



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY COMMAND
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY OFFICE
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-5995

Freedom of Information/
Privacy Office

JUN 11 2020

MuckRock News
DEPT MR 94758
Attention: Ms. Emily Crose
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, Massachusetts 02144-2516

Dear MS. Crose:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of June 8, 2020, for copies of documents related to or associated with project "GRILL FLAME". Your request was received in this office on June 9, 2020.

We have completed a mandatory declassification review of the referred records in accordance with Executive Order 13526. As a result of this review, it has been determined that the records no longer warrant security classification protection and are partially releasable to you. A copy of the records are enclosed for your use.

Information has been sanitized that would result in an unwarranted invasion of the privacy rights of the individuals concerned. This information is exempt from public disclosure provisions of the FOIA pursuant to Title 5 U.S. Code 552 (b)(6).

The withholding of the information described above is a partial denial of your request. This denial is made on behalf of Major General Gary W. Johnston, Commanding, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, who is the Initial Denial Authority for Army intelligence investigative and security records under the FOIA. You have the right to appeal this decision to the Secretary of the Army. If you wish to file an appeal, you should forward it to this office. Your appeal must be postmarked no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. After the 90-day period, the case may be considered closed; however, such closure does not preclude you from filing litigation in the courts. You should state the basis for your disagreement with the response and you should provide justification for reconsideration of the denial. An appeal may not serve as a request for additional or new information. An appeal may only address information denied in this response. Your appeal is to be made to this office to the listed address for forwarding, as appropriate, to the Secretary of the Army, Office of the General Counsel.

Commander
U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command
Freedom of Information/Privacy Office (APPEAL)
2600 Ernie Pyle Street, Room 3S02-B
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland 20755-5995

We have been informed by the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) that their information is exempt from public disclosure pursuant to Title 5 U.S. Code § 552 (b)(1) of the Freedom of Information Act and Executive Order (EO) 13526.

The withholding of the information by the DIA constitutes a partial denial of your request and you have the right to appeal this decision directly to the DIA. If you decide to file an appeal, it should be forwarded to the Director, Defense Intelligence Agency, ATTN: DAN-1A-FOIA, Washington, DC 20340-5100. Please cite DIA case #CONF-0159-2016 assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified..

There are no assessable FOIA fees for processing this request.

If you have any questions regarding this action, feel free to contact this office at 1-866-548-5651, or email the INSCOM FOIA office at: usarmy.meade.902-mi-grp.mbx.inscom-foia-service-center@mail.mil and refer to case #0442F-20. Please note that you now have the ability to check the status of your request online via the U.S. Army Records Management and Declassification Agency (RMDA) website: <https://www.foia.army.mil/FACTS/CaseStatus.aspx>. Please refer to FOIA Control Number: FA-20-021111. You may also contact the INSCOM FOIA Public Liaison, Mrs. Joanne Benear, for further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request at 301-677-7856. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, email at ogis@nara.gov, telephone at 202-741-5700; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Sincerely,



Michael T. Heaton
Director
Freedom of Information/Privacy Office
Investigative Records Repository

Enclosure

AHR

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GRILL FLAME. (U) Project GRILL FLAME originated as a specially controlled and compartmented activity under the direct supervision of the ACSI, DA, and in coordination with other DOD agencies concerned with related activity. ACSI orally tasked HQ INSCOM to evaluate Project GRILL FLAME in October 1978. The ADCSOPS-HUMINT (HQ INSCOM) established an ad hoc team, drawing personnel from in-house and from other INSCOM elements in the Washington, DC, and Fort George G. Meade areas. Based on preliminary results and high level interest, INSCOM requested additional functions and 16 manpower spaces. These resources were identified as being required to conduct GRILL FLAME operations on a continuing basis. Latest DA Program Budget Guidance authorized five spaces (two civilians, two officers, and one enlisted) for INSCOM as a result of favorable congressional action on the FY 1982 Budget and Amendment. Seven additional spaces (two civilians and five officers) also stand a good chance of being approved for the FY 1983 budget. On 11 February 1981, ACSI formally transferred the GRILL FLAME program management responsibility to INSCOM where it was assigned to Detachment G, US Army Operational Group.²³

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY COMMAND
8825 BEULAH STREET
FORT BELVOIR, VIRGINIA 22060-5246



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

IACS

1 December 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, U.S.
Army, 1000 Army Pentagon, Washington, DC
20310-1000

SUBJECT: INSCOM Involvement in Extra Sensory Perception
Activities (ESPA)

1. ~~(S)~~ ^(U) At the urging of the ACSI, (MG Edmond Thompson) in October 1978, INSCOM began to evaluate and devote resources to ESPA. Driven by the notion that the Soviets might develop capabilities in this arena, key personalities in the intelligence community were determined to explore the potential usefulness of psychic phenomena in augmenting other collection disciplines. Initially, INSCOM established an ad hoc team drawing personnel from in-house and from other INSCOM elements in the local area. Based on preliminary results and high level interest, INSCOM requested additional funds and 16 manpower spaces in the HUMINT GDIP input to the FY82-86 POM. The project was codified under the title GRILL FLAME and a Letter of Instruction, outlining policy and direction for the operational management of the activity was approved by BG Thomas J. Flynn, Deputy Commander, Intelligence, INSCOM in September 1981.

2. ~~(S)~~ ^(U) In 1981, MG Albert N. Stubblebine III assumed command of INSCOM. Creative and headstrong, MG Stubblebine became an ardent advocate of ESPA, putting his personal stamp on the expansion of paranormal projects. GRILL FLAME flourished. Although highly compartmented, its existence and vague understandings of its workings were known by many members of the INSCOM HUMINT staff. The center piece of GRILL FLAME was a practice called "remote viewing." In short, it involved placing an individual in a controlled darkened environment, descending him or her into a self-hypnotic trance and causing him/her to vocally describe images and other impressions that came to mind. In an intelligence context, the subject would be given some parameters of a target area or an intelligence question and the subject's verbalization would be closely monitored. The thought process was for the subject to place himself or herself at the target site. The feedback developed from these sessions would, in theory, aid and expand other collection activities. Remote viewing, especially in the early 80's had a distinct cadre of supporters

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SUBJECT: INSCOM Involvement in Extra Sensory Perception Activities (ESPA)

(U) who really believed that this aspect of psychic phenomena represented a new and exciting breakthrough in intelligence gathering. They did their best to market its perceived success and to throw off the label of clairvoyance. The claims of remote viewing however, met with growing skepticism in the years that followed. Despite some success stories credited to remote viewing in the GRILL FLAME project, no claims have ever been accepted as truly real and independently verified.

3. ~~197~~ Concurrently, MG Stubblebine's preoccupation with paranormal events was causing alarm among the Army leadership. Most were the frequent references to his psychokinetic spoon bending sessions and other examples contradictory to established military protocols. In 1984, MG Stubblebine was succeeded by then MG Ed Soyster. The atmosphere at INSCOM changed. Many of the other psychic inspired activities went away. GRILL FLAME ultimately was transferred to DIA in the mid-80's. Efforts to kill the program outright failed because of lingering Congressional support and a small band of believers. The project operated under DIA until very recently and then moved entirely to CIA. INSCOM has not been involved in this effort or any related like effort since the transfer to DIA. It should be noted that as late as the summer of 1992, DIA staffers had approached b1 per DIA b1 per DIA about support to this project. b1 per DIA refused to become involved.

4. (U) Within INSCOM the office of the Inspector General has been tasked to monitor this issue and has created a small summary file of media reports pertaining to this subject.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

b6

MALCOLM L. HOLLINGSWORTH
Chief of Staff

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IAIG (340)

2 October 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Grill Flame

1. On 15 September 1995, I was called into a meeting hosted by the Chief of Staff. In attendance was former INSCOM Psychologist, Colonel [b6]. The subject was Project Grill Flame, its history, perceived effectiveness and current status. What triggered the discussion was a letter sent to the Secretary of the Army, dated 26 July 1995, from a Ms. [b6] (Attachment A). Ms. [b6] alleges that her life had been seriously harmed over perceived psychic warfare activity (psychotechnology), presumably being conducted by the Army. The SA office wanted a response to her concerns and specifically an answer to Army involvement in this or any related activity. Beside the [b6] letter, an extensive article appeared in the London Independent on 27 August 1995 entitled "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier" by Jim Schnabel. In this article, the author traces the history of expectations of extra sensory perception (ESP) (see Attachment B). He describes, rather accurately, Project Grill Flame and how Army poured money and resources into this activity highlighted by a concept called remote viewing. INSCOM is widely mentioned. The author describe how the project flourished, who backed it, and why, and how it ultimately went over to DIA.
2. In the meeting, [b6] and I described what we knew about the activities. The Chief of Staff was genuinely unaware of Grill Flame and its history. After some research aided by LTC [b6] SJA, we were able to determine that there appears to be no known INSCOM activity currently associated with this process. INSCOM got out of the business in the late 1980's and recently DIA has turned over its program to CIA. The project and its related activities has largely been out of DoD and fallen from grace.
3. In the aftermath of the meeting with the Chief of Staff, I uncovered the following:
 - a. Senator Claiborne Pell and his staff were largely instrumental in keeping the funding alive for this effort even when skepticism was building in the late 80's and 90's.

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IAIG
SUBJECT: Grill Flame

b. Despite some success stories being credited to remote viewing in the Grill Flame project, no claims have ever been accepted as truly real and independently verified. More smoke than substance.

c. INSCOM inside the History Office and (b) (1) Per DIA maintains a small set of holdings on this project. All known holdings were examined and most records returned with a small summary file established at the IG Office at least for the near term.

4. It should be noted that as late as the Summer of 1992, DIA staffers effort had approached b1 per DIA about support to this project b1 per DIA did not want to get involved.

5. There is speculation that the media will resurrect this effort and undue notoriety will follow. Already ABC 20/20 has queried CIA for information and an answer has been provided (Attachment C). The London article does suggest a possible movie about this project being considered.

6. The Chief of Staff has asked me to monitor developments concerning Grill Flame and advise accordingly. As far as I can determine, the project was well in vogue in the early 80's but lost its appeal within the MACOM by 1986, and essentially is not highly regarded among intel operatives who were aware of it. What is true is that Army and specifically INSCOM did participate in this heavily and some embarrassing episodes resulted. Media exaggeration can clearly hurt INSCOM's image. No other IG effort relating to this is envisioned.

3 Encls
as

b6

Colonel, IG
Inspector General

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Handwritten notes

Formalization of Project GRILL FLAME

IAOPB-B-P 10 Sep 1981

DCG-I approve and sign proposed LOI implementing first phase of assigning Project GRILL FLAME to USAOG

EPT b6 /677-7807

ORIGIN OF ACTION: ACSI orally tasked HQ INSCOM to evaluate Project GRILL FLAME in Oct 78. ADCSOPS-HUMINT established an ad hoc team, drawing personnel from in-house and from other INSCOM elements in the Wash, D.C. and Fort Meade areas. Based on preliminary results and high level interest, INSCOM requested additional funds and 16 manpower spaces in the HUMINT (PE 381321) GDIP input to the FY 82-86 and FY 83-87 POM's. These resources were identified as being required to conduct GRILL FLAME operations on a continuing basis. Latest DA PBC authorized 5 spaces (2 civ, 2 pff, and 1 EM) for INSCOM as result of favorable Congressional action on the FY 82 Budget and Amendment, thereto. Seven additional spaces (2 civ and 5 off) are included in the FY 83 FMRP and stand a good chance of being approved. ACSI message of 11 Feb 81 (TAB A) formally transferred GRILL FLAME program management responsibility to INSCOM.

DISCUSSION:

a. The approved spaces are in the operational Overt HUMINT PE. They can not be assigned to HQ INSCOM, an AMHA account. USAOG is the Overt HUMINT operational element in CONUS and is the most suitable unit to eventually conduct the activity. However, the limited manpower approved to date is insufficient to accomplish the mission. In order to continue operations at the current level, personnel augmentation by outside elements must continue, at least until receipt of the additional seven spaces (total of 12) in FY 83.

b. USAOG has submitted TDA changes (TAB B) which will create an element, Det G, (See reverse)

X X
X X
X X
X X

DCSOPS FILE 41

Handwritten notes: B1, 1201, 1202

DCSRM

USAOG *11 Sep 81*

ADCSOPS-HUMINT

b6 CGL, GS, DCSOPS
b6

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IA 32 Continuation

to conduct Project GRILL FLAME activity effective beginning FY 82 with the initial five spaces authorized. ADCSOPS-HUMINT clerical civilians assigned to the Project will be transferred effective 1 Oct 81. The three authorized military spaces will be used to cover some of the augmentation previously drawn from other INSCOM operational units. ADCSOPS-HUMINT will continue to provide the O-5 Chief during the interim and will retain OPCON at least until Det G has its own manpower and operational procedures are well established. Under this arrangement, DDR, USAOG needs written guidance (an LOI) on his role and responsibilities.

c. With the establishment of Det G, ADCSOPS-HUMINT will dissolve its "Special Actions Branch", created in 1979 specifically as a vehicle for this project.

WHAT THIS ACTION WILL ACCOMPLISH: DCG-I approval and signing of the LOI will reduce the ad hoc nature of GRILL FLAME activity effective 1 Oct 81 by implementing the first phase of its transfer to USAOG.

81,
was
branch

NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS

C/S

- need to go back re people - money

/// ~~SECRET~~ ///

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SSO
MG ROLYA

b6

~~EYES ONLY/EYES ONLY//EYES ONLY//EYES ONLY//EYES ONLY//EYES ONLY//~~

SSO INSCOM FOR MG ROLYA, CDR
INFO SSO HEADQ FOR LTC [b6] ADCSOPNS/HUMINT ONLY.
FROM MG E. F. THOMPSON, ACS1, DA WASH DC.
SUBJECT: GRILL FLAME (U)
A. COORDINATION BETWEEN MAJ [b6] DAMI-ISH AND LTC [b6] ADCSOPNS/
HUMINT.

- (U) 1. ~~(S//NOFORN) EFFECTIVE 14 JAN 81, BY APPROVAL OF UNDER SECRETARY OF ARMY, INSCOM IS NOW THE ONLY ACTIVE OPERATIONAL GRILL FLAME (GF) ELEMENT IN ARMY IN ORDER TO ENSURE A CONTINUED EFFECTIVE PROJECT THAT ALLOWS MAXIMUM RESPONSIBILITY/AUTHORITY TO INSCOM. REPORTING ELEMENT FOR GF IS TRANSFERRED FROM OACSI DA TO SSO INSCOM EFFECTIVE THIS DATE. OACSI, DAMI-ISH WILL CONTINUE TO CLOSELY MONITOR GF, AND REMAIN THE ARMY FOCAL POINT FOR POLICY MATTERS, AND WHEN REQUIRED INTERFACE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. THE ACS1 WILL CONTINUE TO BE INFORMED OF SIGNIFICANT GF ACTIONS/DEVELOPMENTS AS REQUIRED.~~
- (U) 2. ~~(S) RECOMMEND INSCOM GF ELEMENT CONTINUE TO ENSURE ALL LEGAL/MEDICAL HUMAN USE ISSUES ARE MET PRIOR TO CONDUCT OF ANY NEW GF INITIATIVES. FURTHER REQUEST CONTINUED CLOSE COORDINATION BETWEEN DAMI-ISH AND GF PROJECT OFFICER. REVW ON 31 MAY 81.~~

#0934

this msg was responded to the DCE-I, 23 Feb 81, via fact sheet form, see memo for record 1981

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Proposed change to USAOG TDA ASW 319AA*

Detachment G (GRILL FLAME)
Paragraph 009

<u>PARA</u>	<u>LINE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>GR</u>	<u>MOS</u>	<u>ASI/LIC</u>	<u>BR</u>	<u>ID</u>	<u>AMS</u>	<u>REQ</u>	<u>AUTH</u>
009	01	Chief	05	36B35		MI		381321	1	0
009	02	Intel Tng Off	04	36B35		MI		381321	1	1
009	03	Intel Coll Sec Ch	04	36B35		MI		381321	2	1
009	04	Project Off	03	36B35		MI		381321	5	0
009	05	Intel Tng Sgt	E7	96C40		NC		381321	1	1
009	06	Intel Opns Off	13	00132		GS		381321	1	1
009	07	Intel Opns (Rqmts)	12	00132		GS		381321	1	0
009	08	Admin Assistant	07	00341		GS		381321	1	0
009	09	Secy-steno	06	00318		GS		381321	1	1
009	10	Clk-typo	04	00322		GS		381321	2	0
PARA TOTAL									16	5

* CCNUM: AS0182
EDATE: 811001

LOG# 100-1

SUBJECT: Letter of Instructions - Project GRILL FLAME (U)

Commander
US Army Operational Group
Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755

1. (U) Purpose: This LOI establishes interim policy and direction for the administrative, logistical and operational management of the US Army Intelligence and Security Command (USAINSCOM) portion of DoD Project GRILL FLAME upon the project's transfer to the TDA of the US Army Operational Group (USAOG) (W319AAA) under project designator of Detachment G, USAOG. This LOI further delineates the relationship between the Commander, USAOG, and Commander, Det G, and structures the operational control and reporting channels to be utilized.

2. (U) General: Army Project GRILL FLAME originated as a specially controlled and compartmented activity under the direct supervision of the Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence (ACSI), IA, and in coordination with other DoD agencies concerned with related activity. For operational and staffing considerations, the activity was transferred to HQ, USAINSCOM, where it was conducted on an ad hoc basis. Initial manpower authorizations for this activity will be received effective 1 Oct 1981 (FY 82). Additional manpower has been requested for FY 83.

3. (U) Mission and Functions: The mission and functions of Det G are highly compartmented. Access is limited to those personnel approved on a "by name" basis. The Commander, USAOG is the only USAOG member, outside Det G, granted full access and knowledge of the project. The nature and function of Det G's activities must be protected to the maximum degree from unauthorized disclosure to other USAOG personnel and/or other unauthorized personnel.

4. (U) Administration and Personnel:

a. (U) Commander, USAOG, will execute the TDA additions authorized for Project GRILL FLAME, designating them Det G, USAOG, in the form recommended by the Commander, Det G, and the ADCSOPS-RUMINT, USAINSCOM. Additional authorizations programmed for future years will be added to the USAOG TDA in the same manner. Changes of HQ, grade, etc., for these spaces may be required more often than in a conventional military unit and will be processed by Commander, USAOG, or recommended by the Commander, Det G, and the ADCSOPS-RUMINT, USAINSCOM.

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PAGE 1-1
DATE 1 SEP 2003

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SUBJECT: Letter of Instructions - Project GRILL FLAME (U)

b. (U) Personnel assigned to Det G, USAOG will receive support from USAOG for administration (COMACT/MILPO and F&AO) and logistics, except as specified below.

(1) (U) Operational funding will be programmed by the Commander, Det G and the ADCSOPS-HUMINT, USAINSCOM with the approval of the ACSI, DA. Funds will then be budgeted and provided to Det G under a separate Det G account by direct coordination between the USAINSCOM DCSRM (FGG) and Det G, IAW existing procedures.

(2) (U) Efficiency reports will be rendered through the OPCON chain of command through the ADCSOPS-HUMINT, with optional letter input by the Commander, USAOG.

(3) (U) USAOG will not requisition military personnel against Det G authorizations unless/until specifically requested by Commander, Det G. Personnel fill will be the result of direct personnel screening and recruitment by Det G.

(4) (U) Civilian personnel actions will be submitted by Commander, Det G through Commander, USAOG.

(5) (U) Military training of Det G personnel will be IAW USAOG SOP.

(6) (U) TDY and leave approval authorities will be IAW USAOG SOP.

(7) (U) Det G personnel will not be placed on HQ, USAOG duty rosters nor assigned to HQ, USAOG duty details.

(8) (U) SI/SAO billets for Det G will be coordinated with the SSa (FGG) by Security Manager, USAOG.

5. (U) Operations:

a. (U) Operational control will initially be exercised by the DCSOP (ADCSOPS-HUMINT) for the CG, USAINSCOM. OPCON will be transferred to Commander, USAOG, when directed by the DCG-1, USAINSCOM.

b. (U) All operational support will be provided through OPCON channels.

c. (U) Operations will be conducted in strict accord with the guidelines established by the ACSI, DA for Project GRILL FLAME.

d. (U) All operations related reports generated by Det G will be forwarded through the OPCON chain only.

e. (U) This operation is highly compartmented and stringently protected from all without an absolute need-to-know, as authorized by the ACSI, DA and designated representatives. It is extremely sensitive and will be protected accordingly.

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SUBJECT: Letter of Instructions - Project GRILL FLAPS: (U)

6. (U) Logistics:

a. (U) Logistical support will be provided through USAOG, except as specified below.

b. (U) No support will be rendered in such a manner as to make the mission and functions of Det G accessible to USAOG personnel not authorized complete access to such information.

c. (U) Long distance telephone billings will be handled directly by Commander, Det G.

d. (U) Hand receipt/property accounts for Det G real property and intelligence property will be held directly by Commander, Det G.

e. (U) Transportation support will be provided by USAOG.

7. (U) This LOI is effective 1 Oct 1981. It will be reviewed annually prior to the anniversary of that date. Revisions may be made by mutual agreement of Commander, USAOG and DCSOPS/ADCSOPS-HUMINT, USAINSCOL.

THOMAS J. FLYNN
Brigadier General, USA
Deputy Commander, Intelligence