Thank you. I think the only other question in addition to the one I just sent to you about Pakistani public opinion, what caused the agency to change its position?

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Slobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

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Slobhan,

These are still complicated matters to discuss of course, but folks are committed to explaining things as clearly as possible.

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

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Hi Guys,

Just a quick update. Apparently the focus of the story has changed and now looks largely at this joint effort by CIA, DoD, and State to move toward more transparency.

I hadn’t really been a part of the story because it seemed to be taking a different focus, but it sounds like CIA will feature somewhat prominently, so now I am part of the story. What is the chance that Mr. Preston would be able to talk on background about the move toward more transparency?
Unfortunately, the timing on this is fairly short term. I think we need to file it tomorrow (Friday). But I thought it was worth asking.

Thanks,  
Siobhan

==================================
Siobhan Gorman  
Intelligence Correspondent  
The Wall Street Journal.  
(202) 862-9234 (w) |

From: Gorman, Siobhan  
Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2012 1:50 PM  
To:  
Subject: transparency

We're working on a story about the administration's push to provide a more public explanation of the legal explanation for CT operations/CIA's drone program. Among other things, we're told that Stephen Preston is allied with Koh and Johnson in pushing for more transparency. We were planning to say that in the story, so I wanted to make sure that was accurate.

In addition, in the spirit of transparency, I was wondering if you could provide answers/insight/guidance on the following questions:

- How is Mr. Preston going to make the legal defense of the drone program, will he do it in a speech, or in a legal response in some sort of ongoing litigation?
- Other lawyers have said the further transparency about the drone program will invite further litigation, foia requests, does Mr. Preston believe that?
- Is more transparency important to reassure allies who cooperate on intelligence matters that the US is behaving within the law? Are there other reasons to provide more transparency? What are they?

Any help you can provide would be much appreciated.

Thanks,  
Siobhan

==================================
Siobhan Gorman  
Intelligence Correspondent  
The Wall Street Journal.  
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 862-9234 (w) |
Siobhan,

Just left you a message. Call me back and we'll chat.

Talk to you soon,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2012 12:22 PM
To:
Subject: transparency

Just wanted to circle back with you on the transparency query. There's one other detail I just wanted to run past you. We're told that one of the main reasons CIA decided to back the push for transparency was that it wanted to be able to make a more public case showing the importance of the program to counter Pakistani public perceptions that civilians are being killed in large numbers. Anything you can provide on that would be great.

Thanks,
Siobhan

================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Sunday, March 04, 2012 2:27 PM
To: Cynthia L Rapp; Media
Subject: Re: Assad

Thank you so much for checking. As I mentioned, tips from our top boss often don't pan out, but we have to check because it's from our editor and he claims to talk frequently with people in MI-6.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

----- Original Message ----- 
From: 
Sent: Sunday, March 04, 2012 02:21 PM 
To: Gorman, Siobhan; 
Cc: 
Subject: Re: Assad

Siobhan-- We will get back to you if there is anything to it. Didi

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Sunday, March 04, 2012 02:18 PM
To: 
Cc: Media
Subject: Re: Assad

Thanks. No. This colleague is actually the editor of the paper. So, I ask because the editor of the paper heard it from someone, but his tips aren't always accurate.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

----- Original Message ----- 
From: 
Sent: Sunday, March 04, 2012 01:50 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan; 
Cc: 
Subject: Re: Assad

Siobhan, we'll ask some questions. Assume your colleague is in Syria?

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Sunday, March 04, 2012 01:48 PM
To: 

Subject: Assad

Happy Sunday! A colleague heard that Assad has been shot. Sounds unlikely, but it's a crazy time. Any truth to that?

Thanks,
Siobhan

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Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 8:21 PM
To: Media
Subject: Re: AQ brushfires

Thanks so much. I'll ring tomorrow.
=================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 9:13 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: Media
Subject: Re: AQ brushfires

Hi Siobhan,

We can discuss more tomorrow if you want.

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 7:51 PM
To: Media
Subject: Re: AQ brushfires

Thanks very much. Any light you can shed on the resumption of U.S.-Yemen CT efforts in the wake of the new leadership in Yemen?

=================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 6:33 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: Media
Subject: RE: AQ brushfires

Siobhan,
From: Gorman, Siobhan  
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 11:50 AM  
To:  
Subject: AQ brushfires  

It appears that there are some pretty nasty AQ-related flare-ups in the Middle East and Yemen. I'm getting questions from editors about whether there is a larger significance. My sense is no, because the AQAP-related attack in Yemen doesn't appear to be part of the more internationally-focused AQAP affiliate. But at any rate, any insight you can provide into AQ-related efforts in Yemen, Iraq, and Syria of late would be most-appreciated. I think we're going to write a story for tomorrow's paper trying to pull these different dust-ups together and trying to make sense of them.

The main question I have is: Do these efforts suggest a broader effort on the part of AQ to show it is still relevant? If not, what does it signify about the local affiliates of AQ and the security issues they are raising locally? Does this localized threat create any security concerns for the US?

On a related note, is there anything you can share on the resumption of U.S.-Yemen CT efforts in the wake of the new leadership in Yemen? It looks like training has resumed, and I didn't know if there was any light you could shed on U.S. efforts there.

Thanks,

Siobhan

====================================

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
I left you a phone message this morning. So, please give me a ring when you get a chance. Thanks!

==============================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

Hi Siobhan,

We can discuss more tomorrow if you want.

Thanks very much. Any light you can shed on the resumption of U.S.-Yemen CT efforts in the wake of the new leadership in Yemen?

==============================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan  
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 11:50 AM  
To:  
Subject: AQ brushfires

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Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman  
Intelligence Correspondent  
The Wall Street Journal  
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Hi Guys, A new Yemen query. Is there any truth to this claim from AQAP to have killed an American working for U.S. intelligence?

Thanks again for all your help.

Siobhan

==================================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w) }

In a brief statement published on jihadi forums today (March 6, 2012), Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) took responsibility for the killing of an "American working as a high ranking officer in the U.S. intelligence" on March 1, 2012.

The statement said that the individual, who was killed in the city of Aden, was under AQAP's surveillance for an extended period of time.

His killing, the statement added, comes as a result of the "increased American movements in Yemen...and the bringing of large number of American soldiers to the city of Aden in particular."

AQAP urged the Yemeni people to wage jihad against the Americans and their co-conspirators, and to issue relevant fatwas permitting the targeting of Americans in Yemen.
بيان بشأن قتل صابط مخابرات أمريكي في عدن

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

الحمد لله القادر: وقولوا: "مسلم الأخذاء الحزيم فأنا أظلم، فيه مذكوري وظلمت وظلمت وظلمت وظلمت وظلمت وظلمت وظلمت...

وأقسموا أنهم كنوا نزمه فأنتم قراءة وقراءة الصلاة وقراءة الركعة فخلعوا عليهم إن الله غفور رحيم" (سورة الأنفوذ 48)، والصلاة والسلام على رسول الله ﷺ: "أخرجوا المشركين من جزيرة العرب; وبالله:

فقد من الله على المهاجرين في يوم الخمسة وربع آخر المواقف 11 مارس 2012م، في مدينة عدن

قتل أمريكي يعمل ضابطاً برتبة كبيرة في الاستخبارات الأمريكية، وذلك بعد رصد تهافت كارثة طويلة.

وتأتي استشهاده بعد تزايد التحالفات الأمريكية في اليمن في ظل الأوضاع السياسية الجديدة وكذا جلب

أعداد كبيرة من الجمود الأمريكيين إلى مدينة عدن على وجه الخصوص.

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 3:33 PM
To: you can ignore my last query on Yemen
Subject: you can ignore my last query on Yemen

Sounds like U.S. and Yemeni govt folks say no Americans have been injured, so ignore my query unless there is info to suggest otherwise.

==============================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 5:15 PM
To: Media
Subject: RE: Iran qu

OK, thanks very much. That could explain it. Pre-2003 activity wouldn't be terribly interesting. My colleague seemed to suggest this was happening now, but perhaps he misunderstood.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

Siobhan,

Hope this helps,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 4:28 PM
To:
Subject: Iran qu

Hi Guys,

A colleague is trying to nail down some information he's gotten from American and French diplomats who said they are very worried that Iran has been "cleaning up" Parching. The suggestion was that the U.S. or Western governments have seen evidence of this cleanup, either via satellites or other ways. Would that be a correct assumption? Is that concern consistent with what your folks have seen or concerns they might share?

This is a detail that is being used in an Iran story for tomorrow, so any quick insight you can provide would be great. Sorry for the last-minute nature of the request. We just heard this.
Thanks,
Siobhan

===============================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 3:49 AM
To: Yemeni strikes

We're trying to sort out some recent strikes on Islamic extremist targets in Yemen. Wondering what guidance you can provide.

Yemeni security officials say that the US launched several missile attacks in south Yemen on Saturday and Sunday targeting militants and weapons caches that have come under the control of Islamist militants during the last few days.

The Saturday strikes hit two different areas of south Yemen, in Abyan province and al Beyda province. The targets of the strikes were "suspected Al Qaeda" militants, according to Yemeni officials. These strikes had death tolls ranging from 14-25 militants dead. No names released though, suggesting that these guys were Ansar al Shariah, rather than AQAP.

How does this square with your understanding?

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan

Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 9:05 AM

To: 

Cc: Media

Subject: Re: Yemen

Sorry, one other question. My colleague in Yemen says two senior Yemeni officials say that the Americans were responsible for all three operations. Not sure why the Yemenis wouldn’t claim credit for one of their strikes. Can you shed any light on that?

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Gorman, Siobhan

Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 08:56 AM

To: 

Cc: 

Subject: Re: Yemen

Thanks very much. The second quote sounds familiar. I think you provided it last time I harassed you on Yemen : )

Sounds like there was another strike today in Yemen. Our colleague there says it killed four militants, including one senior AQ leader in Baida province. Yemeni sources say it was another US drone attack. The attack happened after a suicide bomber attacked a checkpoint in the province killing four soldiers.

Four strikes seems like quite an uptick. Is there any guidance you can provide on why the burst of activity? And on today's strike, how does the above description match your understanding? I assume the strike was not related to the suicide attack, but if it were, that would suggest a pretty quick and serious response.

Thanks again for your help.

Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: 

Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 06:04 PM

To: Gorman, Siobhan

Cc: 

Subject: Yemen

Siobhan,
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:30 PM
To: Cynthia L Rapp
Cc: Siobhan Gorman
Subject: Re: Invitation to Off the Record Dinner with CIA Director Petraeus

Nope. I eat pretty much anything. Thanks again.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:25 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: Cynthia L Rapp
Subject: RE: Invitation to Off the Record Dinner with CIA Director Petraeus

Great! Any food allergies?

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:13 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: Cynthia L Rapp
Subject: Re: Invitation to Off the Record Dinner with CIA Director Petraeus

Didi,

Thank you very much for the invitation. I would love to come. See you next week.

Best,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From:
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 07:44 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc:
Subject: Invitation to Off the Record Dinner with CIA Director Petraeus

Siobhan,
Cynthia and I wanted to see if you would be available for an off the record dinner with Director Petraeus, scheduled for Thursday, March 22, at 6:30pm. The dinner would be held here, in the Director's dining room, with a handful of your media colleagues.

If you are available, please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions. We will also need your SSN to clear you into the building.

Cynthia Rapp
CIA Office of Public Affairs
From:
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 7:56 AM
To: 'Gorman, Siobhan'
Subject: RE: Urgent Bio Request

Siobhan:

Thanks very much. I'm sure the Director is looking forward to talking with you tomorrow evening.

All the best,

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:07 PM
To:
Subject: RE: Urgent Bio Request

Here's my bio. Please let me know if you need any more information.

Best,
Siobhan

SIOBHAN GORMAN
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal
Washington, D.C.

Siobhan Gorman is a reporter for The Wall Street Journal covering terrorism, counter terrorism, Intelligence, and cybersecurity, which includes the activities of the sixteen intelligence agencies and the national security threats they aim to combat.

Prior to joining the Journal in 2007, Ms. Gorman was a Washington correspondent for The Baltimore Sun covering intelligence and security. From 1998 to 2005 she was a staff correspondent for National Journal covering homeland security, justice, and intelligence; and in 1997 was also a research associate for “Bob Levey’s Washington”, The Washington Post.

Ms. Gorman won the 2006 Sigma Delta Chi Award for Washington Correspondence for her coverage of the National Security Agency, and in 2000 received a special citation in national magazine writing from the Education Writers Association.

She received her bachelor of arts in government from Dartmouth College and currently resides in Arlington, VA.
Hi Siobhan:

It was a pleasure to meet you before the DNI Syria backgrounder the other day.

We’re delighted that you’ve accepted Director Petraeus’ invitation to dinner Thursday evening.

We need to give the Director your biography for his review by tomorrow.

I’m having a difficult time finding your bio on wsj.com or anywhere.

Could you please shoot me your bio and photo by COB today, if possible?

Thanks very much,

CIA Office of Public Affairs
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 4:32 PM
To: RE: Urgent Bio Request

Sorry, I just got this email. It was trapped, disturbingly, in my email quarantine. Sorry to spam you with unneeded bios. Looking forward to seeing the Director tomorrow.

Best,
Siobhan

-----------------------
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal,
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: 
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 6:37 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Subject: FW: Urgent Bio Request

Hello again, Siobhan:

We found a good bio here in our files. I also have a good photo. No need to send anything.

Have a good trip back.

Thanks,

From: 
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 1:46 PM
To: 'Gorman, Siobhan'
Subject: RE: Urgent Bio Request

Hi Siobhan:

Tuesday evening will be fine.

Thanks a lot.

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 1:27 PM
To: 
Subject: Re: Urgent Bio Request
It was great to meet you last week. I'm out of the country and back Tuesday evening. Would it be OK if I sent you a bio then? I don't think we have bios on our website.

Best,
Slobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 12:58 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Subject: Urgent Bio Request

Hi Siobhan:

It was a pleasure to meet you before the DNI Syria backgrounder the other day.

We’re delighted that you’ve accepted Director Petraeus’ invitation to dinner Thursday evening.

We need to give the Director your biography for his review by tomorrow.

I’m having a difficult time finding your bio on wsj.com or anywhere.

Could you please shoot me your bio and photo by COB today, if possible?

Thanks very much,

CIA Office of Public Affairs
From: Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:24 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: Cynthia L Rapp
Subject: Gym

Hey Siobhan,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

-----Original Message-----
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:52 PM
To: 
Subject: 

I realized, perhaps too late, that tomorrow's dinner might also afford an opportunity for a gym tour.

Is there any chance that I could do a tour before the dinner? Then, if there are additional people I need to talk with, we could follow up by phone. But at least I could see it, and we'd be part way there?

Just a thought.

Best,

Siobhan

---------------------
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 2:42 PM
To: RE: Soleimani
Subject: 

I wanted to circle back on this email. Would it be accurate to say U.S. officials believe the bombings in Georgia and India and plotting in Azerbaijan were Quds Force efforts. If so, I assume it would then be accurate to say that Soleimani would be believed to be implicated in them, right?

The story is in the final stages of editing, so hopefully it will run this week.

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 5:35 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Soleimani

Thanks very much. If you can get back to me on the question of whether it would be accurate to link the two instances below to Quds Force, and/or Soleimani, I'd be grateful. That would be a useful detail because if it is the case, it would show recent activity beyond the assassination plot against the Saudi ambassador.

I think the story is being filed today, but we have no control over when it runs. Though, I know editors in New York have been pushing for it, so I would think it might run sooner rather than later—perhaps next week sometime.

Also, as a heads-up, we are planning to use a portion of the following from a cable from WikiLeaks from Nov. 15, 2009, which says: General Petraeus mentioned that we continue to see on average one rocket and one EFP attack daily and that next time Talabani spoke to Qassem Soleimani, he might pass along that we are concerned about Iranian actions and that accusations about the U.S. about Iranian actions and that accusations about the U.S. supporting Mullahs are nonsense. Talabani agreed the accusations were baseless. Petraeus added that Qassem Soleimani should also know that his actions play into the hands of Iran's opponents, as they make it easier to enact sanctions and to rally international public opinion against the Iranian Government.

I pass it along mostly as an FYI, but also in the event that you or the director had additional comments on it.

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 5:04 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Soleimani

Siobhan,

I'll have to get back to you on the first point below. When do you think your story will run? Thanks

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:01 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: Soleimani

Thanks again for your help with the hurry-up-and-wait Soleimani story. We're finally wrapping it up. I think our previous exchange was before or right around the time of the bombings in Thailand and Georgia and certainly before the arrests yesterday in Azerbaijan. So, I'm wondering if you can shed any light on these two questions:

The Israelis have connected the attacks in India, Thailand and Georgia to the Quds Force. Has the U.S. as well? If so, I assume it would be accurate to say the U.S. believes Soleimani played a role in them?

Similarly, the arrests in Azerbaijan yesterday aimed to stave off IRGC/Quds Force attacks on the U.S. and Israeli embassies as well as offices of BP. Does the U.S. believe those plots were real? Does the U.S. draw a connection to the Quds Force and/or Soleimani?

Thanks,
Siobhan

==============================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:27 AM
To: Media
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Soleimani

Thanks so much. So sorry to bother you when you have more important things to attend to. I hope you are doing OK.

==================================================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From:
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:26 AM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: Re: Soleimani

Hi Siobhan,

Sorry for the delayed response

==================================================================
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 02:41 PM
To: 
Subject: RE: Soleimani

I wanted to circle back on this email. Would it be accurate to say U.S. officials believe the bombings in Georgia and India and plotting in Azerbaijan were Quds Force efforts. If so, I assume it would then be accurate to say that Soleimani would be believed to be implicated in them, right?

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Siobhan

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Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan  
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 5:35 PM  
To:  
Cc:  
Subject: RE: Soleimani

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I pass it along mostly as an FYI, but also in the event that you or the director had additional comments on it.

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman  
Intelligence Correspondent  
The Wall Street Journal.  
(202) 862-9234 (w)  

From:  
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 5:04 PM  
To: Gorman, Siobhan  
Cc:  
Subject: RE: Soleimani

Siobhan,


From: Gorman, Siobhan  
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:01 PM  
To:  
Cc:  
Subject: Soleimani


Thanks again for your help with the hurry-up-and-wait Soleimani story. We're finally wrapping it up. I think our previous exchange was before or right around the time of the bombings in Thailand and Georgia and certainly before the arrests yesterday in Azerbaijan. So, I'm wondering if you can shed any light on these two questions:

The Israelis have connected the attacks in India, Thailand and Georgia to the Quds Force. Has the U.S. as well? If so, I assume it would be accurate to say the U.S. believes Soleimani played a role in them?

Similarly, the arrests in Azerbaijan yesterday aimed to stave off IRGC/Quds Force attacks on the U.S. and Israeli embassies as well as offices of BP. Does the U.S. believe those plots were real? Does the U.S. draw a connection to the Quds Force and/or Soleimani?

Thanks,
Siobhan

=================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Of course, Siobhan. Makes sense.

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Friday, April 13, 2012 2:18 PM
To: 'Gorman, Siobhan'
Subject: RE: N. Korea follow-up

Thanks very much. I thought it would probably take awhile to know for sure, but I needed to ask.

-------------------------
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal,
(202) 852-9234 (w)

From:
Sent: Friday, April 13, 2012 2:02 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc:
Subject: RE: N. Korea follow-up

Hi Siobhan,

I hope this is helpful. Best to you,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Friday, April 13, 2012 12:13 PM
To:
Subject: N. Korea follow-up

Hi
We seem to be doing an around the world tour this week. Thanks for the comments last night on North Korea. I have a quick follow up on that today.

Will the failed test prompt a recalculation of projections for a North Korean ICBM by 2015ish? In January 2011, Gates estimated they would have one within 5 years, so our understanding is the projection has been 2015/16. We’re wondering if the U.S. time frame estimates are expected to shift in light of the fourth failed test. Any sense of that?

Thanks,
Siobhan

=================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan  
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 7:31 PM  
To:  
Cc:  
Subject: Re: DCIA Questions  

Thank you. I'm sorry that I haven't gotten a chance to send them your way. I will get them to you and your colleagues either tonight or tomorrow morning.

Siobhan Gorman  
Intelligence Correspondent  
The Wall Street Journal.  
(202) 862-9234 (w)  

From:  
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 07:29 PM  
To: Gorman, Siobhan  
Cc:  
Subject: DCIA Questions  

Hey Siobhan,

Just a reminder about the general questions for that interview proposal with the DCIA. Also, I'm going to be out of email touch for several days on vacation so please use the so nothing is missed.

Thanks!

Media Spokesperson  
CIA Office of Public Affairs
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 1:51 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: DCIA Questions

So sorry for the delayed follow-up on my part.

As I mentioned, We'd like to speak with the Director for a story on how the administration came to embrace a national security strategy that focuses on fighting small, secret wars and relies heavily on special operations forces and CIA officers. It is the scene-setting story for a series we are writing about this strategy. The kinds of questions we'd like to discuss with Director Petraeus are:

- It seems that a key time period for embracing this approach came in the second half of 2010, as you took over as COMISAF. What are the events and decisions you see as having sold the administration on this approach, particularly during this time period?
- Gen. Cartwright has described your time as COMISAF as a rebalancing of the strategy. Under you, he said, the military emphasized the importance of CT operations. Obviously, you advocate a combination of COIN and CT, but do you agree that you rebalanced the strategy?
- What lessons did you take away from your experience in Afghanistan (and Iraq and CENTCOM) that informed the thinking of the administration on the benefit of this approach?
- You have said one key lesson of Afghanistan (and Iraq) was intelligence fusion. As CENTCOM Commander or COMISAF, were there new efforts to ensure that all CT raids yielded additional intelligence for the next raid? Did you improve or adjust how one operation begat the next?
- Now that you are at CIA, what additional efforts have you made to bolster this strategy?
- Does this strategy apply beyond counterterrorism? How?
- What are the downsides to this approach?

Please let me know if you have any questions about the above or if you need any additional information from me.

Thank you,

Siobhan

====================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: 
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 7:29 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: DCIA Questions

Hey Siobhan,

Just a reminder about the general questions for that interview proposal with the DCIA. Also, I'm going to be out of email touch for several days on vacation so please use the so nothing is missed.

Thanks!
Just tried to call. I’ll call back in just a few or you can try me.

I’ll ring you after 2pm. Thanks much.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

I’d be happy to chat, Siobhan. If you could call after 2 that would be ideal. Or, if you’d like to email me your additional thoughts that’s fine too. Best,

I was going to call you shortly because we have done a bit more reporting, and I had a few additional things I wanted to check with you. I think right now, we’re trying to pull a story together to file tomorrow. Will you be around in about a half hour or so to chat a little bit more?

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

Hi Siobhan,
I hope you enjoyed the weekend, despite the moisture. I wanted to let you know that I've worked up something for you on AQAP and am just running a few traps. Are you trying to meet a deadline today? Thanks.
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2012 06:14 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: Response on AQAP

Hi Siobhan,

Referencing our conversations, please find below what I can offer on the issues you raised. I do hope the comments provide some useful perspective. Best,

so please note that CIA declined to comment.
Hi Siobhan,

I am putting everything I can into one combined note which I will send shortly.
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2012 7:57 PM
To: 
Subject: Re: quotes

Thanks very much. Talk with you tomorrow.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From:
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2012 07:06 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Subject: RE: quotes
Hi Siobhan,

I saw that you had sent this note earlier (thank you) and wanted to say now that I've come up for air that I'll get back to you early in the day tomorrow with a response. Please have an enjoyable evening.

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2012 2:16 PM
To: 
Subject: quotes

Thanks for your help.

These are the ones that I'd like to put on background.

Also, I meant to double check when we were chatting, but when we spoke initially, you said it would be accurate to say

Just want to make sure that is indeed accurate and usable.

I'll circle back with you tomorrow on the issue of who died in the Sunday strike in Yemen. (Just discussed it briefly with who was unlucky enough to answer the phone).

Thanks,
Siobhan

=====================================

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)

Approved for Release: 2014/03/25
Hi Slobhan,

I'll let you know soonerest if there's anything I can read out on Cheng. Best,

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Friday, April 27, 2012 2:57 PM
To:
Subject: more China queries

Putting in the obligatory query on our friend Cheng Guangcheng. Is this a case your guys have been following? Is there any information you can provide on his case or his whereabouts. I realize this is a longshot request, but our editors are obsessed with China, and we got an all-hands-on-deck request to look into Mr. Cheng and his current situation.

Thanks,
Siobhan

=================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Friday, April 27, 2012 5:51 PM
To: 'Gorman, Siobhan'
Subject: RE: more China queries

My pleasure – and never hurts to ask. Have a great weekend.

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Friday, April 27, 2012 5:39 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: more China queries

I appreciate your looking into it. I told my editor it was unlikely you'd have something on this.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Friday, April 27, 2012 5:14 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Subject: RE: more China queries

Hi Siobhan,

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Friday, April 27, 2012 2:57 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: more China queries

Putting in the obligatory query on our friend Cheng Guangcheng. Is this a case your guys have been following? Is there any information you can provide on his case or his whereabouts. I realize this is a longshot request, but our editors are obsessed with China, and we got an all-hands-on-deck request to look into Mr. Cheng and his current situation.

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
I hope not. He was batting 400.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

----- Original Message ----- 
From: 
Sent: Saturday, April 28, 2012 10:36 PM 
To: Gorman, Siobhan 
Subject: Re: So...

Is he being paid by the joke though?

----- Original Message ----- 
From: 
Sent: Saturday, April 28, 2012 10:27 PM 
To: 
Subject: Re: So...

Good. Kimmel is funny. Watching on CNN.

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Gorman, Siobhan 
Sent: Saturday, April 28, 2012 10:17 PM 
To: 
Subject: Re: So...

Never mind

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Gorman, Siobhan 
Sent: Saturday, April 28, 2012 10:13 PM 
To: 
Subject: So...

What prompted my guest to leave so suddenly? Bat phone rang twice, and then he excused himself.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
Nothing that I'm aware of right now. Have fun!

----- Original Message -----  
From: Gorman, Siobhan  
Sent: Saturday, April 28, 2012 10:44 PM  
To:  
Subject: Re: So...

He came back and then left a bit early...anything interesting going on?

Siobhan Gorman  
Intelligence Correspondent  
The Wall Street Journal  
(202) 862-9234 (w)

----- Original Message -----  
From:  
Sent: Saturday, April 28, 2012 10:27 PM  
To: Gorman, Siobhan  
Subject: Re: So...

Good. Kimmel is funny. Watching on CNN.

----- Original Message -----  
From: Gorman, Siobhan  
Sent: Saturday, April 28, 2012 10:17 PM  
To:  
Subject: Re: So...

Never mind

Siobhan Gorman  
Intelligence Correspondent  
The Wall Street Journal  
(202) 862-9234 (w)

----- Original Message -----  
From: Gorman, Siobhan  
Sent: Saturday, April 28, 2012 10:13 PM  
To:  
Subject: So...

What prompted my guest to leave so suddenly? Bat phone rang twice, and then he excused himself.

Siobhan Gorman  
Intelligence Correspondent
Siobhan,

Have a good evening!

Media Spokesperson  
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan  
Sent: Monday, April 30, 2012 3:49 PM  
To:  
Subject: background comment  

Thanks for your help  

So, if it's possible to get some type of background comment saying that words were chosen carefully to preserve programs/operations/etc., and that those efforts continue, that would be helpful. Would that be possible?

Thanks,  
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman  
Intelligence Correspondent  
The Wall Street Journal.  
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 662-9234 (w)
Hi Guys,

Seeking your guidance here. As it's been explained to me, one of the reasons given to not publicly disclose the drone program is that making it public would mean that CIA could no longer do it under Title 50 and it would have to become a Title 10 program under the military. So, I'm wondering how that squares with Brennan's statement below. Can you advise?

So let me say it as simply as I can. Yes, in full accordance with the law—and in order to prevent terrorist attacks on the United States and to save American lives—the United States Government conducts targeted strikes against specific al-Qa'ida terrorists, sometimes using remotely piloted aircraft, often referred to publicly as drones. And I'm here today because President Obama has instructed us to be more open with the American people about these efforts.

Thanks,
Siobhan

================================

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent:
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-2234 (w)
Thank you for this rundown and for the follow up call. As I mentioned, we're holding off for at least a day, given all the pushback, so that we can try to reconcile why we're getting such different versions of the story. I'll follow up with you tomorrow to let you know whether we've resolved the discrepancies and how that affects the story.

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

-----Original Message-----
From:
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 3:16 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Translating the UBL trove

Siobhan,
Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

-----Original Message-----
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 11:40 AM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Translating the UBL trove

Thank you for looking into it. There's always a chance we're getting steered incorrectly, but two people in a position to know said that the majority hadn't been fully translated and it was recently recognized as an issue and it now being dealt with. Two others confirmed the lagging translation part, so I have a hard time thinking all these folks are confused.

==============================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w) 

-----Original Message-----
From: 
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 10:59 AM
To: Gorman, Siobhan;
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Translating the UBL trove

Siobhan,

Take care,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs
-----Original Message-----
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 9:56 AM
To: 
Subject: Translating the UBL trove

Hi Guys,

So do I wish you a "happy anniversary" today?

On the departed terrorist leader, we're told that the pace of translating his small college library of stuff has lagged. We know it was triaged by Arabic speakers, but most of the stuff hasn't been translated.

We're pulling together a story for tomorrow on it, and I wanted to get your take on the question of why the lag and when/why/how translation was stepped up in recent weeks. CIA officers were among those who complained they couldn't get access to info, so we're also wondering when that came to CIA's attention and what was done about it.

Here's a summary of what we've been told:
We're told that the majority of the documents seized from Osama bin Laden's compound have not been translated.
The failure to quickly translate the documents has meant that information that could shed light on al Qaeda's strengths, weaknesses and control of operatives, has not been available to intelligence analysts or military special operations teams. The problem was recognized only after CIA operatives and military officers began complaining they did not have access to the material and arguing that important intelligence was going unexploited. The pace of translation has stepped up in recent weeks as more senior leaders were briefed on the issue.

Thanks,

Siobhan

--------------------
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
On a separate note, my editor just swung by saying that he loves the gym story and would like it ASAP.

So, if there's a way to make another run at it—even if to just use some facts on background w/o quotes or anything like that—I'd be grateful. I could go through with you the facts I'm seeking to use on background, if that's helpful.

================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w) [ ]

-----Original Message-----
From: [ ]
Sent: Wednesday, May 02, 2012 4:58 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Subject: RE: Translating the UBL trove

Siobhan,

Thank you for the update. No worries, getting to the right context is why we're here.

Take care,

[ ]
Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

-----Original Message-----
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, May 02, 2012 4:02 PM
To: [ ]
Subject: RE: Translating the UBL trove

[ ] Just wanted to circle back with you on this. At this point, it sounds like we've reached an accord among sources on what happened, but there's a difference between the military and intelligence interpretation about whether additional translation is needed. That leaves us with a pretty muddled story, so absent new facts or insights that suggest there is more of a story, I think we're going to put this one aside.

Thanks for your help, and I'm sorry for the busywork yesterday, though I imagine your preferred outcome is no story, anyhow.

Thanks,
Siobhan

=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

-----Original Message-----
From: 
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 3:16 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Translating the UBL trove

Siobhan,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
-----Original Message-----
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 11:40 AM
To: 
CC: 
Subject: RE: Translating the UBL trove

Thank you for looking into it. There's always a chance we're getting steered incorrectly, but two people in a position to know said that the majority hadn't been fully translated and it was recently recognized as an issue and it now being dealt with. Two others confirmed the lagging translation part, so I have a hard time thinking all these folks are confused.

--------------------------------
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

-----Original Message-----
From: 
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 10:59 AM
To: Gorman, Siobhan; 
CC: 
Subject: RE: Translating the UBL trove

Siobhan,

Take care,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

-----Original Message-----
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 9:56 AM
To: 
Subject: Translating the UBL trove

Hi Guys,

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On the departed terrorist leader, we're told that the pace of translating his small college library of stuff has lagged. We know it was triaged by Arabic speakers, but most of the stuff hasn't been translated.
We're pulling together a story for tomorrow on it, and I wanted to get your take on the question of why the lag and when/why/how translation was stepped up in recent weeks. CIA officers were among those who complained they couldn't get access to info, so we're also wondering when that came to CIA's attention and what was done about it.

Here's a summary of what we've been told:
We're told that the majority of the documents seized from Osama bin Laden's compound have not been translated.
The failure to quickly translate the documents has meant that information that could shed light on al Qaeda's strengths, weakness and control of operatives, has not been available to intelligence analysts or military special operations teams. The problem was recognized only after CIA operatives and military officers began complaining they did not have access to the material and arguing that important intelligence was going unexploited. The pace of translation has stepped up in recent weeks as more senior leaders were briefed on the issue.

Thanks,
Siobhan

=========================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Sunday, May 06, 2012 3:51 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: Re: Quso?

Thanks very much.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

-----Original Message-----
From: 
Sent: Sunday, May 06, 2012 03:36 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan;
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Quso?

Siobhan,

Sorry for the double-header queries. This one may be more important. Colleagues in Yemen are saying that the mastermind of the Cole bombing, al-Quso, is no longer with us. Any truth to that?

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Sunday, May 06, 2012 3:36 PM
To: 
Subject: Quso? 

Hi guys, Happy Sunday. Wondering what your take is on the Feinstein and Rogers comments today on CNN on the growing strength of the Taliban since the surge. Is this an assessment you share?

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Looks like reports say the strike was courtesy of CIA. If we do a story, would that be an accurate thing to say?

Thanks,
Siobhan

---------------------
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Sunday, May 06, 2012 04:01 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan;
Subject: RE: Quso?

Siobhan,

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Sunday, May 06, 2012 3:36 PM
To: 
Subject: Quso?

Sorry for the double-header queries. This one may be more important. Colleagues in Yemen are saying that the mastermind of the Cole bombing, al-Quso, is no longer with us. Any truth to that?

---------------------
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Sunday, May 06, 2012 01:52 PM
To: 
Subject: Feinstein/Rogers comments today

Hi guys, Happy Sunday. Wondering what your take is on the Feinstein and Rogers comments today on CNN on the growing strength of the Taliban since the surge. Is this an assessment you share?
Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Thanks very much for both responses. I'll check back tomorrow on our friend in Yemen.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

----- Original Message ----- 
From: 
Sent: Sunday, May 06, 2012 04:13 PM 
To: Gorman, Siobhan; 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Feinstein/Rogers comments today 

Siobhan,


----- Original Message ----- 
From: Gorman, Siobhan 
Sent: Sunday, May 06, 2012 1:52 PM 
To: 
Subject: Feinstein/Rogers comments today 

Hi guys, Happy Sunday. Wondering what your take is on the Feinstein and Rogers comments today on CNN on the growing strength of the Taliban since the surge. Is this an assessment you share?

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 4:53 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Subject: RE: AQAP plot

Missing a note...

=================================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w) |

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 4:52 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Subject: RE: AQAP plot

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 4:25 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: AQAP plot

I just rang your office and no one picked up. Can you give me a call please?

=================================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w) |
Neither are accurate?

====================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 6:07 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Subject: RE: AQAP plot

No, it's not accurate.

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 6:06 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Subject: RE: AQAP plot

Thanks. Is it accurate to say the bomb was seized in Yemen?

Can you share anything about the guy? Would it be accurate to say he's in custody?

====================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 6:05 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Subject: RE: AQAP plot

I'm sure you have these by now, but just in case...

DHS Statement:

"We have no specific, credible information regarding an active terrorist plot against the U.S. at this time, although we continue to monitor efforts by al-Qa'ida and its affiliates to carry out terrorist attacks, both in the Homeland and abroad. Since this IED demonstrates our adversaries' interest in targeting the aviation sector, DHS continues, at the direction of the President, to employ a risk-based, layered approach to ensure the security of the traveling public. These layers include threat and vulnerability analysis, prescreening and screening of passengers, using the best available technology, random searches at airports, federal air marshal coverage and additional security measures both seen and unseen. DHS will continue to work with our federal, state, local, international and private sector partners to identify potential threats and
take appropriate protective measures. As always, we encourage law enforcement and security officials, as well as the general public, to maintain vigilance and report suspicious activity to the appropriate authorities." –Matt Chandler, DHS Spokesman

FBI statement:

"As a result of close cooperation with our security and intelligence partners overseas, an improvised explosive device (IED) designed to carry out a terrorist attack has been seized abroad. The FBI currently has possession of the IED and is conducting technical and forensics analysis on it. Initial exploitation indicates that the device is very similar to IEDs that have been used previously by al-Qa’ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) in attempted terrorist attacks, including against aircraft and for targeted assassinations. The device never presented a threat to public safety, and the U.S. Government is working closely with international partners to address associated concerns with the device. We refer you to the Department of Homeland Security, including the Transportation Security Administration, regarding ongoing security measures to safeguard the American people and the traveling public." –FBI Statement

WH COMMENT:

"The President was first informed about the plot in April by his Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Advisor John Brennan, and he has received regular updates and briefings as needed from his national security team. While the President was assured that the device did not pose a threat to the public, he directed the Department of Homeland Security and law enforcement and intelligence agencies to take whatever steps necessary to guard against this type of attack. The disruption of this IED plot underscores the necessity of remaining vigilant against terrorism here and abroad. The President thanks all intelligence and counterterrorism professionals involved for their outstanding work and for serving with the extraordinary skill and commitment that their enormous responsibilities demand." –Caitlin Hayden, Deputy NSC Spokesperson

---

From: Gorman, Siobhan  
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 5:55 PM  
To:  
Subject: RE: AQAP plot

Thank you

Siobhan Gorman  
Intelligence Correspondent  
The Wall Street Journal.  
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From:  
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 5:39 PM  
To: Gorman, Siobhan  
Cc:  
Subject: RE: AQAP plot

---

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
Hey did you send out the background? I haven't gotten it yet. Hoping it's not in my quarantine. Pls feel free to copy my gmail

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

Siobhan – We will be sharing background with you in just a few minutes.
I just rang your office and no one picked up. Can you give me a call please?

______________________________
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Ok, thank you. Just want to make sure this characterization of the bomb is accurate b/c this is quick turnaround:

a more advanced version of the underwear bomb deployed in the failed 2009 Christmas Day bombing attempt ========= Siobhan Gorman Intelligence Correspondent The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

----- Original Message -----
From: 
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 7:10 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: Re: Confirming this

Hi Siobhan,

As I said on the phone, I don't have anything to offer on the particular point you raise. Tomorrow we may in a general sense have more to convey about the bomb plot.

Best,

-----Original Message-----
From: Gorman, Siobhan 
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 6:44 PM
To: 
Subject: Confirming this

This is what my colleague was told:

the intel they got thru this operation allowed the hit on the external operations chief of aqap in yemen on Sunday.

================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Hey there, Welcome back. I rang your office again and was told my name had been “taken off the board” but I hadn’t heard from you or one of your colleagues. Can you pls give me a ring?

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Thanks very much, I'll add your comment into the story. Sorry I didn't ask you directly, we were waiting for the WH on that response, so I didn't bother you with it.

I appreciate all the work you and your colleagues do to guide the accuracy of our reporting, and these intense periods are tough for everyone to manage.

Thanks again,
Siobhan

=================================================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2012 9:00 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc:
Subject: One Follow-Up

Siobhan,

Take care,
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 12:24 PM
To: 
Subject: request

Happy Wednesday. I just left you a phone message to chat about issues of the day.

I also have a broader request. When the situation reaches a point where you are able to share more details, is there any chance that Mr. Morell (or another official, if there is someone better positioned) could speak on background about the back story of the operation.

I am already getting editors' requests to do a reconstruction story, which will be difficult to do well until you are at a point where you are able to share more details without impacting operations. But assuming that time comes in the relatively near future, I wanted to see whether that was a possibility.

Thanks,
Siobhan

=========================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 2:14 PM
To: 
Subject: AQAP follow up

I think my colleague is likely to use this stuff from AQAP guys because they do bring a different voice to the story. Of course, the appropriate context is important. It would be helpful if you could provide dome by way of background response to this AQAP commentary according to a colleague in the region.

We're told by people close to AQAP that AQAP knew nothing about the alleged plot, and that if there was any plot it was the work of one individual within AQAP, perhaps Asiri. So your perspective on that would be very helpful for providing the proper context. AQAP folks are also saying Yemeni AQAP members don't trust Saudi AQAP members anymore, and we were also wondering if that squares with what you are seeing.

As I mentioned, we also have a story for tomorrow looking at the U.S.-Saudi CT relationship, so it would be very useful to get your perspective on that—in terms of how important it is, how/why it evolved. So you know, the story looks at how the effort combines U.S.-supplied surveillance with a Saudi intelligence network that utilizes payments as low as $5 a month to secure information from tribal sheiks in Yemen. A network of Saudi and Yemeni informants whose nationalities match those of Al Qaeda's, and who can cross the two countries' border with ease, further helps the United States target lethally effective strikes. Story also includes people talking about the closeness of the CIA's relationship with its Saudi counterparts. Your perspective on any/all of the above would be appreciated.

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Thanks for the update.

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

-----Original Message-----
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 4:22 PM
To: 
Subject:

Hey, I heard bk from my colleague in the region. They're not going to use the AQAP pushback stuff, so you can ignore that query.

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Siobhan,

You can report the CIA declined to comment.

Have a good evening,

[Signature]

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

-----Original Message-----
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 7:38 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: Re:

Thanks, but what should I say in terms of comment? We're talking about the cumulative relationship. Do you want to say CIA declined to comment?

--------------------
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

----- Original Message ----- 
From: 
Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 07:34 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: RE:

Siobhan,

[Message]

Have a good evening!

[Signature]

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs
----- Original Message ----- 
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 6:38 PM
To: 
Subject: 

Hey [insert name], will you have something on the Saudi query? We can say CIA declined to comment, but I don’t know if that’s what you want to say.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 7:41 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: Re:

The comment would be inserted after a graf that describes Saudi efforts: Working in Yemen the Saudi network has secured Yemeni tribal sheiks' cooperation using payments of as low as $5 per month.

=================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

----- Original Message ----- 
From: 
Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 07:34 PM 
To: Gorman, Siobhan 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: 

Siobhan,

Have a good evening!

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Gorman, Siobhan 
Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 6:38 PM 
To: 
Subject: 

Will you have something on the Saudi query? We can say CIA declined to comment, but I don't know if that's what you want to say.

=================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Siobhan,

Best wishes,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

Hey Guys,

I spoke yesterday a bit about the impact of recent U.S. operations against AQAP on the organization—sowing mistrust, slowing operational planning, etc. I'm doing a story on that today.

Would it be possible to get any guidance, and ideally background, on the fact that U.S. officials are looking for these indicators and the fact that these types of things usually sow mistrust? I know it's early, but if you're seeing any indicators at all of impact, that would be incredibly useful to know. Any info you could provide on divisions or issues recent other operations have created for AQAP would also be very helpful.

On a semi-related note, is there any connection between the strike reported last night and information gathered in the course of the bomb plot operation?

Thanks,
Siobhan

================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Super. Thanks so much.

============
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

----- Original Message -----  
From:  
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2012 10:56 AM  
To: Gorman, Siobhan  
Cc:  
Subject: RE: Query on DoD consideration of taking Yemen program public

Good morning Siobhan,

Take care,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

-----Original Message-----  
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2012 10:14 AM  
To:  
Subject: Query on DoD consideration of taking Yemen program public

My colleague who covers the Pentagon is writing a story on the FOIA lawsuit on the OLC memo backing the Awlaki strike (there's an upcoming deadline for the government to file a response in the ACLU FOIA suit) and the debate over whether to be more public about drone operations.

He's planning to file the story tomorrow, so if we could get your input by the end of the day—or tomorrow morning at the latest, that would be really helpful.

To that end, we're wondering:

Has the CIA objected to producing the OLC memo justifying the strike on Awlaki as part of the ACLU FOIA lawsuit?
Is CIA aware of discussions about making a fuller and more public account of US military operations in Yemen, and does the CIA object?

Does the CIA think providing a legal response detailing operations in Yemen could force them to discuss other future operations they wish to keep covert?

Any other comments regarding this debate and whether strikes that cause such visible public consequences can be covert are more than welcome.

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Siobhan,

You all can report CIA declined to comment.

Thanks!

---

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

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From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2012 5:18 PM
To: 'Gorman, Siobhan'

On the legal story, I think we'll probably need some sort of comment/no comment. Should we say CIA declined to comment?

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 10:05 AM
To: {omitted}
Cc: {omitted}
Subject: RE: Timing

All sounds excellent. Many thanks.

================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

-----Original Message-----
From: {omitted}
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 10:05 AM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: {omitted}
Subject: RE: Timing

Let's do it tomorrow afternoon. Right now I am aiming for 1430. We will lock it in once we run a few traps here. In the meantime I probably can get you a few facts, comments etc... later today to help as you draft the story.

Thanks!

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

-----Original Message-----
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 9:26 AM
To: {omitted}
Subject: Re: Timing

Ha! Hope you had a good workout.

I can make it work either way, so just go with what works with scheduling on your end. I can run home and grab my car today, if I need to. It's not a huge deal.

================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

----- Original Message ----- 
From: {omitted}
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 09:24 AM
To: Gorman, Siobhan  
Subject: RE: Timing

I'll check this morning and let you know as soon as I can. If it is easier I can just push for Thursday afternoon? Ironically when you sent this email I was working out in the NHB gym.

Media Spokesperson  
CIA Office of Public Affairs

-----Original Message-----
From: Gorman, Siobhan  
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 8:29 AM  
To:  
Subject: Timing

Wondering if you have a sense of whether we'll meet today or tomorrow. It just affects whether I drive to work today.

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman  
Intelligence Correspondent  
The Wall Street Journal  
(202) 862-9234 (w)
No worries, Siobhan. I understood that.

Thanks very much. And correction: I mistyped in the first paragraph. I obviously meant Libya, not Egypt.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

Hi Siobhan,

I'll look into this on behalf of your colleagues and let you know soonest if there's some perspective we can share.

Best,

Hi Guys,

Your input is much in demand these days. I have a couple colleagues in the Middle East who are working on a story about Libya's new intelligence chief, Salem el Hasi, and his early activities in Egypt, which include internal surveillance. Mr. Hasi is particularly interesting figure because he was an American citizen (up until February) and was a professor at was a professor at North Georgia University.

So, we're thinking this may be someone your folks have tracked pretty carefully. We're wondering what you take is on the guy and the U.S. perspective on his taking over the Libya's counter terrorism efforts. Might we be able to tap your perspective? We're also told that the U.S. facilitated Mr. Hasi's ascent into his current post, so any guidance on that would be very helpful.
My colleagues are trying to draft a story by Friday or so. It's not a hard and fast deadline, but anything you might be able to provide by then would be much appreciated.

Thanks,
Slobhan

==================================================================
Slobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan  
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2012 9:54 AM  
To:  
Subject: Re: See you in the Lobby at 230PM

Yes, see you then. Thanks again.

Siobhan Gorman  
Intelligence Correspondent  
The Wall Street Journal.  
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From:  
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2012 09:26 AM  
To: Gorman, Siobhan  
Subject: See you in the Lobby at 230PM

Siobhan,

Just to be clear. We’ll see you for the tour this afternoon. I’ll meet you in the main lobby.

Thanks!

Media Spokesperson  
CIA Office of Public Affairs
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2012 8:45 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Re: Libya - Question

Thank you for the reprieve! I appreciate the clarification; that's helpful detail. I'll be in touch early in the day tomorrow. Hope you are enjoying this fine evening.

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2012 07:47 PM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Re: Libya - Question

Thanks so much. My colleague hasn't bugged me yet for material, so if you can get more to me if we wait until tomorrow, that's great.

On the surveillance question: I meant current duties. We're told that the Libyan government has switched back on its surveillance tools to monitor phone and internet communications inside the country. Officials say its needed to find supporters of the Gadhafi regime.

===================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2012 06:01 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Libya - Question

Hi Siobhan,

Thanks very much,
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2012 3:31 PM
To: RE: Libya - almost there

Thanks so much. I haven't been harassed yet, so that's why I haven't harassed you. I figured you'd get back to me today, and I appreciate the help.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 852-9234 (w)

From: Friday, May 18, 2012 3:30 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Subject: Libya - almost there

Hi Siobhan,

Ok, I've finally got my last bit of material. Just need to run a final trap and I'll send over some perspective. Please forgive the delay although I heard your colleagues were not harassing you, which is good! I know you've been busy with other things. Best,
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2012 03:00 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: a couple other fact checks

Thanks for the help. I hope I wasn’t the cause of the dental appointment delay. This is very helpful as I try to tie up loose ends on this story. Sometimes “fun” stories take as much work as their “less fun” brethren. Sorry for all the qufs.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: 
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2012 2:30 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: RE: a couple other fact checks

Siobhan,
We can chat more on Monday, hope this helps,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2012 2:11 PM
To: 
Subject: a couple other fact checks

I know you probably won't be able to check this until Monday, but there are two other things I wanted to fact check on the gym:

I'm told that on runs, Director Petraeus's security detail hands him bottles of water, relay-style, so as not to slow him down. And you mentioned the director's running a 6-minute mile, but I was told that the agency-wide invitation was that if you could run a 7-minute mile, you can come run with the director. I wanted to make sure both are is accurate.

On the chart, it's accurate to say that the congressional gym and the Pentagon gym ranked high, right?

And I was just told that the facilities at the black sites were better than the ones at CIA. Don't know whether that's something you want to weigh in on, but I thought I'd see if you did.

Thanks,
Siobhan

=======================================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2012 7:11 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Fw: Response - Query on Libya

Sent earlier to WSJ address. Sending to your personal email just to make sure you receive the material. Have a great night. Best,

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2012 5:31 PM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Response - Query on Libya

Hi Siobhan,

[Redacted]

Best,

---

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

Approved for Release: 2014/01/07
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2012 7:52 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: Re: Response - Query on Libya

Thanks very much, I'll follow up on Monday to see if we might be able to use a bit of this on background. Have a great weekend.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: 
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2012 05:30 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: Response - Query on Libya

Hi Siobhan,

Best,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs
Siobhan,

Thanks!

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, May 21, 2012 9:38 PM
To:
Cc:
Subject: Re: We're both right

Sorry, didn't mean accurately. I meant I may not have explained it clearly. Someone actually gave me a demonstration to show me what they were talking about. I should have given you the same demonstration last week :)

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, May 21, 2012 09:36 PM
To:
Subject: Re: We're both right

Not many more laps, I think/hope!

I may not have described the water bit accurately. It wasn't about having people stationed. I was told that his security detail that runs with him was asked to hand him water "relay-style," meaning that they hand him his water bottle along the way, so it doesn't slow him down.

Thanks,
Siobhan

________________________________________
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

---

Ok we’ll talk more about this...how many more laps on the gym story do we have left ☻?

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

---

Subject: Re: We're both right

Super. We're indeed both right, thanks so much.

________________________________________
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From:
Sent: Monday, May 21, 2012 01:48 PM
To: Gorman, Slobhan
Cc:
Subject: We're both right

Working on your other questions,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs
The gym story is being edited, which can take an indeterminate period of time, but I will keep you posted. Thanks!

--------------------
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 07:10 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc:
Subject: RE: Afridi

No problem...Is the gym story ready to go?

Have a good night.

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 6:02 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc:
Subject: Re: Afridi

Thanks very much. I appreciate your help.

--------------------
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 06:00 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc:
Subject: RE: Afridi

Siobhan,
Take care,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

---

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 11:38 AM
To:
Subject: Afridi

This is the material I mentioned. I would like to use as much of it as possible to be able to provide context for the story on Afridi's sentencing. Thanks, Siobhan

The CIA had forged its relationship with the doctor, Dr. Shakil Afridi, years earlier, a senior U.S. official said. He'd set up a vaccination program in the tribal areas of Pakistan, and the CIA provided funds for his program in exchange for "ground truth" on activities in the region, the official said.

He set up a program in Abbottabad at CIA's request to try to get a DNA sample from the women and children at the compound. Operating in Abbottabad would also allow him to, much as he did in the tribal areas, get a sense of what the neighbors thought of the people living in the compound.

Dr. Afridi learned the neighbors only thought two families lived there, which suggested to the CIA that there would be little likelihood of locals rushing to their assistance in the event of a raid, the senior official said.

Once Dr. Afridi set up his vaccination program, he and two nurses went door to door offering vaccinations.

When the medical trio arrived at the compound, no one answered the door, the senior official said. But one of the nurses had ministered to the family of a man who lived there, known as Abu Ahmed, who was bin Laden's courier. She had his number in her cell phone.

She called Abu Ahmed, but her phone died, so she called from Dr. Afridi's phone. Abu Ahmed answered and said they couldn't do it now but he'd bring the women and children by the clinic later.

They never came to the clinic, which provided useful intelligence, because it reinforced CIA's suspicion about the residents of the compound, the senior official said.

After the raid, Abu Ahmed's cell phone was one of the items left behind by the SEAL team and picked up by Pakistani officials. They found Dr. Afridi's number in that cell phone and detained him.
The CIA had offered to relocate Dr. Afridi to the U.S. But the doctor declined, saying he thought he could handle any questions from the authorities because he wasn’t providing information on the Pakistani government, just on al Qaeda and its leader.

================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Thanks very much. I appreciate the guidance and the background quote.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

Hi Siobhan,

Best,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 12:50 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Iraq follow-up

OK, thanks. I provided you a pretty detailed summary, so it would be good for everyone, I think, if I could at least get guidance if something is amiss in what I have been told.

Thanks,

Siobhan

========================================

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: 
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 11:59 AM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Iraq follow-up

Siobhan,


Thanks,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 10:57 AM
To: 
Subject: Iraq follow-up

I wanted to circle back with you on the Iraq story. We’re starting to draft the story, so if you could get back to me on my query today or tomorrow, I’d really appreciate it.

As we have done more reporting, it also sounds like there was an NCTC report completed recently (last week, I think) that found a resurgence in violence by AQI. The figure I was given was attacks going up from 19 per month last year to 25 per month this year. One person I spoke with about it said that the findings suggested that AQI may be a growing force for destabilization in the region, though not a direct threat to the US homeland. It sounds like the conclusions in
the NCTC report may not be shared by CIA and some others in the IC. So, getting CIA's perspective on these findings, would also be very helpful.

Also, gym story still being edited. My editor keeps getting pulled away from it by daily stories, but hopefully he'll finish it soon and send it to NY. I'll keep you posted.

Thanks,
Siobhan

==================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 8:01 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: Re: Iraq follow-up

Thanks so much. Sorry I missed your call. Yes, tomorrow is fine. I can ring you in the morning.

Thanks and have a good night!

=================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: 
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 07:46 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Iraq follow-up

Hi Siobhan,

I hope you had an enjoyable holiday weekend. You are always very gracious and polite so there’s no need to apologize. I left you a message asking if you needed a response tonight so, not hearing back I hope is a sign that you are ok with our getting back to you tomorrow morning. I’ll provide a comprehensive response to your Iraq-related queries early in the day.

Hope you have a great night. Best,

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 5:05 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Iraq follow-up

Sorry about the abrupt tone of the last note I sent. I got distracted by an editor’s query, and hit send before I had finished the note.

I meant to say that I would appreciate any guidance you can provide on whether a decision has been made or whether it is still under consideration. The most current info I have is that is it still under consideration, so that was how we were going to report it, but I had been told previously that it had already been decided, so I just wanted to make sure I’m not missing something.

=================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 11:59 AM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Iraq follow-up

Siobhan,

Thanks,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 10:57 AM
To: 
Subject: Iraq follow-up

I wanted to circle back with you on the Iraq story. We're starting to draft the story, so if you could get back to me on my query today or tomorrow, I'd really appreciate it.

As we have done more reporting, it also sounds like there was an NCTC report completed recently (last week, I think) that found a resurgence in violence by AQI. The figure I was given was attacks going up from 19 per month last year to 25 per month this year. One person I spoke with about it said that the findings suggested that AQI may be a growing force for destabilization in the region, though not a direct threat to the US homeland. It sounds like the conclusions in the NCTC report may not be shared by CIA and some others in the IC. So, getting CIA's perspective on these findings, would also be very helpful.

Also, gym story still being edited. My editor keeps getting pulled away from it by daily stories, but hopefully he'll finish it soon and send it to NY. I'll keep you posted.

Thanks,
Siobhan

===============================================================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: [Name]
To: [Name]
Cc: [Name]
Subject: Response to your Iraq queries

Hi Siobhan,

I hope your day is off to a good start. Please find below our responses to your various queries on Iraq.

[Blank space for response]

I hope this perspective is helpful as you move forward with your story. Kind regards.

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs
Thanks very much.

Hi Siobhan,

We are just engaging on this now, but will get back to you asap. Best:

We're wrapping up the Iraq story, and I wanted to circle back with you on two things.

Seeking your perspective, if you have one to offer on two related issues:

Concerns that an agency withdrawal could widen U.S. intel gaps on AQI or other threats we might care about in Iraq.

Concerns about an agency withdrawal as security issues get further inflamed in Syria, where AQI has been funneling some fighters.

Thanks,
Siobhan
Sorry, one other clarification: A colleague in Iraq just sent along some material for the story, and it talks about an MOU that the U.S. has signed with Iraq on intelligence matters. I just wanted to confirm that there is an MOU on intelligence matters.

Thanks,
Siobhan

-----------------------------------
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, June 04, 2012 12:16 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Iraq follow up

Hi Siobhan,

We are just engaging on this now, but will get back to you asap. Best:

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, June 04, 2012 11:02 AM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: Iraq follow up

We're wrapping up the Iraq story, and I wanted to circle back with you on two things.

Seeking your perspective, if you have one to offer on two related issues:

Concerns that an agency withdrawal could widen U.S. intel gaps on AQI or other threats we might care about in Iraq.

Concerns about an agency withdrawal as security issues get further inflamed in Syria, where AQI has been funneling some fighters.

Thanks,
Siobhan

=========================================
Siobhan Gorman
Pelt away!

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, June 04, 2012 3:18 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Iraq follow up

Thanks very much. Just got a Merah-related query from colleagues in Europe, which I will send momentarily. Sorry to pelt you multiple times today.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, June 04, 2012 3:17 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Iraq follow up

Hi Siobhan,

Will look to spring loose soonest. Best,

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, June 04, 2012 3:14 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Iraq follow up

Just to clarify, the story could run as soon as tomorrow. Do you think you will be able to get back to me soon?

Thanks,

Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, June 04, 2012 12:16 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Iraq follow up
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To:  
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Seeking your perspective, if you have one to offer on two related issues:

Concerns that an agency withdrawal could widen U.S. intel gaps on AQI or other threats we might care about in Iraq.

Concerns about an agency withdrawal as security issues get further inflamed in Syria, where AQI has been funneling some fighters.

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman  
Intelligence Correspondent  
The Wall Street Journal.  
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Thanks very much.

==================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

Hi Siobhan,

I hope you find the perspective provided below helpful.
From:    Gorman, Siobhan
Sent:    Monday, June 04, 2012 5:57 PM
To:      Al-Libi
Subject: Al-Libi

Do you have anything you can provide on background on the significance of getting al-Libi, if this turns out to be the case?

Many thanks,
Siobhan

================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Good morning!

Any likelihood you might get clarity on Mr. Libi today?

=================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Thank you!

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 1:09 PM
To: RE: Abu Yahya

Subject: Abu Yahya
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 1:41 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: HE: separate query on Mohamed Merah

Thanks very much. This was checking out reports out of France, so it appears that they lost something in translation.

You saw my Syria qu, right? Many thanks.

----------------------------------------
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: 
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 12:50 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan;
Cc: 
Subject: RE: separate query on Mohamed Merah

Hey Siobhan,

Hope this helps,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 11:34 AM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: separate query on Mohamed Merah

Thanks. I spoke with someone yesterday who said that the French did have Merah on their radar screen prior to the shooting, and they were surveilling him and then stopped. So, if that's indeed the case, please let me know.

A separate query, though...we're told that the CIA has been working to understand who makes up the FSA, and it has been helping elements of the FSA to organize themselves to better fight Assad. This is not lethal support but appears to be more logistical and organizational assistance. Any guidance you can provide would be most appreciated.

Thanks again,
Siobhan
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, June 04, 2012 3:21 PM
To: [To:]
Subject: separate query on Mohamed Merah

Hi Guys,

Sorry for the tandem queries today.

A query came over the transom on our friend Mohamed Merah about western intelligence services picking up data on Merah and connections to an organization close to AQ and not passing it along to the French until after his shooting spree. Looks like a couple internet addresses linked to Merah were picked up in Miranshah. I'm sure you're familiar with this one as it comes from an upcoming report from two French journalists. Any guidance you can provide?

Thanks,
Siobhan
Also, just to confirm, he died Monday, right?

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 1:53 PM
To: RE: Abu Yahya

Subject: RE: Abu Yahya
Hi Siobhan,

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 1:41 PM
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: separate query on Mohamed Merah

Thanks very much. This was checking out reports out of France, so it appears that they lost something in translation.

You saw my Syria qu, right? Many thanks.

=================================

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-8234 (w)

From:
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 12:50 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan;
Cc:
Subject: RE: separate query on Mohamed Merah

Hey Siobhan,

Hope this helps,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 11:34 AM
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: separate query on Mohamed Merah
Thanks. I spoke with someone yesterday who said that the French did have Merah on their radar screen prior to the shooting, and they were surveilling him and then stopped. So, if that's indeed the case, please let me know.

A separate query, though...we're told that the CIA has been working to understand who makes up the FSA, and it has been helping elements of the FSA to organize themselves to better fight Assad. This is not lethal support but appears to be more logistical and organizational assistance. Any guidance you can provide would be most appreciated.

Thanks again,
Siobhan

========================================================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From:  
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 11:20 AM  
To: Gorman, Siobhan;  
Cc:  
Subject: RE: separate query on Mohamed Merah

Siobhan,


Thanks,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, June 04, 2012 3:21 PM
To: 
Subject: separate query on Mohamed Merah

Hi Guys,

Sorry for the tandem queries today.

A query came over the transom on our friend Mohamed Merah about western intelligence services picking up data on Merah and connections to an organization close to AQ, and not passing it along to the French until after his shooting spree. Looks like a couple Internet addresses linked to Merah were picked up in Miranshah. I'm sure you're familiar with this one as it comes from an upcoming report from two French journalists. Any guidance you can provide?

Thanks,
Siobhan

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
Thanks. Can’t I use that information? Is there a reason for it to be off the record?

Hi Siobhan,

OK, a more basic question: from where did he draw his sterling religious credentials?

Hi –
Don't suppose there's anything you can say about how his death was confirmed or why there is confidence in this conclusion?

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From:
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 1:08 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Subject: Abu Yahya
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 5:23 PM
To: Re: Abu Yahya

Thanks very much.

========================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 05:21 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc:
Subject: RE: Abu Yahya

Hi —

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 3:58 PM
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: Abu Yahya

Thanks. Can't I use that information? Is there a reason for it to be off the record?

========================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From:
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 3:56 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc:
Subject: RE: Abu Yahya

Hi Siobhan,

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 3:41 PM
To:
OK, a more basic question: from where did he draw his sterling religious credentials?

Hi——

Don't suppose there's anything you can say about how his death was confirmed or why there is confidence in this conclusion.

==

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 1:08 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Subject: Abu Yahya
I inquired this morning on the gym story, and the editor handling it in NY has not gotten back to me. I'm equally mystified. It is all done, so far as I know.

All I can assume is that the queue for a-heds (those quirky feature stories) is longer right now. There is only one slot a day, so they sometimes sail in and sometimes there is a backlog that holds it up. But I haven't gotten an update. I'll let you know when I do.

Thanks very much for the background. Anything to make of the fact that there have been eight strikes since the NAOT conference?

------------------
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Siobhan, Gorman
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2012 4:18 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: RE: Pak anger

Siobhan,

Take care,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2012 1:59 PM
To:  
Cc:  
Subject: Pak anger

Hi Guys,

We're writing a follow on story today on reax to the al Libi strike. It focuses on Panetta's comments today but also about Pakistani condemnations. What is your take on the level of angst that the Pakistanis have truly expressed over the al Libi strike (and the ones preceding it)?

It would be really helpful to get any perspective you have on background because the impression is that Pakistanis are outraged, but we've gotten some small indications that perhaps their response is not as strong as it has been in the past.

Thanks,
Siobhan

===============================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Slobhan
Sent: Thursday, June 07, 2012 4:20 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Pakistan query

OK, thanks. Setting aside the last graf, which are not proposals that are ever going to happen, does your off-base assessment apply to the outlines of a broader CT accord?

Slobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: 
Sent: Thursday, June 07, 2012 4:24 PM
To: Gorman, Slobhan
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Pakistan query

Hey Slobhan,

Good afternoon.

Best wishes,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Slobhan
Sent: Thursday, June 07, 2012 9:53 AM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: Pakistan query

You might recall a query a few months back on Pakistan regarding negotiations over adjustments to the CT campaign. As is often the case with Pakistan, things appeared pretty muddled for awhile, but it appears that there may now be a little more clarity. So, we're picking this story back up now that the situations seems to have progressed.

We're told the following and would appreciate any guidance you can provide:
The U.S. is looking to negotiate a broad new counter-terrorism accord with Pakistan that could give Islamabad a greater role. U.S. officials have held preliminary discussions with their Pakistani counterparts about the possibility of a joint campaign against militants that would incorporate U.S. drones, as well as Pakistani military aircraft (F-16s) and ground forces. The U.S. would share more intelligence with Pakistan to support its ground forces' operations.

CIA invited the new ISI chief, Lt Gen. Islam, to Washington late last month to start negotiations, but the visit was postponed because Pakistani officials wanted to first sort out differences on NATO supply routes. The U.S.'s hope is to reach a "grand bargain" with Pakistan regarding roles and responsibilities in a joint campaign against militants. Islamabad's backing is critical, advocates say, to ensure that counter-terrorism pressure can be sustained as the U.S. pulls its troops out of Afghanistan.

There have been other proposals in recent months, but they haven't gained traction. One U.S. proposal included running the program out of the headquarters of Pakistan's intelligence service in Rawalpindi, but the Pakistanis balked at that option. U.S. officials even discussed whether it was possible to get a drone with a Pakistani flag painted on it.

Your perspective would be much appreciated.

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Thanks very much.

-----------------------------------------------
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From:
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2012 12:19 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Response - Query on Libya

Hi Siobhan,

Just seeing this. I'll take a look at the three parts and will get back to you a little later today. Hope all is well.

-------------------
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2012 11:53 AM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Response - Query on Libya

My colleague got tied up with another story and is coming back to the al-Hasi story. Any way we could use the following, or something like it on background:

The new Libyan intel director appears to be an independent and serious-minded professional. He certainly faces some challenges in rebuilding an institution so closely linked to the old regime along new lines. Al-Hasi looks like a consensus builder who is signaling he's a technocrat committed to a new Libya.

Also, do you happen to know when he came to the United States and when he obtained his citizenship? From our reporting, he seems to have come to the US in the late 1990s and lived in the Falls Church, Va., area at that time. He doesn't seem to have a terribly strong resume (we have a copy) for a high-level post. Worked at a soccer store, got a degree in web design. Appeared to go to an unaccredited Islamic studies instruction that has some affiliation with the Pentagon. Later, he taught Arabic at North Georgia University.

As part of his earlier history, my colleague says she was told that he lived in Chad in the 1980s as part of a group of Libyan dissident guerilla fighters who were working with CIA support. If that's not true, it would be important to be waved off of that one.
Thanks,
Siobhan

==================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: 
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2012 5:31 PM 
To: Gorman, Siobhan 
Cc: 
Subject: Response - Query on Libya 

Hi Siobhan,


Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
Thanks. I appreciate it.

=================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2012 5:07 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Subject: RE: Clinton on Syria

Thanks very much. I appreciate the guidance.

=================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2012 5:05 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Clinton on Syria

Hi Siobhan,


From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2012 4:37 PM
To: 

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

We are trying to understand whether there is any basis for Sec. Clinton's comments today. Folks at other agencies have suggested this actually isn't true. Any chance you can provide guidance on whether this squares with your understanding?

"We have confronted the Russians about stopping their continued arms shipments to Syria. They have from time to time, said that we shouldn't worry, everything they're shipping is unrelated to their actions internally. That's patently untrue.

"And we are concerned about the latest information we have - that there are attack helicopters on the way from Russia to Syria, which will escalate the conflict quite dramatically."

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Yes, that would be fine.

-----Original Message-----
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2012 5:46 PM
To:  
Subject: Re: Clinton on Syria

If we need to, should we say CIA declined to comment on Clinton's statement?

-----Original Message-----
From:  
To: Siobhan Gorman
Subject: RE: Clinton on Syria
Sent: Jun 12, 2012 5:07 PM

You're welcome, Siobhan.

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2012 5:05 PM
To:  
Cc:  
Subject: RE: Clinton on Syria

Thanks very much. I appreciate the guidance.

==============================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From:  
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2012 5:04 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc:  
Subject: RE: Clinton on Syria

Hi Siobhan,

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2012 4:37 PM
To:  

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

We are trying to understand whether there is any basis for Sec. Clinton’s comments today. Folks at other agencies have suggested this actually isn’t true. Any chance you can provide guidance on whether this squares with your understanding?

“We have confronted the Russians about stopping their continued arms shipments to Syria. They have from time to time, said that we shouldn’t worry, everything they’re shipping is unrelated to their actions internally. That’s patently untrue.

“And we are concerned about the latest information we have — that

Siobhan Gorman Intelligence Correspondent The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan  
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2012 3:37 PM  
To:  
Cc:  
Subject: RE: Pakistan query

Thank you so much. I really appreciate the guidance. I didn’t imagine this would be the kind of proposal you would be supportive of. Please let me know if you are able to put on background your analysis of the feasibility of pursuing such a plan:

================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Good afternoon Siobhan,

Thanks!

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2012 11:34 AM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Pakistan query

So, in light of the most recent stalemate with Pakistan, I think our story is going to be framed in terms of issues that are not being dealt with because of the U.S. decision not to apologize to the Pakistanis for the November border incident. A chief issue is proposals being considered that would rework counterterrorism operations. So, I wanted to circle back with you on the summary below.

We're quite confident that the "grand bargain" proposal is one that U.S. officials are mulling. That does not mean that it will come to pass—and it seems particularly unlikely given the current stalemate.
From a fact-checking standpoint, I did want to check one element of the summary below to make sure we are accurate: CIA invited the new ISI chief, Lt Gen. Islam, to Washington late last month to start negotiations, but the visit was postponed because Pakistani officials wanted to first sort out differences on NATO supply routes.

And we'd welcome any additional perspective you can provide in terms of what you think of this proposal. The story, as we draft it, will probably mention that absent any additional compromises over counterterrorism operations, the U.S. will continue to proceed as it has been.

This could run as soon as tomorrow's paper, so I wanted to be sure to circle back with you early-ish in the day today.

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 852-9234 (w)

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, June 07, 2012 4:24 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Pakistan query

Hey Siobhan,

Good afternoon.

Best wishes,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, June 07, 2012 9:53 AM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: Pakistan query

You might recall a query a few months back on Pakistan regarding negotiations over adjustments to the CT campaign. As is often the case with Pakistan, things appeared pretty muddled for awhile, but it appears that there may now be a little more clarity. So, we're picking this story back up now that the situations seems to have progressed.
We're told the following and would appreciate any guidance you can provide:

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There have been other proposals in recent months, but they haven't gained traction. One U.S. proposal included running the program out of the headquarters of Pakistan's Intelligence service in Rawalpindi, but the Pakistanis balked at that option. U.S. officials even discussed whether it was possible to get a drone with a Pakistani flag painted on it.

Your perspective would be much appreciated.

Thanks,

Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From:
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 11:41 AM
To: 'Gorman, Siobhan'
Subject: RE: Libya Query

Thanks, Siobhan. Very much appreciate the quick response. I'll do my best to get an accurate read on timing.

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 11:38 AM
To: 
Subject: RE: Libya Query

I think they may have filed it yesterday or will file it today. The editing process can take one day or several. So, my guess is we have another day or so, if needed. Just let me know on timing, so I can circle back with them and let them know.

==========================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From:
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 11:37 AM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Subject: Libya Query

Hi Siobhan,

Are your colleagues staring down a deadline on their Hasi story?
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 3:00 PM
To: RE: Syria Query

Thanks so much. Really appreciate it. The story is being filed today, and I think it will probably run in tomorrow's paper.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 1:06 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Subject: RE: Syria Query

Thanks, Siobhan, for sharing this. I'm working on something right now.

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 10:55 AM
To: RE: Syria Query
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Syria Query

Just circling back with you on this Syria query. The story could run as soon as tomorrow, so I wanted to give you a heads up on key elements of it in case more specifics allow you to provide guidance or weigh in.

This is the gist:

The CIA and State have stepped up contacts with the Free Syrian Army to better understand their capabilities and to help organize their military operations against Assad.

The Obama administration has not authorized the transferring of any weapons to the Free Syrian Army. But CIA and State, working with Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Qatar and others, are in the early stages of assisting the FSA with developing logistical routes for moving supplies into Syria and is providing communications training.

The CIA and State Department upped contacts with the FSA beginning in March, as a result of rising concerns about the presence of extremists groups and al Qaeda.

The U.S. operatives are also providing guidance based on lessons learned in Libya and are conveying the message that the FSA needs to professionalize and better organize itself if it wants to seek further assistance.

Able to provide any guidance?

And in terms of the status of the FSA, which may be easier to weigh in on:

The FSA has grown into an increasingly sophisticated fighting force in recent months, after getting routed in Hama in February. The flow of ammunition has increased to the FSA through Syria's northern border with Turkey, and the FSA’s internal command structure appears more organized and able to communicate to a wide-ranging collection of
Insurgent groups. Roughly nine local councils have been established by the FSA to coordinate its fight. Thé rebels have obtained increasingly lethal roadside bombs in recent months, as well as anti-tank rockets.

U.S. and Arab officials believe Mr. Assad is increasingly losing control of the Syrian countryside, even though he maintains power in key cities like Damascus, Aleppo and Latakia. Assad is also seen losing its ability to control major logistical supply routes connecting his forces to northern Syria and the coast.

Does this description of the FSA's state of organization/capabilities sound right? Are there any other elements of its organizing or fighting capabilities that we should include?

Thanks,
Siobhan

==================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: 
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 2:08 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan; 
Cc: 
Subject: Syria Query

Hi Siobhan,

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 1:41 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: separate query on Mohamed Merah

Thanks very much. This was checking out reports out of France, so it appears that they lost something in translation.

You saw my Syria qu, right? Many thanks.

==================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: 
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 12:50 PM
To: Gorman. Siobhan: 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: separate query on Mohamed Merah
Hey Siobhan,

Hope this helps,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

---

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 11:34 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: separate query on Mohamed Merah

Thanks. I spoke with someone yesterday who said that the French did have Merah on their radar screen prior to the shooting, and they were surveilling him and then stopped. So, if that's indeed the case, please let me know.

A separate query, though...we're told that the CIA has been working to understand who makes up the FSA, and it has been helping elements of the FSA to organize themselves to better fight Assad. This is not lethal support but appears to be more logistical and organizational assistance. Any guidance you can provide would be most appreciated.

Thanks again,
Siobhan

-----------------------
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

---

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 11:20 AM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: separate query on Mohamed Merah

Siobhan,

Thanks,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs
Hi Guys,

Sorry for the tandem queries today.

A query came over the transom on our friend Mohamed Merah about western intelligence services picking up data on Merah and connections to an organization close to AQ and not passing it along to the French until after his shooting spree. Looks like a couple Internet addresses linked to Merah were picked up in Miranshah. I'm sure you're familiar with this one as it comes from an upcoming report from two French journalists. Any guidance you can provide?

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 802-9234 (w)
Thanks. This is helpful perspective. I appreciate it.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

Hi Siobhan,

Please note in your story that “the CIA declined to comment.”

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 10:55 AM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Syria Query
Just circling back with you on this Syria query. The story could run as soon as tomorrow, so I wanted to give you a heads up on key elements of it in case more specifics allow you to provide guidance or weigh in.

This is the gist:

The CIA and State have stepped up contacts with the Free Syrian Army to better understand their capabilities and to help organize their military operations against Assad.

The Obama administration has not authorized the transferring of any weapons to the Free Syrian Army. But CIA and State, working with Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Qatar and others, are in the early stages of assisting the FSA with developing logistical routes for moving supplies into Syria and is providing communications training.

The CIA and State Department upped contacts with the FSA beginning in March, as a result of rising concerns about the presence of extremists groups and al Qaeda.

The U.S. operatives are also providing guidance based on lessons learned in Libya and are conveying the message that the FSA needs to professionalize and better organize itself if it wants to seek further assistance.

Able to provide any guidance?

And in terms of the status of the FSA, which may be easier to weigh in on:

The FSA has grown into an increasingly sophisticated fighting force in recent months, after getting routed in Hama in February. The flow of ammunition has increased to the FSA through Syria’s northern border with Turkey, and the FSA’s internal command structure appears more organized and able to communicate to a wide-ranging collection of insurgent groups. Roughly nine local councils have been established by the FSA to coordinate its fight. The rebels have obtained increasingly lethal roadside bombs in recent months, as well as anti-tank rockets.

U.S. and Arab officials believe Mr. Assad is increasingly losing control of the Syrian countryside, even though he maintains power in key cities like Damascus, Aleppo and Latakia. Assad is also seen losing its ability to control major logistical supply routes connecting his forces to northern Syria and the coast.

Does this description of the FSA’s state of organization/capabilities sound right? Are there any other elements of its organizing or fighting capabilities that we should include?

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 2:08 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan;
Cc: 
Subject: Syria Query

Hi Siobhan,
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 1:41 PM
To:
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Subject: RE: separate query on Mohamed Merah

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Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal,
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From:
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 12:50 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan;
Cc:
Subject: RE: separate query on Mohamed Merah

Hey Siobhan,

Hope this helps,

[Signature]
Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 11:34 AM
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: separate query on Mohamed Merah

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Thanks again,
Siobhan
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 11:20 AM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc:
Subject: RE: separate query on Mohamed Merah

Siobhan,

Thanks,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, June 04, 2012 3:21 PM
To: 
Subject: separate query on Mohamed Merah

Hi Guys,

Sorry for the tandem queries today.

A query came over the transom on our friend Mohamed Merah about western intelligence services picking up data on Merah and connections to an organization close to AQ and not passing it along to the French until after his shooting spree. Looks like a couple Internet addresses linked to Merah were picked up in Miranshah. I'm sure you're familiar with this one as it comes from an upcoming report from two French journalists. Any guidance you can provide?

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan  
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 3:50 PM  
To:  
Cc:  
Subject: RE: Egypt  

It is a very fair question—one I have asked on a near-daily basis. I promise I’ll let you know when it’s finally slated to run.

==================================  
Siobhan Gorman  
Intelligence Correspondent  
The Wall Street Journal.  
(202) 862-9234 (w)  

==================================  
From:  
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 3:22 PM  
To: Gorman, Siobhan;  
Cc:  
Subject: RE: Egypt  

No worries Siobhan, I'm just enjoying being able to ask you questions!

Hope you are having a good day,

Media Spokesperson  
CIA Office of Public Affairs  

==================================  
From: Gorman, Siobhan  
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 2:37 PM  
To:  
Cc:  
Subject: RE: Egypt  

Thanks very much. I appreciate the quick analysis.

Gym story is being edited by committee, as these stories tend to be. I just got the latest round of edits—not wildly different but each editor has something they want to weigh in on. Hopefully that version will be blessed and then teed up for publication. Timing can be hard to gauge, because the slot for this type of story only allows for one to run each day. So, sometimes you have to sort of get in line.

==================================  
Siobhan Gorman  
Intelligence Correspondent  
The Wall Street Journal.  
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: [Name]
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 1:20 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan;
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Egypt

Siobhan,

Have a great day! Any word on the gym story???

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 12:18 PM
To: 
Subject: Egypt

Looking for any info or guidance you can provide on the status of things in Egypt. Any U.S. assessment of how bad it is, given today's events, would be most appreciated.

Thanks,
Siobhan

====================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 5:48 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc:
Subject: Re: New request: Boko Haram

Great, we'll chat tomorrow. Thanks very much, and have a good night.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From:  
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 05:47 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc:
Subject: RE: New request: Boko Haram

Siobhan,

I'll give you a call tomorrow to get more details about what you are interested in regarding AQIM and Boko Haram, and we'll see what can be done.

Have a good evening.

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 4:46 PM
To: 
Subject: New request: Boko Haram

Hi Guys,

Because I can't let a day go by without a new request, I wanted to follow up on a suggestion Mr. Morell had when we were at the WH Correspondents Dinner. He said that we should do a story on AQIM.

So, I was wondering whether it would be possible to get a backgrounder with an analyst, or the most appropriate person, on Boko Haram, the latest entrant into the AQIM mix. We're particularly interested in how the groups are linking up with each other and with other AQ affiliates.

Any chance we might be able to do a backgrounder?

Thanks,
Siobhan
Siobhan,

Thanks,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, June 18, 2012 4:13 PM
To: 
Subject: Iraq overflight follow up

Just wanted to follow up on one of our threads from Friday. We got more details on the effort to persuade the Iraqis to stop Iranian and Syrian flights to resupply Syrian militias associated with the Assad regime. These are the details (below) I’d like to run past you to gauge accuracy and to see whether there is any other information you can provide to either fill in blanks in the chronology.

Also, can you say whether similar action has been taken to prevent shipments by sea, say, through the Suez Canal? And what is your sense of the impact the halt of the flights over Iraq (and Turkey) on the Assad regime and/or the Assad-backed militias?

Thanks,
Siobhan

This is our understanding of how it came to be:

The CIA picked up intelligence in January that Iran was sending arms to Syria using an Iranian private carrier, Yas Air, which flew to Damascus over Iraqi airspace.

In January, the U.S. delivered a demarche to the Iraqi government about the carrier, asking Baghdad to intervene to prevent resupply flights. U.S. intelligence agencies concluded that those flights were cancelled.

A few weeks later (in late January or early February), the CIA learned that the Syrians had started flying AN-76 cargo planes to Iran. Once on the ground in Iran, the Russian-made aircraft were packed full of equipment, then returned to Damascus, again using Iraqi airspace.

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The Syrian and Iranian governments sought to disguise what the AN-76s were carrying. In some cases, the flight manifests said the planes, which can carry up to 40 tons each, were bringing cut flowers and agricultural equipment to Syria, the officials said.

The U.S. argued that the Iranian manifests were made-up and found evidence of IRGC involvement in arranging the flights. But the U.S. it only had general intelligence that the AN-76s were returning to Damascus loaded with weapons. The intelligence, for instance, didn’t say what types of weapons were being transported on the planes.

In early February, U.S. officials approached the Iraqis about the AN-76s, and again appealed to the government to intervene to stop the flights.

The Iraqis told the Iraqis that none of the flights were carrying weapons, and the Iraqis relayed that back to U.S. officials.

As the U.S. and Iraqis discussed the issue, the CIA found that several of the AN-76 flights went through.

The Americans told the Iraqis that they had a responsibility under U.N. resolutions to prevent the flights, or ask the planes to land and submit to a search. As the Iraqis prepared to host their first Arab League summit in Baghdad, U.S. officials told the Iraqis that their unwillingness to stop the flights not only ran afoul of U.N. resolutions but would also look as they were about to host the summit.

The Syrian AN-76s flights halted in mid-March and haven’t resumed.

The Iraqi decision has made it significantly harder for the Syrians to bring fly in supplies. Turkey has already sought to block over flights when there is evidence the aircraft could be carrying arms, though the operations depend heavily on having good intelligence about specific flights which the U.S. wants grounded.

In late April, the CIA believes a suspected resupply flight made it to Syria after crossing Turkish airspace. That flight wasn’t stopped because of a lack of intelligence ahead of time.

============================================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal
1025 Connecticut Ave, NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan  
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2012 4:24 PM  
To:  
Cc:  
Subject: RE: Call me  

I will. Thanks. I am on a phone call but I will be off shortly and will ring you.

==================================================
Siobhan Gorman  
Intelligence Correspondent  
The Wall Street Journal.  
(202) 862-9234 (w)  

From:  
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2012 4:23 PM  
To: Gorman, Siobhan  
Cc:  
Subject: Call me  

Siobhan,

I tried your office and your cell. Please give me a call when you get the chance.

Thanks!

Media Spokesperson  
CIA Office of Public Affairs  

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2012 5:12 PM
To: on background?

Just following up on our conversation. If it’s at all possible to put something along these lines on background, it would be helpful in putting the story in context.

“Anything that drives a wedge between the two of them is helpful.” (Iran and Syria) “It’s one of many efforts to try to slow them down.”

Thank you,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Thanks Siobhan, we’ll take a look at this.

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

As I mentioned last week, I’m also working on an Iraq story. As we wrap up loose ends on the gym, I wanted to launch into the next...

I’m told CIA is looking at withdrawing up to 40% of officers in Iraq (40% of the total at the height of the war) by the end of summer or fall. I’m told the reason is that the Iraqi government and the intelligence service, in particular, isn’t cooperating much on counterterrorism and the CIA has better places to deploy these officers. Budget issues also affect the decision calculus, I’m told.

It sounds like the ramping down has started with officers in the regional posts as the agency consolidates more in Baghdad because the U.S. military bases have been shuttered. But there isn’t a need for such a concentration of CIA officers in Baghdad, so the agency is looking at how better to redeploy them. Analysts, I’m told, don’t necessarily need to be in Baghdad to do their job. I’m told that the agency is increasingly shifting back toward its traditional intelligence collection role, which would mean that officers would focus more on regional issues, and Iran in particular, than Iraqi CT issues.

I was told that the Iraqi government has been creating an increasingly number of hurdles for cooperation with the U.S., in some cases even mundane issues like arranging meetings between U.S. and Iraqi intelligence officials has become more challenging. Iraqis see it as a sovereignty issue and are increasingly asserting themselves.

I was also told that prior to the military withdrawal at the end of last year, CIA and JSOC were looking at a joint arrangement that would preserve a U.S. CT capability in Iraq. But I’m told that is no longer under consideration, primarily because the Iraqis don’t want to work with the U.S. on counterterrorism.

I’m wondering how the above squares with your understanding. One thing I’d also like to clarify is whether the decision has already been made to go to 40% of the personnel that were in Baghdad at the height of the war has been made or whether it’s expected to be made sometime soon. I was also hoping you might be able to shed some additional light on why the U.S. is seeing less cooperation from the Iraqi government. reasons for the drawdown.

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
Thanks,
Siobhan

=================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Sure, of course. Let's finish it tomorrow. I filed it today, but I don't think my editor has even had a chance to read it yet.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

---

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 07:28 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Re:

Siobhan,

Thanks

---

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

---

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 5:44 PM
To: 
Subject: Re:

I didn't even understand it. Did you?

---

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

---

From: 
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 05:42 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Subject: RE:
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 4:04 PM
To: 
Subject:

What's the deal with this AP story on the WH taking on targeting decisions?

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036.
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 2:50 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: UBL movie docs

Thanks very much. And if you can let me know on the Afridi stuff when you get a chance, I'd appreciate it.

I realize you have just a few things going on today. I just need to help wrap up this Afridi story.

================================

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: 
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 2:44 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: RE: UBL movie docs

Siobhan,

On the record as a CIA spokesperson:

"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."

"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."

"Virtually every office and conference room in our headquarters is called a 'vault' in Agency lingo. The 'vault' in question, that had been used for planning the raid, was empty at the time of the filmmakers' visit."

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 2:19 PM
To: 
Subject: UBL movie docs

Per our earlier chat, our political reporter is doing a story on the docs. Any general response you have on the docs would be helpful. Specifically, he'd like to get your response to Rep. King's main critique in his letter to Mr. Morell.

According to the documents, filmmakers Mark Boal and Kathryn Bigelow obtained the Agency's permission for at least six visits to CIA facilities. These facilities included secure vaults within the Counterterrorism Center (CTC) and may have also included a sensitive, covered facility located away from CIA headquarters. During these visits, the filmmakers met with a number of CIA officials, including yourself (twice). They also met with an unknown number of National Clandestine Service (NCS) officers, including at least one who participated in the Abbottabad raid.

Thanks,
Siobhan

============================= 
Siobhan Gorman 
Intelligence Correspondent 
The Wall Street Journal. 
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800 
Washington, DC 20036 
(202) 862-9234 (w)

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
Only other qu on the UBL movie docs is: Why was the name of the vault used for UBL raid planning redacted from the docs? Many thanks.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

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Thanks,
Siobhan

=====================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 802-9234 (w)
Siobhan,

You can find the letter from the CIA Inspector General's office to Rep. King on this issue here:

Also, Pete King says that there is a CIA IG investigation into whether classified information was provided in meetings/exchanges with Boal and Bigelow. Just wanted to make sure that is accurate.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (W) |

On the record as a CIA spokesperson:

"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
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Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

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To:
Subject: UBL movie docs

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Thanks,
Siobhan

================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Siobhan,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

-----Original Message-----
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 9:06 AM
To:
Subject: Afridi

Hi guys,

AP is reporting that Dr. Afridi has been sentenced to 33 years in prison. Is that your understanding? For some reason this seems to be a less-than-public decision in Pakistan.

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Sorry for the delayed response. I thought I wrote back yesterday.

Yes, we're primarily interested in Boko and AQIM, and an assessment of Boko's size and scope at this point. We'd also be interested in any assessments of what the Nigerian government has been able to do thus far on its own. I understand a desire to start with an OTR back and forth, but surely there are things we can use on background, too? I recall getting several points on background from around the time of the Uganda bombing.

My understanding is that Boko had grown from an original size of about a hundred to something more than that but not so big that we're talking more than 1,000. I'm interested in links between Boko and AQIM as well as other affiliates. I understand that there were communications a few years ago between Boko and UBL, as well as with other senior AQ leaders. I was also told that they have communicated to some degree (a small degree, I assume) with AQAP. SO getting a better understanding of Boko, it's ties, and its limitations would be what we'd be most interested in. And we'd be interested in an assessment of what the Nigerian government as or hasn't been able to do about it thus far.

Thanks,
Siobhan

-----------------------------
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From:
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2012 2:47 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan;
Cc:
Subject: RE: Naamen Meziche

Siobhan,
Take care,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2012 11:08 AM
To:
Subject: Naamen Meziche

Just checking in on our al Qaeda friend Naamen Meziche, who is now enjoying the hospitality of Pakistani authorities. Any perspective you can offer on his significance, the significance of picking him up, and whether this involved US-Pakistani cooperation would be much appreciated.

Apparently he was reported dead (by a colleague of mine) in 2010, so any light you can shed on why he might have been dead then but not dead now would also be very helpful.

Also, just so it doesn’t fall through the cracks, my request on a Boko/AQIM backgrounder is still cooking, right?

Thanks,
Siobhan

===================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 1:07 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Naamen Meziche

Sorry for the delayed response. I thought I wrote back yesterday.

Yes, we're primarily interested in Boko and AQIM, and an assessment of Boko's size and scope at this point. We'd also be interested in any assessments of what the Nigerian government has been able to do thus far on its own. I understand a desire to start with an OTR back and forth, but surely there are things we can use on background, too? I recall getting several points on background from around the time of the Uganda bombing.

My understanding is that Boko had grown from an original size of about a hundred to something more than that but not so big that we're talking more than 1,000. I'm interested in links between Boko and AQIM as well as other affiliates. I understand that there were communications a few years ago between Boko and UBL, as well as with other senior AQ leaders. I was also told that they have communicated to some degree (a small degree, I assume) with AQAP. So getting a better understanding of Boko, its ties, and its limitations would be what we'd be most interested in. And we'd be interested in an assessment of what the Nigerian government as or hasn't been able to do about it thus far.

Thanks,
Siobhan

==================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From:
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2012 2:47 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan;
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Naamen Meziche

Siobhan,
Take care,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2012 11:08 AM
To:
Subject: Naamen Meziche

Just checking in on our al Qaeda friend Naamen Meziche, who is now enjoying the hospitality of Pakistani authorities. Any perspective you can offer on his significance, the significance of picking him up, and whether this involved US-Pakistani cooperation would be much appreciated.

Apparently he was reported dead (by a colleague of mine) in 2010, so any light you can shed on why he might have been dead then but not dead now would also be very helpful.

Also, just so it doesn’t fall thought the cracks, my request on a Boko/AQIM backgrounder is still cooking, right?

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 5:32 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Iranian accusations of "massive cyber attack" plans

Thanks very much

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: 
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 5:22 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Iranian accusations of "massive cyber attack" plans

Hi Siobhan,

If needed, you can say that “CIA declined to comment.”

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 3:42 PM
To: 
Subject: Iranian accusations of "massive cyber attack" plans

As this accusation appears to have recently hit the airwaves in Tehran, I wanted to check in to seek comment on the Iranian intelligence minister’s accusation that the U.S., along with the U.K. and Israel are behind plans for "a massive cyber attack" on Iran’s nuclear facilities, which Iran now says it has disrupted.

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 7:44 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: Re: circling back

Thank you, I appreciate it.

================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: 
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 05:14 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: RE: circling back

Siobhan,


Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 12:20 PM
To: 
Subject: circling back

On the Syria query, did you get my note earlier this week on the comment we'd like to use on background? Would it be possible to use it?

We were just asked to file the story by Sunday, so I'd like to include that comment, if possible.

Because our editing process has some lag time, I wanted to check and make sure that you hadn't had other inquiries about efforts to stop resupply shipments from Iran to Syria. Have you?

Thanks,
Siobhan

=================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 5:35 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Iran-related query on Mohsen Fakhrizadeh

Thanks very much. Have a good night.

====================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w) |

From: 
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 5:35 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Iran-related query on Mohsen Fakhrizadeh

Yes Siobhan, to round out our conversation, you can report that we declined to comment.

Have a good evening!

amera Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 4:51 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Iran-related query on Mohsen Fakhrizadeh

OK, thank you. Should I say CIA declined to comment?

Appreciate the point about characterizing the assessment of the program.

My colleague noted that a Reuters story in March also talked about the intercepts, which he has confirmed it independently. I pasted it below.

SPECIAL REPORT-Intel shows Iran nuclear threat not imminent
2976 words
23 March 2012
23:13
Reuters News
LBA
English
U.S. and allies agree Iran does not have atomic bomb

U.S. says no new secret facility detected

Electronic intercepts key to confidence in assessment

By Tabassum Zakaria and Mark Hosenball

WASHINGTON, March 23 (Reuters) - The United States, European allies and even Israel generally agree on three things about Iran's nuclear program: Tehran does not have a bomb, has not decided to build one, and is probably years away from having a deliverable nuclear warhead.

Those conclusions, drawn from extensive interviews with current and former U.S. and European officials with access to intelligence on Iran, contrast starkly with the heated debate surrounding a possible Israeli strike on Tehran's nuclear facilities.

"They're keeping the soup warm but they are not cooking it," a U.S. administration official said.

Reuters has learned that in late 2006 or early 2007, U.S. intelligence intercepted telephone and email communications in which Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, a leading figure in Iran's nuclear program, and other scientists complained that the weaponization program had been stopped.

That led to a bombshell conclusion in a controversial 2007 National Intelligence Estimate: American spy agencies had "high confidence" that Iran halted its nuclear weapons program in the fall of 2003.

--------------------------
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From:     
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 3:23 PM  
To: Gorman, Siobhan  
Cc:        
Subject: RE: Iran-related query on Mohsen Fakhrizadeh

Hey Siobhan,
From: Gorman, Siobhan  
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 10:57 AM  
To:  
Subject: Iran-related query on Mohsen Fakhrizadeh

Hi Guys,

A colleague of mine is working on a story on a story about the apparent renewed efforts of top Iranian scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh. There are some facts in the story that I wanted to seek your guidance on, as well as a few broader questions.

On the following, if you can provide guidance on accuracy from the US perspective:

On Fakhrizadeh's activities related to SPND (Farsi for the Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research), we're told:

Fakhrizadeh was leading Iran's alleged nuclear weapons research when Tehran reportedly froze much of the program's funding in 2003. The IAEA believes Mr. Fakhrizadeh secretly opened SPND in early 2011 and that elements of Iran's nuclear weapons research, which they thought were shelved in 2003, may be taking place there.

The SPND hosts six directorates that include research labs for metallurgy, chemistry, and explosives testing. The organization reports directly to the IRGC and has links to Iranian trading firms and universities that also are allegedly involved in Iran's nuclear program.

On Fakhrizadeh's past exploits related to the 2007 NIE, we're told:

In 2005, U.S. spy agencies intercepted Mr. Fakhrizadeh's phone and email communications, complaining that Iran's government had supposedly cut off funding for his work two years earlier. These intercepts became a central element the 2007 U.S. National Intelligence Estimate conclusion that Tehran had frozen its attempts to build atomic weapons.

The activities of the SPND are one factor causing the U.S. and allied intelligence agencies to reassess the 2007 NIE.

In terms of specific questions, we're wondering:

1.) Does the U.S. share the IAEA's position that Mr. Fakhrizadeh remains active working on nuclear weapons-related research through organization the SPND?

2.) Do the SPND's activities challenge the 2007 NIE?
3.) Does the 2007 NIE still stand, meaning that the US believes Iran’s atomic weapons program remains frozen since 2003?

4.) As detailed above, we’re told that intercepts of Fakhrizadeh’s emails and phone calls formed an important part of the NIE. Is that accurate?

Thanks,

Siobhan

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Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Thanks for getting back to me. Glad to hear you were able to get home to make dinner. Have a good night.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 08:53 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: Re: AQAP's Norwegian recruit

Siobhan,

Sorry I was hurrying home to make dinner.

Thanks!

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 06:51 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: Re: AQAP's Norwegian recruit

Thanks very much. Any way to use the last part on background:

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

----- Original Message ----- 
From: 
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 06:49 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan;
Cc: 

Approved for Release: 2014/03/25
Subject: RE: AQAP's Norwegian recruit

Siobhan,

Take care,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

-----Original Message-----
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 6:44 PM
To: 
Subject: AQAP's Norwegian recruit

Hi guys,

Duly checking in on the AP reports of AQAP having a Norwegian man awaiting orders to carry out an attack on the West. Iss this something you would be able to weigh in on at all?

Thanks,
Siobhan

________________________
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)
The U.S. argued that the Iranian manifests were made-up and found evidence of IRGC involvement (in arranging the flights). But the U.S. it only had general intelligence that the AN-76s were returning to Damascus loaded with weapons. The intelligence, for instance, didn’t say what types of weapons were being transported on the planes.
Yes, I figured this would be your take, though there's always a chance you want to provide something on background, so I wanted to check.

I talked with one person who said: What the Iranian's didn't share was that they're rebuilding the drone with legos.

=============
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, July 02, 2012 3:39 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan;
Cc:
Subject: RE: code cracked!

Siobhan,

--------------------
Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, July 02, 2012 2:03 PM
To:
Subject: code cracked!

The Iranians tell us they have cracked the code to the downed RQ-170 and are building their very own. Comment?

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Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Thanks very much. I don’t think we are going to file before the holiday, but I’m just a partial player on this story. We have a colleague in Nigeria who is doing some reporting now. If it’s possible to get back to me by the end of the week, that would be great.

============================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

Hi Siobhan,

I just wanted to follow up with you on Boko, and I can be more specific in my questions now that we’ve all done a little more reporting.

If you could shed any light on the following:

1) An estimate of Boko’s size. We were told it’s in the hundreds, but something a little more specific would be better. On a related note, we were told an estimated 6,000 AQIM guys are in Mali.

2) Some U.S. officials say that the efforts of the Nigerian government are proving counterproductive, because they are heavy-handed and driving more people in the north to join Boko, and I was wondering if that is your assessment.
3) Connections between AQ and Boko. We’re told members of Boko Haram have communicated with top al Qaeda leaders, including at least one communication with Osama bin Laden in 2009. Documents recovered from bin Laden’s compound showed multiple communications with bin Laden and senior leaders. More recently, the larger concern for U.S. officials has been the group’s growing ties to al Qaeda’s North African affiliate, al Qaeda in the Islamic Magreb. Boko Haram has trained in recent months with AQIM in Mali to hone techniques for using improvised explosive devices. Boko Haram has also been in communication with al Qaeda’s Yemen branch. Any other indicators of connections between Boko and AQ and their strength?

4) How deep is the support in Northern Nigeria for Boko. Is this an insurgent group or an extremist group with some local sympathizers?

5) Anything else you can share to round out our understanding of the group.

Hopefully this is helpful in focusing the query. Please let me know if this makes sense.

Thanks,
Siobhan

================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, July 02, 2012 6:07 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: Re: on to another...

Thanks very much. I appreciate it and I'll circle back tomorrow.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, July 02, 2012 6:00 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: RE: on to another...

Siobhan,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, July 02, 2012 5:06 PM
To: on to another...

Any guidance you can provide on these reports out of Kenya of Iranian attacks planned on U.S. and Israeli targets in Kenya? Sounds like what we saw out of Azerbaijan, India, Bangkok awhile back.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Thank you. That's why I circled back with you. I'll see what I can do.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

Hey Siobhan,

Thanks for your consideration,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

The Syria story we spoke about a little while ago is being edited, and the latest version does have a bit more detail that I wanted to share with you because I know the story is sensitive. In explaining, generally, how the CIA concluded that the flight manifests weren't flowers but rather weapons, it does say CIA used intercepts and tips from informants.

That's very general and could probably describe 90% of what the agency does, but I did want to mention it so you know and you have the opportunity to weigh in or provide guidance if you want to.
Thanks,
Siobhan

==================================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Thanks very much for the update. I appreciate it.

Hope you had a great 4th.

================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Siobhan Gorman
Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2012 4:04 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Subject: FW: Boko

Hi Siobhan,

Hope you had an enjoyable 4th of July!

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, July 02, 2012 3:55 PM
To: 'Gorman, Siobhan'
Subject: RE: Boko

Thanks very much. I don’t think we are going to file before the holiday, but I’m just a partial player on this story. We have a colleague in Nigeria who is doing some reporting now. If it’s possible to get back to me by the end of the week, that would be great.

================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, July 02, 2012 3:18 PM
To: RE: Boko

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, July 02, 2012 3:16 PM
Hi Siobhan,

I just wanted to follow up with you on Boko, and I can be more specific in my questions now that we've all done a little more reporting.

If you could shed any light on the following:

1) An estimate of Boko's size. We were told it's in the hundreds, but something a little more specific would be better. On a related note, we were told an estimated 6,000 AQIM guys are in Mali.

2) Some U.S. officials say that the efforts of the Nigerian government are proving counterproductive, because they are heavy-handed and driving more people in the north to join Boko, and I was wondering if that is your assessment.

3) Connections between AQ and Boko. We're told members of Boko Haram have communicated with top al Qaeda leaders, including at least one communication with Osama bin Laden in 2009. Documents recovered from bin Laden's compound showed multiple communications with bin Laden and senior leaders. More recently, the larger concern for U.S. officials has been the group's growing ties to al Qaeda's North African affiliate, al Qaeda in the Islamic Magreb. Boko Haram has trained in recent months with AQIM in Mali to hone techniques for using improvised explosive devices. Boko Haram has also been in communication with al Qaeda's Yemen branch. Any other indicators of connections between Boko and AQ and their strength?

4) How deep is the support in Northern Nigeria for Boko. Is this an insurgent group or an extremist group with some local sympathizers?

5) Anything else you can share to round out our understanding of the group.

Hopefully this is helpful in focusing the query. Please let me know if this makes sense.

Thanks,

Siobhan
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 06, 2012 3:27 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: Response - Boko Haram

Sending to your personal account just to make sure you receive this. Best [Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 06, 2012 12:38 PM
To: 'Gorman, Siobhan'
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Response - Boko Haram

Hi Siobhan,

[Redacted]

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Friday, July 06, 2012 3:43 PM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Response - Boko Haram

Thank you. I appreciate the help.

When you say:

Does that mean that what I was told about communications between UBL and other AQ senior leaders and members of Boko is not accurate?

Guidance on this section of my note, in particular, would be much appreciated because we obviously don’t want to print anything that isn’t accurate.

We’re told members of Boko Haram have communicated with top al Qaeda leaders, including at least one communication with Osama bin Laden in 2009. Documents recovered from bin Laden’s compound showed multiple communications with bin Laden and senior leaders. More recently, the larger concern for U.S. officials has been the group’s growing ties to al Qaeda’s North African affiliate, al Qaeda in the Islamic Magreb. Boko Haram has trained in recent months with AQIM in Mali to hone techniques for using improvised explosive devices. Boko Haram has also been in communication with al Qaeda’s Yemen branch. Any other indicators of connections between Boko and AQ and their strength?

Thanks,
Siobhan

----------------------------------------
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 06, 2012 12:38 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Response - Boko Haram

Hi Siobhan,
Hello Siobhan,

If you need to, please report we declined comment.

Take care,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2012 10:29 AM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: New Syria query

Hi guys,

Seeking your guidance on what we have been told regarding movement of chemical weapons in Syria. This story is likely to run in tomorrow’s paper.

We’re told the U.S. has information that the Syrian regime has moved some of their chemical weapons, including Sarin gas. The belief by some in the USG is that it has been moved so that it could be used against Sunni enclaves or protesters in the coastal areas. Others say Assad may be consolidating to ensure they remain under his control and out of the hands of Sunni factions. They have been moved from locations for storage to places where it could be used.

Ricin, and possibly other chemical weapons, have been provided to Assad-associated militias. Some information on chemical weapons has come from the Syrian pilot who defected.

Would appreciate any guidance/context/comment you can provide. One of the elements we are still trying to get a handle on is the motivation of the movement of the chemical weapons. To the degree you can shed any light on what the motivation might be, I’d be grateful.

Thanks,
Siobhan

=================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 852-9234 (w)
Hey Siobhan,

Thanks. Is it possible to get your perspective on background on how the Kenyan plot fits in with a string of similar incidents dating back to the Saudi ambassador plot last year?

And on the more forward-looking questions, is there anything you can provide on background or off the record regarding: Any sense of what happened to the Iranian guy who provided the RDX? Any idea where the other 85kg of RDX might be, or is that something the US is trying to track?

================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w) |

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From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 11:24 AM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Kenya IRGC Plot
Hi Guys,

A second CT in Africa request heading your way, but this one is the IRGC plot in Kenya that was recently broken up. We're working on a story about how that plot was broken up. We've talked with Kenyan internal security folks on the record about it and want to make sure we also reflect the U.S. perspective and paint an accurate picture of what happened.

We're told the following:

In the first week of July, the Kenyans got a tip from other intelligence services (U.S. was implied, but we'd like to confirm with you) that two Iranians were on a terrorist mission in Kenya. They landed at the airport in Nairobi, posing as tourists, and booked a ticket to Mombasa. Upon arrival in Mombasa, they had a Land Cruiser and went to the Mombasa port, where they met an Iranian guy on an Iranian ship to get chemicals for their attack. They went to a nearby golf course and dug a hole and put the chemicals in it.

They went back to Nairobi and booked a hotel there, and the Kenyans monitored them. Later, the Kenyans discovered they had booked flights back to Tehran and arrested the men.

One of the men who had worked as a diplomat volunteered the information on the plot and took Kenyan officials to the golf course and dug up 15Kg of RDX. The man said he didn't want to harm Kenyans and was only tasked with delivering
the chemicals to others who would carry out the attacks. The Kenyans believe there was a total of 100kg of RDX so 85kg are still unaccounted for.

So...any guidance you can provide on the accuracy of the above would be helpful. In addition, is there any additional information from the U.S. side you can provide about any of the following: How it became clear that the IRGC was pursuing yet another plot? Is this part of a larger IRGC campaign that reflects a stepping up of terrorist activity? How did the cooperative efforts work with the Kenyans? Any sense of what happened to the Iranian guy who provided the RDX? Any idea where the other 85kg of RDX might be, or is that something the US is trying to track?

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Thanks. That helps. I really appreciate it.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

Hope this helps,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

Thank you. I appreciate the guidance. One thing that wasn't clear to me was whether he was on the radar before he was released from jail or whether this is a more recent thing. Can you give me a sense—off the record is fine, I just want to make sure I am not making incorrect assumptions—of whether he's developed his network more recently and whether it has a name or if it's just a network associated with him?

Thanks,
Siobhan
Siobhan,

Take care!

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2012 4:16 PM
To:
Subject: Jamal

This is the guy I mentioned: Muhammad Jamal Abu Ahmad. I was told he's often referred to by folks on the U.S. side as Jamal. There are probably multiple spellings of his name, but this was the one I was provided. He was described to me as someone of concern to the U.S. I believe he's Egyptian, but he has set up training camps for his network in surrounding countries like Libya and probably Sudan. He was released from Egyptian custody a year ago, I assume as part of the large prisoner release. I was told he has some type of relationship with al Qaeda and probably aspires for his network to become a formal affiliate.

I would be grateful for any context you can provide about the guy—whether he is on your radar screen, what the nature of his network is, whether it's significant, and any biographical info you might have.

As I mentioned, he seems to be the poster child for the kinds of issues that the U.S. and other countries face with the instability that has followed the Arab Spring. Most of the folks I have spoken with about this have said that it shows that while in the long term, the Arab Spring is likely to be beneficial to U.S. national security interests (and presumably others' as well), in the short term, the instability also creates opportunities for individuals like Jamal to gain momentum.

Thanks,
Siobhan
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Thanks very much. I appreciate it.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

--- Original Message----

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 8:42 AM
To: Gorman, Siobhan;
Cc: 
Subject: Assad family exit strategy

Hi Guys,

Looking to get your read on the following, which we understand CIA officials are aware of. Any guidance you can provide would be helpful.

We're hearing that Brazil has offered members of Assad's family political asylum in a plan that was drawn up in coordination with officials in the region. The plan does not suggest President Assad, himself, is trying to flee the country, we're told.

It focuses on three leading women in the family: President Assad's mother, Anisa Makhlouf, his older sister, Bushra al-Assad, and his maternal cousin Kindah Makhlouf, a sister of business tycoon Rami Makhlouf. It involves their transportation by helicopter to one of two military airports—either in Damascus or Lattakia—a flight to Basra airport in southern Iraq, and then to Brazil.
There are no military provisions in the plan for an exit for Assad or his male aides, who appear to be making preparations to move some part of their military command to Lattakia province, a stronghold of Alawites from the president’s same minority sect.

Oman and Abu Dhabi’s ruling family in the United Arab Emirates have also offered political asylum to President Assad, we’re told.

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Hey Siobhan,

On the ACLU question we are declining comment.

We’ll stand by for the Syria question.

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

This is part one of two unrelated queries today. Part one is any comment on the ACLU suit on drones?

I’ll send a separate one on Syria because it’s more detailed.

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Hi Guys,

Syria/Iran queries for you today:

1) We’re seeing reports that Assad is heading off to Latakia, any truth to that?

2) We’re told the U.S. has intelligence that Iran is planning, through proxies, to attack oil tankers in the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean in an attempt to drive up oil prices, and have the world share in the pain sanctions are having in Iran. Apparently, Iran learned from 80s tanker wars that it cannot attack Saudi/Kuwaiti oil facilities/tankers in the Persian gulf directly because the repercussions are too grave. But Tehran feels they need to do something to make the current sanctions on them hurt not just them, but the whole world. Does this square with your understanding?

Thanks,

Siobhan

================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Thank you! I'll be in touch soon.

---

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2012 4:23 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Jamal

Thanks very much. Yes, please digest and give me a ring. I realize there's a lot there.

Timing is a bit flexible. I was thinking it would be in the next few weeks, but they may want me to do it faster because of the recent attacks.

===================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

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From: 
Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2012 4:13 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Jamal

Hi Siobhan,

As there is a fair amount to digest here, maybe the best way to proceed is for me to go through what you've sent and then give you a call. Does that sound good? Also, could you give me a sense as to when you are looking to move forward with your story?

---

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2012 3:57 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: FW: Jamal

I'll ring you in a bit to follow up, but just so you have the info in one place, I've gathered some more details on Mohammed Jamal Abu Ahmad and wanted to see how they jibe with what you have. I also have a broader question of how concerned the U.S. is about the potential for these ex-prisoners to set up extremist operations, especially when they have more freedom of movement in an Egypt, where the government is now bifurcated and its ability to maintain security is being called into question with the recent attacks in the Sinai.

A few specific questions:
1) Can you clarify why Jamal was imprisoned? Who decided to release him from prison and why?
2) It also sounds like Jamal was released from prison around the time that Zawahiri’s brother was released (the first time) in March 2011, and I was wondering if there are indications that the two know each other and whether there is concern they might find common cause together.
3) I understand he’s very close to a guy by the name of Murjan Salim, a jihadist leader with ties to Ayman al-Zawahiri. Have you come across that connection and what would the significance of the connection to Salim be?

In addition, I’ve collected the following details that I wanted to run past you for guidance:
I have a little more granularity on his seeking to be an AQ affiliate. I was told that he recently petitioned Ayman al-Zawahiri to become a formal al Qaeda affiliate, and the U.S. has intercepted messages indicating that.
I’m told he’s believed to be involved in active terrorist plotting as he assembles training camps in neighboring Libya for suicide bombers, using funding from AQAP. He’s also used AQAP and possibly AQIM smuggling routes. He’s training suicide bombers for suicide bombers for attacks in Egypt and possibly in Europe. Former associates say that he’s not interested in attacking the U.S. directly but would go after countries where the U.S. is an “occupier,” or has a military presence.
In terms of Jamal’s background, he’s a native of Cairo’s Shobra neighborhood and estimated to be about 45 years old. A college graduate, he moved to Afghanistan in the late 1980s to train fighters in jihadist camps. He became the head of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad’s operational wing in the 1990s, when he developed a personal relationship with Ayman Zawahiri. A hard-liner, he rejected some internal EIJ proposals to cease attacks because he ruled out negotiating with Egyptian security services. He was detained by Egyptian authorities in 2000 and was freed last year as part of a large wave of prisoners released after the revolution.
He’s been on the U.S. radar screen for probably the last six to 12 months, since he was released from jail.
U.S. officials have tied Mr. Ahmad to another al Qaeda associate in Egypt, Abu Abdel Rahman, who may have been captured.
As he builds his network, at these camps, they’re training, so he’s believed to be involved in active plotting and planning, but it’s not clear whether he has been involved in attacks at this point.

I know there are a bunch of details here, so that’s why I wanted to put them in one place for your reference.

Thanks,
Siobhan

==================================================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w) [ ]

From: Sent: Friday, July 13, 2012 6:21 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: [ ]
Subject: RE: Jamal

Siobhan,
Take care!

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Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2012 4:15 PM
To: Jamal
Subject: Jamal

This is the guy I mentioned: Muhammad Jamal Abu Ahmad. I was told he’s often referred to by folks on the U.S. side as Jamal. There are probably multiple spellings of his name, but this was the one I was provided. He was described to me as someone of concern to the U.S. I believe he’s Egyptian, but he has set up training camps for his network in surrounding countries like Libya and probably Sudan. He was released from Egyptian custody a year ago, I assume as part of the large prisoner release. I was told he has some type of relationship with al Qaeda and probably aspires for his network to become a formal affiliate.

I would be grateful for any context you can provide about the guy—whether he is on your radar screen, what the nature of his network is, whether it’s significant, and any biographical info you might have.

As I mentioned, he seems to be the poster child for the kinds of issues that the U.S. and other countries face with the instability that has followed the Arab Spring. Most of the folks I have spoken with about this have said that it shows that while in the long term, the Arab Spring is likely to be beneficial to U.S. national security interests (and presumably others’ as well), in the short term, the instability also creates opportunities for individuals like Jamal to gain momentum.

Thanks,
Siobhan

---

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal,
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 2:31 PM
To: one more on Syria
Subject: 

So, my colleague was just told by a U.S. official that Israeli operatives were behind the killing of the Syrian defense minister. Israel got spooked by WMD report and decided they need to act. Apparently some foreign diplomats have said the same.

This seems like an awfully serious act. Any truth to this?

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
OK, thank you.

=================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

Content:

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 4:27 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
CC: 
Subject: RE: sorry, one more Iran-related query

Siobhan,

Have a good evening,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 4:17 PM
To: 
Subject: sorry, one more Iran-related query

This is for a story for tomorrow's paper. Sorry for the very late request. The Israelis have accused the IRGC as the culprit in the bombing in Bulgaria today. Wondering if the US has come to the same conclusion.

=================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
OK, thank you.

Siobhan, 

Have a good evening!

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

Would it be OK and accurate to say: U.S. officials said Wednesday that they hadn't yet determined whether Iran was involved?

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Siobhan,

Have a good evening,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 4:17 PM
To:
Subject: sorry, one more Iran-related query

This is for a story for tomorrow's paper. Sorry for the very late request. The Israelis have accused the IRGC as the culprit in the bombing in Bulgaria today. Wondering if the US has come to the same conclusion.

==================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 8:01 PM
To: RE: Responses - Assad/Iran and the Gulf

Thanks very much. I appreciate this and your guidance on the many, many other queries today.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From:
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 6:42 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc:
Subject: Responses - Assad/Iran and the Gulf

Hi Siobhan,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
Hi

Thanks again for the Iran analysis. It's really useful.

To that point, is there any way to use some of the following on background? Don't need to quote it. Paraphrasing would be fine, if that's easier for you.

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Hi Guys,

Just to follow up on this request because I have a little more clarity on what we’re planning to say. This is how we’re characterizing US intel support to the rebels at this point. If there is any guidance or context you can provide for the below, I would appreciate it.

Officials said the U.S. has been providing intelligence about developments in Syria, including satellite imagery, to the Turkish and Jordanian militaries who are working closely with the rebels. Officials said the imagery, taken by military-controlled satellites and other surveillance equipment, provided details about Syrian military sites that could help the rebels in targeting as well as in tracking the regime’s stocks of chemical weapons.

Officials said the CIA has played a far more hands-on role, providing some direct intelligence support to opposition leaders.

Syrian activists say the U.S. could do far more.

Thanks,
Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

----- Original Message -----
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 08:55 AM
To:
Subject: Syria query, first one for today

Good morning (again).

As we move ahead on Syria, we're hearing a bit more on efforts to help the rebels. I know some details can be tricky to discuss, but if there is any guidance or context you can provide, I'd really appreciate it.

We're told by multiple U.S. officials (more reliable ones that the person who came up with the Israeli connection I inquired about yesterday) that the U.S. is providing intelligence indirectly to the opposition.

The officials said the U.S. is providing satellite imagery and other ISR information to the Turks and Jordanians who are working closely with the rebels.

While they weren't specific about the information being provided, satellites and U-2 planes could be used to track Syrian military movements and WMD sites.

Thanks,
Siobhan
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 2:55 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Query 2 on Syria

Right, thank you.

Double checked with sources on the satellite imagery stuff, and they clarified that it's a military effort, so that may be why it's not ringing bells. If there is a way we need to adjust the characterization on the second paragraph for accuracy and to reduce the chance that it will be misunderstood, please let me know.

Also, on the earlier Iran query, if it's possible to use the material I highlighted in some way on background, that would be super useful. It was good analysis, and that story is slated to run in tomorrow's paper.

Thanks,

Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: 
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 2:49 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Query 2 on Syria

Siobhan,

Thanks!

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 2:35 PM
To: 
Subject: Query 2 on Syria

Reports out of the region are saying that Soleimani was also killed in the Damascus bombing yesterday. Any truth to that? And if it is true, any sense of whether he was targeted in the attack? Certainly would be a significant development.
From: Gorman, Siobhan
To: Siobhan
Subject: Re: Re:

Siobhan,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 5:19 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: Re:

Ok, it looks like a version of that sentence is getting added back in, saying: The CIA has started providing some intelligence directly to elements of the rebel force, officials said.

Is this accurate and not trending toward misinterpretation?

==========================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From:
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 4:21 PM
Siobhan,

Thanks!

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 3:21 PM
To:
Subject:

Regarding the hands-on characterization, it appears that is now getting dropped from the story for space reasons, so don’t worry about it.

Just let me know about the Iran query, and I might just be able to leave you alone for the balance of the day.

=================================================================

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Ok, but is it inaccurate that US intelligence officials have concluded the bomber was a member of a Hezbollah cell acting under broad guidance to go after Israeli targets?

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 06:25 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Re:

Siobhan,

Have a good evening.

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 06:23 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: Re:

Looks like the NYT is reporting that the US has concluded that Hezbollah was behind the Bulgarian attack. This accurate?

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: 
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 04:53 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
Subject: RE:

Siobhan,

Take care,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 4:24 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: RE:

OK thanks. Returning briefly to a query from yesterday also on Iran: Any sense yet whether Iran, IRGC, or Hezbollah was involved in the attack in Bulgaria?

====================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: 
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 4:22 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: RE:

Siobhan,

Thanks!

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 3:21 PM
Subject:

Regarding the hands-on characterization, it appears that is now getting dropped from the story for space reasons, so don't worry about it.

Just let me know about the Iran query, and I might just be able to leave you alone for the balance of the day.

================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Sorry, this is now the way it's worded. Apologies for the multiple messages.

The CIA has stepped up its role in Syria, and is now not only providing intelligence to some opposition groups but is using its own networks of informants to work with opposition elements to gather on-the-ground intelligence on the Assad regime, officials said.

-------------------------------------
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w) 

-------------------------------------
Because we specialize in stories that have nine lives...I think this Syria story is now slated for tomorrow. As I had feared, my editor said the wording in your note was unclear. Is this clarified version an accurate reflection?

The CIA is using its own networks of informants to work with opposition elements to gather on-the-ground intelligence on the Assad regime, officials said.

-------------------------------------
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w) 

-------------------------------------
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 5:19 PM
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: Re:

Ok, it looks like a version of that sentence is getting added back in, saying: The CIA has started providing some intelligence directly to elements of the rebel force, officials said.

Is this accurate and not trending toward misinterpretation?

=================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: 
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 04:21 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: RE:

Siobhan,

Thanks!

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 3:21 PM
To: 
Subject:

Regarding the hands-on characterization, it appears that is now getting dropped from the story for space reasons, so don't worry about it.

Just let me know about the Iran query, and I might just be able to leave you alone for the balance of the day.

=================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: 'Gorman, Siobhan'.  
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 11:16 AM  
To:  
Cc:  
Subject: RE: Bulgaria check in  

Siobhan,

Thanks for asking,

Media Spokesperson  
CIA Office of Public Affairs

-----Original Message-----
From: Gorman, Siobhan  
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 9:52 AM  
To:  
Subject: Bulgaria check in  

Any further word on a Hezbollah role in the Bulgarian bombing?

Siobhan Gorman  
Intelligence Correspondent  
The Wall Street Journal.  
(202) 862-9234 (w)
OK, thank you very much for taking an additional look.

------------------
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

------------------
Hey Siobhan,

Hope this helps,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

Because we specialize in stories that have nine lives...I think this Syria story is now slated for tomorrow. As I had feared, my editor said the wording in your note was unclear. Is this clarified version an accurate reflection?

------------------
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 5:19 PM
To: Siobhan, Gorman
Cc: Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

Subject: Re:

Ok, it looks like a version of that sentence is getting added back in, saying: The CIA has started providing some intelligence directly to elements of the rebel force, officials said.

Is this accurate and not trending toward misinterpretation?

------------------------------
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 04:21 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: Siobhan

Subject: RE:

Siobhan,

Thanks!
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 3:21 PM
To: 
Subject: 

Regarding the hands-on characterization, it appears that is now getting dropped from the story for space reasons, so don't worry about it.

Just let me know about the Iran query, and I might just be able to leave you alone for the balance of the day.

================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
So, we're back to Mr. Petraeus.

The layout changed at the last minute, so I think the story is back to two (maybe 3) columns on the front and the pull-up photo online, rather than the front page. That's the regular presentation for these quirky features.

The story itself, is otherwise basically unchanged. It should post online at 10:30pm...thanks for your help...and remember, stories are a marathon, not a sprint : )

==================== Siobhan Gorman Intelligence Correspondent The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Thanks so much, I'll circle back with you tomorrow on this. Ended up finally wrapping up the gym story, as you saw, which required me to divert my attention to checking a bunch of details this afternoon. Have a good night.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal
(202) 862-9234 (w)

Hi Siobhan,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs
Alrighty... really just seeking guidance on broader significance of it.

 Siobhan Gorman
 Intelligence Correspondent
 The Wall Street Journal.
 (202) 862-9234 (w)

 Hey Siobhan,

 Media Spokesperson
 CIA Office of Public Affairs

 Hi Guys,

 Checking in on what you might know about the AQ arrests breaking up an alleged explosives plot to be carried out in Spain or elsewhere in Europe. What do we know about this and do you have a sense of its significance, as my editors in New York have their hair on fire over it for reasons I don't fully understand?

 Many thanks,
 Siobhan

 Siobhan Gorman
From:
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2012 5:39 PM
To: 'Gorman, Siobhan'
Cc:
Subject: 

Siobhan,

Take care,

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
Left you a phone message a little while ago, but our deadlines Friday are early, so I wanted to get the query on your radar screen. It sounds like some of the talks yesterday included a discussion in which both sides agreed to look for a way to do "joint operations" in Pakistan (N. Waziristan and vs. Haqqanis) and Afghanistan (in Nuristan and Kunar v. TTP). It sounds like there are many details to be worked out that could derail things, but both sides are considering ways to make that happen.

Does that square with your understanding? Any additional context would be most welcome.

In addition, I am told that the Pakistanis presented a broader framework in which they asked for an end to the drone program and set out some of their plans to go into N Waziristan with this operation that would go after the Haqqanis, among others. They also cast it in the context of a broader COIN effort in Pakistan, I'm told.

And final quick fact check. I understand that Dir. Petraeus hosted a dinner last night in the director's dining room for Gen. Islam and the Pakistani ambassador and presumably others. Just want to make sure that's accurate.

Thanks,
Siobhan

=================================================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Hi Guys, Checking in with you on details a colleague of mine in the ME has assembled. I just learned of it, but this appears to be for a story for tomorrow's paper. Any guidance you can provide quickly would be much appreciated.

We're told that the 48 Iranian hostages kidnapped by the Free Syrian Army traveled to Syria with a travel agency operated by Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corp, which caters only to its members and their families. The travel agency is Samen Al' Aamah Tours. The group consisted of 300 men, who were mostly active or retired members of IRGC or the Basij militia on a flight from Tehran to Damascus.

Any guidance you can provide on the accuracy of the above—and any context that might help explain the significance or bigger picture would also be much appreciated.

Thanks,
Siobhan


Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent:
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Hi Guys,

Two queries on Syria.

1) We're hearing that the U.S. is increasingly concerned about AQ's growth in Syria, developing a command and control structure and its own funding streams, etc. We're told the intelligence on AQ in Syria has improved some and we're starting to get actionable intelligence that would allow us to target AQ guys there. This has prompted a discussion about what to do about AQ there assuming Assad eventually falls. We're told that there is discussion underway about whether and what efforts would be made under Title 50 versus Title 10. It sounds like a number of approaches are under consideration, and among them is authorizing targeted strikes.

The picture of AQ in Syria (some were referring to it as AQI-Syria) that is emerging, we're told is: they're getting funding from the Persian Gulf and Levant; some U.S. estimates have put total of AQ operatives in Syria at 200 or so with their own network of safe houses; they've carried out about a dozen attacks since December; AQ in Syria is now seen by the U.S. as a more pressing problem than it was a year ago.

Does this square with your understanding? Can you provide any guidance or context on the above—in terms of U.S. considerations and AQ organization and activities in Syria?

2) We're hearing that Russia is playing a critical behind-the-scenes role monitoring Syrian WMD. It has a dozen or two advisers on the ground working closely with the Syrian military. This has put Russia in a position to provide the U.S. and others with assurances that weapons and chemical compounds are being safeguarded. We're told that Russia's help is particularly important because CIA doesn't have people on the ground in Syria.

Same type of question: Does this square with your understanding? Additional context you might be able to provide?

We're trying to pull these stories together soon-ish, but not for tomorrow's paper. Any help you can provide would be much appreciated.

Thanks,
Siobhan

=================================
Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Just had to share this—not because you should do anything with it, but for pure comedic value.

-------------------------------
Sibohan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 3:54 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Subject: FW: Nautilus responds to your recent article on the CIA

Re: “CIA’s Mission Impossible: Get a New Gym”
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304821304577438382800886156.html?KEYWORDS=cia+fitness+equipment

Dear Mr. Gorman,

Med-Fit Systems, Inc., manufacturers of Nautilus® commercial fitness equipment. Many of us at the company, including our CEO, read your recent article, “CIA’s Mission Impossible: Get a New Gym”. We were immediately compelled to do what we can to assist the CIA in their efforts to renovate their fitness facility. We would like to introduce to Gen. David Petraeus our catalog of state-of-the-art, rock-solid Nautilus® commercial fitness equipment. Almost as appealing to the CIA as reduced government pricing will be, is the fact that all Nautilus® commercial strength and cardio is made right in our Independence, Virginia manufacturing facility. In fact, our new Nautilus® K2 is the ONLY vertical climber brand that is MADE IN THE USA – a perfect fit for a US governmental fitness facility!

We would love it if you could put us in contact with Gen. Petraeus. We would like to offer to assist him and his staff in the selection of appropriate training equipment from our GSA schedule. Our Director of Government Sales can utilize space planning tools that are custom built with scaled Nautilus® commercial equipment. This will assure the CIA maximum efficiency and functionality of equipment within their available space.

At some point in the near future, when communications with Gen. Petraeus are under way, would you consider doing an update on this story? We believe that Wall Street Journal readers would find the Nautilus® story - riches to rags and back to riches again – of great interest. Of special note is that the iconic American brand of over 40 years has been able to resurrect during the current difficult economic climate!

Credited, in part, with the widening of our appeal and the revitalization of the Nautilus® brand has been non-stop innovation and expansion in our catalog of commercial products.

In 2010, Med-Fit Systems, a twenty-four year old physical therapy and senior care products provider, acquired the commercial fitness equipment division from a struggling Nautilus®, Inc. Since that acquisition, our company has seen profit each quarter in commercial fitness equipment sales. Med-Fit Systems has enjoyed 24 straight years of profit, since inception.
Mr. Gorman, it is not only our domestic sales that are increasing each quarter. Countries around the globe are going ga-ga for American-made Nautilus® commercial equipment! In fact, recent agreements with prominent Indian and Chinese distributors promise to deliver many millions of dollars worth of American-made fitness equipment to Asian fitness clubs!

Mr. Gorman, there is real heart behind this story. The couple that owns Med-Fit Systems talks the talk and walks the walk. They are health and fitness enthusiasts who could (and do) model in their own brochures. They donated fitness equipment to a school gymnasium that was demolished in Hurricane Katrina. Besides demonstrating their dedication to providing jobs for Americans by insisting on manufacturing in the USA, every car and motorcycle that they have owned over the past decade has deliberately been an all-American brand! (Harley Davidson, Ford Mustang, and so on.)

I would very much appreciate the opportunity to communicate with you regarding our story, as well as to be put in contact with the CIA's Gen. Petraeus.

I hope to hear from you soon to exchange more information.

Thank you,

Med-Fit Systems, Inc.
543 East Alvarado Street
Fallbrook, CA 92028
www.medfitsystems.com

[p] 800.831.7665
From: Friday, August 10, 2012 1:46 PM
To: 'Gorman, Siobhan'
Subject: RE: Call

Hi Siobhan,

I did not get a message this am but I've been away from my desk the last couple of hours. I'll call you in just a few minutes.

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Friday, August 10, 2012 1:20 PM
To: RE: Call

Just wanted to make sure you got my message this am. Best, Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Thursday, August 09, 2012 5:51 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: RE: Call

Hi - I'll definitely be around. Please ring at your convenience.

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2012 5:32 PM
To: RE: Call

Are you around tomorrow morning? Maybe I can ring you then?

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Yes, it is a lot of back and forth. Certainly suggests IRGC wants their guys out of there. Really appreciate your looking into it.

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Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2012 02:52 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Subject: RE: IRGC "tour group"

Hi Siobhan,

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2012 2:39 PM
To: 
Subject: IRGC "tour group"

Hi Guys,

Looks like we’re returning to our friend Qasem Soleimani. With regard to these 48 IRGC guys on their “tour,” we’re told Soleimani asked Assad to use Syrian army resources to free the 48. But we’re told Assad refused, saying they have more urgent priorities in the war. Soleimani then said he was going to send Quds force in to free the 48. Assad also refused saying that because the Syrians are denying that IRGC is involved, they cannot send in commandos.

After that refusal, the Iranian government went to Turkey asking for help in freeing the 48 operatives. Turkey has been non responsive.

Wondering what guidance you might be able to provide on the above. Any sort of wave would be very helpful.

Thanks,
Siobhan

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Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
Thanks so much. This is very helpful guidance. I appreciate your looking into it.

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w)

Hi Siobhan,

Hope this helps!

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2012 4:08 PM
To: Jamal's time in prison

Were you able to get any clarity on the fact-checking questions I had on Jamal in terms of arrest and release?

Thanks,
Siobhan

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Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal,
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Wednesday, August 15, 2012 5:05 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Iran-related query on Mohsen Fakhrizadeh

I realize sometimes it feels like stories and requests just won't go away. I inquired awhile back on Fakhrizadeh (per the exchange below). My colleague working on this story said that he is being pressed by his editor to get a clearer U.S. perspective on the IAEA report that said Fakhrizadeh opened a research office called SPND last year. The specific question is whether the U.S. agrees with the IAEA reports findings, including that the office is doing work related to nuclear weapons.

Any chance we could get some sort of U.S. perspective on the report?

Thanks,
Siobhan

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Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 [w]

From:
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 5:35 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Iran-related query on Mohsen Fakhrizadeh

Thanks!

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs
Yes Siobhan, to round out our conversation, you can report that we declined to comment.

Have a good evening!

Media Spokesperson
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 4:51 PM
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: Iran-related query on Mohsen Fakhrizadeh

OK, thank you. Should I say CIA declined to comment?

Appreciate the point about characterizing the assessment of the program.

My colleague noted that a Reuters story in March also talked about the intercepts, which he has confirmed it independently. I pasted it below.

SPECIAL REPORT-Intel shows Iran nuclear threat not imminent
2976 words
23 March 2012
23:13

Reuters News
LBA
English
(c) 2012 Reuters Limited

(PDF version - http://link.reuters.com/mug37g)

* U.S. and allies agree Iran does not have atomic bomb

* U.S. says no new secret facility detected

* Electronic intercepts key to confidence in assessment

By Tabassum Zakaria and Mark Hosenball

WASHINGTON, March 23 (Reuters) - The United States, European allies and even Israel generally agree on three things about Iran's nuclear program: Tehran does not have a bomb, has not decided to build one, and is probably years away from having a deliverable nuclear warhead.

Those conclusions, drawn from extensive interviews with current and former U.S. and European officials with access to intelligence on Iran, contrast starkly with the heated debate surrounding a possible Israeli strike on Tehran's nuclear facilities.

"They're keeping the soup warm but they are not cooking it," a U.S. administration official said.
Reuters has learned that in late 2006 or early 2007, U.S. intelligence intercepted telephone and email communications in which Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, a leading figure in Iran’s nuclear program, and other scientists complained that the weaponization program had been stopped.

That led to a bombshell conclusion in a controversial 2007 National Intelligence Estimate: American spy agencies had "high confidence" that Iran halted its nuclear weapons program in the fall of 2003.

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Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w) |

From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 3:23 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Iran-related query on Mohsen Fakhrizadeh

Hey Siobhan,

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From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 10:57 AM

Approved for Release: 2013/12/23
To:  
Subject: Iran-related query on Mohsen Fakhrizadeh

Hi Guys,

A colleague of mine is working on a story on a story about the apparent renewed efforts of top Iranian scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh. There are some facts in the story that I wanted to seek your guidance on, as well as a few broader questions.

On the following, if you can provide guidance on accuracy from the US perspective:

On Fakhrizadeh’s activities related to SPND (Farsi for the Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research), we’re told:

Fakhrizadeh was leading Iran’s alleged nuclear weapons research when Tehran reportedly froze much of the program’s funding in 2003. The IAEA believes Mr. Fakhrizadeh secretly opened SPND in early 2011 and that elements of Iran’s nuclear weapons research, which they thought were shelved in 2003, may be taking place there.

The SPND hosts six directorates that include research labs for metallurgy, chemistry, and explosives testing. The organization reports directly to the IRGC and has links to Iranian trading firms and universities that also are allegedly involved in Iran’s nuclear program.

On Fakhrizadeh’s past exploits related to the 2007 NIE, we’re told:

In 2005, U.S. spy agencies intercepted Mr. Fakhrizadeh’s phone and email communications, complaining that Iran’s government had supposedly cut off funding for his work two years earlier. These intercepts became a central element the 2007 U.S. National Intelligence Estimate conclusion that Tehran had frozen its attempts to build atomic weapons.

The activities of the SPND are one factor causing the U.S. and allied intelligence agencies to reassess the 2007 NIE.

In terms of specific questions, we’re wondering:

1.) Does the U.S. share the IAEA’s position that Mr. Fakhrizadeh remains active working on nuclear weapons-related research through organization the SPND?

2.) Do the SPND’s activities challenge the 2007 NIE?

3.) Does the 2007 NIE still stand, meaning that the US believes Iran’s atomic weapons program remains frozen since 2003?

4.) As detailed above, we’re told that intercepts of Fakhrizadeh’s emails and phone calls formed an important part of the NIE. Is that accurate?

Thanks,

Siobhan

Siobhan Gorman  
Intelligence Correspondent  
The Wall Street Journal.  
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 862-9234 (w)
From: Gorman, Siobhan
Sent: Friday, August 17, 2012 1:33 PM
To: checking in

I just wanted to circle back on my query form a couple days ago. I rang you, but you were out. Not sure when you'll be back. I'll be out of the office for a meeting this afternoon, so you can ring my cell after 2:30 or so.

Thanks,
Siobhan

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Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w)