

CONTACT PROFILE



Document's Author: Douglas Horne/ARRB Date Created: 10/01/96

Contact Description

Contact Name: Mr. Robert Young
Title: Executive Officer
Division: Naval Media Center (formerly NPC)
Agency Name: Department of the Navy
Street Address: The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

FAX Number:

E-mail Address:

Compliance contact: YES

Additional Information

Naval Media Center was formerly called the Naval Photographic Center (NPC). This command was involved in 1963 in development of photography of President Kennedy's autopsy. Presently the command has a military C.O., and a civilian X.O.. Mr. Young is the civilian Executive Officer.

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CALL REPORT



Document's Author: Douglas Horne/ARRB Date Created: 10/01/96

The Players

Who called whom? Douglas Horne called Mr. Robert Young of Department of the Navy, Douglas Horne called Naval Media Center (formerly NPC) of Department of the Navy

Description of the Call

Date: 10/01/96
Subject: NPC Records of President Kennedy's Autopsy Photography

Summary of the Call:

I called the civilian X.O. of the Naval Media Center, Mr. Robert Young, and explained that we are searching for any records whatsoever that his command may hold relating to development of photography taken at President Kennedy's autopsy. I told him, in the way of background, that the existing government receipt trail indicates that B & W negatives, color positive transparencies, and color prints of the President's autopsy were developed at the Naval Photographic Center in 1963.

I explained that we are looking for the following types of records:

- memoranda
- receipts
- logs
- personnel rosters
- photographic images of the autopsy (admittedly a long shot).

I told him that even if his command holds nothing now, we would like to know when they disposed of those types of records, and to whom they were sent.

He said that the only person at his command who should have knowledge of that era is his archivist, who is presently on a TAD assignment out-of-town, and will not be back for about a week. As soon as the archivist returns from TAD assignment, Mr. Young will have this person conduct a careful search for the types of records we are looking for.

I explained that my supervisor and I would probably want to pay a call on him and examine any records they have from 1963 (if any are found), but that we would wait for his return call. I emphasized that if Naval Media Center has no records now from 1963, that we would still want to know what the disposition of those records was--who they were given to, and when, and/or what was destroyed, and when.

END

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CONTACT PROFILE



Document's Author: Douglas Horne/ARRB Date Created: 10/02/96

Contact Description

Contact Name: Vernon Smith

Title:

Division: Textual Reference Branch

Agency Name: NARA - College Park

Street Address: 8601 Adelphi Road
CollegePark, MD 20740-6001

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

FAX Number:

E-mail Address:

Compliance contact: YES

Additional Information

This person is our point of contact for post-W.W. II military records at NARA.

001823

CALL REPORT



Document's Author: Douglas Horne/ARRB Date Created: 10/02/96

The Players

Who called whom? Douglas Horne called Vernon Smith of NARA - College Park

Description of the Call

Date: 10/02/96

Subject: USMC and Navy (NPC) Records

Summary of the Call:

I asked Mr. Smith to look for the following records:

-USMC: MACS-1 and MACS-9 operational records or reports of any kind from 1957-1959;

-Navy: Naval Photographic Center (NPC) records of any kind from November and December 1963
(with the emphasis on personnel rosters, memoranda, logs, receipts, etc.).

He told me that the Archives has just recently received W.W. II operational records from the Navy and Marine Corps, and that NARA has very few records from the post-W.W. II period from any of the armed services. He said that the best source for post-W.W. II records from the Marine Corps and Navy would be their Historical Centers in the Navy Yard, and named Fred Grabske (USMC) and Kathy Lloyd (Navy) as the best sources.

He promised to call me within 2 weeks or so with a response to my request.

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CALL REPORT



Document's Author: Douglas Horne/ARRB Date Created: 10/04/96

The Players

Who called whom? Kathy Lloyd of Department of the Navy called Douglas Horne

Description of the Call

Date: 10/04/96

Subject: **Kathy Lloyd Called ARRB**

Summary of the Call:

Kathy Lloyd at the Navy Historical Center returned my call today. I asked her to search for any and all records she may have from the Naval Photographic Center from 1963 and 1964. She said that the only thing that the Navy Historical Center would have might be the command history for 1963 and/or 1964 (if it was submitted). She said that in those days there was no system in the Navy to "gig" commands who failed to turn in the Command History.

She also said that routine records such as logbooks, memoranda and correspondence would not have been turned into the Navy Historical Center, but instead would have been turned into Suitland, if they were saved at all. I informed her that we are pursuing those issues with the Naval Media Center's executive officer and archivist.

She will conduct a search for NPC command histories (and any other records from NPC she can find) and get back to me, one way or another. END

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CALL REPORT



Document's Author: Douglas Horne/ARRB Date Created: 10/11/96

The Players

Who called whom? Kathy Lloyd of Department of the Navy called Douglas Horne

Description of the Call

Date: 10/11/96
Subject: Kathy Lloyd Called Doug Horne

Summary of the Call:

Kathy Lloyd, Archivist at the Navy Historical Center, called me today to report that there were no Command Histories on file at the Navy Historical Center generated by the Naval Photographic Center for 1963 or 1964. She reminded me that there was no Navy-wide tickler system in those days to "gig" commands which did not comply with the requirement to submit an annual Command History. She could not locate any other NPC documents at the Navy Historical Center, either.

She suggested we try going out to the Federal Records Center at Suitland and looking through their books of SF 135s to see if NPC retired any records there. She said that any routine records such as logbooks, receipts, memoranda or correspondence should have been retired to the FRC at Suitland.

One other approach, she suggested, would be to go to NPC today (author's note: now called the Naval Media Center) and check their records to see whether they themselves had any SF 135s on file which would indicate they had retired records at Suitland in the past. I told her that this inquiry was in progress, and that ARRB was waiting for the X.O. at Naval Media Center to respond to our request that he search for records.

She closed by reminding me that the standard Navy office in those days (as today) would only have retained records at the command for 2 or 3 years. END

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CALL REPORT



Document's Author: Douglas Horne/ARRB Date Created: 10/24/96

The Players

Who called whom? Douglas Horne called Mr. Don Montgomery of Department of the Navy

Description of the Call

Date: 10/23/96
Subject: Doug Horne Called Don Montgomery

Summary of the Call:

At the direction of his Executive Officer, Mr. Young, Don Montgomery called me last Friday, October 18, 1996 to discuss our request for records, and left a voice mail message for me identifying himself. Today I returned his call.

He identified himself as a "Photographic Accessionist," the person at Naval Media Center (formerly Naval Photographic Center) who decides what will be placed in their film archive, and the archivist who manages the archive. He has held this position for 16 years, and said he is the "old timer" with the longest experience at Naval Media Center.

He made the following statements:

-He categorically stated that Naval Media Center does not have any autopsy photos of President Kennedy. In 1990, he said that Naval Media Center transferred all still photographs covering the period June 1958-September 1981 to the National Archives; as a prelude to this transfer, he reviewed all film being transferred himself, and also went through all classified files and all special or unusual materials locked in safes, and found nothing related to the Kennedy assassination.

-He said that in the case of "special" photography such as autopsy photography (which they still do in some cases, such as ADM Mike Boorda recently), no photographs are kept by Naval Media Center, nor is any paperwork kept. He said that the procedure that he understands has always been that for sensitive VIP jobs such as autopsy photographs, the customer who delivers the film to the Navy for developing and processing always gets all of the film back, along with all paperwork associated with the order.

-He stated that even if paper records of any kind had been kept regarding the JFK autopsy photography developed at NPC, it was his firm opinion that they would have been routinely destroyed after two years (without any record of destruction), as is most administrative, routine paperwork in the Navy. He reminded me that it was, and still is, standard Navy culture to retain a minimum of documents, and to destroy most routine files (unofficial logs and working papers) after two years.

-He spoke with some "old timers" who had worked at NPC prior to him; although none of them had worked at NPC at the time of the Kennedy assassination, one of these people remembered that people from the Kennedy Library in Boston had acquired a large number of Kennedy photographs from NPC circa 1966. END

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