

New 'Pentagon papers' show Linda Tripp was a high-level mole

by Anton Chaitkin

Just before Linda Tripp testified before Kenneth Starr's grand jury on her secret work in the Monica Lewinsky sex scandal, *EIR* acquired papers from Tripp's military personnel file, which shed new light on her actions as a spy against the Clinton administration. The papers, released to this reporter on June 26, due to a Freedom of Information lawsuit, trace Tripp's career in ultra-sensitive posts in the military intelligence and special operations community; as a political operative in the Bush administration; and, after the bitter 1992 election defeat of her patrons, her work inside the Clinton White House as a secret antagonist and disloyal "mole."

Most of the records released by the Pentagon are Tripp's own accounts of her assignments, from the 1970s up through 1994, when she was transferred back to the Pentagon, after the death of White House aide Vincent Foster.

The picture emerging from Tripp's professional intelligence and political record clashes sharply with the "soccer mom" image cultivated by news media for independent counsel Kenneth Starr. Indeed, when *EIR* first applied for release of information, the Department of Defense said that Starr's office had placed a subpoena over Tripp's entire file, thus blocking public disclosure of any kind. But *EIR*'s lawsuit led the DOD and Starr's office to agree on a partial disclosure; legal action is in process to compel further releases.

'A Courier . . . Top Secret . . . Delta Force'

Linda Tripp began her U.S. military employment in the late 1970s, as the civilian wife of Bruce M. Tripp, a career Army officer who is now retired, and from whom she is now divorced. On her way up the secret services ladder, she served for more than two years as personal assistant to a major general in the Headquarters of Allied Forces for Central Europe (AFCENT).

Tripp entered the INSCOM Operations Group of the U.S. Army Intelligence Command in January 1988. She states in a Pentagon document that she "prepared and maintained intelligence case dossiers. Conducted liaison with other Federal agencies such as FBI, State, INS [Immigration,] and attended source [information collection] meetings at these agencies on behalf of the supervisor. Served as POC [Point of Contact] in data exchanges with other agencies, including subordinate field offices throughout the United States."

In September 1988, three months after her husband took command of the Signal Corps Battalion at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, she became secretary to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel of the Special Operations unit at Fort Bragg—the Green Beret headquarters. A year later she became personal assistant to the Chief of the Security Operations Training Facility at Fort Bragg.

Tripp describes herself as "hand-picked to fill a position with Delta Force," referring to the ultra-secret British- and Israeli-modelled counterterrorism unit, based at Fort Bragg, which draws on Green Beret personnel. She states for her Pentagon résumé that "in my position at AFCENT, and in positions held since, I have held a TOP SECRET security clearance due to the preponderance of highly classified and sensitive material involved. . . . In my present position, a classified assignment at Fort Bragg, literally 99% of all generated work is classified at least at the SECRET level, with much of

"Long before Paula Jones, long before Monica Lewinsky, there was a conscious decision, made in London, that there would be a full-scale campaign to destroy Bill Clinton, and to destroy, once and for all, the credibility of the office of the Presidency of the United States."

—Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.



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it at the TOP SECRET and above level. . . . I have served as a courier while at INSCOM, transporting highly classified material from one CONUS [continental U.S.] location to another.”

Assignment: Washington at war

Tripp and her husband split up in August 1990, as both were beginning new jobs at the Pentagon. Tripp’s assignment—office manager for the Deputy Undersecretary of the Army for Operations Research—began a few days after Iraq’s troop movement into Kuwait. In April 1991, Tripp received a post in the White House—the heady center of action for George Bush’s “New World Order.”

During Tripp’s two years on the Bush staff, she helped manage White House publicity in tandem with speechwriter and media handler Tony Snow. Tripp became Special Assistant to the Assistant to the President for Media Affairs, while Snow—who had been directly connected to the Moonies’ covert support apparatus for the Contras—was Deputy Assistant to the President for Media Affairs. Tripp writes, “During an intensive Presidential campaign . . . I was responsible for comprehensive staff coordination, disseminating information . . . to the members of the President’s senior staff who were not members of the ‘Core Group’ . . . running the reelection effort in coordination with Bush/Quayle ’92. . . .”

The Bush team suffered a bitter blow a few days before the election. In an Iran-Contra indictment, Independent Counsel Lawrence Walsh mentioned the role that Bush had played in the affair, when he was Vice President. Bush was not indicted, but the entire covert action apparatus that he headed, including Ollie North’s cocaine- and gun-running under the cover of “counterterrorism,” might now be blown open. Clinton won the election, and the enraged Bush pardoned five Iran-Contra defendants, to stifle the potential exposure.

Tripp was among the Bush staff members who quietly continued their Executive branch employment under the new administration. She first worked as an assistant to Clinton aide Bruce Lindsey, and was then transferred into the office of the White House legal counsel. By January 1994, Tripp was Executive Assistant to the Counsel to the President.

Bush-Moon operative Tony Snow later explained the methodology she brought to her work from the intelligence world. As the Moonies’ own *Insight* magazine put it, in their Feb. 23, 1998 issue: She “knew who worked for whom; parsed the complex relationships between senior officials. . . . She drew in her mind a detailed road map of the institution, always making adjustments based on the changing geography of the place.” FBI rogue agent Gary Aldrich was quoted in the Jan. 25, 1998 *Washington Post*, saying that Tripp, his partner in the inside job against Clinton, “took great care to conceal her attitude”; that she “kept working and kept quiet,” despite her hostility to the President.

In the Pentagon documents released to *EIR*, Tripp describes her function as staff manager in the very heart of the White House legal office, and “as the Counsel to the Presi-

dent’s principal contact with the news media.” As a trusted figure in the inner circle, she was even assigned to photocopy all of the Clintons’ tax records.

Tripp was reportedly the last person to see Deputy White House Counsel Vincent Foster alive before his apparent suicide. Late in 1993, Tony Snow reportedly gave Tripp’s name to Lucianne Goldberg, a publicist who had been a paid spy for Nixon’s 1972 CREEP reelection apparatus, which achieved infamy in the Watergate affair. Snow suggested that Tripp could write a book on Foster.

The Clinton administration finally reassigned Tripp to the Pentagon in August 1994. There, Tripp befriended former White House intern Monica Lewinsky, and secretly tape-recorded 20 hours of conversations with her, which gave White-water prosecutor Starr the pretext to open his sex-and-perjury probe of Lewinsky and the President.

Throughout the long media frenzy over the Linda Tripp/Monica Lewinsky matter, Tripp’s career has been absurdly excluded from the discussion of her purpose and her credibility. The material now coming into the public domain raises questions which cannot be evaded.

Documentation

From the horse’s mouth

The following are further excerpts from Tripp’s statements about her on her work in Army intelligence and related positions, and penetration into sensitive posts in the Clinton White House.

- [Date unknown] SECURITY OPERATIONS TRAINING FACILITY (SOTF-1), FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA . . . Secretary and personal assistant to Division Chief. Provided clerical support and administrative/secretarial support to Intelligence, Logistics and Comptroller. . . . Responsible for quality control of all outgoing traffic . . . controlled extremely sensitive classified documents up to TOP SECRET in the command. . . .

- [June 10, 1994] EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT, APR. 93 to PRESENT. . . . Due to my extensive background serving on the immediate staff of the President [Bush], I had a broad mastery of the . . . practices of [the] White House . . . which enabled me to function as the authority on myriad methods of communication. . . . Managed the West Wing’s Counsel’s office. . . . I was also responsible for ensuring quality control of all the work generated by the directorate for the signature of the Counsel to the President . . . handled liaison on behalf of the Counsel to the President with Capitol Hill, Cabinet agencies and the public. . . .