Introduction

This is the true story of an FBI agent, a U.S. Army Colonel, a decorated hero of the Vietnam War, and a true patriot, working to protect the country against enemies from outside and inside of government.

It is the story told by Richard Taus to Rodney Stich, who was also a government agent, with the government’s aviation safety offices. Between the two of them, they tell a chilling account of conditions in government that caused or enabled to occur decades of corrupt activities, tragic consequences. The blowback and ripple effects extend far beyond what most people could imagine.

The purpose of writing this book was to make available to the American public information from insiders about serious misconduct in the three branches of government. This misconduct involves people of both political parties who have brought several decades of devastating harm to countless numbers of innocent people and to U.S. national security interests.

The book focuses on two primary areas. One being the Vietnam War and the second being matters relating to the FBI. Both areas reveal an ugly side of these areas, something that needs to be addressed if the conditions are to be eradicated.

The matters that adversely affected Richard Taus adversely affected the United States and its people. A combination of arrogance and criminal behavior in the law enforcement and intelligence areas have enabled the United States and its people to suffer greatly, conditions that will surely increase until the public becomes aware of these matters and start to show some semblance of outrage.

People in positions of checks and balances have prostituted their responsibilities, making possible the widespread corruption in and out of government.

The people in government and in the media that are responsible for checks and balances have subverted the safeguards under our form of government, and have become implicated with the perpetrators. This book focuses on misconduct involving key government positions and covert government operations.

The consequences are not simply academic. They are real, inflicting great harm upon real people, and subverting the government of the United States. In this book, a courageous FBI agent attempted to perform his duty to the country, and to the people, when he encountered
corruption that was inflicting great harm upon national interests, which subsequently did result in catastrophic consequences, he suffered severe retaliation.

Richard Taus was awarded many medals for bravery during two tours of duty in Vietnam: Three Bronze Stars, numerous Air Medals, the Cross of Gallantry, Battle Campaign Silver Star, plus several instances making him eligible for the Purple Heart where he suffered wounds from enemy action. He received national recognition on television upon his return from the first Vietnam tour for his adoption of a Vietnamese orphan, who was taken into the Taus household that included his mother, Yolanda. She also had a history of patriotic actions during World War II and the Korean War, caring for many of the wounded returning to the United States.

After returning from the second tour of duty in Vietnam, Taus joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and over a period of years had his own investigative team. During this period he made several discoveries. (1) Drug smuggling and other crimes by people acting in CIA positions in unison with organized crime, and other CIA crimes that were clearly hardcore offenses against the United States, adversely affecting national security interests. (2) Unlawful funding and arming of Iraq during the 1980s, using people in the CIA, under orders from White House politicians. (3) Other areas of corrupt activities that meet the legal definition of subversion and treason. (4) Cover-ups by people in relevant government office that had a responsibility to prevent these federal offenses. (5) Cover-ups by people in the media. (6) Misuse of the awesome powers possessed by the Justice Department, federal and state, and complicity of judges, to retaliate against Taus for attempting to protect vital national interests.

After informing his FBI superiors of the criminal activities that he discovered, including FBI directors William Sessions and Louis Freeh, who later became heads of the FBI, none took any action to address these matters. This problem developed during the bi-annual signing of a standardized FBI form required by the U.S. Senate and House Intelligence Oversight Committees. This preprinted form must be signed by all FBI agents, acknowledging that the agents know of no unreported criminal activities.
Taus knew of major criminal activities, but since they involved the CIA and White House politicians, his supervisors blocked him from pursuing the matters and refused to receive his written reports. Taus’ FBI supervisors threatened Taus for refusing to sign papers stating there were no unreported criminal activities.

Taus then did what I had done when I discovered deep-seated corruption associated with a series of very brutal airline disasters: he sent letters to members of the Senate and House Intelligence Oversight Committees. Among the statements by Taus in his letters to members of Congress were the following:

The involvement of officials, agents and operatives of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) with organized crime members and drug-trafficking activities. And the participation by members of the CIA who engaged in the looting of the Savings & Loans (Thrift) Industries, financial scams and fraudulent securities transactions,

The involvement of people from the National Security Council (NSC) and National Security Agency (NSA) staffs and the White House in criminal activities associated with funding for the acquisition of military weapons, supplies and equipment which was known as the Iran-Contra Arms Initiative, called Irangate, and the Iraqi Arms/Agriculture Loans (BCCI Scandal), later called Iraqgate.

The associations between known and suspected members of the Mafia and CIA agents in conducting drug-trafficking and money-laundering operations and financial frauds.”

I was ordered by my supervisors in the FBI to halt these investigations, delete my written reports, terminate my informants and make no reference to these criminal and subversive activities implicating high-ranking government officials, politicians, organized crime and business leaders who controlled and manipulated government agencies and operations.

**Official Duties Threatened People in Key Government Positions**

Taus’ conduct was threatening to expose serious misconduct by people in key government positions. He became the target of false criminal charges. The first retaliation occurred when criminal charges were filed by federal prosecutors, stating Taus had wrongfully placed a $9 charge for gasoline on a government-issued credit card eight years earlier (when Taus was using his personal car on government business, as was standard procedure). Then, when that charge was dismissed, pressure was applied to cause local prosecutors at the county level to charge Taus with improper conduct with young boys.

Being threatened with criminal charges, several of the families had their sons testify that Taus had inappropriate sexual contact with them.
The trial ended with a jury rendering a guilty verdict and a New York judge sentencing Taus to 30-92 years in prison.

That false testimony, false prosecution, and sham prison sentence, insured that the criminal activities that Taus sought to report would continue, and the guilty go unpunished.

**Butterfly Effects of the Cover-Ups and Retaliation**

As a result of the butterfly effect, or ripple effect, conditions continued that would then play a role in the successful terrorist acts of 9/11, the hijackings of four airliners and murder of 3,000 people, plus the resulting fallout of those attacks. The poor performance of the CIA and FBI was identified in congressional and 9/11 Commission hearings, but omitted going to the heart of *why* the poor performance existed: a culture of corruption and cover-ups, that no whitewash would correct.

**Short Chronology of Events**

In 1961, Taus entered the Pennsylvania Military College (PMC) as a Cadet, and upon graduation received a Bachelor of Science Degree and rank of a U.S. Army Second Lieutenant. General Creighton Abrams commissioned Taus in 1965 at PMC as a Second Lieutenant. Abrams and other Army and Navy generals and admirals would guide Taus’ career.

After graduating from PMC, Taus attended the School of Law at the University of Notre Dame, where he was further introduced to men who worked in the intelligence communities. Many CIA agents came from PMC and Notre Dame.

A foreign alumnus, Jose Napoleon Duarte, who Taus met at Notre Dame, later became president of El Salvador. Duarte played a prominent role in Taus’ entry into intelligence services. While attending the University of Notre Dame, Taus was concerned about his former PMC classmates dying on the battlefield in Vietnam, causing him to volunteer for Vietnam service in November 1966.

**Unusual Adoption of Vietnam Orphan**

Upon the completion of Taus’ first tour of duty in Vietnam, Taus was able to adopt the orphaned son of a General that Taus had earlier befriended. The unusual intervention of high-level officials made this adoption possible.

The orphan that Taus adopted was the son of a prominent South Vietnamese family, whose father and mother were killed during the Vietnam War. Taus had met the child’s father, Colonel Tran Minh, before the devastating Tet Offensive and was invited to the Colonel’s home in Cholon. The Colonel was killed in action during the Tet Offensive. The boy’s remaining relatives were killed by the U.S. bombardment of Cholon during that campaign.
In-between Vietnam assignments, Taus was involved in clandestine diplomatic missions to Central America. He then returned to Vietnam for a second tour of duty as an Army Aviation Unit Commander. On this second tour, Taus discovered that the CIA and Air America were engaged in massive drug smuggling, which made possible the availability of drugs to American troops. The impairment under drugs contributed to some of the GI deaths in Vietnam.

Upon the completion of that tour, Taus again flew secret diplomatic missions to Latin American, where he discovered more sinister motives of U.S. politicians. For the next several years, Taus worked in both civilian employment and military duties at the request of high-ranking U.S. government officials. By 1977, Taus asked for a new assignment, and was hired by the FBI. Former FBI Assistant Director William C. Sullivan, who Taus had earlier befriended, was now working for the National Security Council and the CIA. Sullivan facilitated Taus’ entry into the FBI as a Special Agent.

Taus’ first discovery of links between the CIA and Mafia figures occurred while working on the FBI’s New York Criminal Division, Taus investigated the Pizza Connection case. This investigation involved an international drug-trafficking ring, with Mafia links to the CIA. In another separate Mafia investigation, CIA drug-trafficking involvement was also developed.

On the Foreign Counter-Intelligence Division, the list of prominent cases that Taus worked included the Iran Contra Arms Initiative Affair (Irangate), the U.S. Savings and Loans (Thrift Industry) debacles; involvement of the CIA in Pakistan with the corrupt Bank of Credit and Commerce International; drug-trafficking; money-laundering; financial manipulations and the genesis of the terrorism problem America and her allies face today.

When Taus reported these matters, and then refused to halt his investigations, Taus became a target of the CIA and FBI.

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Sampling of Later Pages

Informing Members of Congress of Criminal and Subversive Activities

Taus and I both informed members of Congress of these matters, and both of us ran into the same indifference, cover-ups, and obstruction
of justice. Members of congress had responsibilities to receive our evidence as part of their oversight, and also under the federal crime reporting statute, Title 18 U.S.C. § 4.\(^1\) That statute requires that anyone who knows of a federal crime must report it to a federal judge or other officer; and members of Congress are considered officers for the purpose of receiving that information. By failing to act, by refusing to receive information of corrupt and criminal activities against the United States, they became complicit in the crimes.

I asked Taus for copies of the letters that he sent to members of Congress while Taus was an FBI agent. He advised that these letters were seized from his FBI office and from his home at the time of his arrest, and were never returned to him. I then asked him to try to remember the names of some of the people he had contacted and to try to redo the contents of the letters, to the best of his memory. He did this. Among the members of Congress that he remembered writing were Senators Arlen Specter; Barry Goldwater; Alphonse D. Amato; Bob Graham; Representatives Charles Schumer; Norman Lent, among others.

The following are the contents of some of the letters that Taus wrote, based upon his memory:

The following redacted letters are examples of others that were sent by FBI agent Richard Taus to members of congress from 1984 to 1988, trying to report to these congressional members corrupt and criminal activities that Taus had discovered as part of his official duties as an FBI agent:

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Senator Barry Goldwater
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
US Senate
Washington/ DC 20510

Dear Senator Goldwater:

During the June 1964 Commencement Address at Pennsylvania Military College/ you gave the graduating class a speech about doing one’s duty for this nation. Prior to that speech, we met in the Student Union Building where members of the PMC Political Science Club introduced me to you. I was the
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\(^1\) Title 18 U.S.C. § 4. Misprision of felony. Whoever, having knowledge of the actual commission of a felony cognizable by a court of the United States, conceals and does not as soon as possible make known the same to some judge or other person in civil or military authority under the United States, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than three years, or both.
Cadet that received the “Sons Of The American Revolution Good Citizenship” Medal. (See enclosed newspaper article.)

Since that time, I served two tours of duty in Vietnam as an Army officer. Presently, I am an FBI Special Agent assigned to the Foreign Counter-intelligence (FCI) Division at the FBI’s New York Field Office (FBINYO). Since I have been unable to address certain important concerns to my superiors here, I felt that you would understand my concerns (noted below) as the Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

In conducting investigations, both on the FBINYO Criminal Division and the FCI Division, I have discovered several major violations of federal laws with a group of individuals who call themselves the National Freedom Institute. Based upon the very scope of their involvement in political and governmental matters, I find it difficult to believe that they are only private citizens acting on behalf of the U.S. Government. I have been unable to get any answers from my superiors here, whom I have informed about this situation.

The National Freedom Institute is located in the Village of Freeport, New York where it appears to be conducting business as a financial securities firm under the name of Drexel. Since the late 1970s, this organization has been investigated by the FBINYO Criminal Division for criminal activities without any indictments or prosecutions. Within the past two years, Drexel has been involved with known Mafia figures and Drexel members have conducted, what appears to be business/with foreign nationals.

As a result, the FBINYO has turned this case over to their FCI Division. However, while I was assigned to the Criminal Division, I uncovered massive financial scams and frauds, along with drug-trafficking operations with Mafia involvement. This firm seems to have strong financial contacts that the FBI is unable to unravel due to limited manpower and resources. As I know you are aware, every year the Bureau asks Congress for additional funding and manpower to pursue its investigations.

At this time, I have written letters to my own Senators and Representatives about this matter, including Alfonse M. D’Amato who is on the Finance Committee. Given your position as Chair of the Senate Select Committee, our 1964 meeting at PMC and the speech you gave, I am seeking your advice and guidance in the above matters. As an FBI Special Agent, I know that I have the responsibility to notify your committee since nothing has been done by the US Attorney’s Office.

Thank you for your strong conservative stance on issues affecting this country. I look forward to your reply. I have phoned your office and your staffer suggested writing this letter. I will be happy to provide you more details in the future.

Sincerely,
Richard Taus

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Dear Congressman Schumer:

Due to your outspoken stance against corruption in government, I would like to inform you about several ongoing FBI investigations that deserve your attention. I am an FBI Special Agent assigned to the New York Field Office (FBINYO) where I work on the Foreign Counter-intelligence (FCI) Division. In my capacity as a Special Agent, I have discovered serious violations of federal law both from my case investigations on the FBINYO’s Criminal and FCI Divisions.

These investigations have uncovered the involvement of officials, agents and operatives of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) with Mafia organized crime members and drug-trafficking activities. Specifically, there is a business firm known as Castle Securities, Incorporated that operated in the Village of Freeport New York. This enterprise is engaged in financial frauds, including the looting of the Savings & Loans (Thrift) Industries, dummy or shell corporations designed to hide money-laundering operations and other financial scams and securities’ violations.

I have approached my FBI superiors and both the U.S. Attorney Offices in SDNY and EDNY, along with Justice Department and FBIHQs in Washington, DC with no results, no requested subpoenas for further investigative actions.

Since Castle Securities is further engaged in business and political liaison with foreign nationals and their governments, I believe this firm is operating unlawfully. Their business relations appear to be matters best handled by the U.S. Departments of Commerce, State, and Justice.

In my official FBI investigations, I have found that members of the National Security Council and Agency staffers along with White House officials are connected to criminal activities associated with the acquisition of military hardware. These hidden negotiations are part of the current scandals of the Iran Contra Arms Initiative Affair and the Iraqi Arms/Agriculture Loans program.

As an FBI agent, I am required to sign the Senate and House Select Committees on Intelligence acknowledgement that I know of no unreported criminal activities. I have been instructed by my superiors to terminate my informants and make no reference to these illegal and subversive matters. These matters implicate high-ranking government officials, politicians, organized crime, and business leaders who appear to control and manipulate government agencies and operations.

Rather than comply with a clearly unlawful order, I am writing to you and other members of Congress, seeking assistance from legislators who champion this nation’s values and principles.

Your Brooklyn office staff, in my recent phone calls, suggested I write you. I can supply additional details on these matters which I pray you will keep
confidential at this time. Godspeed in your work for America. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,
Richard Taus

Senator Arlen Specter
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Specter:

As an FBI Special Agent assigned to the New York Field Office, I have telephoned your Washington office hoping to speak with you about matters that concern your Select Committee on Intelligence. I have been assigned to both the FBI’s Criminal and Foreign Counter-intelligence Divisions in the New York Field Office where I encountered a financial firm involved in criminal activities.

These activities were investigated by the FBI as early as 1977 without any indictments or prosecutions. Recently, Castle Securities, formerly known as the Drexel Company, has been connected to the ongoing Iran Contra Arms Initiative Affair. However in the past, Castle has been involved with Mafia members and others, some of whom are foreign nationals. From FBI investigations, there appears that this firm has manipulated financial securities and loans, created shell or dummy corporations to hide their fraudulent financial transactions and negotiated other unlawful businesses without any sanctions being imposed.

The Department of Justice, both in Washington and with the U.S. Attorney’s Office at the Southern District and Eastern District of New York has not issued any subpoenas nor indictments against this firm. Furthermore, neither the U.S. State Department nor the Commerce Department appear willing to discuss these matters, nor will the Central Intelligence Agency provide any insights.

As you are aware, last year’s media coverage of the developing Iran-Contra Arms Initiative Affair has brought about serious questions from both American and World Public. As a leading member of the Senate Committee, and with FBI Headquarters permission, I can supply you with additional information on what appears to be an Intelligence problem since Castle is heavily involved in criminal activities and financial frauds on an international scale.

As a U.S. Army Reserve Lieutenant Colonel and an FBI Agent, I am compelled to inform Congress about these matters since no actions have been taken by our various governmental agencies.

Please contact me at the FBINYO. I will provide you with further details on this matter.

Sincerely,
Richard Taus
Since we are both Vietnam Veterans, I am seeking your advice and assistance. I am an FBI Special Agent at the New York Field Office (FBINYO) where I am assigned to the Foreign Counter-intelligence (FCI) Division. As you are aware, the FBI requires that its agent personnel sign the biannual acknowledgement form for which goes to both the Senate and the House Select Committees on Intelligence. It states that we, as FBI agents, know of no unreported crimes or criminal activities.

With your Committee’s hearings now into the Iran Contra Arms Initiative Affair, I have found several criminal operations and activities that apparently have not been prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney’s office.

When I telephoned your office last week, I was told that you would call me at the FBINYO and to mail you a letter concerning this information.

A financial firm in the Village of Freeport New York, known as Castle Securities Corp. (formerly the Drexel Company), is conducting business with a number of known Mafia figures and foreign nationals. Thus far, Castle’s members have been associated with several different financial scams and frauds, including their involvement in the Iran Contra Arms Initiative Affair, which you are investigating.

As an FBI Agent, I served both on the Criminal and FCI Divisions where this company was targeted for its criminal activities and its known associations with foreign diplomats. In the mid-1970s, this company has been investigated by the FBINYO Criminal Division. At this time, neither the U.S. Departments of Justice or Commerce has provided the FBI with any knowledge about this firm, though it engages in affairs that should be handled by their respective departments. My FBI superiors also appear to be at a loss for information about Castle’s operations and its immunity from prosecution.

The FBI investigation of Castle has revealed financial frauds, including money-laundering operations and drug trafficking, unlawful weapons sales, and unauthorized negotiations with foreign government officials, in violation of both their authority and the Boland Amendment.

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has not provided any information or comment concerning Castle’s activities Therefore, I am writing you based upon your current hearings into affairs which are connected to this company.

This matter has been addressed to my FBI superiors who have not positively responded to my suggestion that we inform your Committee. Since I have witnessed firsthand the ravages of drugs upon our troops overseas in Vietnam, I feel duty-bound and morally obligated to make your US Senate
Committee aware of the obstacles’ involved and the harm that is being perpetrated upon the American Public. I am willing to testify before your Committee and I would ask that you subpoena my FBI investigative files into Castle Securities and its officers. From my meetings with Castle management, they have admitted their involvement in the Iran Contra Arms Affair.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future. I can be reached by phone at the FBINYO or at my home in Freeport (516-378-3884).

Sincerely yours,
Richard Taus

Congressmen Complicity Indicated by Retaliation Taken

After Informing Members of Congress of Criminal Activities

It was after Taus reported the criminal activities to members of Congress that actions were taken to silence him, misusing the awesome raw power of the U.S. Department of Justice and the control DOJ officials had over local law enforcement personnel. No one except them knew that Taus was trying to report the criminal activities involving CIA and White House personnel.

The members of Congress who were notified by Taus, and who continued the cover-ups—which were felonies—then watched as government power was misused to destroy the federal agent.

In response to another letter that Taus wrote to Senator Bob Graham, Graham’s off-the-shelf letter (October 3, 2001) stated in part the same format that I usually received when I tried to provide evidence of criminal and subversive activities that were continuing to inflict great harm upon the United States. First, the reply thanks the sender for the original letter:

Thank you for contacting my office regarding intelligence issues. I remain concerned that we have allowed our intelligence capabilities to downgrade to a dangerous level. Intelligence is our first line of defense. As Chairman, I will work to see that our intelligence efforts are both fully funded and effectively organized.

Then, in closing, the letter has the same general response that could be used to reply to a constituent complaining about excessive watering of the White House lawn:

Please be assured I will have your thoughts in mind as both the Committee and the Senate considers this highly sensitive issue.

Taus’ letter to the U.S. Office of Special Counsel ran into a roadblock, just as I had done. His letters to the Department of Justice resulted in the following April 10, 2002, cover-up reply:
The purpose of this letter is to advise you that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)_Office of Professional Responsibility reviewed your allegations and found no evidence of serious misconduct by any FBI employee. Therefore, no action is deemed necessary by this office. Taus had not provided any evidence; he offered it, but it was never requested. His allegations were serious and showed the culture of the FBI and DOJ personnel that contributed to such disasters as 9/11.

After 9/11, Taus again attempted to inform members of Congress, with the same indifference. In a September 2, 2004, letter to Senator Charles Grassley, Taus stated in part:

The FBI retaliated against me for my attempts to expose corruption within the Bureau and the CIA. Investigations into the Iran-Contra Arms Initiative Affair, and a host of other FBI cases, including the “genesis” of terrorism. All these cases were stymied or halted by corrupt or complacent Bureau officials.

I will be happy to provide you with much more detailed information. I have tried to vindicate myself for these many years, but more importantly, to inform the American public about corruption in our government and by our leaders in business, politics and organized crime.

In addition to my FBI record, I was a Lieutenant Colonel in the US Army Reserves, serving two combat tours of duty in Vietnam. For my fallen comrades-in-arms and for our Armed Forces currently overseas in the War on Terrorism, I feel a solemn duty to tell the truth and expose the perpetrators of these sinister cover-ups and scandals.

I pray that you will take an interest and write me for further information. I am asking for your assistance to help expose and overcome the tragedy facing all Americans due to this deception by powerful government officials.

There was no response to that letter. The same members of Congress who chastised the CIA and FBI for not being more vigilant, so as to have prevent 9/11, were doing far worse, and committing crimes of cover-up in the process. I encountered the same and much worse during the 30 and more years I sought to report criminal and subversive activities to members of Congress. My first experience in encountering this standard obstruction of justice was while I sought to report the deep-seated criminal misconduct resulting in a series of airline disasters that I discovered as part of my official duties. By covering up, and becoming complicit with the perpetrators, members of Congress enabled to occur many otherwise preventable airline disasters. By reading my books, Unfriendly Skies: 20th and 21st Centuries, and blowback, 9/11, and Cover-Ups, this same congressional cover-up can be seen to have played a major role in the continuing
culture that created the conditions enabling terrorists to hijack four airliners on 9/11.

**Victims Other Than Taus: The American People**

The criminal misuse of powerful government offices to destroy Richard Taus continues to have other victims: people throughout the United States. For some, the consequences are real. For others, the consequences are more difficult to understand. There are ripple effects throughout government and throughout society. The system will not correct itself; it is up to the people. And here the record is pathetically dismal.

In Happier Times

Yolanda Taus

Yolanda and Richard Taus