



One Hundred Twelfth Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20515

May 23, 2012

Mr. Michael J. Morell  
Deputy Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Deputy Director Morell:

I am writing regarding the Committee on Homeland Security's ongoing investigation into the possible release of classified information to filmmakers regarding the raid, which killed al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. As you may know, this matter is currently under investigation by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Office of the Inspector General.<sup>1</sup>

On May 22, in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), a Federal judge ordered the release of electronic communications regarding the CIA's cooperation on the bin Laden movie. In my view, these emails raise serious questions regarding your central role in providing classified and sensitive information to individuals without appropriate security clearances while Acting Director of Central Intelligence in 2011.

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.<sup>2</sup> 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.

On at least one of these visits, the filmmakers were accompanied by Michael Feldman, a Founding Partner and Managing Director of The Glover Park Group, a leading communications and lobbying firm. Based on the documents, The Glover Park Group appears to have been retained by the filmmakers to gain unprecedented access to CIA and special operations personnel.

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<sup>1</sup> See November 9, 2011 correspondence from CIA's Office of Inspector General (OIG), stating that the Agency's "Office of Public Affairs is developing a written policy to create a single point of reference that will govern future interactions with the entertainment industry," and that OIG "will review the established guidelines once the policy is completed."

<sup>2</sup> The name of the facility is so sensitive that it was redacted from the released documents.

According to other released documents, Marie Harf from the CIA Office of Public Affairs facilitated most of these meetings. As you know, Ms. Harf has since departed the CIA to take a position at President Obama's reelection campaign headquarters in Chicago. In several emails to CIA personnel, including National Clandestine Service officers, Ms. Harf stated:

- “[Filmmaker Mark Boal] has met with a number of your colleagues in CTC and throughout the Agency. One of those folks he’s chatted with is [redacted] who recommended you as someone else who might want to sit down with Mark ... he’s spoken to a number of folks who worked on the operation from [HQS], and to your predecessor [redacted] but he’s looking for more color about what it was like to be working this from the field ... Don’t hesitate to let me know if you have any questions! It’s totally up to you whether or not you want to participate. I know this isn’t the typical CIA experience [smile emoticon] ”
- Bigelow and Boal are described as “visitors sanctioned by ODCIA,” the Office of the Director of CIA.
- “As a [*sic*] Agency, we’ve been pretty forward-leaning with Boal.”
- “We think it would make sense, if you’re willing to do so, if you would sit down and chat with Boal as well ... I know this is a little outside what we typically do as CIA officers ... we’re trying to keep his visits at [HQS] a bit quiet, because of the sensitivities surrounding who gets to participate in these types of things. I’m sure you understand ...”

Pursuant to Rule X, Clauses 2(a) and 3(g)(1), and Rule XI, Clause 1(b)(1) of the House of Representatives, I request answers to the following questions no later than May 29, 2012:

1. Is it CIA practice to meet with registered lobbyists in order to facilitate access to National Clandestine Service personnel? How many meetings with registered lobbyists have been held at CIA Headquarters since January 20, 2009?
2. How many National Clandestine Service officers were made available to the filmmakers?
3. Were National Clandestine Service officers pressured to meet with the filmmakers?
4. Were National Clandestine Service officers introduced to Boal and Bigelow over the objections of the Director of the CTC, who apparently declined to meet with the filmmakers?
5. Did representatives of CIA’s Office of Security and/or Counterintelligence Center accompany the filmmakers on their visits to CIA to ensure that CIA officials did not reveal classified information to them? If not, were representatives from the Office of Public Affairs their only escort?

6. For what purpose were the filmmakers taken into CIA vaults? Were they taken to a covered facility away from CIA's Headquarters campus? If so, why?
7. Film producer Mr. Boal stated to Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Michael Vickers the CIA told him about National Security Agency (NSA) and National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) involvement in obtaining intelligence for the Abbottabad raid. What exactly did CIA tell Boal about NSA and NGA involvement in the bin Laden operation? What role did NSA and NGA have in providing this information?

Following the operation that killed Osama bin Laden, multiple senior U.S. government officials expressed the importance of keeping information secret. According to public statements by former United States Special Operations Command Commander Admiral Eric Olson,<sup>3</sup> former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Michael Mullen,<sup>4</sup> and former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates,<sup>5</sup> leaks pertaining to the raid jeopardize the capabilities of Special Operations Forces to kill terrorist leaders who threaten the U.S. Homeland and risk the safety of special operators and their families. It is unfortunate that the Administration's desire to provide Hollywood filmmakers access to such information is directly in opposition to the stated views of our senior military leadership.

Thank you for your prompt and personal attention to this serious matter of national security.

Sincerely,

  
PETER T. KING  
Chairman

cc: David B. Buckley  
Inspector General  
Central Intelligence Agency

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<sup>3</sup> Admiral Olson stated that the raid "was successful because nobody talked about it before, and if we want to preserve this capability nobody better talk about it after."

<sup>4</sup> Chairman Mullen stated that "We have gotten to a point where we are close to jeopardizing the precision capability that we have, and we can't afford to do that."

<sup>5</sup> Secretary Gates stated, "Too many people in too many places are talking too much about this operation." He also related that when he met with the team that killed bin Laden, they expressed concern "particularly with respect to their families." The Secretary further observed "we all agreed that we would not release any operational details from the effort take out bin Laden. That all fell apart on Monday, the next day."