

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*
- 1950-1951: A New Air Defense Command
- 1952-1954: Managing Tokyo International Airport And Heavy-Transport Flying
- 1955: Attending the Armed Forces Staff College
- 1955: Assignment to New Position of "Focal Point" Officer for Air Force Support of U.S. Government Clandestine Operations
- 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:

- In The Context of Its Time: The National Security Act of 1947
- 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 Manichaeon 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)

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- 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