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From: KALISCH, ELENÍ P. (OCA) (FBI)  
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2004 4:35 PM  
To: MUELLER, ROBERT S. III (DO) (FBI)  
Cc: GEBHARDT, BRUCE J. (DO) (FBI); PISTOLE, JOHN S. (DO) (FBI)  
Subject: HPSCI Briefing re Interrogations

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DATE 08-19-2009 BY 65179 DMH/STW

Director:

Gary Bald did a great job at the HPSCI briefing this afternoon. The briefing, attended by approximately 15 staffers, focused on the value of the information being elicited from interrogations at Gitmo, Afghanistan and Iraq. All of the witnesses – DIA, Army, CTC, FBI – confirmed that the interrogations are yielding valuable information even at Gitmo and that one of the advantages we have is the ability to "get back in the box" with detainees time after time to challenge their information as new information is developed.

Army General Alexander highlighted the value of "capture shock" and the fact that the most valuable information is obtained within hours of a person's capture because they believe they are about to be tortured and killed. He distinguished between coercion and abuse and advised that the efficacy of coercion depends on the detainee. He explained acceptable techniques – feeding detainees MREs, depriving them of sleep, stripping them, having dogs present during questioning – and unacceptable – what occurred at Abu Ghraib.

Admiral Jacoby offered that someone like Padilla, who is familiar with the U.S. penal system, is not susceptible to coercion but seems to respond to reward-and-punishment.

Alexander and Jacoby conducted most of the briefing because the staff was mostly interested in hearing examples of valuable intelligence being elicited from detainees. There was no in-depth, aggressive questioning by the staff as to techniques.

Gary provided an overview of the FBI's role overseas in conducting "interviews." In response to a question about whether Agents were instructed not to participate in coercive/abusive interrogations, Gary reiterated our policy and advised that Agents were told that they must comply with FBI standards. The staff did not probe further. Gary then explained how information provided by the CIA has been beneficial to the FBI in preventing terrorist attacks and cited [redacted] and today's indictment of [redacted] as examples of cases that resulted from the CIA's interrogation of [redacted].

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In closing, Admiral Jacoby raised concerns about making USG standards and guidelines public because the "uncertainty" of how we will treat a detainee is a powerful tool in eliciting information. Gary added that we are engaged in discussions with the 9/11 Commission which wants to publish the names of detainees and the information they have provided. Gary emphasized (and all of the witnesses and Committee staffers nodded agreement) that this would telegraph to Al Qaida what we don't know.

By the way, this is the first I had heard of this issue. Gary told me afterwards that the Commission is intent on publishing this information. I think we should engage Goss/Harman and Roberts/Rockefeller, if the Commission does not relent.

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