Understanding Special Operations
And Their Impact on The Vietnam War Era
1989 Interview with L. Fletcher Prouty, Colonel USAF (Retired)
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1. Colonel L. Fletcher Prouty’s Military Experiences 1941-1963 (tapes 1-3)

Part I, 1941-1945:
- Entering the Army, the Air Corps, and Air Transport Command
- Transport and VIP Pilot in North Africa, the Middle East, Eurasia, and the West Pacific

Part II, 1945-1961:
- On Okinawa: The Surrender of Japan, & 500,000 manpack Re-Routed to Korea and Indochina
- 1946-1948: Inaugurating the Air Force's ROTC Program at Yale
- 1949-1950: Writing the First USAF ROTC text book on Aeronautics and a Major Portion of Rockets and Guided Missiles
- 1952-1954: Managing Tokyo International Airport And Heavy-Transport Flying
- 1955: Attending the Armed Forces Staff College
- Coordination of the CIA: How Covert Operations Are Run
- The Suez Crisis of 1956
- The CIA in Europe
- Nuclear Warfare: the CIA becomes a Fourth Force
- Cuba, 1959-1960: From Over-The-Beach Work to Invasion

Part III, 1961-1963:
- Experiences of and Perspectives on the Bay of Pigs
- A Result of CIA Covert Military Commanders in Vietnam: The League of Families for the Prisoners of War in Southeast Asia
- JFK Prepares To Get Out Of Vietnam:
  - The Taylor/McNamara Trip Report of October 1963 and NSAM 263
- The Murders of President Diem and Kennedy
- Explanation of the Office of Special Operations--Military Services Providing Support to Government Clandestine Activities
- The Economy Act of 1932: Handling The Money To Run Covert Operations
- Clarifying the Role of the National Security Agency (NSA)
- Abolishing the OSO and Moving Special Operations Into the JCS

2. Understanding The Secret Team in the Post-World War II Era (tapes 4-6)

Part I:
- The Creation of the National Security Council
- The Dulles-Jackson-Correa Report
- Opening the Door to CIA Clandestine Operations:
  - Shifting NSC Oversight from Directing to Approving Plans
- The Function of the Director of Central Intelligence:
  - Coordinating Intelligence of the Government Intelligence Community
- Clandestine Operations: Out of Control
  - If Not Directed by the National Security Council
- Four Categories of Military Personnel Employed by CIA
Final Chapter in the History of War Making: Going From Offense to Defense
- The Threat of Nuclear Weapons: Making War Planning Obsolete
- Creating a Manichaean Devil to Justify Spending $6 Trillion for a Cold War
- Secret Team Foundations:
  - Creation of the CIA Focal Point System Throughout The Government

Part II:
- The Power of Indirection--
  - Military Units Financed and Controlled by the CIA
- Secret Team Growth: Focal Point Personnel Assuming Broader Roles
- Obtaining Everything Money Can Buy:
  - The CIA Act of 1949 and Secretary of Defense Johnson’s paper on Covert Operations
- Employing the System of Reimbursement To Fund Unaccountable Activities
- Post WWII War Plans--CIA Begins Amassing Its Own Stockpile of Military Equipment
- From the Chairman of the JCS On Down:
  - "where the CIA was concerned there were a lot of things no one seemed to know"
- The Importance of the CIA’s Deputy Director of Support (DD/S) Side of the Agency by the Time of the Bay Of Pigs
- Congressional Non-Oversight of Agency Funding and Executive Branch Responsibility for CIA
- The Significance of the Sense of Infallibility Leaders of the Agency Felt Imbued With
- The ST Running A Government Of Reaction:
  - All Secret Intelligence, And Brief The President On It Every Day

Part III:
- Allen Dulles: Forging a Government of Reaction
- Dispersion of the OSO, Creation of the Office of SACSA
- DOD Adoption of a Counterinsurgency Role in the late Eisenhower Years
- NSAM 55--JFK’s Attempt to Get CIA out of Clandestine Operations
- Chairman of the JCS: Exit Lyman Lemnitzer, Enter Maxwell Taylor
- Bay of Pigs Post-Mortem and the Dynamics of Personality:
  - Allen Dulles, Maxwell Taylor, and Bobby Kennedy
- Bay of Pigs Report: Taylor’s Letter to the President and the Origin of NSAM Nos. 55-57
- Understanding the Military Assistance Program (MAP)
- The Little Red Book’s Influence on General Stilwell and Lansdale
- MAP as a Sensor to React To
- MAP’s Ultimate Manifestation: Iran
- The Secret Team: Far Beyond the Capability of the CIA
- An Impossible Contradiction: Covert Operations Must Be Deniable

3. A Very Special Operation: The Assassination of President Kennedy  (tapes 7-8)

Part I:
- What Would Entail Conducting A Proper Murder Investigation?
- In Context: August-November 1963
- Cancelling Secret Service, Military, and Police Units in Dallas and Inserting False Actors in Their Place
- The Volume and Significance of the Photographic Evidence
- The Christchurch Star’s Impact Upon the Facts of the Assassination

Part II:
- The Existence of a High Cabal or Power Elite
- Magellan’s Circumnavigation of the Globe:
  - The Philosophy That Derived From Knowing the World Was Finite
- The Development of the East India Companies and "Proprietary" Colonies
- Inventorying Earth: Haileybury College and the Roles of Malthus and Darwin
- Two Books: The End of Economic Man and The Road To Teheran
- The Changing Nature of Warfare: From a Military to an Economic Basis
- Human History and the Composition of the High Cabal
- Building a Bridge: Trusting Ourselves to Know How to Work and Live Together