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27 November 2007

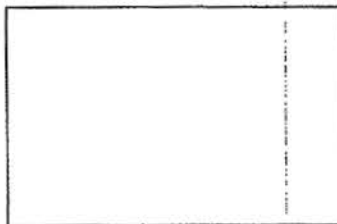
SUBJECT: (TS/[REDACTED]/NF) CIA's Use of Contract
Interrogators

1. (TS/[REDACTED]/NF) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] We offer the following justification and background to support future use of contractors as High Value Detainee Interrogators (HVDI)s.

2. (TS/[REDACTED]/NF) From the inception of CIA's Detention and Interrogation Program, contract interrogators have been a key component in the Agency's Global War on Terrorism. Before 11 September 2001, the Agency lacked resident expertise in interrogation. As CIA developed its interrogation program after debriefing methods had failed to gain information from Abu Zubaydah, CTC sought the required skills from other pertinent organizations, since it was clear that a trained and experienced pool of experts to carry out the mandate did not reside in the Agency. CTC also instituted a training program to build our expertise. The number of hours of basic training required to become a CIA trained and qualified interrogator is 280 hours. The interrogator must then spend time in the field at a CIA Blacksite under the oversight of the Staff Site Manager and Senior HVDI for at least an additional 20 hours of active interrogation. To date, CTC has trained [REDACTED] interrogators, [REDACTED] of whom were Staff employees and [REDACTED] were contractors.

3. (TS/[REDACTED]/NF) As noted above, the CIA initially sought to maintain a balance between staff and contract interrogators. However, it quickly became apparent as the program matured that the unique skill sets necessary for a successful interrogation program did not make it feasible for CIA to create a cadre of long-term



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experienced staff interrogators. Interrogation and exploitation skills [REDACTED] require years to develop and mature to be used effectively. Because staff officers routinely change assignments every 2-3 years, they are not available for the long-term development to be interrogation experts. The Agency determined therefore not to continue training and using CIA staff officers as interrogators. As the result of natural reassignments and self-selection out of the program for various reasons, there are currently [REDACTED] active and available interrogators, all of whom are contractors; [REDACTED] are senior certified interrogators, [REDACTED] are certified interrogators, and 2 are trained and qualified but yet to be certified.

4. (TS/[REDACTED]/NF) The contract interrogators operate under the authority and direction of senior Agency staff officers and provide CIA's unique interrogation program with the strongest level of experience, continuity, and consistency. As the program continues to evolve, this continuity of experience is critical. Long-term contract interrogators are able to apply a history of program-specific experiences and lessons-learned to maximize interrogation and exploitation efforts. CIA would be unable to replicate this level of experience from a temporary cadre of staff interrogators. CIA's current contract cadre of senior certified interrogators consists of:

- a clinical psychologist with 18 years experience in intelligence operations related to human behavior in captivity, interrogation and resistance to interrogation, with five years experience in the CIA program;
- a clinical psychologist with 20 years expertise in intelligence operations related to human behavior in captivity, interrogation and resistance interrogation, with five years experience in the CIA program;

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5. (TS/[]/NF) The overall responsibility for the management of Blacksites, to include contract security specialists, contract linguists, debriefers, interrogation team, and the detainees remains the responsibility of CIA staff officers, specifically with the Staff Site Managers. A Site Manager must ensure that all site staff and contractor support comply with all HQS regulations, legal guidelines, site and [] Standard Operating Procedures. With regard to interrogations specifically, the contractors conducting the interrogations are under the supervision of the Site Manager and constantly monitored by Agency staff officers during interrogation sessions to ensure compliance with all policies and procedures.

6. (TS/[]/NF) In 2004, senior CIA officers were tasked by the then ADDO to provide an informal operational assessment of the detainee program. While the review noted that the DO should focus on its core mission (clandestine intelligence operations), it also highlighted that the Agency must continue to commit its resources to this program. Using highly trained and experienced contract interrogators, under the direct supervision and oversight of Agency staff, allows for the most effective and efficient management of the program now and into the future.

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