot award for his work in writing a software program to support the inventory process. In the past three months Carrie Perry has worked with Manfred Patterson to solve problems when the computers become unresponsive.

Mr. Sobelewski has suggested that a file server will speed up the response time and reduce errors but will not solve all problems. Software problems might continue to exist. They also noted that the file server is very expensive and has already been previously requested by Carey Linton for other applications.

We are presently having no trouble with the computer hardware used in Operation #2. Operation #2 requires the creation and placement of data (Identification Aids) on a disk using software designed by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). NARA provides the disks for the software which was designed in December, 1992 (and updated in June and September, 1993). Nine IWS computers are being used to enter this data onto the disks. These computers are all on loan to the JFK Task Force from the Executive Agencies Dissemination Unit. Beginning 9/13/93, we will have approximately 20 people creating Identification Aids in rough draft and nine people entering the data.