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(TS/[]/NF) Role of Mitchell, Jessen, and Associates in CTC [] RDG program

(TS/[]/NF) Background: A/OGC requested background information on the role of Mitchell, Jessen, and Associates in the CTC [] RDG program, in anticipation of a briefing for Senator Levin on 20 June. CTC [] RDG provides the following information for A/OGC's review.

(TS/[]/NF) CTC [] RDG determined the need to contract an outside source of professional expertise in the area of human exploitation, interrogation, and management of terrorist High Value Detainees (HVDs) in ways that facilitate intelligence collection. Trained and experienced pools of experts necessary to carry out the exploitation mission do not reside in CIA, nor is it considered part of CIA's core mission. Mitchell, Jessen, and Associates (MJA), established in March 2005 by Drs. James E. Mitchell and J. Bruce Jessen, was granted a sole source contract to support CTC's rendition, detention, and interrogation program.

(TS/[]/NF) CTC [] RDG has primarily relied since its inception on contract interrogators to provide the necessary skills in human influence and exploitation to elicit information from resistant HVD's. Ph.D psychologists, Drs. Mitchell and Jessen played a significant and formative role in the development of CTC's detention and interrogation program and continue to lead in the development of additional psychologically-based strategies to collect threat and actionable intelligence from HVDs in a manner that does not violate any federal law, the US Constitution, or any US treaty obligation. They have been instrumental in training and mentoring other CIA interrogators and debriefers, and many of the current successes in obtaining information from detainees who are actively trying to withhold or distort it, are due to the interrogations conducted by Drs. Mitchell and Jessen.

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(TS/[REDACTED]/NF) CTC/[REDACTED] therefore sought a sole source contract with MJA to provide the critical interrogation, and security exploitation skills necessary to perform this mission. To date, MJA provides 100 percent of the security exploitation personnel operating at CIA's Blacksites, and approximately 80 percent of CIA's interrogators [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] current interrogators do not work for MJA). Most of the current security exploitation specialists now working for MJA on this contract are former [REDACTED] officers who had experience working CTC/RDG's program when [REDACTED] provided the security support. Finally, MJA is also contracted to provide security support to RDG rendition missions, which is separate from the exploitation security specialist role.

(TS/[REDACTED]/NF) Drawing on their complete understanding of this compartmented program, as well as their unique background, experiences, practices, and continued covert influence strategy research, MJA is also responsible for developing and providing, as directed by RDG, [REDACTED]

(TS/[REDACTED]/NF) MJA provides approximately [REDACTED] personnel in direct support of the RDG mission. This includes [REDACTED] interrogators, [REDACTED] security exploitation specialists, [REDACTED] training officers [REDACTED] operating out of RDG Hqs spaces, and [REDACTED] specialists (who work primarily for [REDACTED] vice RDG.) RDG currently employs [REDACTED] staff officers; 1 who serves as a Blacksite manager, and the rest in Hqs management, support, facilities, or desk officer positions. RDG also employs other, non-MJA contract assistance at both Hqs and Blacksites, which are limited to support and debriefer roles.

(TS/[REDACTED]/NF) MJA, on this contract, also provides interrogation resistance training at their Spokane facility to other [REDACTED] components such as CTC [REDACTED]

(TS/[REDACTED]/NF) Bottomline: MJA is critical to the continued success of RDG's rendition, detention and interrogation program. MJA provides the vast majority of interrogators, provides all/all the security exploitation specialists responsible for handling detainees at Blacksites, in consultation with RDG develops and conducts the necessary training to ensure both interrogators and exploitation specialists are properly trained, and prepared to effectively operate in the field, and is responsible for continuing to research and develop new influence strategies as interrogation tools, to help obviate the need for physical pressures. They also play a significant role in providing resistance training to other [REDACTED] [REDACTED] MJA is a cornerstone for the success of the RDG mission.

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