From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Thursday, April 12, 2012 10:41 AM
To: 
Subject: I realize I have a lot of queries pending...

...and this is lowest priority, but when you have time, I wonder if you can tell me whether CIA knows if these names are accurate and whether they were militants or non combatants.

In Waziristan, though, many take those assurances with skepticism. On a visit to Islamabad last week, Noor Magul, a farmer from North Waziristan, spoke of his anger at the death of three relatives who were killed last Oct. 30 when a drone struck the car in which they were traveling. Naming the men as Khaistar Gul, Manrud Khan and Noorzal Khan, Mr. Magul insisted they had no militant links but worked in a local chromite mine.

"I have revenge in my heart," said the 64-year-old, fingering his ash-colored beard. "I just want to grab a drone by the tail and smash it into the ground."

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/19/world/asia/drones-at-issue-as-pakistan-tries-to-mend-us-ties.html?_r=1&ref=declanwalsh&pagewanted=print

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8928
Thanks man. Thought you were skiing in aspen or something.

-----Original Message-----
From: Ken Dilanian
Sent: Thursday, April 12, 2012 4:24 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken

Ken,

------Original Message-----
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Thursday, April 12, 2012 3:31 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken

Ken,

------Original Message-----
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 9:25 AM
To: Dilanian, Ken

This one sounds like you guys. Can you tell me whether indeed Al-Wahishi was the target and/or does CIA have evidence he left Pakistan for Yemen? Do you agree that a civilian was killed? Ken

SHABWA, April 1 - One Yemeni civilian was killed and six others were injured in a US drone strike at 4pm on Friday in Azzan of Shabwa governorate, east Yemen, eyewitnesses told the Yemen Times.

The drone fired two missiles at a Hyundai vehicle thought to belong to militants with connections with Al-Qaeda. Locals who hurried to the scene of incident found the torn bodies of seven people scattered over the road.

Saleh Ali Ba Ziad, Saleh Abdulfatha Hamid, Abdullah Mohamed Hamid, Hanza Khaled Ba Zayad, Ali Hassan and another unidentified man were wounded during the strike after shrapnel showered the neighboring area.

Mohamed Saleh Al-Suna, 55 from Al-Hawta city in Shabwa died from injuries sustained from shrapnel in the strike.
Local security sources said that the strike attempted to target the leader of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, Naser Al-Wahishi.

Pakistani officials have previously said that Al-Wahishi was killed on Dec. 28, 2010 when two American missiles were fired at a militant camp in North Waziristan in Pakistan. Al-Wahishi has also previously been reported killed by a drone strike in an area of Shabwa, Yemen.

Al-Qaeda has not confirmed the reported death of Al-Wahishi, and still publishes his articles and statements in their Sada Al-Malihim Magazine.

At 10:00 pm on Friday armed men from the group Ansar Al-Shariah blew up Yemen's liquefied natural gas pipeline in revenge for the US drone strike. The group took control of Azan city in June 2011 and last week seized the Al-Rudum district in the governorate.

The sabotage has suspended gas production and export, according to the Yemen LNG Company.

"Yemen LNG confirms the sabotage of the 38 inch gas pipeline that links block 18 to the Balhaf terminal on the Gulf of Aden," reads the statement posted on website of the company.

"The explosion occurred at 22:00 on 30 March 2012 in a desert zone 40km North of the Balhaf Liquefaction Plant. It caused no victims," the company explained.

It added that production was suspended, "but the loss of production is expected to be limited to four cargoes as the LNG Plant was due to shutdown on April 15 for annual maintenance."

The French Total Company owns 40 percent of Yemen's LNG, followed by Hunt Oil and the Yemen Gas Company each owning 17 percent, the South Korean Company owning 10 percent, six percent for Korea Gas Corporation, about six percent for Hyundai Corporation and five percent for the General Authority for Social Insurance and Pensions.

A security officer in Abyan said in earlier statement to the Yemen Times that drone strikes often result in human causalities and panic local communities.

"We can arrest Al-Qaeda affiliated persons without committing crimes against civilians," the security officer assistant said.


A similar air-raid killed over 42 civilians including women and children on Dec. 17, 2009 in the village of Al-Ma'jala in Abyan, south Yemen.
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 8:06 PM
To:
Subject: Re: Out of the Office

-----Original message-----

Ken,

Take care and I'll talk to you when I get back.

Take care,

[Redacted]

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
From:
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2012 11:15 AM
To:
Cc: 
Subject: RE:

Hey Ken,

We're about to head into a meeting. We'll get back to you a little later.

Thanks,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2012 11:08 AM
To:
Subject:

that you? I'm on the line. was that yemen strike they announced today you guys?

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824-8328
WASHINGTON—Teams of CIA officers, private contractors and special operations troops have been inserted in southern Yemen to work with local tribes on gathering intelligence for U.S. drone strikes against militants, U.S. officials and others familiar with the secret operation said.

The development marks a significant escalation in the U.S. effort to deal with what officials say is a growing threat from al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and to help the Yemeni government regain control of southern provinces that have fallen under militant control.

But the operation also draws the U.S. into a deeper direct military role in Yemen, a country that President Obama said in 2012 that he had “no intention of sending U.S. boots on the ground.”

The teams have begun operations in the south earlier this year, the officials said, after President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi gave what one official described as “tacit approval” for the U.S. presence. His predecessor as president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, rebuffed U.S. proposals to put troops in the country.

State Department officials were concerned about the plans, arguing that it is dangerous to develop ties to tribal militants who are not necessarily loyal to the government. They were overruled by the White House after officials received alarming intelligence reports about gains being made by extremists in Yemen’s south. “This makes me queasy,” one senior State Department official said. “This is a high risk, low reward proposition.”

Also this month, the White House also approved an expansion of targeting guidelines for CIA and military airstrikes in Yemen.

The combination of small American teams working closely with local proxies and clandestine airstrikes is an approach that special operations commanders are proposing as a model not only in Yemen, but in other countries where al Qaeda poses a threat, officials say.

Yemeni counterterrorism units have helped the U.S. teams forge relationships with local tribal leaders, one official said.

On March 1, AQAP claimed to have assassinated a CIA officer working in Yemen. The U.S. Defense Department disputed that, but it acknowledged that gunmen opened fire on a “U.S. security training team” operating in southern Yemen.

David Cloud
The Los Angeles Times
Pentagon Correspondent

o: 202 824 8376
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 2:27 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: [Redacted]

I am at home today.
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 4:04 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: any luck?

here's what we're saying...

One of the major go betweens for U.S. negotiations with the Taliban in Afghanistan had also been in communication with Osama bin Laden about a possible safe haven Al Qaeda senior leaders in Afghanistan after a U.S. military withdrawal, according to Osama bin Laden's personal notes and letters. The documents--seized in the U.S. raid on his compound in Pakistan last year-- show that Bin Laden had discussions with the Taliban leadership council, known as the Quetta Shura, and the Haqqani network, that controls the North Waziristan tribal agency, about the best strategy for overthrowing Afghan President Hamid Karzai after the U.S. departs, said a former U.S. official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the intelligence. One of the points of contact between Bin Laden and the Taliban was Mohammed Tayeb Agha, an aide to Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar, who met with U.S. officials at least three times in the spring of 2011 during an effort to negotiate an end to the war. The intelligence haul of documents, hard drives and flash drives -- large enough, officials say, to fill a college library -- show a leader wanting a role in shaping the future of Afghanistan, but, at the same time, struggling to manage an organization fractured by a campaign of CIA drone assassinations and increasingly frustrated with the new, inexperienced generation of managers who were rising in the ranks.
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 5:17 PM
To: RE: any luck?

Ken,

Hope this helps,

[Signature]
Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 4:04 PM
To: any luck?

here's what we're saying...

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even if you don’t get the name, anything on who this guy was and why he was important would be good – for you and for me.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328
Did the CIA grab Samir Khan's cell phone?

When Samir Khan first arrived in Sana'a he lost his phone which was his only connection to the Al Qaeda operatives he was meeting. He was "heartbroken," according to the story, written under the name Abu Yazeed. Some time later, Khan was praying in a mosque in Sana'a when he was tapped on the shoulder and asked if he was Samir. It was his contact.

Brian Bennett
Staff Writer
Los Angeles Times/Tribune Co. Washington Bureau
Office: (202) 824-8368
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2012 10:41 AM
To: Dilanian, Ken
Subject: RE: does this look better?

Just as an aside, my understanding is that there are JSOC guys on these teams, but that they are tasked to CIA. We are grappling with how to word that.

From: Thursday, May 03, 2012 10:22 AM
To: Dilanian, Ken
Cc: 
Subject: RE: does this look better?

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2012 9:52 AM
To: 
Subject: RE: does this look better?

I just learned there was a story written in a Yemeni newspaper about this, saying there is a joint JSOC CIA team in Abyan. I don't have a copy, and the paper is not online. I am told it's called al Ula ("the first") based in Aden. This obviously compresses our timetable a bit. Ken

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Wednesday, May 02, 2012 2:39 PM
To: 
Subject: does this look better?

WASHINGTON—CIA-led teams of U.S. operatives and private American contractors and have been living in remote areas of Yemen under the protection of tribal security forces to gather intelligence for U.S. drone strikes against militants, U.S. officials and others familiar with the covert operation said.

The development marks a significant escalation in the U.S. effort to deal with what officials say is a growing threat from al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and to help the Yemeni government regain control of southern provinces that have fallen under militant control.

The sources would not say how long the American teams have been operating in the tribal regions of Yemen, a country that President Obama said in 2012 that he had "no intention of sending U.S. boots on the ground."
One official said President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi gave “tacit approval” for the U.S. presence, but another source said the teams were at work even while his predecessor as president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, was still in office. In 2010, Saleh rebuffed a U.S. proposal to put troops in the country, leaked State Department cables show.

Last year, President Obama authorized the CIA to begin flying armed drones over Yemen, augmenting an existing U.S. military effort to target militants.

Small numbers of U.S. military trainers, based mainly in the capital, Sana’a, were withdrawn last year as Salah’s government was buffeted by protests that eventually forced his ouster. But the CIA teams remained in place, hunting al Qaeda militants and developing intelligence that has led to a series of successful drone strikes this year, one source said.

The U.S. military trainers have resumed operations in recent months.

Officials in some parts of the U.S. government are concerned that the presence of Americans conducting operations would engender ill will in Yemen. “This makes me queasy,” one official said. “This is a high risk, low reward proposition. We have good intelligence cooperation with the Yemenis, and they have people on the ground. Why we would feel the need to send our own guys running around the wadis looking for bad guys, is beyond me.”

Last month, the White House also approved an expansion of targeting guidelines for CIA and military airstrikes in Yemen. The strikes may now target militants whose names are not known, but who have been deemed a threat to U.S. interests.

On Wednesday a U.S. strike killed 15 Al Qaeda-linked militants when missiles hit their camp north of Jaar town in the southern province of Abyan.

Al Qaeda has held Jaar for a year now. Parts of the province’s capital Zinjibar are also under Al Qaeda control, but government troops fought their way into the city’s center last week.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2012 10:22 AM
To: Dilanian, Ken
Cc: Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

Subject: RE: does this look better?

It's the veritable New York Times of Yemen!

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2012 9:52 AM
To: Dilanian, Ken
Cc: Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

Subject: RE: does this look better?

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Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 624 8328
You too. By the way, I heard you on C-SPAN a while back handling queries on a recent unfortunate event down south. Thought you did a nice job with that.

Ok, have a nice weekend.

Ken Dilanian
Los Angeles Times
202 824 8828

----Original message-----

Hi Ken,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

Guys, I'm about to file this if anyone wants to weigh in. CIA mentioned. Dilanian

U.S. intelligence operatives on the ground in Afghanistan believe the Taliban is stronger than it was before President Obama sent 30,000 additional troops to the country in 2010, the chairman of the House intelligence committee said Friday after returning from a three day trip there.

"My biggest takeaway from the trip was the huge difference between what the military believes the state of affairs is and what our intelligence community believes the state of affairs is," Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Michigan.

"Folks on the intelligence side...believe the Taliban is stronger today than it was even a couple of years ago." Taliban fighters who are captured are more determined than ever, Rogers was told.
"The general theme there is, 'it's not if, it's when we're gonna win.' Their recruiting is strong."
The ground-level intelligence assessments, Rogers said, contrast with the sentiments expressed by military commanders, a disconnect that has persisted in recent years.
Defense secretary Leon Panetta, a former CIA director, said in a speech Friday that "The Taliban have been weakened, their momentum has been broken."
Yet Rogers said he was told by CIA officers in Afghanistan that worsening corruption among Afghan government officials is driving new recruits to the Taliban, which he said now has a shadow governor in every Afghan province.
"We've seen a lot more violence in the north that we haven't seen before," Rogers said. "There's been an increase in political assassinations."
The Taliban's goal is to avoid major battles with superior U.S. forces and simply persist until those forces withdraw, Rogers said.
Rogers's Senate counterpart, Dianne Feinstein, a California Democrat who chairs the Senate intelligence committee and was also on the trip, was less pessimistic about the strength of the Taliban, saying she had seen evidence of significant military and intelligence successes.
She acknowledged, though, that there is "a difference of opinion" between the military and the intelligence community over the basic assessment of war progress.
Feinstein and Rogers said the intelligence community and military agree that the biggest source of the Taliban's strength comes from its safe haven in Pakistan, where extremist networks and factories producing bomb ingredients are beyond the reach of U.S. forces.
But there are no realistic options to address that problem, they both said, as U.S.-Pakistan relations with Pakistan continue to worsen.

In a speech in Kabul May 1, Obama detailed the troop withdrawals he has ordered in Afghanistan.
"Last year, we removed 10,000 U.S. troops from Afghanistan. Another 23,000 will leave by the end of the summer. After that, reductions will continue at a steady pace, with more of our troops coming home. And as our coalition agreed, by the end of 2014 the Afghans will be fully responsible for the security of their country."
An agreement between the U.S. and the government of Hamid Karzai allows for an unspecified U.S. military presence after 2014, and many analysts have speculated that special operations troops will remain to hunt for Taliban and al Qaeda leaders, much as they do now. But Rogers warned that those operations will become infinitely more difficult without the logistical and intelligence and security support that comes with a large conventional troop presence.
The Taliban earns as much as $120 million a year from the country's heroin trade, Feinstein said.
"My big concern is that the Taliban ends up as a narco cartel, candidly, which is quite possible," she said.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 4:15 PM
To: ap bulletin
Subject: 

Hi, just seeking info on this AP thing that just went out...

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824.8328
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 5:41 PM
To: 'Dilanian, Ken'
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Device Points
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 7:37 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken;
Subject: RE: al quso

Thanks

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 7:36 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken;
Subject: RE: al quso

Ken:

CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 7:31 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken
Subject: al quso

are you guys confirming on background he was the operational leader of aqap?

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O: (202) 824 8328
Looking forward to it, Ken

Ken:

Haha, you're certainly not senile. No, I haven't had the pleasure of meeting you yet.

Hope to meet you soon.

All the best,

Dilanian, Ken

forgive my senility, but we haven't met, have we?

Ken:

CIA Office of Public Affairs

Dilanian, Ken

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
are you guys confirming on background he was the operational leader of aqap?

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328
If you need to, you may say CIA declined to comment.

Ken:

---

obviously eager to know if abc news report is true. Ken

Ken Dilanian
Los Angeles Times
202 824 6328

---

Haha, you're certainly not senile. No, I haven't had the pleasure of meeting you yet.

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Ken:

CIA Office of Public Affairs

are you guys confirming on background he was the operational leader of aqap?

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
also, this is what we are planning to report, and I want to make sure you wouldn't push back against any of it.

Thanks, Ken

1. The CIA’s successful Yemen operation didn’t amount to foiling an al Qaeda bomb plot that had already been underway, U.S. officials say. It was more like an international sting operation, with the spies tricking the terrorists into showing their cards.

2. Saudi Arabia’s intelligence agency, working with the CIA, got an informant in Yemen to pose as a would-be suicide bomber. He then convinced al Qaeda to hand over the sophisticated underwear bomb that is now being analyzed at the FBI bomb laboratory at Quantico, Va, U.S. officials said. The informant has left Yemen, added the officials, who would not speak publicly about classified information.

3. Officials say the bomb bears the signature of feared al Qaeda munitions expert Ibrahim Hassan Asiri, but the informant apparently never got close to Asiri. The operation did, however, develop information that helped the U.S. locate the senior Al Qaeda operative Fahd al Quso, who was killed in Yemen Sunday in a CIA drone strike, according to Rep. Peter King (R-N.Y.).

4. The nature of the sting operation is why U.S. officials have continually stressed that there was no “active” plot, even as they said the al Qaeda bomb was intended to be used on an American airliner.

---

Ken:

If you need to, you may say CIA declined to comment.

CIA Office of Public Affairs

---

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Ken Dilanian
Los Angeles Times
202 824-8328

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
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Ken:

CIA Office of Public Affairs

are you guys confirming on background he was the operational leader of aqap?

Ken Dilanian

National Security Correspondent

Los Angeles Times

O:(202) 824 8328
Can you say anything about this new activity observed on the Parchin site...what do you guys think it is? My colleague is doing a blog item on it.

http://isis-online.org/isis-reports/detail/new-satellite-image-shows-activity-at-parchin-site-in-iran/

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328
Hi Ken,

I hope all is well with you.

--

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 3:09 PM
To:
Subject: leak probe

can you confirm on background that the CIA has been asked to participate in this, and what about the crime report. Ken

02:08 PM ET

Spy chief orders review of bomb plot leaks

By Barbara Starr

Director of National Intelligence James Clapper has ordered an internal review across the intelligence community to determine if leaks regarding a Saudi mole who infiltrated a Qaeda affiliate in Yemen came from any of the 16 intelligence agencies he oversees.

Recommended: Mole infiltrated al Qaeda plot

The move comes after revelations this week that a mole helped foil a plot to blow up a U.S.-bound plane by penetrating al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.
"We are looking internally to determine whether or not there were unauthorized disclosures of unclassified information," said a U.S. intelligence official, who has direct knowledge of the review but declined to be named and was only authorized to discuss it if no name was used.

Watch: Rep. Peter King on why the leaks 'put a lot at risk'

The review will not include the White House or the national security staff, which technically is not part of the intelligence community.

At this point, Clapper's general counsel staff will conduct the review. It is not a formal investigation and does not involve the inspector general.

"We aren't there yet," the official said, noting that an investigation is a process with legal procedures and ramifications for disciplinary action.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328
any readout coming?

Ken Dilanian  
National Security Correspondent  
Los Angeles Times  
O:(202) 824 8328
Given the imperfect nature of our knowledge, what I sent below is all we’re telling readers. I understand the term “operating on the ground” to suggest personnel physically in these locations for some period of time. Whether they sleep there, etc, we’re not getting into.

---

Ken,

Thanks!

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

I have a story teed up for tomorrow on US forces supporting the offensive in southern Yemen. As part of that, we’re going to report what a source told us about CIA operatives and contractors operating on the ground in Yemen. I know you have denied this in the past off the record, but I’d like to put that on background so I can get it in the story. Our source is very solid, and we feel comfortable with what we are saying. Here’s how it will be worded:

The development marks a new phase in the U.S. effort to deal with what officials say is a growing threat from al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and to help the Yemeni government regain control of southern provinces that have fallen under militant control. It comes as the U.S. has stepped up drone strikes against militants in Yemen, an effort that has included CIA operatives and U.S. contractors gathering intelligence in remote tribal areas, according to a source with knowledge of the covert operation.

**

According to a source with knowledge of the operation, teams of CIA officers and U.S. contractors have been operating on the ground in Yemen for some time, hunting al Qaeda militants and developing intelligence that has led to a series of successful drone strikes. They have recruited tribal militants to provide security, the source said.
Thanks.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824-8328
Hey Ken,

In addition you can report the CIA declined comment.

Thanks!

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

Also, are you able to say on background whether these were fact US strikes?

May 15

(CNN) -- Two suspected U.S. drone strikes killed seven al Qaeda militants and eight civilians in the southern part of Yemen on Tuesday, three Yemeni security officials said.

It was the latest of several U.S. strikes in Yemen, which is home to al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, described by U.S. officials as the al Qaeda affiliate that poses the most serious threat to the United States.
At least seven civilians were injured in the Tuesday strikes, the officials said.

From:  
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 10:47 AM  
To: Dilanian, Ken  
Cc:  
Subject: RE: yemen

Ken,

Thanks!

Media Spokesperson  
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Dilanian, Ken  
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 10:37 AM  
To:  
Subject: yemen

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Thanks.

Ken Dilanian  
National Security Correspondent  
Los Angeles Times  
O:(202) 824 8328

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
Ken – pls. give me two minutes if you can.

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 5:14 PM
To:
Subject: story moving

I am about to pull the trigger. What I most need now is that stuff about why the new policy. Because we are doing a broader piece on the 15. The Patneau stuff can wait, because I will do a separate item on it, tomorrow if need be. Ken

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 624 8328
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 6:41 PM
To: 'Dilanian, Ken'
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Patneau

Wiping my brow. Ok, will be in touch. Have a great afternoon,

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 6:35 PM
To: 
Subject: Re: Patneau

Tomorrow...

Ken Dilanian
Los Angeles Times
202 824 8328

-----Original message-----
From: 
To: "Dilanian, Ken"
Cc: 
Sent: Tue, May 22, 2012 22:16:06 GMT+00:00
Subject: Patneau

Hi Ken,

Working on that. Were you still thinking about publishing tonight on Patneau or can that hold until tomorrow?

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 6:12 PM
To: 
Subject: RE: the country of georgia, correct???

By the way, still interested in patneau stuff if you can get it.

Ken Dilanian
Los Angeles Times
202 824 8328

-----Original message-----
From: 
To: "Dilanian, Ken"
Sent: Tue, May 22, 2012 22:00:16 GMT+00:00
Subject: RE: the country of georgia, correct???

Yes, the country of Georgia.

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 5:49 PM
To: 
Subject: the country of georgia, correct???
Freddie R. Woodruff was a gifted linguist who had mastered German, Turkish, Greek and Russian. He was killed in Georgia in August 1993 after volunteering for a temporary assignment.

From: 
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 5:39 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken
Cc: 
Subject: RE: story moving

Hi Ken,

This is what I can offer, on the record, from me as a CIA spokesperson:

“The Agency doesn’t discuss the specifics of internal procedures, but we do periodically review the names of those who have stars on the wall to determine when or if an identity should be declassified.”

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 5:14 PM
To: 
Subject: story moving

I am about to pull the trigger. What I most need now is that stuff about why the new policy. Because we are doing a broader piece on the 15. The Patneau stuff can wait, because I will do a separate item on it, tomorrow if need be. Ken

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
That's very helpful to know. I'll let you know soonest what we might be able to offer beyond the information in the release.

and thanks again for all your help. My plan is to do a short item, based on the interview with the dad, but I may not have time to file it today. I don't have much, so whatever you could come up with would be appreciated. Ken

Hi Ken,

I enjoyed reading your story on the ceremony. Are you still planning to write on Jeffrey Patneau today? Thanks in advance for letting me know.
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 2:20 PM
To: 
Subject: RE: I'll provide some more on Patneau very shortly

gracias.

From: 
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 2:20 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken
Subject: I'll provide some more on Patneau very shortly
Hi Ken,

I can share the following information on Mr. Patneau, which you can use on the record, from me as a CIA spokesperson:

"Jeffrey Patneau joined the CIA in July 2006 and demonstrated an exceptionally high degree of skill and initiative during his short career. He had served in Yemen for about 1.5 years at the time of his death."

"Mr. Patneau responded to the March 2008 bombing of the Embassy in Sanaa and later attacks with the energy, focus, and calm proficiency of a seasoned officer. He received several awards for his outstanding work. Following a massive terrorist attack on the Embassy in September 2008, Mr. Patneau again used his resolve and initiative to help colleagues get back on their feet."

"Mr. Patneau in September 2008 was mortally injured in a collision in the streets of Sanaa. Prior to his tragic death, Mr. Patneau had asked to serve next in Iraq or Afghanistan."

I hope this is helpful to putting your story together.

[Signature]

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs
FYI, guys, my CIA/Hollywood story got pushed up and we are now running it tomorrow, so if you guys have anything to add, please let me know. Here is a flavor:

But at least at the Pentagon and the CIA, close cooperation with Hollywood is neither new nor partisan. The military's symbiotic relationship with movies dates back to the dawn of the medium, with the Pentagon basically trading ships, planes and technical expertise for a chance to influence how the armed forces are portrayed. The CIA's effort is less well known, but America's chief spy service has deployed an entertainment liaison since the 1990s, whose mission was clear from the outset: To overcome the agency's image in popular entertainment as incompetent, evil, or rife with rogue employees.

"I made that a big priority, and we did a lot more with Hollywood than ever before," said Bill Harlow, who was CIA's public affairs chief from 1997 to 2004 "The reason is that the American public gets a lot more of their information about the CIA from Hollywood than it does from the news media, and much of what they see about the agency is negative and wrong."

The idea, Harlow said, was to encourage movies and television shows "that at least every once made us the good guys instead of the bad guys."

Even before Harlow arrived, the CIA had made a former covert operative named Chase Brandon its first entertainment liaison. The gregarious Brandon happened to be a cousin of actor Tommy Lee Jones, so he mixed easily with the Hollywood community, Harlow said.

Just before the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the agency cooperated closely with a short-lived TV series, The Agency, allowing the crew to film at CIA headquarters and use CIA employees as extras.

In preparation for the 2002 Tom Clancy film "The Sum of All Fears," Ben Affleck, who plays a CIA analyst, came to CIA headquarters to interview people who do that job, Harlow said.

The makers of the 2003 film, The Recruit, also worked closely with the CIA, although their access was curtailed when it turned out star Al Pacino would play a CIA officer selling out his agency. The film's DVD extras, however, include a documentary touting the agency.

"The CIA has been subtly influencing motion picture content for more than 15 years," says Tricia Jenkins, author of new book, "The CIA in Hollywood," the first academic appraisal of the CIA's efforts to influence popular entertainment.

Hi Ken,

I can share the following information on Mr. Patneau, which you can use on the record, from me as a CIA spokesperson:

"Jeffrey Patneau joined the CIA in July 2006 and demonstrated an exceptionally high degree of skill and initiative during his short career. He had served in Yemen for about 1.5 years at the time of his death."

"Mr. Patneau responded to the March 2008 bombing of the Embassy in Sanaa and later attacks with the energy, focus, and calm proficiency of a seasoned officer. He received several awards for his outstanding work. Following a massive terrorist attack on the Embassy in September 2008, Mr. Patneau again used his resolve and initiative to help colleagues get back on their feet."

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
Dilanian, Ken

Wednesday, May 23, 2012 11:01 AM

Cynthia L Rapp

Request for help, cia hollywood story

Didi, The release of these Bigelow/Boal documents gives me a news peg to the larger story I've been wanting to do for some time, which is to look at how CIA interfaces with Hollywood. I wonder if you could help by making ___ available to talk about his job. My angle on this is that, Pete King's rhetoric aside, this was a pretty routine effort to cooperate with filmmakers, the sort of thing CIA has been doing for 15 years, as depicted in Tricia Jenkins book, the CIA in Hollywood. This is a storyline that is in your interest, I would think, and to the extent you could provide information about how routine it is to offer guidance to entertainment people who seek it out—including ones who aren't Democrats!—it would show that this latest episode is hardly a scandal. I realize you don't necessarily want the world to know all the mechanics, but as Judicial Watch showed, it's hard to keep this stuff secret. So you may as well try to influence how people think about it, and I'm offering that chance.

I am writing for the weekend, so my deadline would be tomorrow by 4pmish. As always, I am happy to accept information on background.

Best, Ken

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
Hi Ken,

Please find below some on the record (from me, as a CIA spokesperson) comments on our general interaction with the entertainment industry:

"The CIA has been open about our engagement with writers, documentary filmmakers, movie and TV producers, and others in the entertainment industry. Our goal is an accurate portrayal of the men and women of the CIA, their vital mission, and the commitment to public service that defines them. The protection of national security equities is always paramount in any engagement with the entertainment industry."

"Since the mid 1990s, a number of officers have served specifically in the role of entertainment industry liaison officer on our public affairs staff—when that specific position has been vacant, other public affairs officers necessarily fill that role. Since 2007, we have provided the contact information for this officer—and a description of this part of our mission—as well as ideas for potential storylines—on our website."

"The nature of our interaction varies and depends on many factors, including the specifics of the project and of the request. Always keeping in mind our duty to protect sources and methods, our standard practice is to answer questions by authors or script writers and debunk myths about the Agency. On some occasions, when appropriate, we arrange visits to the Agency for unclassified meetings with some of our officers. Rarely, we have allowed filming on our premises under very tight parameters."


I hope this perspective is useful.
Ken,

Folks, I just noticed in the Boal documents that it appears they met with chief CTC. Can you tell me whether his name was disclosed to them, and if not, how was he introduced? As you know, I think this is a bogus controversy and nothing new (and our story to that effect is slated for the front page Friday), but that one seems like an important question.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 2:15 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken
Subject: RE: Article on Jeffrey Patneau

thanks, that's really nice of you to say. While it's certainly my job to dig for secrets and cast a critical eye and all that, it's a pleasure every once in a while to simply recognize the extraordinary things you all do, including risking and in this case giving a life for the country. Thanks again for your help. Ken

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:17 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken
Subject: Article on Jeffrey Patneau

Ken —

Your piece is really well done. It was a pleasure working with you on it; I mean that. The quote from Jeff's father that closes the piece is especially powerful. He must be one helluva a guy, as was Jeff.

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 11:49 AM
To: Dilanian, Ken
Subject: RE: Information on Jeffrey Patneau

nevermind, the story posted. thanks for your help.


From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 11:03 AM
To: Dilanian, Ken
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Information on Jeffrey Patneau

Hi Ken -- I'll be back to you shortly on this.

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 9:42 AM
To: 
Subject: RE: Information on Jeffrey Patneau

on background, can I assume he was a case officer? And I was told he was an Arabic speaker, is that correct? (His father told me he was fluent in French.) And was Yemen his first overseas assignment? That's it, I promise. No drip drip drip. Ken

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 3:04 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken
Hi Ken,

I can share the following information on Mr. Patneau, which you can use on the record, from me as a CIA spokesperson:

"Jeffrey Patneau joined the CIA in July 2006 and demonstrated an exceptionally high degree of skill and initiative during his short career. He had served in Yemen for about 1.5 years at the time of his death."

"Mr. Patneau responded to the March 2008 bombing of the Embassy in Sanaa and later attacks with the energy, focus, and calm proficiency of a seasoned officer. He received several awards for his outstanding work. Following a massive terrorist attack on the Embassy in September 2008, Mr. Patneau again used his resolve and initiative to help colleagues get back on their feet."

"Mr. Patneau in September 2008 was mortally injured in a collision in the streets of Sanaa. Prior to his tragic death, Mr. Patneau had asked to serve next in Iraq or Afghanistan."

I hope this is helpful to putting your story together.

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs
Hi Ken - I just called you on this. Please call me back and I'll clarify.

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 2:25 PM
To: 
Subject: Hollywood

Quick q on Hollywood story. What's the best way to characterize the vault referenced in the emails. There is more than one vault at cia, right? Is this just a scifi? Where some planning for the op took place? Ken

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328
From: Dilanian, Ker
To: 
Subject: Re: gym renovations dead?

I will defer to him on that one. Was wondering if he had dropped it.

Ken Dilanian
Los Angeles Times
202 824 8328

-----Original message-----
From: 
To: "Dilanian, Ken"
Cc: 
Subject: Re: gym renovations dead?

Ken,

Best wishes,

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 04:09 PM
To: 
Subject: gym renovations dead?

Happy Wednesday. I just heard that the director's proposal to build a new fitness center (or overhaul the old, if that is more correct) has been killed, in light of the crappy budget situation. Is that true? What's the current gym situation...there are two, right. and how big and old are they? No daily deadline. Ken

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
202 824 8328
Not him, but close enough....How's it going?

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

---Original message---

From: Dilanian, Ken
To: "Dilanian, Ken" 
Cc:
Subject: Re: gym renovations dead?

Ken,

Best wishes,

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 04:09 PM
To:
Subject: gym renovations dead?

Happy Wednesday. I just heard that the director's proposal to build a new fitness center (or overhaul the old, if that is more correct) has been killed, in light of the crappy budget situation. Is that true? What's the current gym situation...there are two, right. and how big and old are they? No daily deadline. Ken

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
gracias.

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 1:09 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken
Cc: 
Subject: Abu Yahya
can you call me when you have a moment? 202 824 8328

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 1:09 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken
Cc: 
Subject: Abu Yahya
is it accurate to say that Pakistan's air force continues to allow US drones to fly over its airspace?
three including him, right?

Ken,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs
PS., Brachman told me Abu Musab al-Suri was the next most dangerous guy after al Libi. Do you guys believe he was in fact released from prison in Syria? any idea where he is now?

thanks for your help yesterday. Do your peeps have an idea who a likely successor might be? Or is there no logical successor, which in itself says something about the state of core al Qaeda? I'm trying to gin up a daily on this.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2012 1:11 PM
To: 
Subject: RE: AQ Core Status

thank you.

From: 
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2012 1:11 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken
Cc: 
Subject: AQ Core Status

Ken,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2012 4:15 PM
To: Media Spokesperson
Cc: CIA Office of Public Affairs
Subject: RE: this is what I mean

Thanks. Hey, you forgot to include a link to the video. Please re-send.

Ken,

Take care,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs
today's BBC story states as fact, "At least 14 people are thought to have been killed alongside him."

**Pentagon chief Panetta defends Pakistan drone strikes**

US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta has backed the use of drones to target militants in Pakistan, two days after a missile strike reportedly killed al-Qaeda leader Abu Yahya al-Libi.

Mr Panetta said the US had made it "very clear that we are going to continue to defend ourselves".

He made the comments while attending a conference in neighbouring India.

On Tuesday, Pakistan summoned the US deputy ambassador to reiterate its "serious concern" about drone strikes.

There have been eight US drone strikes in the past two weeks despite Islamabad's demands for them to be stopped.

Pakistan says the drone attacks fuel anti-US sentiment and claim civilian casualties along with militants. The US insists the strikes are effective.

'**Our sovereignty**'

US officials say Abu Yahya al-Libi died when two missiles struck a suspected militant compound early on Monday in Hesokhel, a village to the east of Miranshah, the main town of the North Waziristan tribal area.

At least 14 people are thought to have been killed alongside him.

Ken Dilanian  
National Security Correspondent  
*Los Angeles Times*  
O:(202) 824 8328
Ken,

Thanks for trying though,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Thursday, June 07, 2012 9:52 AM
To: 
Subject: more, please

[ ] in the spirit of the conversation we were having yesterday, and in light of Shane's story today, I want to appeal once more for more details about the al Libi strikes. They fired three times over three days. At what? What were they seeing? Were the other two targets militants, even though al Libi wasn't hit? They finally got him at sunrise, I read. How did they know he was alone? Did they have a fleet of Predators up there? Was the shot taken from Langley? Was Obama personally involved in the decision or informed pre-strike? Has he or anyone outside CIA seen the video? Ken

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O.(202) 824 8328
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 4:05 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken
Cc: 
Subject: RE: questions about congressional oversight

No doubt they would. I was surprised to see that a member of HPSCI and two members of armed services signed that letter. Thanks. Ken

From: 
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 4:04 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken
Cc: 
Subject: RE: questions about congressional oversight

Ken,

Take care,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 2:56 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: questions about congressional oversight

I'm working on a story about Congressional oversight of drone strikes that I think presents a good opportunity for you guys. In the letter below, a number of lawmakers assert that there is no meaningful oversight of the drone programs. I am told differently by people I trust, and I am trying to craft a story that explores that and puts some meat on the bones. Not only would such a story be reassuring to the public, I would think, but it would also be an opportunity to explore the misinformation about strikes that sometimes comes out of local media reports. It's one thing for you to say three killed instead of 15, and it's another for Congressional aides from both parties to back you up. Part of what this story will do, if you can help be bring it to fruition, is quote Congressional officials saying that great care is taken to avoid collateral damage and that the reports of widespread civilian casualties are simply wrong.

Here are some questions. I'd like to try to put this to bed by the end of next week. I understand you may want to answer some of this on the phone. I am hoping that in the wake of the John Brennan speech, these questions can be answered, since they are about the program in general, which has been publicly acknowledged.
Oversight committee staffers now regularly review videos of strikes, something that was not happening as of early 2009. When did Congressional staff begin watching videos of strikes? Was there debate within the agency about letting that happen? Other than lawmakers and their aides, who outside the agency regularly sees those videos? I am told that list is small. Will the videos someday be declassified? Has the imagery gotten better over the last three years? Military drone footage on the web would suggest it would be difficult for untrained people to know what they are seeing. But it's my understanding that high def video is now common in many of the sensors, meaning the images are much clearer. Is that accurate? Sen. Feinstein has said the committee reviews all "strike reports." My understanding is that that includes the targeting package, after action reports and battle damage assessments. Could you give examples of other sorts of documents it would include? Has congressional oversight led to any changes, formal or informal, in policies or procedures? If so, can you give me an idea of what they are without revealing sources and methods? Have the oversight committees conducted investigations into strikes that became controversial, such as the March 17, 2011 one in Datta Khel?

FYI, want to make sure you are aware of Sen. Feinstein's letter to the editor on this, and the transcript of her comments after the bin Laden raid.

Letters: Sen. Feinstein on drone strikes
May 17, 2012
Re "Coming clean on drones," Opinion, May 6

Doyle McManus raised some excellent questions about congressional oversight of U.S. drone strikes. The Senate Intelligence Committee, which I chair, has devoted significant time and attention to the drone program. We receive notification with key details shortly after every strike, and we hold regular briefings and hearings on these operations. Committee staff has held 28 monthly in-depth oversight meetings to review strike records and question every aspect of the program including legality, effectiveness, precision, foreign policy implications and the care taken to minimize noncombatant casualties.

"The use of the drones, or the Predator, by the intelligence community is very carefully done. And as part of our oversight, we have a team of staff that goes out there periodically, spends time out there, looks at the intelligence, watches what is happening, just to be able to provide a measure of oversight that real care is being taken to avoid collateral or civilian damage. And I think they have done a very good job. That's been a concern of mine from the beginning, I asked that this effort be established. It has been. And I think the finding is that the intelligence is very solid, that the procedural chain of approval is very solid, and the way in which this is being done is very careful."

Ken

From: White, Nathaniel [mailto:Nathan.White@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 11:28 AM
Subject: 26 Members of Congress Demand Answers About Combat Drone Program
June 13, 2012
Nathan.White@mail.house.gov

For Immediate Release
(202)225-5871

26 Members of Congress Demand Answers About Combat Drone Program

Bipartisan Letter Calls for Legal Justification of “Signature” Drone Strikes

Washington D.C. (June 13, 2012) – Congressman Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) and twenty-five fellow Members of Congress today wrote to President Obama demanding the White House’s legal justification for “signature” drone strikes, which could significantly increase the risk of killing innocent civilians or those who have no relationship to a potential attack on the U.S., further enflaming anti-U.S. sentiment abroad.

See a signed copy of the letter here. See Congressman Kucinich speaking about the letter here.

In the letter Members of Congress demand “the process by which ‘signature’ strikes are authorized and executed (drone strikes where the identity of the person killed is unknown); mechanisms used by the CIA and JSOC to ensure that such killings are legal; the nature of the follow-up that is conducted when civilians are killed or injured; and the mechanisms that ensure civilian casualty numbers are collected, tracked and analyzed.” The effort to gain greater transparency and accountability over the U.S. combat drone program has already been endorsed by Amnesty International, CIVIC and the Center for Constitutional Rights.

“We are concerned that the use of such ‘signature’ strikes could raise the risk of killing innocent civilians or individuals who may have no relationship to attacks on the United States,” write Kucinich et al. “Our drone campaigns already have virtually no transparency, accountability or oversight. We are further concerned about the legal grounds for such strikes under the 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force.
are faceless ambassadors that cause civilian deaths, and are frequently the only direct contact with Americans that the targeted communities have. They can generate powerful and enduring anti-American sentiment.”

The letter has been signed by John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI), Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-IL), Rush Holt (D-NJ), Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), Charles Rangel (D-NY), Fortney Pete Stark (D-CA), Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ), Michael M. Honda (D-CA), Barbara Lee (D-CA), Bob Filner (D-CA), Henry C. "Hank" Johnson (D-GA), Lynn C. Woolsey (D-CA), Luis V. Gutierrez (D-IL), Ron Paul (R-TX), James P. McGovern (D-MA), John Lewis (D-GA), George Miller (D-CA), Jim McDermott (D-WA), Yvette D. Clarke (D-NY), Peter A. DeFazio (D-OR), Peter Welch (D-VT), Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), Keith Ellison (D-MN) Walter B. Jones (R-NC), and Donna Edwards (D-MD).

Congressman Kucinich has led the Congress in opposing the use of combat drones against suspected terrorists abroad since the first known attack in 2004. In February 2006, he asked the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency to suspend the use of Predator drones citing the "high toll in innocent civilian life.” In the 111th Congress, he sponsored a bill to prohibit the extrajudicial killing of U.S. citizens abroad in response to revelations that the Administration included U.S. citizens on its targeted killing list.

###

Lakewood Office | 14400 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107 | Phone (216) 228-8850 | Fax (216) 228-6165
Parma Office | 7904 Day Drive, Parma, Ohio 44129 | Phone (440) 845-2707 | Fax (440) 845-2743
Washington Office | 2445 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515 | Phone (202) 225-5871 | Fax (202) 225-5745

Click Here to view this email in your browser
Click Here to be removed from this list

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2012 3:04 PM
To: RE: Abu Yahya

Just to be clear from what you said the below: It means that these numbers taken from media reports on New America’s site are all wrong, correct?

2012

24. June 14, 2012
Location: Miran Shah, North Waziristan
Militant Leaders: Unknown
Militants Killed: 3
Others Killed: Unknown
Source: AP, AFP, Aljazeera, PakTribune
Assumed Target: Building

Location: Isha, North Waziristan
Militant Leaders: Unknown
Militants Killed: 3-4
Others killed: Unknown
Source: AP, Dawn, AFP, ET
Assumed Target: Vehicle

22. June 4, 2012
Location: Hassokhel, North Waziristan
Militant Leaders: Unknown
Militants Killed: 15
Others killed: Unknown
Ken,

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 1:40 PM
To: Dianlan, Ken
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Abu Yahya

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2012 2:24 PM
To: 
Subject: RE: re klaidman: this one?

thanks.

From: 
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2012 2:25 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken
Subject: RE: re klaidman: this one?

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2012 2:15 PM
To: 
Subject: re klaidman: this one?

http://video.msnbc.msn.com/meet-the-press/47660208#47660208

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
ProPublica: Obama administration’s drone death figures don’t add up

By JUSTIN ELLIOTT
ProPublica
Published: June 19, 2012

Last month, a “senior administration official” said the number of civilians killed in drone strikes in Pakistan under President Obama is in the “single digits.” But last year “U.S. officials” said drones in Pakistan killed about 30 civilians in just a yearlong stretch under Obama.

Both claims can’t be true.

A centerpiece of President Obama’s national security strategy, drones strikes in Pakistan are credited by the administration with crippling Al Qaeda but criticized by human rights groups and others for being conducted in secret and killing civilians. The underlying facts are often in dispute and claims about how many people died and who they were vary widely.

So we decided to narrow it down to just one issue: have the administration’s own claims been consistent?

We collected claims by the administration about deaths from drone strikes in Pakistan and compared each one not to local reports but rather to other administration claims. The numbers sometimes do not add up. (Check out our interactive graphic to explore the claims.)

Even setting aside the discrepancy between official and outside estimates of civilian deaths, our analysis shows that the administration’s own figures quoted over the years raise questions about their credibility.

There have been 307 American drone strikes in Pakistan since 2004, according to a New America Foundation count. Just 44 occurred during the Bush administration. President Obama has greatly expanded the use of drones to attack suspected members of Al Qaeda, the Pakistani Taliban, and other groups in Pakistan’s remote northwest region.

Obama officials generally do not comment by name on the drone strikes in Pakistan, but they frequently talk about it to reporters (including us) on condition of anonymity. Often those anonymously sourced comments have come in response to outside tallies of civilian deaths from drone attacks, which are generally much higher than the administration’s own figures.
The outright contradiction we noted above comes from two claims made about a year apart:

* **April 22, 2011** McClatchy reports that U.S. officials claim "about 30" civilians died in the year between August 2009 and August 2010.

* **May 29, 2012** The New York Times reports that, according to a senior Obama administration official, the number of civilians killed in drone strikes in Pakistan under president Obama is in the "single digits."

As we also show in our interactive graphic, other anonymous administration claims about civilian deaths are possible but imply conclusions that seem improbable.

Consider:

* **April 26, 2010** The Washington Post quotes an "internal CIA accounting" saying that "just over 20 civilians" have been killed by drones in Pakistan since January 2009.

* **Aug. 11, 2011** The New York Times reports that CIA officers claim zero civilians were killed since May 2010.
Aug. 12, 2011 CNN quoted a U.S. official saying there were 50 civilians killed over the years in drone strikes in Pakistan.

If this set of claims is assumed to be accurate, it suggests that the majority of the 50 total civilian deaths occurred during the Bush administration — when the drone program was still in its infancy. As we've noted, in the entire Bush administration, there were 44 strikes. In the Obama administration through Aug. 12, 2011, there were 222. So according to this set of claims more civilians died in just 44 strikes under Bush than did in 222 strikes under Obama. (Again, the graphic is helpful to assess the administration assertions.)

Consider also these three claims, which imply two lengthy periods when zero or almost zero civilians were killed in drone strikes:

September 10, 2010 Newsweek quotes a government estimate that “about 30” civilians were killed since the beginning of 2008.

April 22, 2011 McClatchy reports that U.S. officials claim “about 30” civilians died in the year between August 2009 and August 2010.

July 15, 2011 Reuters quotes a source familiar with the drone program as saying “about 30” civilians were killed since July 2008.

It’s possible that all these claims are true. But if they are, it implies that the government believes there were zero or almost zero civilian deaths between the beginning of 2008 and August 2009, and then again zero deaths between August 2010 and July 2011. Those periods comprise a total of 182 strikes.

The administration has rejected in the strongest terms outside claims of a high civilian toll from the drone attacks.

Those outside estimates also vary widely. A count by Bill Roggio, editor of the website the Long War Journal, which bases its estimates on news reports, puts the number of civilian killed in Pakistan at 138. The New America Foundation estimates that, based on press reports, between 293 and 471 civilians have been killed in the attacks. The London-based Bureau of Investigative Journalism, which draws on a wider array of sources including researchers and lawyers in Pakistan, puts the number of civilians killed at between 482 and 832. The authors of the various estimates all emphasize that their counts are imperfect.

There are likely multiple reasons for the varying counts of civilian deaths from drone strikes in Pakistan. The attacks are executed remotely in often inaccessible regions. And there’s the question of who U.S. officials are counting as civilians. A story last month in the New York Times reported that President Obama adopted a policy that “in effect counts all military-age males in a strike zone as combatants.”

There are also ongoing debates in the humanitarian law community about who the U.S. may legitimately target with drone strikes and how the CIA is applying the principle of proportionality — which holds that attacks that might cause civilian deaths must be proportional to the level of military advantage anticipated.

In a rare public comment on drone strikes, President Obama told an online town hall in January that the drones had not caused “a huge number of civilian casualties.”

When giving their own figures on civilian deaths, administration officials are often countering local reports. In March 2011, for example, Pakistan is including the country’s army chief accused a U.S. drone strike of hitting a peaceful meeting of tribal elders, killing around 40 people. An unnamed U.S. official rejected the accusations, telling...
the AP: "There's every indication that this was a group of terrorists, not a charity car wash in the Pakistani hinterlands."

Unnamed U.S. officials told the Los Angeles Times last year that "they are confident they know who has been killed because they watch each strike on video and gather intelligence in the aftermath, observing funerals for the dead and eavesdropping on conversations about the strikes."

U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay said during a visit to Pakistan this month that there should be investigation of killings of civilians by drones and that victims should be compensated. The U.S. has given compensation to victims of airstrikes in Afghanistan but there are no reports of victims of drone strikes in Pakistan being compensated.

Since the various administration statements over the years were almost all quoted anonymously, it's impossible to go back to the officials in question to ask them about contradictions.

Asked about the apparent contradictions, National Security Council spokesman Tommy Vietor told ProPublica: "[W]e simply do not comment on alleged drone strikes."

Additional reporting by Cora Currier.

ProPublica's website

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O: (202) 824 8328
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2012 9:57 AM
To: 

Would you quibble with this?

Occasionally a smaller explosion ends the life of just one person, as when a missile earlier this month crashed into a room in Pakistan's tribal areas and killed Abu Yahya al Libi, al Qaeda's number two, officials say.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2012 3:23 PM
To: multiple choice

a. This wasn’t us.
b. Husseim Salah was actually working for the bad guys.
c. It was us, he really was Red Cross worker, and we screwed up.

ICRC worker killed in Yemen air strike

GENEVA (Reuters) - A Yemeni aid worker for the International Committee of the Red Cross was killed by an air strike in Abyan province on Wednesday while carrying out humanitarian work, the agency said.

"The International Committee of the Red Cross is deeply shocked and dismayed by the death of one of its staff members, Husseim Saleh, who was killed this morning while on duty in the north of Abyan governorate," it said in a statement.

"It was an air strike. We have no additional details whatsoever," ICRC spokesman Hicham Hassan told Reuters in Geneva.

(Reporting by Stephanie Nebehay; Editing by Kevin Liffey)

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328
-----Original message-----

Yes Ken, you can report we declined comment.

Have a nice weekend!

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

-----New message-----

You guys are a no comment on Poland black site, correct?

Ken Dilanian
Los Angeles Times
202 624 8328
Congress Zooms In On Drone Killings

A staff team reviews classified videos in an effort to hold the CIA more accountable.

By Ken Dilanian

WASHINGTON — Once a month, a group of staff members from the House and Senate intelligence committees drives across the Potomac River to CIA headquarters in Virginia, assembles in a secure room and begins the grim task of watching videos of the latest drone strikes in Pakistan and Yemen.

Sometimes they see Hellfire missiles hit buildings after suspected terrorists have entered. Other times they can make out a group or a vehicle consumed in a fiery blast. Occasionally, a smaller explosion kills just one person, as officials say happened when a missile this month crashed into a room in Pakistan's tribal areas and killed Abu Yahya al Libi, Al Qaeda's No. 2.

The videos are much sharper than the grainy drone imagery that can be viewed on the Web. "You can see exactly what is going on," said a senior congressional aide, who, like other officials, spoke about the highly classified program on the condition he not be identified.

The regular review of some of the most closely held video in the CIA's possession is part of a marked increase in congressional attention paid to the agency's targeted killing program over the last three years.

The oversight, which has not previously been detailed, began largely at the instigation of Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, officials said.

The lawmakers and aides with the intelligence oversight committees have a level of access shared only by President Obama, his top aides and a small number of CIA officials.

In addition to watching video, the legislative aides review intelligence that was used to justify each drone strike.

They also sometimes examine telephone intercepts and after-the-fact evidence, such as the CIA's assessment of who was hit.

"We receive notification with key details shortly after every strike, and we hold regular briefings and hearings on these operations," Feinstein wrote in May in a letter sent in response to a column that ran in The Times questioning the oversight of drone strikes.
"Committee staff has held 28 monthly in-depth oversight meetings to review strike records and question every aspect of the program including legality, effectiveness, precision, foreign policy implications and the care taken to minimize noncombatant casualties."

Feinstein did not respond to requests last week for an interview.

The United States faces international criticism for its drone strikes. Officials in Pakistan, in particular, have complained that strikes have killed many civilians, and some members of Congress have recently raised questions about "signature" drone attacks based on an individual's pattern of behavior.

Congressional officials say their review has made the CIA more careful. They are hard-pressed, however, to point to any changes the agency has made. The CIA declined to comment.

If the congressional committees objected to something, the lawmakers could call CIA leaders to testify in closed investigative hearings. If unsatisfied, they could pass legislation limiting the CIA's actions.

"I don't know that we've ever seen anything that we thought was inappropriate," one senior staff member said.

Still, the drone program is under far more scrutiny than in the past, congressional officials say. Even after drone strikes against militants in Pakistan were expanded significantly by President George W. Bush in summer 2008, the strikes were subject to little congressional review, according to former intelligence officials.

"During my time, the committees didn't do any oversight on drone strikes to speak of," said a former senior CIA official who left in 2009. "They would be informed when a strike was carried out. No staffers ever came out and watched video."

As the program intensified under Obama, Feinstein became determined to ensure that it was as precise as the CIA had been claiming. "That's been a concern of mine from the beginning," Feinstein said in little-noticed comments after the raid that killed Osama bin Laden in May 2011. "I asked that this effort be established. It has been. The way in which this is being done is very careful."

Senators and House members occasionally watch the videos. But much of the oversight is conducted by a core group of intelligence committee aides. They include some veteran analysts, such as Tom Corcoran, senior policy advisor to the House committee, who is a Navy Reserve intelligence officer and who worked for seven years for the Defense Intelligence Agency. He did not comment for this report.

Other top aides have less intelligence experience. The Republican staff director and another advisor to Sen. Saxby Chambliss of Georgia, the ranking Republican on the intelligence panel, spent most of their careers on the agriculture committee, which Chambliss once headed. They bring a fresh perspective, colleagues say.

Members of the oversight committees are limited in their ability to challenge the CIA's conclusions, a senior staff member cautioned. "I can watch video all day long -- I'm not an imagery analyst," he said. "I can only look to see if the description reasonably concurs with what my untrained eyes are seeing."

Critics argue that drone strikes sometimes hit the wrong people.

"I know for a fact that civilians are being killed in these strikes," said Brigadier Abdullah Dogar, defense attache at Pakistan's embassy in Washington. He cited a now infamous attack on March 17, 2011, in Datta Khel, North Waziristan, which the Pakistanis insist struck a tribal council and killed as many as 45 people, most of whom were not connected to Al Qaeda. The U.S. has been equally insistent that those killed were militants.
The Washington-based New America Foundation says that as many as 471 civilians have been killed in the strikes since 2004. Peter Bergen, an analyst who supervises the foundation’s tally, called it "the least unreliable thing out there in the absence of any real U.S. government transparency."

But lawmakers on the House and Senate oversight committees say media reports out of the tribal areas of Pakistan and Yemen list casualties that are refuted by video evidence. For example, the BBC and other news organizations quoted local officials saying that 15 "suspected militants" were killed in the June 4 Pakistan strike that killed al Libi. But the video shows that he alone was killed, congressional aides say.

Rep. Adam B. Schiff, a Democrat from Burbank and an intelligence committee member who has watched videos of the strikes, said, "If the American people were sitting in the room, they would feel comfortable that it was being done in a responsible way."

Congressional criticism of drone strikes has been rare. But this month, 26 lawmakers, all but two of them Democrats, signed a letter to Obama questioning so-called signature strikes, in which the U.S. attacks armed men who fit a pattern of behavior that suggests they are involved in terrorist activities.

Signature strikes have been curbed in Pakistan, where they once were common, but this year Obama gave the CIA permission to conduct them in Yemen, where an Al Qaeda affiliate that has targeted the United States has established a safe haven in the south.

The lawmakers expressed concern that signature strikes could kill civilians. They added: "Our drone campaigns already have virtually no transparency, accountability or oversight."

Rep. Hank Johnson (D-Ga.) signed the letter even though he is a member of the House Armed Services Committee, which oversees some drone attacks. "We need to know that innocent people are not being haphazardly killed because of bad information," he said.

Schiff, a former federal prosecutor, said he had seen firsthand that the CIA took "extraordinary care" in its targeting.

But he also said he was not convinced, in signature strikes against military-aged males, that every person killed was a militant, suggesting some could have been tribesmen paid to help terrorists.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
(202) 824 8328
Priceless. "Off the record, no comment." You know, when I first got on this beat, you guys used to say a few things about a few things. Happy weekend.

---

Ken,

Have a great weekend,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

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Hi, folks,

FBI counterintelligence chief Frank Figliuzzi testified yesterday that the FBI over the past year has arrested a number of people on the CIA’s Top Ten Proliferators List. Is this a public list? Can one of you chat with me about who is on it now, and who are the big fish who have been taken down in recent years?


Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O: (202) 824 8328
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Monday, July 02, 2012 4:55 PM
To:
Subject: RE: sexual harassment

FYI, the manager I mentioned was [redacted] though I see no reason to name him.

From:
Sent: Monday, July 02, 2012 4:47 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken
Subject: RE: sexual harassment

Ken,

Just tried calling you and you were on the other line. Give me a ring. Thanks!

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Monday, July 02, 2012 4:26 PM
To:
Subject: sexual harassment

As I bet you have heard, I have been working on a story about Director Petraeus' new sexual harassment policy. I have now gathered enough to write, so I am hoping to talk to you about it. I am going on vacation, so my intention is to file this story by close of business tomorrow.

I'll be writing about his recent memo, the new "zero tolerance" policy, and some of the things that led up to it, including a senior officer who was forced to retire under Panetta for having an affair with a subordinate. I'm hoping that since this does not involve national security secrets, you will be able to engage on this.

Thanks.

Best,

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, July 03, 2012 7:04 PM
To: 
Subject: Re: Harassment Story

-----Original message-----

Ken,

The following quotes may be treated as if you were interviewing the Agency spokesperson on the record. If you need to paraphrase, we'd appreciate the opportunity to review so that we can see the context. We would ask that the first quote below be used in full.

"The CIA strives to be a welcoming workplace where every employee is treated with dignity and respect. We have long held a policy of zero tolerance for harassment of any form, and the overwhelming majority of Agency officers adhere to this standard of professionalism. When inappropriate behavior occurs, it is handled with the utmost seriousness. We will not allow harassment to devalue the men and women who sacrifice so much for our mission."

Some historical perspective and additional detail, also on the record:

"The Agency conducted anonymous surveys in 2009 and 2011 of employees serving in war zones to capture perceptions on a wide range of issues including job satisfaction, training, working conditions, etc."

"The results were generally positive on most issues. Agency leadership was concerned, however, that although responses related to alleged harassment did not worsen since 2009, they hadn’t improved."

"The majority of alleged incidents cited in the survey consisted of remarks or jokes of a sexual nature. Survey results suggested harassment of a more physical nature may also have occurred, but was not reported. In cases where inappropriate behavior was reported to the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity (OEOO) and confirmed, individuals were disciplined."

"The surveys were anonymous, so where there hasn’t been a specific OEOO complaint, harassment is hard to verify. The vast majority of Agency employees do not report experiencing sexual harassment. However, even one incident is too many. Agency leadership has reaffirmed its zero tolerance policy for all forms of harassment and is putting in place additional measures—to improve awareness, monitoring, accountability, and training—to address harassment in war zones. These measures include:

-- A personal message from the Director to the workforce reaffirming the zero tolerance policy and laying out his expectation that these issues will be addressed and eliminated.

-- Over the next several months, the Agency’s Associate Deputy Director will lead a team of senior officers to the war zones to hold mandatory meetings with managers and employees.

-- The Director has appointed a seasoned EEO counselor and investigator with a track record of reducing incidents of harassment to serve as a single point of contact for harassment issues in the war zones.

-- EEO training, which Agency employees already take regularly, will also be incorporated more robustly into war zone readiness training.

-- We will canvass our officers more frequently—in surveys and in one-on-one exit interviews—to spot trends sooner.

Have a great Fourth!
Thanks, and hope you enjoy the 4th!

----- Original Message -----
From: dilanian, ken
Sent: tuesday, july 03, 2012 06:57 pm
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: Harassment Story

Ken,

The following quotes may be treated as if you were interviewing the Agency spokesperson on the record. If you need to paraphrase, we'd appreciate the opportunity to review so that we can see the context. We would ask that the first quote below be used in full.

"The CIA strives to be a welcoming workplace where every employee is treated with dignity and respect. We have long held a policy of zero tolerance for harassment of any form, and the overwhelming majority of Agency officers adhere to this standard of professionalism. When inappropriate behavior occurs, it is handled with the utmost seriousness. We will not allow harassment to devalue the men and women who sacrifice so much for our mission."

Some historical perspective and additional detail, also on the record:

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"The majority of alleged incidents cited in the survey consisted of remarks or jokes of a sexual nature. Survey results suggested harassment of a more physical nature may also have occurred, but was not reported. In cases where inappropriate behavior was reported to the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity (OEO) and confirmed, individuals were disciplined."

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leadership has reaffirmed its zero tolerance policy for all forms of harassment and is putting in place additional measures—to improve awareness, monitoring, accountability, and training—to address harassment in war zones. These measures include:

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-- EEO training, which Agency employees already take regularly, will also be incorporated more robustly into war zone readiness training.

-- We will canvass our officers more frequently—in surveys and in one-on-one exit interviews—to spot trends sooner.

Have a great Fourth!
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Wednesday, July 04, 2012 10:21 PM
To: RE: Your story

This is way over the top. I filed a 35 inch story that did use the quote in full and did some of the other things you are complaining were omitted. The story was cut for space to 20-something inches -- that's the way it goes sometimes. That said, the story as it ran is fair, accurate and balanced. It leads with the director taking action, when it could have led with the fact of the problem -- which is not something you guys were publicizing. If I find your criticisms especially astonishing given that CIA hides the details of these complaints behind a wall of secrecy, refusing to divulge what the military and any other government agency would have to about the frequency and nature of sexual harassment complaints. The surveys mentioned in this story and other statistical information about employee complaints, properly redacted, have nothing to do with national security and ought to be a public record, as they would be at any other government agency. In reporting this story, I encountered a great deal of skepticism that zero tolerance will be enforced. So I would say you guys have a long way to go on this issue, and your problem is not my story -- it is decades of experiences like the one Ilana Greenstein described, unreported and unpunished. Ken

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Wednesday, July 04, 2012 9:01 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken
Cc: 
Subject: Your story

Ken,
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, July 03, 2012 4:37 PM
To: 
Subject: it's never simple, is it...

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 6328
thanks.

I'll give you a call after your conference call, around midday. Thanks!

interesting story. I have an 11 am conf call, free other than that...

Bloomberg.com
July 2, 2012

Navy To Combat Sexual Assault With New Training Video

By David Lerman, Bloomberg News

The Navy is turning to professional actors to help teach the fleet to be on guard against sexual-assault crimes.

A new two-hour training course on sexual assault prevention includes a 40-minute video filmed on a ship that depicts situations of improper conduct.

"We used actors and actresses to give it a real feel," said Rear Admiral Martha Herb, the deputy of Navy Personnel Command, in a conference call with reporters today. "It looks at decisions the people on the ship have to make to determine whether they need to intervene."

The number of reported sexual assaults in the military increased by 1 percent in fiscal 2011 over the previous year, according to a Pentagon report released in April. There were 3,192 reports of sexual assault involving service members as either victims or subjects, the report found.
“This is a focused effort by the entire force to eliminate this crime from our ranks,” Herb said.

The Air Force said last week it is investigating 12 male military training instructors for alleged sexual misconduct with female cadets. Herb said the Navy’s new training effort had no connection to the Air Force probe.

All Navy leaders -- those with ranks of E-7 and above -- with receive the new training by the end of September, said Captain Scott Seeberger, who heads a Navy task force on sexual-assault prevention and joined Herb in the conference call. The rest of the fleet will be trained by the end of the year, he said.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta in April announced plans to create a “special victims unit” in each military service branch to help curb sexual assaults. Trained investigators, prosecutors and other personnel would collect evidence and assist victims of assault.

Panetta also issued a directive to ensure the most serious assault offenses, such as rape and forcible sodomy, will be elevated to a higher level of command. Those cases will be handled at a minimum by an officer at the colonel or Navy captain level, according to a Pentagon statement.

There were 237,401 women serving in the U.S. military in 2011, making up about 14.5 percent of the force, according to Pentagon figures.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O: (202) 824 8328
just this one case, that's all – if you know whatever happened.

Ken,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

As part of our chat, can you tell me what happened with this EEOC complaint, and whether any internal policies were changed as a result?

Does the CIA have a double standard when its spies cozy up to foreigners? Veteran female officers speak out. An exclusive report.

By David E. Kaplan
Posted 4/22/07
http://www.usnews.com/

It was not your usual beltway gathering of eagles. In the summer of 2004, the 10 women who gathered in a downtown Washington law office arrived with aliases, classified résumés, and tales of a secret bureaucracy run amok. They came to compare notes, soothe long-
frayed nerves, and launch what may be the latest challenge to the embattled Central Intelligence Agency—a class action lawsuit on how America's premier intelligence agency treats its female spies.

LAWYER. Veteran CIA officer Janine Brookner asserts that the agency long has given male spies a pass on relationships.

JEFFREY MACMILLAN FOR USN&WR

The group ranged from young recruits to some of the CIA's most experienced, most decorated female case officers. All agreed on one thing: They had been driven out of the agency for intimate affairs and close friendships with foreign nationals, while male counterparts in similar situations had gotten off scot free. Their complaint, now pending at the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, has flown below the radar—until now. But it has CIA officials on edge, alleging that the suit, if green-lighted by the EEOC, will open old wounds, expose classified data, and unfairly tar the agency with the complaints of disgruntled ex-staffers.

The women say they are indeed embittered, angry that the agency to which they entrusted their careers and safety had turned on them. Twenty-five have now joined the complaint, and attorneys expect at least 50 to eventually sign on. The EEOC will decide later this year if the case should move forward, but the proposed suit has already galvanized the women behind it. Until now, none have spoken out.

U.S. News has interviewed five of the women at length and talked to many of their former colleagues. All but one of the five insisted on anonymity, concerned over violating secrecy pledges and possible agency retribution. While careful not to disclose classified material, they each offered detailed accounts about friendships and love affairs overseas, while battling an agency they say employs unjustifiable double standards. They describe falling into Kafkaesque nightmares of rumor and innuendo, abusive polygraph operators, and secret hearings from which they were banned. "You have two organizations," says one, a veteran spy who once ranked among the CIA's top female operatives. "There's the organization I worked in and thrived in, but there's a dark underbelly that nobody knows about unless you have a run-in with it. Nobody knows about it because you're not allowed to talk about it."

The case could revive an image of a CIA that its leaders have long sought to erase—of a brainy club of macho mandarins, many with Ivy League pedigrees, who ran secret operations and briefed presidents but had little use for women and minorities, except in back-office support jobs. The suit revolves around what are known at the agency as "close and continuing relationships," in which staffers must report all regular contact with foreign
nationals—be they friends, cleaning ladies, car mechanics, or, most of all, lovers. The rules are explicit, if not always observed in practice. And that, say the women, is the problem. At the heart of their complaints are the CIA’s Centers for Security and Counterintelligence. The centers function, in effect, as the agency’s internal affairs division, rooting out moles and safeguarding secrets. But the Security Center, in particular, they say, is dominated by tradition-minded men who believe women are too vulnerable to get emotionally entangled with foreigners. As a result, they claim, the center is driving out some of the CIA’s most talented female officers.

Nonsense, says the CIA. Agency officials, citing privacy restrictions, declined to respond directly to individual complaints, but they are adamant that the women have no case. "As a matter of course, we don’t comment on pending litigation," says Mark Mansfield, the CIA’s chief spokesman, but he insists that today’s CIA plays no favorites. "Our code of conduct—and the very high standards to which CIA officers are held—apply to all our officers regardless of their gender." Some familiar with the CIA’s handling of these matters, given anonymity, are more frank. "It’s so easy to claim that there’s a double standard," says one, who points out that many of the women were fired not for having affairs but for being insubordinate or concealing their relationships. "A decision to terminate someone’s employment is not made hastily or lightly," the source says. "Invariably there’s a darn good reason." Others stress that intimate relationships with foreigners have led to serious security breaches in the past and that the agency can’t afford to be lax.

In their conversations with U.S. News, however, none of the women suggested that the CIA let down its guard. What they argue is not that their records were perfect—there are not—but that men in similar situations have been treated far more leniently. Consider, for one, the case of Sherry Norris.

Bright future. Norris (an alias) was part of a new generation of American spies. Fresh out of Boston University, she joined the CIA in 1996. After working to interpret top-secret imagery of terrorist sites, she made an unusual jump from analysis to operations and went off on a two-year tour in a South Asian country. By all accounts, Norris performed well as a young case officer, recruiting one spy in particular who turned heads at her CIA “station” inside the U.S. Embassy. Her job evaluations were strong and, as she neared the end of her tour, the future seemed wide open. Then she fell in love.

At a party, Norris met a Middle Eastern diplomat, an economics officer from a close U.S. ally. The attraction was immediate. They began to date, and Norris dutifully advised CIA headquarters of the relationship. A cable came back from her bosses approving the contact, but she recalls that male friends in the agency warned her to be careful. "They’re tougher on women," one told her.
The relationship soon turned serious, and Norris told headquarters everything-even when they first made love. "You have to report it all," she explains. "It was pretty embarrassing." To cover herself, Norris also wrote a cable listing all the people her friend worked with. "I didn't know what I was getting into," she now says. The response was chilling: One of the persons, based on years-old data, might have ties to that nation's intelligence service. This would hardly be unusual-in any embassy-but the CIA's security people came down hard. Norris, they said, needed to end the relationship.

Norris couldn't believe it. Other embassy staffers were embroiled in romantic affairs both inside and outside the office, she says, including several male CIA officers who were actively dating foreigners-with few questions asked. But her tour was nearly up and, unwilling to jeopardize her job, Norris promised she'd break things off when she left for America in three weeks.

Heartbroken, she returned to New York for home leave. "I said to myself, if he contacts me, I'll respond," she recalls. It took only a day. On her return was an E-mail from him-wanting to come visit. "We were really in love," she says.

It was the summer of 2002. As Norris tells it, days after her lover's arrival, they traveled to Washington, and she reported everything to the chief of counterintelligence in her division. "This stuff happens all the time," the man reassured her. With an otherwise spotless record, Norris figured she'd probably just get a letter of reprimand-that's what happened to the men she'd heard about. But in October, the agency's Counterintelligence Center called and said the matter had been reviewed; Norris would need to end the relationship after all. The officials were adamant. "There's no working with you on this," one told her. Forced to choose between love and the CIA, Norris reluctantly picked her career. She even had to run her excuse for breaking up by the counterintelligence people. But her lover kept calling and writing, prompting Norris to change her phone number and block his E-mail.

Secret panel. Still, it wasn't enough for the CIA's Security Office, which launched a formal investigation. Officials there grilled Norris for hours on a polygraph machine, asking if she'd disclosed classified information. Then they told her that she had failed the test and referred the matter to the FBI. She let investigators into her house and allowed them to download everything on her home computer.

Norris's case dragged on for another year. By then she had become one of a precious few at the CIA fluent in Arabic and was hoping for a promised next assignment to the Middle East. Her relationship had been over for two years, and the FBI, she says, had cleared her. But then came word that a Personnel Evaluation Board—a secret panel dominated by
counterintelligence and security officers—was examining her case. The board found her "insubordinate" for seeing her lover again—and voted to fire her. Norris was never allowed to meet with the board. "I was shocked," she says. "Shocked wasn't even the word. I did everything right, and I still got screwed." Security officials took away her badge and escorted her off the grounds. "I was told not to talk to anyone or I'd go to jail," she recalls. Higher-ups even suggested she leave Washington.

Norris, now 34, has stayed in the nation's capital, where she works with a prominent think tank. She remains bitter about her experience. "Why did I break up with this guy when none of it mattered?" she asks. "There's no happy ending. I lost him, and I lost my job."

The CIA has been down this road before. In 1995, the agency paid out nearly $1 million to over 400 women in a class action case involving sex discrimination. The complaints back then: lack of promotion, harassment on the job, dead-end assignments. Months before that settlement, the agency handed $410,000 more to one of its most senior female officers, Janine Brookner—also for sex discrimination. A 24-year CIA veteran, Brookner was a rising star at the agency until she became its first female chief of station in Latin America. Agency investigations, relying on staffers she had disciplined for wife-beating and drunkenness, smeared her as a lush and sexual provocateur.

With the money she won from the CIA, Brookner put herself through law school, and, since 1999, she has represented some 40 clients against the CIA. Brookner is the lead attorney in the current class action case. "Women started coming to me around 2002, complaining about double standards," she says. "I wondered how I could help them—appeals within the system just don't work."

The earlier cases pushed the CIA to change, but within limits, says Kent Harrington, a former senior official who ran the public affairs office at the time. "There clearly was plenty of movement by women, but the attitude and dominant culture didn't change that much," he says. "I don't think the system corrected itself through 1998, when I left." Agency officials insist they've made progress since then and cite personnel data to support their case: 39 percent of the CIA's espionage branch—the National Clandestine Service—is female, including more than a fifth of its case officers or spies; the number of women in the CIA's senior intelligence service—its executive cadre—grew from 14 percent in 1996 to 25 percent in 2006; and during the same time, the number of female station chiefs—the coveted top jobs overseas—rose from 12 percent to 17 percent.

"Right thing." Diversity is a hot topic within the current CIA leadership, which has been under fire for turning away potential recruits because they have foreign relatives or spent time overseas that can't be fully vetted. On Martin Luther King Day this year, Director
Michael Hayden acknowledged the importance of diversity-and equality-in the ranks. "There is no second-class officer here," he told his troops. "We ... must continue to strive for a workforce that reflects our diverse world-not only because it is the right thing to do but because it is essential to our success." Notably, the new class action complaint aims to include not only current and past female staffers but also female job applicants, who Brookner believes have been turned away at a higher rate than men. As in the 1995 case, she hopes to use the courts to force the CIA to cough up personnel data, broken down by gender. Brookner and her clients believe the statistics will show a bias in favor of men.

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Lora Griffith, a 19-year veteran of the CIA, is Brookner's lead plaintiff in the case. Griffith worked at the Pentagon on counterterrorism before joining the CIA in 1987. Among her early tasks was tracking Russian shipments to the Sandinistas in Nicaragua. Eager to go abroad, she learned Farsi, the language of Iran, then worked on Middle Eastern targets in western Europe and South Asia.

It was in Europe that Griffith's trouble began. In the anxious days after 9/11, she was teamed with an intelligence officer from a close U.S. ally. Their job was liaison-exchanging information and making sure their respective agencies had the latest intel on terrorism. "We became good friends," Griffith says. "He came to our house, he knew our kids, we socialized. We were very close."

Too close, according to the CIA. After returning to headquarters in 2003, Griffith found herself under investigation by the Security Center—even though the relationship had been short term and ended months earlier. Griffith tells of how, during a particularly grueling interrogation session, the polygraph operator boasted that he had nailed the FBI's Robert Hanssen, the infamous KGB mole, and then accused her of revealing secrets. It seemed absurd to Griffith, as sharing intelligence was part of her job. After hours of questioning, Griffith recalls, her interrogator shut off the polygraph and asked if she had ever shared information about embassy staffers. Of course she had, she says—her contact was interacting with them all the time. "Is that what's bothering you?" he asked. "Well, yes," Griffith responded, not sure what he meant. "Well," he declared, "that's the end of the interview."

Griffith claims the man misinterpreted her remarks as an admission of guilt. The next day she got a call from the Security Office asking her to stop by. There, a large woman at a round table pushed a box of tissues toward her and asked for her badge. After a 19-year
career, Griffith was out of a job. Today, Griffith is a homemaker in Florida, where she looks after her two kids. She still can't believe what happened. "I know a half-dozen cases of guys who became close to foreign nationals," she says. "All these men have been far less candid than I was, but they're still at work over there."

To bolster their case, Griffith and the other women have assembled an intriguing list of male officers who they say have led rather colorful lives, with few repercussions. Topping the list is "Rusty" (another alias). According to a plaintiffs' filing to the EEOC, Rusty was a case officer with a background in paramilitary operations. He got involved with a foreign airline stewardess and, while based in "a dangerous Middle East country, went AWOL." Eventually, he turned up somewhere in the Middle East-stewardess in tow-after allegedly having broken his cover and revealing his alias. Rusty's overseas tour was cut short, but he soon received approval to marry the woman. His position now, according to the EEOC brief: chief of station at one of the CIA's largest posts overseas.

There are many Rustys out there, CIA veterans say. The problem, they explain, is that Rusty and his brethren come out of a long-standing tradition. Historically, the prestige jobs of station chief have gone mostly to men, some of whom engaged in escapades that many a retired old spook will launch into after a cocktail or two. More than one former case officer told U.S. News how staffers used agency safe houses for affairs-complete with condoms stashed in dresser drawers. "Guys could go out and get laid, and who's going to talk about that?" says veteran officer Milt Bearden, who started in 1964. "Guys couldn't get pregnant, and there were fewer marriages then with foreigners."

"Look, in the late 1960s and early '70s, most of the men fooled around," adds attorney Brookner, who started as a case officer in 1968. "They'd hire women, put on sex shows, take turns with hookers at a hotel. Everybody was having an affair with everyone else. If you slept with foreigners, you didn't report it. The guys were mostly married—of course they didn't report it."

Nonetheless, tough questions continued to be asked about long-term relationships with foreigners. For Bearden, who ran offices in a dozen countries over his long career, it was the "shoes in the closet" test for case officers. "If you look in the closet and her shoes are there, that's when I need to deal with this," he recalls. In 1984, when Bearden himself met a French woman in Nigeria he wanted to marry, he had to offer his resignation and submit to an investigation and polygraph.

Attitudes hardened in the mid-'90s, with revelations of the Aldrich Ames case. Ames, the agency's most notorious traitor, had an affair in Mexico City with an agent he was supposed to run and then concealed plans to marry her. It was but one sign of many that CIA security
officers failed to heed. In the end, Ames compromised some 100 operations and led to the execution of at least 10 agents working for the West. The crackdown that followed his 1994 arrest devastated CIA morale and forced many good officers out. A key culprit, agency veterans say, was the Security Center’s overreliance on the polygraph, the widely disputed “lie detector” machine that measures stress, not deception.

The crackdown also gave unprecedented power to the Security Office, which few at the agency are willing to cross even today. As one insider explained, "No one wants another Ames." But the secrecy of its work and a series of questionable cases have left the Security Center open to charges of lack of accountability. Making matters worse, say critics, is that security officers have a financial incentive to extract admissions from CIA staff-in the form of bonuses and performance awards of as much as $3,000.

Overblown? Agency officials respond that such charges are overblown and that the Security Center is subject to oversight from CIA management, the agency's inspector general, and congressional intelligence committees. Even some sympathetic to Brookner's current case say the office is evenhanded. "I think there's a tendency to overlook men, but on the other hand I've seen men fired for close and continuing relationships," says CIA veteran Robert Baer, on whose career the movie Syriana was based. "In my 21 years, I've never seen Security gratuitously go after somebody."

Bearden, who ran the Russian/East European division during the fall of the Soviet Union, suggests that women have gotten into more trouble simply because the intelligence world is full of men. "The main difference is that so many of the women's relationships were operational and liaison, and they developed into something," he says of the cases he saw. "Guys didn't bring home an intelligence contact because most of the people they were dealing with were male."

That, indeed, is the biggest problem with the women's EEOC case today, argue those close to the agency. "If a CIA officer has a romantic relationship with a foreigner and is honest and forthright about it, that's one thing," explains a knowledgeable source. "If an agency officer continues the relationship after being told to end it, is disingenuous, or conceals it altogether, that's another thing. It's a different matter altogether if an agency officer is having a romantic relationship with his or her recruited agent or with someone recruited from a foreign intelligence service. The counterintelligence and ethical concerns raised by either of these are obvious and serious."

Security concerns aside, the women's case falls short of the standards required for it to be certified a class action, the CIA has argued before the EEOC. The agency has scoured its records going back to 1995, officials say, and found only four women forced to leave, at
least in part, because of unauthorized contact with foreigners. But that's not how it works, say the women U.S. News interviewed. Most are pushed out, they claim, on other charges. Words like unsuitability, lack of candor, insubordination, and security violations fill their personnel files—all because, they say, of their having flings and friendships that male officers routinely enjoyed. The impact is far-reaching: Security clearances are revoked, and the person is in effect blacklisted from work at the Pentagon, the FBI, or other agencies that do classified work. That's why key among the lawsuit's demands is expunging of their files. "It means more than money to the women," says Brookner.

By summer this year, an administrative judge at the EEOC's Washington field office will decide whether Norris, Griffith, and the others will get their day in court. If their class action suit goes forward—and if the CIA's personnel records indeed show a pattern of bias—the agency may well move to settle out of court. And if the case fails, the women say they at least will have shone some needed light on one of the darker corners of the CIA.

With Monica M. Ekman

This story appears in the April 30, 2007 print edition of U.S. News & World Report
Is the agency willing to provide statistics and outcomes on sexual harassment complaints? I'm not suggesting you can produce it today, but I'm just asking what your policy is.

Ken,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

As part of our chat, can you tell me what happened with this EEOC complaint, and whether any internal policies were changed as a result?

Does the CIA have a double standard when its spies cozy up to foreigners? Veteran female officers speak out. An exclusive report.

By David E. Kaplan
Posted 4/22/07
http://www.usnews.com/

It was not your usual beltway gathering of eagles. In the summer of 2004, the 10 women who gathered in a downtown Washington law office arrived with aliases, classified résumés, and tales of a secret bureaucracy run amok. They came to compare notes, soothe long-
frayed nerves, and launch what may be the latest challenge to the embattled Central Intelligence Agency—a class action lawsuit on how America's premier intelligence agency treats its female spies.

LAWYER. Veteran CIA officer Janine Brookner asserts that the agency long has given male spies a pass on relationships.
JEFFREY MACMILLAN FOR USN&WR

The group ranged from young recruits to some of the CIA’s most experienced, most decorated female case officers. All agreed on one thing: They had been driven out of the agency for intimate affairs and close friendships with foreign nationals, while male counterparts in similar situations had gotten off scot free. Their complaint, now pending at the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, has flown below the radar—until now. But it has CIA officials on edge, alleging that the suit, if green-lighted by the EEOC, will open old wounds, expose classified data, and unfairly tar the agency with the complaints of disgruntled ex-staffers.

The women say they are indeed embittered, angry that the agency to which they entrusted their careers and safety had turned on them. Twenty-five have now joined the complaint, and attorneys expect at least 50 to eventually sign on. The EEOC will decide later this year if the case should move forward, but the proposed suit has already galvanized the women behind it. Until now, none have spoken out.

U.S. News has interviewed five of the women at length and talked to many of their former colleagues. All but one of the five insisted on anonymity, concerned over violating secrecy pledges and possible agency retribution. While careful not to disclose classified material, they each offered detailed accounts about friendships and love affairs overseas, while battling an agency they say employs unjustifiable double standards. They describe falling into Kafkaesque nightmares of rumor and innuendo, abusive polygraph operators, and secret hearings from which they were banned. "You have two organizations," says one, a veteran spy who once ranked among the CIA's top female operatives. "There's the organization I worked in and thrived in, but there's a dark underbelly that nobody knows about unless you have a run-in with it. Nobody knows about it because you're not allowed to talk about it."

The case could revive an image of a CIA that its leaders have long sought to erase—of a brainy club of macho mandarins, many with Ivy League pedigrees, who ran secret operations and briefed presidents but had little use for women and minorities, except in back-office support jobs. The suit revolves around what are known at the agency as "close and continuing relationships," in which staffers must report all regular contact with foreign
nationals—be they friends, cleaning ladies, car mechanics, or, most of all, lovers. The rules are explicit, if not always observed in practice. And that, say the women, is the problem. At the heart of their complaints are the CIA's Centers for Security and Counterintelligence. The centers function, in effect, as the agency's internal affairs division, rooting out moles and safeguarding secrets. But the Security Center, in particular, they say, is dominated by tradition-minded men who believe women are too vulnerable to get emotionally entangled with foreigners. As a result, they claim, the center is driving out some of the CIA's most talented female officers.

Nonsense, says the CIA. Agency officials, citing privacy restrictions, declined to respond directly to individual complaints, but they are adamant that the women have no case. "As a matter of course, we don't comment on pending litigation," says Mark Mansfield, the CIA's chief spokesman, but he insists that today's CIA plays no favorites. "Our code of conduct and the very high standards to which CIA officers are held—apply to all our officers regardless of their gender." Some familiar with the CIA's handling of these matters, given anonymity, are more frank. "It's so easy to claim that there's a double standard," says one, who points out that many of the women were fired not for having affairs but for being insubordinate or concealing their relationships. "A decision to terminate someone's employment is not made hastily or lightly," the source says. "Invariably there's a darn good reason." Others stress that intimate relationships with foreigners have led to serious security breaches in the past and that the agency can't afford to be lax.

In their conversations with U.S. News, however, none of the women suggested that the CIA let down its guard. What they argue is not that their records were perfect—they are not—but that men in similar situations have been treated far more leniently. Consider, for one, the case of Sherry Norris.

Bright future. Norris (an alias) was part of a new generation of American spies. Fresh out of Boston University, she joined the CIA in 1996. After working to interpret top-secret imagery of terrorist sites, she made an unusual jump from analysis to operations and went off on a two-year tour in a South Asian country. By all accounts, Norris performed well as a young case officer, recruiting one spy in particular who turned heads at her CIA "station" inside the U.S. Embassy. Her job evaluations were strong and, as she neared the end of her tour, the future seemed wide open. Then she fell in love.

At a party, Norris met a Middle Eastern diplomat, an economics officer from a close U.S. ally. The attraction was immediate. They began to date, and Norris dutifully advised CIA headquarters of the relationship. A cable came back from her bosses approving the contact, but she recalls that male friends in the agency warned her to be careful. "They're tougher on women," one told her.
The relationship soon turned serious, and Norris told headquarters everything—even when they first made love. "You have to report it all," she explains. "It was pretty embarrassing." To cover herself, Norris also wrote a cable listing all the people her friend worked with. "I didn't know what I was getting into," she now says. The response was chilling: One of the persons, based on years-old data, might have ties to that nation's intelligence service. This would hardly be unusual—in any embassy—but the CIA's security people came down hard. Norris, they said, needed to end the relationship.

Norris couldn't believe it. Other embassy staffers were embroiled in romantic affairs both inside and outside the office, she says, including several male CIA officers who were actively dating foreigners—with few questions asked. But her tour was nearly up and, unwilling to jeopardize her job, Norris promised she'd break things off when she left for America in three weeks.

Heartbroken, she returned to New York for home leave. "I said to myself, if he contacts me, I'll respond," she recalls. It took only a day. On her return was an E-mail from him—wanting to come visit. "We were really in love," she says.

It was the summer of 2002. As Norris tells it, days after her lover's arrival, they traveled to Washington, and she reported everything to the chief of counterintelligence in her division. "This stuff happens all the time," the man reassured her. With an otherwise spotless record, Norris figured she'd probably just get a letter of reprimand—that's what happened to the men she'd heard about. But in October, the agency's Counterintelligence Center called and said the matter had been reviewed; Norris would need to end the relationship after all. The officials were adamant. "There's no working with you on this," one told her. Forced to choose between love and the CIA, Norris reluctantly picked her career. She even had to run her excuse for breaking up by the counterintelligence people. But her lover kept calling and writing, prompting Norris to change her phone number and block his E-mail.

Secret panel. Still, it wasn't enough for the CIA's Security Office, which launched a formal investigation. Officials there grilled Norris for hours on a polygraph machine, asking if she'd disclosed classified information. Then they told her that she had failed the test and referred the matter to the FBI. She let investigators into her house and allowed them to download everything on her home computer.

Norris's case dragged on for another year. By then she had become one of a precious few at the CIA fluent in Arabic and was hoping for a promised next assignment to the Middle East. Her relationship had been over for two years, and the FBI, she says, had cleared her. But then came word that a Personnel Evaluation Board—a secret panel dominated by
counterintelligence and security officers—was examining her case. The board found her "insubordinate"—for seeing her lover again—and voted to fire her. Norris was never allowed to meet with the board. "I was shocked," she says. "Shocked wasn't even the word. I did everything right, and I still got screwed." Security officials took away her badge and escorted her off the grounds. "I was told not to talk to anyone or I'd go to jail," she recalls. Higher-ups even suggested she leave Washington.

Norris, now 34, has stayed in the nation's capital, where she works with a prominent think tank. She remains bitter about her experience. "Why did I break up with this guy when none of it mattered?" she asks. "There's no happy ending. I lost him, and I lost my job."

The CIA has been down this road before. In 1995, the agency paid out nearly $1 million to over 400 women in a class action case involving sex discrimination. The complaints back then: lack of promotion, harassment on the job, dead-end assignments. Months before that settlement, the agency handed $410,000 more to one of its most senior female officers, Janine Brookner—also for sex discrimination. A 24-year CIA veteran, Brookner was a rising star at the agency until she became its first female chief of station in Latin America. Agency investigations, relying on staffers she had disciplined for wife-beating and drunkenness, smeared her as a lush and sexual provocateur.

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Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 624 8328
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 4:12 PM
To: RE: syria
Subject: RE: syria

Thanks

Ken Dilanian
Los Angeles Times
202 824 8328

----Original message----
From: "Dilanian, Ken"
To: "Dilanian, Ken"
Sent: Tue, Jul 17, 2012 20:09:56 GMT+00:00
Subject: RE: syria

Ken,

Please feel free to report that we declined comment.

Thanks,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 2:20 PM
To: 
Subject: syria

Hi, folks. I am looking for guidance on Syria's chemical weapons. Have they indeed been moved? Does CIA have a handle on where they are, how much, etc? Thanks.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
Also, any comment or background on the ACLU Awlaki lawsuit? Am filing a blog item on that. I am particularly interested in the suit's claim that an attempt should have been made to capture him given that he had been under surveillance. Obviously this goes to an issue that has been percolating for a long time -- is there a kill-don't-capture policy. have the political constraints made it difficult to capture anybody. If you can say, for example, that a decision was made that no capture option was feasible, that would be helpful.

Trying again on Syria, can you offer anything on how the rebels pulled off today's attack and what it might portend for the conflict going forward? Ken

Ken,

Please feel free to report that we declined comment.

Thanks,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

Hi, folks. I am looking for guidance on Syria's chemical weapons. Have they indeed been moved? Does CIA have a handle on where they are, how much, etc? Thanks.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 4:18 PM
To: iran spy ring in yemen

somehow I bet you guys had something to do with cracking this....

http://uk.reuters.com/article/2012/07/18/uk-yemen-spy-ring-idUKBRE86H10R20120718

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824.8328
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, July 24, 2012 7:52 AM
To: RE: syria -- la times

Ken,

Talk to you tomorrow,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Monday, July 23, 2012 6:41 PM
To:
Subject: syria -- la times

Hi, guys,

I am working on a story about Syria that I am aiming for Wednesday's newspaper, and hoping you will engage.

I'm preparing to report that according to my sources the CIA has little if any presence on the ground in Syria because agency leaders are unwilling to risk the death or capture of American officers.

I'm going to say that until recently, the CIA has left face to face contacts with Syrian rebels largely to Turkish, Qatari, Saudi and other intelligence services who are willing to put operatives into Syria. CIA officers in recent weeks have met with Syrian opposition leaders in Turkey near the Syrian border, officials said, they communicate by secure links with paid assets inside Syria. But the CIA has have largely avoided entering Syria or traveling to the front lines of the conflict. CIA personnel at the U.S. embassy in Damascus left the country when the facility was evacuated in February because of security concerns, officials said.

Critics in my story will call it a missed opportunity that will leave the U.S. in a difficult position if Assad falls.

"We should be on the ground with bucket loads of money renting the opposition groups that we need to steer this in the direction that benefits the United States," said a former CIA officer who spent years in the Middle East. "We're not, and good officers are extremely frustrated."

Andrew Tabler, Syria expert at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a think tank, agreed, adding, "What are we going to do--just allow the Turks the Qataris and the Saudis to have relations with opposition groups, and we not have direct relations? That doesn't make any sense. Those countries don't always have our interests at heart."
I'm going to point out that several journalists have embedded with rebel groups in Syria, living and traveling with them for several days. But the CIA as a rule has been unwilling to let its officers do that, said current and former officials with knowledge of the situation who would not be quoted talking about covert intelligence gathering.

Officials say CIA leaders fear a climate of hyper sensitivity to U.S. casualties, citing the criticism leveled at the CIA after 7 officers were killed by a double agent-turned-suicide bomber in Khost Afghanistan in December 2009.

CIA officers were forced to leave Libya during that country's rebellion, when the U.S. embassy in Tripoli was closed in February 2011. Libya-based CIA operatives decamped to a five-star hotel in Dubai, according to a former CIA officer who ran into them there.

Several months later, however, CIA operatives returned to Libya by traveling to Benghazi, home to the headquarters of the Libyan rebels. They then began coordinating with opposition fighters who, with the help of a NATO bombing campaign, ousted dictator Muammar Kadafy.

In Syria, the rebels have no geographic base, and have seized territory sporadically. Syria's military and police are arguably more sophisticated than Libya's. There is no international military campaign to help the rebels. It's a far riskier climate for American spies seeking to infiltrate the country.

But "It's a manageable risk," the former CIA officer said. "You have to be willing to send your people into harms' way and the agency's value to the president is being the 9-11 service. We should be going in and living with opposition fighters. I've been contacted by a number of my Syrian friends who would take us in there if we wanted to go."

Understand this is sensitive and there is a limit to what you can say, but I want to give you every opportunity. Thanks a lot.

Best,

Ken Dilanian
<span style="font-family:qu"
when you put it that way, how can I refuse...

Morning Ken,

Thanks!

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

Given the post, we're looking to put something up on the web quickly. So please respond asap.

Ken Dilanian
Los Angeles Times
202 824 8328

-----Original message-----
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Best,

Ken Dilanian
<span style="font-family:qu"
Hey Ken,

Please feel free to report we declined comment. Thanks.

Take care,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, July 24, 2012 12:11 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken
Cc:  
Subject: RE: syria -- la times

I think we're conflating two separate parts of my story here. One is: The CIA is not on the ground in Syria. The Post reported that and I don't hear you denying it. The second issue is the reason. Some people have told me risk aversion. If you dispute that, please send me something I can use. Of course it also has to do with the embassy being evacuated, as I will say in the piece, but a source of mine questioned why there was no stay behind plan, and why agency officers couldn't go in with trusted rebels, as journalists have done in recent weeks. Others have also mentioned that it may have to do with restrictions imposed by the Turks and the Lebanese regarding their border. If that is the case please let me know. But the larger and more important issue I'd like you to address is this: "We should be on the ground with bucket loads of money renting the opposition groups that we need to steer this in the direction that benefits the United States," said a former CIA officer who spent years in the Middle East. "We're not, and good officers are extremely frustrated."

From:  
Sent: Tuesday, July 24, 2012 12:07 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken
Cc:  
Subject: RE: syria -- la times

Appreciate your patience Ken,
Hope this helps,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, July 24, 2012 11:16 AM
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: syria -- la times

I can't wait forever over here.

From: 
Sent: Tuesday, July 24, 2012 9:57 AM
To: Dilanian, Ken
Cc:
Subject: RE: syria -- la times
Morning Ken,

Thanks!

From: Dalianan, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, July 24, 2012 9:23 AM
To:
Subject: RE: syria -- la times

Given the post, we're looking to put something up on the web quickly. So please respond asap.

Ken Dalianan
Los Angeles Times
202 824 8328

----Original message-----

From:
To: "Dalianan, Ken"
Sent: Mon, Jul 23, 2012 22:58:44 GMT+00:00
Subject: RE: syria -- la times

Ken,

Talk to you tomorrow,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Dalianan, Ken
Sent: Monday, July 23, 2012 6:41 PM
To:
Subject: syria -- la times

Hi, guys,

I am working on a story about Syria that I am aiming for Wednesday's newspaper, and hoping you will engage.

I'm preparing to report that according to my sources the CIA has little if any presence on the ground in Syria because agency leaders are unwilling to risk the death or capture of American officers.
I’m going to say that until recently, the CIA has left face to face contacts with Syrian rebels largely to Turkish, Qatari, Saudi and other intelligence services who are willing to put operatives into Syria. CIA officers in recent weeks have met with Syrian opposition leaders in Turkey near the Syrian border, officials said, they communicate by secure links with paid assets inside Syria. But the CIA has have largely avoided entering Syria or traveling to the front lines of the conflict. CIA personnel at the U.S. embassy in Damascus left the country when the facility was evacuated in February because of security concerns, officials said.

Critics in my story will call it a missed opportunity that will leave the U.S. in a difficult position if Assad falls.

“We should be on the ground with bucket loads of money renting the opposition groups that we need to steer this in the direction that benefits the United States,” said a former CIA officer who spent years in the Middle East. “We’re not, and good officers are extremely frustrated.”

Andrew Tabler, Syria expert at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a think tank, agreed, adding, “What are we going to do—just allow the Turks the Qataris and the Saudis to have relations with opposition groups, and we not have direct relations? That doesn’t make any sense. Those countries don’t always have our interests at heart.”

I’m going to point out that several journalists have embedded with rebel groups in Syria, living and traveling with them for several days. But the CIA as a rule has been unwilling to let its officers do that, said current and former officials with knowledge of the situation who would not be quoted talking about covert intelligence gathering.

Officials say CIA leaders fear a climate of hyper sensitivity to U.S. casualties, citing the criticism leveled at the CIA after 7 officers were killed by a double agent-turned-suicide bomber in Khost Afghanistan in December 2009.

CIA officers were forced to leave Libya during that country’s rebellion, when the U.S. embassy in Tripoli was closed in February 2011. Libya-based CIA operatives decamped to a five-star hotel in Dubai, according to a former CIA officer who ran into them there.

Several months later, however, CIA operatives returned to Libya by traveling to Benghazi, home to the headquarters of the Libyan rebels. They then began coordinating with opposition fighters who, with the help of a NATO bombing campaign, ousted dictator Muamar Kadafy.

In Syria, the rebels have no geographic base, and have seized territory sporadically. Syria’s military and police are arguably more sophisticated than Libya’s. There is no international military campaign to help the rebels. It’s a far riskier climate for American spies seeking to infiltrate the country.

But “it’s a manageable risk,” the former CIA officer said. “You have to be willing to send your people into harms’ way and the agency’s value to the president is being the 9-11 service. We should be going in and living with opposition fighters. I’ve been contacted by a number of my Syrian friends who would take us in there if we wanted to go.”

Understand this is sensitive and there is a limit to what you can say, but I want to give you every opportunity. Thanks a lot.

Best,

Ken Dilanian

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
Hey Ken,

Please feel free to report we declined comment. Thanks.

Take care,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

I think we're conflating two separate parts of my story here. One is: The CIA is not on the ground in Syria. The Post reported that and I don't hear you denying it. The second issue is the reason. Some people have told me risk aversion. If you dispute that, please send me something I can use. Of course it also has to do with the embassy being evacuated, as I will say in the piece, but a source of mine questioned why there was no stay behind plan, and why agency officers couldn't go in with trusted rebels, as journalists have done in recent weeks. Others have also mentioned that it may have to do with restrictions imposed by the Turks and the Lebanese regarding their border. If that is the case please let me know. But the larger and more important issue I'd like you to address is this: "We should be on the ground with bucket loads of money renting the opposition groups that we need to steer this in the direction that benefits the United States," said a former CIA officer who spent years in the Middle East. "We're not, and good officers are extremely frustrated."
To: Dilanian, Ken
Cc:
Subject: RE: Syria -- LA Times

Appreciate your patience Ken,
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2012 6:45 PM
Subject: in case you missed it

latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-syria-cia-20120725,0,6946873.story

CIA absence from Syria a setback for U.S., officials say

The lack of a CIA presence in Syria leaves the U.S. with scant details about opposition groups. Critics see a missed opportunity to influence Syrian rebels.

By Ken Dilanian, Los Angeles Times

9:24 PM PDT, July 24, 2012

WASHINGTON - Despite a dire need for intelligence about the groups fighting to overthrow the Syrian government, the CIA has little if any presence in the country, seriously limiting its ability to collect information and influence the course of events, according to current and former U.S. officials.

American intelligence agencies have kept tabs on Syria's chemical weapons stockpiles, using spy satellites and other forms of electronic eavesdropping as well as information from allied nations and U.S. personnel in Turkey and other neighboring countries. The CIA also has some understanding of President Bashar Assad's government, officials said.

But more than 16 months into the Syrian uprising, the U.S. government still is struggling for details about who the main opposition groups are and what motivates them, say the current and former officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity in discussing covert intelligence activities.

Although U.S. officials have had considerable contact with anti-Assad exile groups, most analysts expect a post-Assad government to be dominated by the armed groups operating in the country.

U.S. officials have worried that some of those groups may be linked to, or sympathetic with, Al Qaeda affiliates. By one U.S. estimate, as many as a quarter of the 300 rebel groups may be inspired by Al Qaeda, says Rep. Mike Rogers (R-Mich.), chairman of the House Intelligence Committee.

A major impediment to determining who is who is that CIA officers largely have avoided entering Syria or traveling to the battle zones since February, when the U.S. Embassy in Damascus was shuttered for security reasons after threats by groups allied with the Assad government. Closing the embassy left the agency without a secure base from which to operate, and CIA personnel left the country, the officials said.

Critics say the CIA's absence from Syria is a missed opportunity to influence the fractured rebel movement.

"We should be on the ground with bucket loads of money renting the opposition groups that we need to steer this in the direction that benefits the United States," said a former CIA officer who spent years in the Middle East. "We're not, and good officers are extremely frustrated."
The CIA declined to comment. When asked about statements that the CIA lacks a presence in Syria, U.S. officials notably do not dispute the idea, talking, instead, about other ways of finding out what is taking place.

"We know a lot more than we did about the Syrian opposition a month ago and much more than we knew six months ago. That's because of increased contacts diplomatically and through a variety of other means that I'm not going to discuss," an Obama administration official said.

Critics say the intelligence agencies have moved too slowly.

The U.S. has no choice but to get involved in Syria given the risks of Al Qaeda influence, said Rogers, who is regularly briefed on intelligence about Syria. Moreover, he said, a sudden collapse of the government could put its large stockpiles of chemical weapons up for grabs.

"We lost a lot of time on this; our intelligence agencies are playing catch-up," he said.

"The administration was very slow to come together on a way forward."

The Obama administration official responded, "It's kind of hard to do a lot until you can get into a country. This issue is the subject of enormous amount of attention and concern."

Some current and former officials said the dearth of American intelligence agents in Syria stemmed from the administration's unwillingness to risk having a CIA officer captured or wounded with little hope of rescue. They also spoke of a hypersensitivity in Congress and among the public to the prospect of U.S. casualties, citing the criticism leveled at the CIA after seven officers were killed by a double agent-turned-suicide bomber in Khowst, Afghanistan, in December 2009.

A U.S. official regularly briefed on intelligence strongly disputed the notion that the CIA was averse to risk, calling it a "tired cliche." The official said, however, that he could not discuss in detail the reasons the CIA was not in Syria.

Until recently the CIA kept its distance from rebel groups, leaving face-to-face contacts largely to Turkish, Qatari, Saudi and other intelligence services, officials said. A few CIA officers in recent weeks have met with opposition leaders in Turkey near the Syrian border, officials said. They communicate by secure links with paid informers in Syria.

Several journalists have been spending time with rebel groups in Syria, living and traveling with them for days. But the CIA as a rule has been unwilling to let its officers do that, officials said. There would be no air support and limited rescue capability should the agents get into trouble.

"What are we going to do, just allow the Turks, the Qataris and the Saudis to have relations with opposition groups, and we not have direct relations?" asked Andrew Tabler, a Syria expert at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a think tank. "That doesn't make any sense. Those countries don't always have our interests at heart."

By contrast with Libya, where the CIA did put in its own operatives, the rebels in Syria have no geographic base and have seized territory sporadically. Syria's military and police appear to be more sophisticated, or at least have a more centralized command, than were Libya's. Moreover, with no international military campaign to help the rebels, Syria is a far riskier climate for American spies than Libya was.

Regardless, "it's a manageable risk," the former CIA officer said.

"You have to be willing to send your people into harm's way, and the agency's value to the president is being the 911 service," the former officer said. "We should be going in and living with opposition fighters."
CIA operatives were the first Americans into Afghanistan shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks. They helped coordinate a campaign by opposition fighters supported by U.S. bombers that led to the quick overthrow of the Taliban regime. Similarly, CIA officers went into northern Iraq's Kurdish region in July 2002 to help organize militia fighters before the U.S.-led invasion.

Two CIA officers involved in those efforts - Charles Faddis, who ran the CIA base in Iraq, and Gary Berntsen, his counterpart in Afghanistan - have since retired and written books criticizing the CIA as risk-averse.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times Washington Bureau
(202) 824 8328

www.latimes.com
Ken,

Are you out in Aspen? I left a message on your office phone. It isn't urgent and can wait until next week if you are out of the office.

Take care,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Saturday, July 28, 2012 12:07 AM
To: Re: is this a real cia twitter feed, by the way?

I figured, thanks.

Ken Dilanian
Los Angeles Times
202 824 8328

-----Original message-----
From: 
To: "Dilanian, Ken"
Cc: 
Sent: Sat, Jul 28, 2012 00:48:52 GMT+00:00
Subject: Re: is this a real cia twitter feed, by the way?

Hey Ken,

It is a fake. We don't operate a CIA Twitter account.

Enjoy Aspen,

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Friday, July 27, 2012 06:04 PM
To: @us_cia
Subject: is this a real cia twitter feed, by the way?

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times Washington Bureau
(202) 824 8328
www.latimes.com
Good morning Ken,

Take care,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2012 10:06 AM
To: HE: spain
Subject: Spain

Any readout on CIA's role in cracking this case?

By Associated Press, Published: August 2

MADRID — Police have arrested three suspected members of al-Qaeda who amassed explosives and may have been plotting attacks in Spain or elsewhere in Europe, Spain's interior minister said Thursday. Authorities found evidence suggesting they were experimenting with ultralight planes and remote-controlled planes.

The three — a Russian, a Russian of Chechen descent, and a Turk, according to Spanish police — were detained Wednesday. The Turk was arrested in the southern city of La Linea bordering the British colony of Gibraltar, while the other two were picked up near the central city of Ciudad Real as they traveled toward a northern Spanish town near the border with France.

Enough explosive material was found in the house in La Linea where the Turk lived to blow up a bus, and the material could have been especially dangerous if combined with shrapnel, Interior Minister Jorge Fernandez Diaz said.

Investigators found no indications that the three were targeting Gibraltar, he said, declining to offer specifics on possible targets, except that "there are clear indications they could have been planning an attack in Spain and/or another country."

"This is one of the most important operations carried out against al-Qaeda," Fernandez Diaz told reporters. He said the operation involved close collaboration with intelligence services from "Spain's allies," without identifying any of the countries.

The arrests came as the Summer Olympics were being held in Britain under tight security against possible terrorist attacks, including military aircraft and ground-to-air missiles.
Spanish authorities had been watching the suspects for "some time," the minister said and decided to arrest them after
the two Russians took a bus toward France.

They departed from the southern city of Cadiz en route to the northern town of Irún, possibly planning to cross into
France, the minister said. The pair had been in Spain for about two months. Cadiz is near the large U.S. military base in
Rota alongside the Mediterranean.

"Police moved to arrest them when it became known that they planned to leave Spain," he said. One resisted arrest and
had to be subdued by authorities.

Fernandez Diaz did not disclose the suspects' names, but said the Russians were suspected al-Qaeda operatives while
the Turk was a facilitator. Pictures of them were released by Spanish authorities, but the suspects were identified only
by their initials: C.Y. for the Turk and A.A.A. and M.A. for the other two.

The mug shots showed three men who appeared to be in their 30s, two with crew cuts and one with scraggly hair down
to his shoulders.

The minister described one operative as a key member of the terror network and said investigators also found
"documentation of the use of ultralights as well as remote controlled planes," without providing more details or saying
whether a plot may have been planned using them.

Several of those detained had also "vast experience" with explosives including car bombs plus sniper training and the
creation of poisonous substances, said Fernandez Diaz.

Spanish police have arrested dozens of al-Qaeda suspects since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States and the
2004 train bombings in Madrid.

Most Islamic-based terror arrests in Spain over the last several years have been of lower-level players, although officials
in March arrested a suspected al-Qaeda member in the eastern city of Valencia described as key to its Internet
propaganda and recruiting operation. The Jordanian with Saudi citizen ship was nicknamed "al-Qaeda's librarian."

But the detention of the Russians and the Turk was especially significant because of their apparent high level of training,
said Magnus Ranstorp, a terror expert at the Swedish National Defence College.

The evidence about ultralight planes was troubling, he said.

"It's always a worry that someone could get a hold of a private plane and try to do a (terror) operation against an
event," Ranstorp said.

But getting to Britain during the Olympics probably would have been a challenge for the three, even if they had not been
under surveillance.

Passport-free ground travel in much of the 27-nation European Union meant they could have gone to countries on the
continent without facing document checks, but getting to Britain is more difficult because passport checks for visitors
are mandatory.

Britain "has the tougher border control. They are almost like the United States in some sense. They triple check your
name in databases," Ranstorp said.

The three will appear soon before an investigating magistrate at the National Court in Madrid and remain under
detention while a judge studies the case and decides on possible charges. That process could take anywhere from days
to months, and authorities are not likely to release more details about the case until the judge finishes that work.
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Monday, August 20, 2012 3:01 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken
Cc: 
Subject: RE: obama remarks on syria chem bio

Thanks, although that doesn't quite answer the question of whether there is anything new sparking concern on this front?

From: 
Sent: Monday, August 20, 2012 3:02 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken
Cc: 
Subject: RE: obama remarks on syria chem bio

Ken,

I'll send you something on your other question soon.

Thanks,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Monday, August 20, 2012 2:14 PM
To: 
Subject: obama remarks on syria chem bio

Hey, can you tell me on background whether there is anything that precipitated the president's comments, or was it just him saying what everyone else has been saying. Is there anything new or troubling you have seen on the chemical or biological weapons? Thanks.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328
From: Thursday, March 01, 2012 5:07 PM
To: 'Dilianian, Ken'
Subject: RE: Help Has Arrived!

I am looking forward to working with you, Ken.

From: Dilianian, Ken
Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2012 4:51 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Help Has Arrived!

Hooray! Glad to have you guys.

Ken Dilianian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8326

From: Thursday, March 01, 2012 4:50 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: Help Has Arrived!

Colleagues in the media:

I'm happy to announce two new additions to our media relations team at CIA. (You have no doubt noticed that we have been short-handed for a while, and we appreciate your forbearance.) We hope to arrange a get-together for you all to meet them in person sometime this spring.

Regards,
Hi, folks, I'm looking at the issue of how the U.S. would know, as President Obama said, if and when Iran began building a bomb. Could someone speak to me on background about that? I haven't done a lot of reporting on this yet, but I have spoken to a few people recently, including Stephen Hadley, who expressed skepticism that U.S. intelligence would be able to detect such a move in time for decision makers to do anything about it.

In terms of assessing whether and when Iran has made a decision to break out, Hadley said, "The thing that would be most relevant to that judgment is what's called leadership intelligence--what the supreme leader is saying and thinking and writing--and that is the area of intelligence that is the hardest to get." He also expressed doubts about whether intelligence agencies could detect a secret program to enrich to weapons grade.

I am sure you guys could offer an alternative view, however carefully couched -- would you mind doing that?

Best,

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent

*Los Angeles Times*

O:(202) 824.8328
that covert action story I was working on never ran. too thin

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328
OK, thanks. And you wouldn't put out disinformation on this would you? If it was true and you didn't want to confirm it, you'd say, "No comment?" I ask only because covert operations are supposed to be deniable, right?

Ken,

---

Al-Qaida claims responsibility for killing U.S. intelligence officer

The Yemen-based al-Qaida wing said Friday that it had killed a U.S. intelligence officer in the southern port city of Aden.

"Our brave fighters opened fire at a team of U.S. intelligence officers in the southern city of Aden on Thursday, killing a CIA officer," the al-Qaida said in a text message received by Xinhua.

"We killed the officer after we monitored him and made sure that he was cooperating with the Sanaa government in the war against terrorism," the message said.
The group did not give more details about the attack or elaborate how it conducted the operation against the U.S. team.

A close source to the al-Qaida militants told Xinhua that "we saw a team of U.S. senior officers patrolling in the al-Mulla district in downtown Aden in a small military car."

"The officers' car came under attacks, which also injured a number of them," the source said.

On Thursday, a Yemeni security official told Xinhua that a brigade of Yemen's special forces were dispatched from Sanaa to Aden for an anti-terror training course conducted by a U.S. security team.

He said on condition of anonymity that the Yemeni special forces were preparing to engage next month in battles against al-Qaida militants in the neighboring restive province of Abyan.

The Yemeni government has given the militants ultimatum to quit captured cities in Abyan.

Taking advantage of one-year anti-government protests, the resurgent al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), known locally as Ansar al-Sharia (Partisans of Islamic Law), has taken control of several cities across the restive southern provinces.

The Yemeni government forces have been battling the AQAP militants in the south, leaving hundreds of people killed and thousands displaced.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 3:48 PM
To: 

I guess I should also ask if you can confirm this:

(AP) VIENNA - Satellite images of an Iranian military facility appear to show trucks and earth-moving vehicles at the site, indicating an attempted cleanup of radioactive traces possibly left by tests of a nuclear-weapon trigger, diplomats told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Ken Dilanian  
National Security Correspondent  
*Los Angeles Times*  
O:(202) 824 8325
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:41 AM
To: 
Subject: Iran

Ken,

Hope this helps,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:39 AM
To: Dilanian, Ken
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Iran

OK. Is there anything else you can talk about, in response to my query?

Take care,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs
regarding my query on Iran, the Ambinder piece had some interesting stuff I wonder if you can confirm, some of which I have heard from my own sources. It's sort of obvious, and not revealing of sources and method:

That the CIA's Open Source Center has provided some interesting insights into the fissures and sentiments coursing through the regime, the political factions, and the society.

That you guys are “scrutinizing and seizing cargo shipments bound for Iran, tapping the black market for nuclear supplies and buying up spare parts, and maximizing the collection of Iranian signal traffic.”

That MASINT sensors can provide some early warning (provided they are looking in the right place—my sentiments, not his) by detecting electromagnetic signatures, disturbances in the soil and geography around a hidden facility, and streams of radioactive particles that are byproducts of the uranium enrichment process.

Finally: That the U.S. “has a good handle on the nuclear supply chain; it knows what Iran has and doesn't have; it has a good handle on who needs to be where in order for certain things to happen; it knows...a lot about the daily lives and stresses of Iran's nuclear scientists.”

Again, this is all obvious, and anyone who follows this stuff for a living would be shocked if it weren't true. But it would help if I could get some confirmation. Thanks.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328
It's official: You guys have gotten way more conservative under the new guy. But thanks for trying...

Ken,

Hope this helps,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

OK. Is there anything else you can talk about, in response to my query?

Take care,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 9:37 AM
To: 
Subject: Iran -- new stuff

I spoke to Mike Rogers and Dianne Feinstein last night. They both said that CIA's position on whether Iran has other clandestine enrichment sites boils down to, we simply don't know. (A former senior intelligence official also told me that, though his info is obviously less current.) I want to ask if you guys would dispute that.

Rogers also said that based on the briefings he's gotten, he is not confident that the US would learn about a secret Iranian breakout in sufficient time to stop it. I throw that out in case you guys would offer a different view.

Thanks.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328
Ken--I am sending this for _______ (you can tell it's from him by the "Hey Ken"). Sorry we couldn't get back to sooner. Regards, Cynthia

******

Hey Ken,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 3:46 PM
To: 
Subject: Re: Called both your phones.

-----Original message-----

I didn't leave a message. I'm back in the office...call when you have a minute.

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs
From: Dilianian, Ken
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 12:45 PM
To: Dilianian, Ken
Subject: RE: syria nuclear material?

Thanks. Last time I checked, you guys believed the CBW program was securely guarded by the regime. Still true?

From: Dilianian, Ken
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 12:43 PM
To: Dilianian, Ken
Cc: Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs
Subject: RE: syria nuclear material?

Ken,

Cheers,

Fred Fleitz raises some reasonable questions here, but the last line can't be true, can it? Can you say on background whether you guys believe, and with what confidence level, that Syria has nuclear material? Ken

"In the eyes of some in the press, that was that. The threat was gone. But that's not necessarily the case," said Fleitz.
"This reactor reportedly was close to operations, which raises the question: Where are the fuel rods for this reactor? Now, it's possible that North Korea was going to ship these fuel rods to Syria. However, it's also very likely that Syria was building a fuel fabrication building somewhere in the country to keep this reactor fueled. Also, since this reactor was likely for plutonium for weapons, there would have to be buildings to process that plutonium, to reprocess and extract the plutonium and then make it into weapons fuel. Where are those buildings? What technology does Syria have that other powers could possibly exploit or terrorist groups could exploit?"

The United States, said Fleitz has never bothered to ask these questions, or tried to answer them.

Photo released by the CIA in 2008 of Syria's al-Kibar nuclear reactor while it was under construction.

The Secret Threat from Syria's Nuclear Weapons Program

March 14, 2012
Security
Middle East and North Africa

The United States must start thinking about how to secure Syria's nuclear program and to locate the missing uranium and nuclear weapons-related technology of the program before they can find their way
into the hands of the Iranians or terrorist groups, LIGNET managing editor Fred Fleitz said in an interview this week.

“If Assad thinks he’s in danger, he just may decide to transfer some technology, or maybe some uranium, to Iran,” Fleitz said of the Syrian president, who has earned international opprobrium for his brutal crackdown on the opposition.

“When we think about a post-Assad Syria, we shouldn’t be overlooking this,” said Fleitz.

Fleitz, a long-time senior analyst with the CIA and senior staffer on the House Intelligence Committee until the spring of 2011, said there are many outstanding questions about Syria’s nuclear program that date to the Bush administration.

Most of what is known about Syria’s nuclear program came to light in reports of Israel’s 2007 strike on the al-Kibar nuclear reactor in the Syrian desert about 20 miles outside the town of Deir el-Zor. The reactor, which was reportedly close to being operational, was destroyed by Israeli air strikes on September 6, 2007. “We know since this reactor wasn’t near any cities and didn’t have any infrastructure to produce power, this was not a reactor that was built for peaceful purposes,” Fleitz told journalist John Bachman. “This was a reactor that was built to make plutonium for weapons.”

In 2008, a U.S. intelligence briefing revealed that the al-Kibar reactor was built by North Korea, and was almost identical to one in Yongbon, North Korea, that is used to produce plutonium for North Korea’s nuclear weapons. The briefing also revealed that the reactor was very close to being operational.

But Fleitz says this isn’t the end of the story -- Syria’s nuclear program still poses a threat, especially if the Assad government falls and the country descends into chaos.

“In the eyes of some in the press, that was that. The threat was gone. But that’s not necessarily the case,” said Fleitz. “This reactor reportedly was close to operations, which raises the question: Where are the fuel rods for this reactor? Now, it’s possible that North Korea was going to ship these fuel rods to Syria. However, it’s also very likely that Syria was building a fuel fabrication building somewhere in the country to keep this reactor fueled. Also, since this reactor was likely for plutonium for weapons, there would have to be buildings to process that plutonium, to reprocess and extract the plutonium and then make it into weapons fuel. Where are those buildings? What technology does Syria have that other powers could possibly exploit or terrorist groups could exploit?”

The United States, said Fleitz has never bothered to ask these questions, or tried to answer them.

“Iran is running out of uranium, for enrichment, and it’s been looking all over the world for sources for uranium -- supposedly for its power program, but most experts believe is for its weapons program. If there is an amount of uranium in Syria that Syria had amassed for its al-Kibar reactor, Iran’s going to want it. And I think that’s something that, in addition to worrying about Syria’s chemical and biological weapons program, the United States has to think about Syria’s nuclear weapons program and all the associated infrastructure and buildings and materials and uranium that had built up for this program. I think this is a serious threat.”

Many experts believe the al-Kibar reactor couldn’t have been put together without Iranian assistance, and that it may have in fact been an Iranian project, the manifestation of Iran’s attempt to pursue plutonium for use as fuel in nuclear weapons. Fleitz says there’s a “strong likelihood” that Iran and Syria were indeed collaborating on al-Kibar, building the facility “where the world wouldn’t be watching, in the middle of the Syrian desert.”

**Chemical weapons**

The Bush administration had repeatedly charged that Syria had stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons, basing this on U.S. intelligence reports. These weapons, says Fleitz, would “pose a significant threat” if they were to fall into the wrong hands.

“In all likelihood they are well guarded and well protected,” said Fleitz, and dismissed media speculation about the weapons being used on invading troops as unlikely.

“Now in terms of falling into the hands of terrorist groups, that is a real worry. The worry that militia groups could seize these weapons, such as militias in Libya did after that conflict, is a real concern.”

Fred Fleitz
Managing Editor, LIGNET.com

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
if this is you guys, nice work. if it's real, even better.

while Syrian protesters bled, assad's wife shopped for a fondue set on amazon.

http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/mar/14/assad-emails-lift-lid-inner-circle

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328
http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-bin-laden-plot-to-kill-president-obama/2012/03/16/glOAwN5RG5_story.html?wpisrc=al_national
From: Dilanian, Ken  
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2012 12:45 PM  
To:  

I just saw something that said Petraeus was knighted in the Hague. was that a joke? 

Ken Dilanian  
National Security Correspondent  
Los Angeles Times  
O: (202) 824 8328
Cynthia L Rapp

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:52 AM
To: Cynthia L Rapp
Subject: RE: meet?

Didi, just circling back on this. Want to schedule something? Ken

From:
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2012 7:02 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken
Subject: Re: meet?

Ken--I am sorry if I didn’t get around to replying on Friday. It was one crazy day.

I would be happy to meet sometime for coffee. I don’t have my calendar handy, so let’s touch base tomorrow.

Regards, Cynthia

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2012 11:15 AM
To: Cynthia L Rapp
Subject: meet?

Didi, Would you be willing to meet for lunch or coffee one of these days? Ken

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824-8328
Ken,

[Blank space]

[Blank space]

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

[Blank space]

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 10:25 AM
To: 
Subject: north korea tidbit

this report out of South Korea says Kim Jong Un is conducting purges to consolidate power. Could you please ask your folks if they believe this is true—including the details about the officials shot for sexual harassment and drunkenness—and whether he is the driving force behind it or is it Jang Song-thaek? Thanks. Ken

Kim Jong-un 'Purged Top Brass of Dissenters'  
North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has purged high-ranking military officers to consolidate his grip on power after the death of his father Kim Jong-il, it emerged on Tuesday.

A source familiar with North Korea said Kim Jong-un ordered officials in January to remove anyone caught misbehaving during the mourning period for Kim Jong-il. "We have information that an assistant chief of the General Staff Department was arrested and shot by firing squad on charges of sexual harassment during the mourning period," the source added.

The General Staff Department takes orders directly from Kim Jong-un in wartime and commands the entire North Korean military. There are six or seven assistant chiefs under Gen. Ri Yong-ho, the chief of General Staff. It remains unclear which assistant chief was purged.

A high-ranking government official here said, "To my knowledge, an assistant chief of the Ministry of the People's
Armed Forces was also put in front of a firing squad early this year for being drunk during the mourning period."

Kim Sung-min of Free North Korea Radio, a former captain in the North Korean army, recalled that Kim Jong-il also carried out a bloody purge after the death of his father Kim Il-sung in the name of restoring public order. "There is a strong chance that Kim Jong-un is doing exactly what his father did," he said.

englishnews@chosun.com / Mar. 21, 2012 10:13 KST

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 7:05 PM
To: 
Subject: RE: yemen

Thanks,

Ken Dilanian
Los Angeles Times
202-624-8328

-----Original message-----

From: 
To: "Dilanian, Ken"
Cc: 
Sent: Wed, Mar 21, 2012 21:17:41 GMT-00:00
Subject: RE: yemen

Ken,

[Blank space]

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 11:45 AM
To: 
Subject: yemen

I'm sorry to hit you with two today, but I am also working on something about Yemen. The U.S. military has stepped up strikes in recent weeks, even as it pushed a plan to reorganize the Yemeni military to that it is better suited to dislodge AQAP and Ansar al Sharia from the towns they have seized in the south. Can we chat later about some of this?

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
I was thinking about that. thanks.

Hey Ken,

question: do you think it would be accurate to say that southern yemen right now is the largest safe haven for al qaeda since pre 9-11 Afghanistan? just looking for guidance here, not the cia's official view.

Ken,
From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 11:45 AM
To: 
Subject: yemen

I'm sorry to hit you with two today, but I am also working on something about Yemen. The U.S. military has stepped up strikes in recent weeks, even as it pushed a plan to reorganize the Yemeni military to that it is better suited to dislodge AQAP and Ansar al Sharia from the towns they have seized in the south. Can we chat later about some of this?

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328
can you say which one of these was the yemeni gov?

US drones struck yet again in the Yemeni province of Al Baydah, according to a report from the country. The strike is the fourth in Yemen in the past week.

Yemeni security officials have told the Yemen Post that an unmanned Predator or more heavily armed Reaper struck a vehicle as it traveled in Al Baydah province yesterday, killing four al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula fighters. The strike took place just two hours after an AQAP suicide bomber killed four soldiers from the Republican Guards in an attack in the city of Al Baydah.

No senior AQAP leaders or operatives were reported killed in the strike. US military and intelligence officials contacted by The Long War Journal would neither confirm nor deny that yesterday's strike took place.

Yesterday's strike followed three other strikes in central and southern Yemen that have taken place since March 9.

The last strike occurred on March 11, when the unmanned warplanes killed three AQAP fighters in Jaar. The target of the strike was weapons seized by AQAP during last week's assault on a military base in Al Koud in neighboring Abyan province. In that assault, AQAP overran a Yemeni mechanized base in Al Koud, killing 185 troops, wounding over 150, and capturing at least 55 more.

On March 10, AQAP "hideouts" in Jaar were targeted; 10 AQAP fighters were reported to have been killed. And on March 9, the Predators and Reapers hit an AQAP hideout in a rural area near Al Baydah. Abdulwahhab al-Homaiqani, an AQAP commander in the city, and 16 of his fighters were reported to have been killed in the strike.

Read more: http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2012/03/us_drone_strike_3.php#ixzz1pssUfRto

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328
based on this statement, wouldn't it follow that any AQAP fighter would be fair game for the US?

"AQAP has two main goals: to attack the West and solidify a safehaven and extremist state in Yemen," said a third American official familiar with the intelligence on Yemen. "Because of the political unrest in 2011, they had more success at the latter. AQAP will try to use any space it can get to plan external attacks."

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328
Do you think this bears any resemblance to reality?

http://www.longwarjournal.org/multimedia/Yemen/code/Yemen-strike.php

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328
Hey Ken,

This attack on Americans happened, but no American was killed, is that correct? Can you say if the people behind it have been targeted?

2012-03-03 10:57

ADEN, Yemen, March 2-- The Yemen-based al-Qaida wing said Friday that it had killed a U.S. intelligence officer in the southern port city of Aden.

"Our brave fighters opened fire at a team of U.S. intelligence officers in the southern city of Aden on Thursday, killing a CIA officer," the al-Qaida said in a text message received by Xinhua.

"We killed the officer after we monitored him and made sure that he was cooperating with the Sanaa government in the war against terrorism," the message said.

The group did not give more details about the attack or elaborate how it conducted the operation against the U.S. team.

A close source to the al-Qaida militants told to Xinhua that "we saw a team of U.S. senior officers patrolling in the al-Mulla district in downtown Aden in a small military car."

"The officers' car came under attacks, which also injured a number of them," the source said.
On Thursday, a Yemeni security official told Xinhua that a brigade of Yemen's special forces were dispatched from Sanaa to Aden for an anti-terror training course conducted by a U.S. security team.

He said on condition of anonymity that the Yemeni special forces were preparing to engage next month in battles against al-Qaeda militants in the neighboring restive province of Abyan.

The Yemeni government has given the militants ultimatum to quit captured cites in Abyan.

Taking advantage of one-year anti-government protests, the resurgent al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), known locally as Ansar al-Sharia (Partisans of Islamic Law), has taken control of several cities across the restive southern provinces.

The Yemeni government forces have been battling the AQAP militants in the south, leaving hundreds of people killed and thousands displaced.

The AQAP, entrenching itself mainly in Yemen's southern provinces of Abyan and Shabwa, is on the terrorist list of the United States.

Newly-elected President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi vowed to strengthen security and intelligence cooperation with the United States in combating the AQAP that threatened the daily oil shipping routes in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328
Hey, what say you about the numbers quoted today by the "bureau of investigative journalism"?

Hey, what say you about the numbers quoted today by the "bureau of investigative journalism"?

Officials in Bayda said Friday night's raids targeted a stronghold of local al-Qaeda leader Abdulwahhab al-Homaiqani. He was among the dead, a government source told Reuters.

One official told AFP the dead were mostly, "new recruits, youths from the region, taken by surprise by the raids which struck as they were dining in training camps".

The militants were reported to have equipment, weapons and vehicles in order to carry out attacks.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O: (202) 824 8328
Sources said that AQAP militants came from Qaef district with their heavy weapons, gathering in Wadi Al-Makhneq district, Al-Baydha province in a readiness to fight against Yemen government forces in an attempt to expand its hold over province.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328
on March 9, the Predators and Reapers hit an AQAP hideout in a rural area near Al Baydah. Abdulwahhab al-Homaiqani, an AQAP commander in the city, and 16 of his fighters were reported to have been killed in the strike.

Read more: http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2012/03/us_drone_strike_kill_2.php#ixzz1qXRVibRq

but this was not just drones, right?

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328
Thinking of accepting.

-----Original Message-----
From: ansar alshariaa [mailto:ansaralshariaa@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2012 3:44 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken; Cloud, David S
Subject: from Ansar Alshariaa in Yemen to Mr Ken Dilanian & David Dlou

To Mr Ken Dilanian & David Dlou,

We'd like to express our admiration of the latest article of both of you about Yemen with the name of "In Yemen, lines blur as U.S. steps up airstrikes" which has a number of realistic points and facts about the current situation in Yemen, and the unfair U.S. war on "terrorism". We - Ansar Alshariaa invite you to come to our territories in southern Yemen and give your ears a chance to listen to our point of view about this war & also to watch how we rule these lands with Islamic law "shariah", as a result of that visit insha' Allah you'll have the full picture of the situation here.

So if you're interested about this visit please reply to this email so we can arrange it insha' Allah. We also want you to be sure that you won't get hurt with any level insha' Allah as you'd be our guests, plus it's not our policy to target journalists, & don't forget that if you accept our invitation to visit us, you won't be the first American journalists to do that because Mr Casey L Coombs visited Waqar (previously Jiaar) in Abyan last month.
You can check it out in these two links;
http://caseylcombs.com/
http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/03/09/land_of_the_black_flag

Awaiting for your reply,

(Ansar Alshariaa)
do we know who is the leader of ansar al sharia?

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328
I ran into [Redacted] today at a State Department thing, and I mentioned to him that I would love a backgrounder on Yemen. I told him that I am in an email conversation right now with people who purport to speak for Ansar al Sharia, who seem to be trying to put a kinder gentler face on the "mujhadeen" in Yemen. He said asked me to go through you guys, so here I am. Understanding that analysts won't talk about drone strikes or US policy, I would love to come in with David Cloud and get some insights into the relationship between Ansar Al Sharia and AQAP. I spoke to a very knowledgeable analyst today who believes they are very different animals, but he doesn't have access to the latest intel, as your folks do. Can you help with this? Thanks.

Best, Ken

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O: (202) 824 8328
Ok, thanks, Didi. Ken

Ken Dilanian
Los Angeles Times
202 824 8328

--------Original message--------
From: Dilanian, Ken
To: "Dilanian, Ken"
Sent: Thu, Apr 12, 2012 00:48:51 GMT+00:00
Subject: Re: north korea

Ken--sorry not to have gotten back earlier:

However, we expect the White House to issue a statement in the event of a launch that might help. Didi

---From: Dilanian, Ken
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 04:42 PM
To: 
Subject: north korea

Hi, folks. I've been asked to write a feed on US reaction to the North Korean missile launch if it happens tonight...will any of you be in a position to offer initial assessments on background? Thanks. Ken

Ken Dilanian
National Security Correspondent
Los Angeles Times
O:(202) 824 8328