Extent

18 folders, approximately 504 pages

Summary

This collection consists of records related to Crescenio Arcos' service on PFIAB (Presidential Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board). The records relate to Arcos' appointment and vetting process. The records in this collection contain emails, memorandum, correspondence and personnel paperwork concerning Arcos' appointment.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2006-1001-F are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related materials. Cresencio S. Arcos, Jr. was appointed by President William Jefferson Clinton to the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB) on March 29, 1999. The White House Office of Records Management (WHORM) Subject file FG006-14 contains a copy of Arcos' Curriculum Vitae as well as documents relevant to his appointment to the Board. The White House Staff and Office files also contain documents related to Arcos' appointment to (PFIAB). The Counsel's Office files include, in addition to forms and other documents regarding Arcos' nomination, open press articles mentioning Arcos or his work. The files from the office of Presidential Personnel primarily consist of letters of recommendation on behalf of Cresencio Arcos. The Security Office's file on Arcos contains documents related to his access to the White House. The Automated Records Management System (ARMS) and Tape Restoration Project (TRP) records responsive to this FOIA originate in the following agencies: Office of the White House (WHO) and Default e-mails belonging to no specific agency. These e-mails are primarily administrative in nature relating to Arcos's appointment and service on the PFIAB.

Biographical Note

Crescenio Arcos served on PFIAB through the Bush Administration and resigned at the end of 2008. Arcos was born in San Antonio, Texas. He is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and holds a Masters Degree from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University. Arcos retired from the United States Foreign Service in 1995 after a twenty five year career. During his time at the State Department Arcos served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs, and on the North American Free Trade Task Force. From 1989 to 1993, Arcos served as United States Ambassador to Honduras, where he received the Honduran government's highest award, the Order of Francisco Morazan. After leaving the State Department, Arcos was the Vice President for AT&T Corp for International Affairs (market access and regulatory issues) in Latin America and Canada. Arcos was appointed Assistant Secretary for International Affairs at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security by President Bush in 2005, after having served as DHS director for International Affairs since 2003. He left DHS in 2006 and moved to the private sector serving as government affairs counselor at Preston Gates Ellis & Rouvelas Meeds LLP.

The President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB) was created by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1956. Executive Order 10656, signed February 6, 1956, created the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities. Eisenhower believed that this board of respected and knowledgeable citizens could provide him with unbiased and candid appraisals of United States' intelligence activities. President John Kennedy, by the signing of Executive Order 10938 on May 4, 1961, renamed the Board of Consultants, the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. Though the name was changed, the board continued to operate in much the same fashion. Executive Order 11460, signed by President Richard Nixon on March 20, 1969, again changed the name of the PFIAB to the President's Advisory Intelligence Board. President Jimmy Carter abolished the board in March of 1977. Carter did, however, retain the Intelligence Oversight Board. The IOB was created by President Gerald Ford in 1976 following a post Watergate investigation by Congress into potential illegal activities of the intelligence agencies. The IOB was tasked with reporting potential illegal activities to the Department of Justice for review. As Ford

told Congress in 1976, “I believe [the changes] will eliminate abuses and questionable activities on the part of the foreign intelligence agencies while at the same time allowing them to get on with their vital work of gathering and assessing information.” President Ronald Reagan modified the role of the IOB in 1981 and re-established the PFIAB in 1985 by signing Executive Order 12537. President William Jefferson Clinton combined the IOB and the PFIAB, making the IOB a committee rather than an independent organization. President George W. Bush radically modified the role of both the IOB and the PFIAB following the creation of a Director of National Intelligence. The newly named President’s Intelligence Advisory Board was designated to oversee the intelligence collection activities of any Federal agency engaged in the collection of intelligence or the production of intelligence policy. President Barack Obama more clearly defined the role of the PIAB and strengthened the IOB with the passage of Executive Order 13516. Under President Clinton the PFIAB had between eleven and twelve members, by law it could be no more than sixteen, whose terms were established by the President. Members were chosen for their independence, knowledge, and experience. The members of the President’s Intelligence Advisory Board serve as unpaid observers of the United States intelligence community. Much of their work is highly secret in nature though Presidents have chosen on occasion to make the Board’s reports, or portions thereof, public. The members of the Board are appointed by the President and the Director serves at the leisure of the President.

Record Type

Textual

System of Arrangement

Records that are responsive to this FOIA request were found in four collection areas—Clinton Presidential Records: White House Office of Records Management (WHORM) Subject Files, Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files, Clinton Presidential Records: ARMS Emails, and Clinton Presidential Records: TRP Emails. The White House Office of Records Management (WHORM) Subject file was compiled by the White House Office of Records Management and is a series of categories designated by a letter/number combination. Staff and Office files were

maintained at the folder level by staff members within their individual offices and documents all levels of administration activity. WHORM files are processed at the document level; whereas, Staff and Office files are processed at the folder level, that is, individual documents are not selected and removed from a folder for processing. While this method maintains folder integrity, it frequently results in the incidental processing of documents that are not wholly responsive to the subject area. The Automated Records Management System (ARMS) is a database that contains email records of the Executive Office of the President. This system maintained unclassified Presidential Records email. The ARMS dataset is comprised of 6 sub-series of email records called “Buckets.” The buckets include NPR, OPD, POTUS, WHO, CEA, and Default. ARMS emails are arranged chronologically by creation date. The Tape Restoration Project (TRP) is a database consisting of restored emails from the Automated Records Management System from July 1994 through June of 2000. The TRP is a database that contains email records of the Executive Office of the President. This system maintained unclassified Presidential record email. The TRP dataset is comprised of 6 sub-series of email records called “Buckets.” The buckets include NPR, OPD, POTUS, WHO, CEA, and Default. TRP emails are arranged chronologically by creation date. FOIA 2006-1001-F includes WHORM records from these subject codes: FG006-14 President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board

Access

Collection is open to all researchers. Access to Clinton Presidential Records is governed by the Presidential Records Act (PRA) (44 USC 2201) and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 USC 552, as amended) and therefore records may be restricted in whole or in part in accordance with legal exemptions.

Copyright

Documents in this collection that were prepared by officials of the United States government as part of their official duties are in the public domain. Researchers are advised to consult the copyright law of the United States (Title 17, USC) which governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

Provenance

Official records of William Jefferson Clinton’s presidency are housed at the Clinton Presidential Library and administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) under the provisions of the Presidential Records Act (PRA).

Organization Names

United States. President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board

Processed by

Staff Archivist, 2010-2012. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

Last Modified Date

2012-01-11

Container List

The following is a list of documents and folders processed in response to FOIA 2006-1001-F:
Box 1
Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM Subject File
Category Case Number
FG006-14 314951SS [OA/ID 21750]
Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files
Counsel’s Office
[Appointees] Arcos, Cresencio [OA/ID CF 1458]
Schaffner, Jane
Arcos, Cresencio S. (Jr.) [1] [OA/ID 21750]

Arcos, Cresencio S. (Jr.) [2] [OA/ID 21750]
Arcos, Cresencio S. (Jr.) [3] [OA/ID 21750]
Arcos, Cresencio S. (Jr.) [4] [OA/ID 21750]
Arcos, Cresencio [OA/ID CF 1595]
Presidential Personnel
Arcos, Cresencio, Jr. [OA/ID 19351]
[Folder #9 – Cresencio Arcos] [1] [OA/ID 9423]
[Folder #9 – Cresencio Arcos] [2] [OA/ID 9423]
De La Garza, Veronica
Arcos, Cresencio [OA/ID 18338]
Koh, Phillip
Arcos, Kresencio S. Jr. [OA/ID 19098]
Przeworski, Bethany
[Folder #3 – Chris Arcos] [OA/ID 11647]
[Folder #5 – Chris Arcos] [OA/ID 11645]
[Folder#8 – Chris Arcos] [OA/ID 11645]
Security Office
Arcos, Cresensio S., Jr. [OA/ID CF1875]
Clinton Presidential Records: Automated Records Management System [Email]
WHO [OA/ID 500000]
[Arcos]
[04/07/1997-01/08/2001]
Clinton Presidential Records: Tape Restoration Project [Email]
Default [OA/ID 1100000]
[Arcos]
[09/15/1998]