

August 4, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

As current and former professional interrogators, interviewers, and intelligence officials who support the release of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence's (SSCI) study of the CIA's post-9/11 rendition, detention, and interrogation program, we welcome your public support for declassification of the study. We write today because we are concerned about reports that your CIA Director, John Brennan, is coordinating with the architects of the CIA's so-called "enhanced interrogation" program – a program you ended – to mount a defense of the program in response to release of the report.

The CIA's program prompted a public discussion about whether these "enhanced interrogation techniques" (EITs) produced reliable information. Some former government officials who authorized the CIA's program after 9/11 claim that it helped disrupt terrorist plots, save lives, and even locate Osama Bin Laden. While some of the particular claims of success have been disproven by publicly available information, the broader assertion that the EIT program was effective is based on classified information unavailable to the public.

The SSCI study, which is based on a review of more than 6 million pages of official records, provides an important opportunity to shed light on the question of what was gained – and lost – through the use of EITs. Based on our experience, torture and other forms of abusive or coercive techniques are more likely to generate unreliable information and have repeatedly proven to be counterproductive as a means of securing the enduring cooperation of a detained individual. They increase the likelihood of receiving false or misleading information, undermine our nation's ability to work with key international partners, and bolster the recruiting narratives of terrorist groups. We are not surprised that those who have read the intelligence committee study say that it concludes that the use of EITs produced little valuable intelligence.

We understand that the senior leadership of the CIA has different view of the meaning and significance of the official documentary record. Those views, and the views of the SSCI minority, should also be made public so that the American people have an opportunity to decide for themselves whether the CIA program was ultimately worth it.

It would, however, be a disservice to the public if the CIA engaged in a concerted campaign to discredit the report's authors and defend the EIT program. We were therefore disturbed to learn that one of the key proponents of the program, the former CIA director George Tenet, is reportedly coordinating with Director Brennan to attack the Senate intelligence committee's study. These statements, combined with the recent revelation that the CIA intruded into the Senate intelligence committee's computers despite Director Brennan's assertions to the contrary,

raise questions about the Director's willingness and ability to clearly convey to those under his leadership at the CIA that he is in full support of your anti-torture policies.

While the architects of the CIA's program may very well continue to defend it, we urge you to instruct the current leadership of the CIA to responsibly address the report's findings and unequivocally stand behind your condemnation of torture.

Sincerely,

Mark Fallon – NCIS
Charlton Howard – NCIS
Brigadier General David R. Irvine – U.S. Army (Ret.)
Tim James – NCIS
Steven Kleinman – U.S. Air Force
Marcus Lewis – U.S. Army
Colonel Britain P. Mallow – U.S. Army (Ret.)
Mike Marks – NCIS
Robert McFadden – NCIS
Charles Mink – U.S. Army
Joe Navarro – FBI
Walt O'Brien – NCIS
William Quinn – U.S. Army
Haviland Smith – CIA
Lieutenant General Harry E. Soyster – U.S. Army (Ret.)

Mark Fallon

Mr. Fallon served for more than 30 years in the federal law enforcement and counterintelligence community, including as a Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) Special Agent and within the Department of Homeland Security, as the Assistant Director for Training of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC). He began his federal law enforcement career in 1979 with the US Marshals Service. His first sworn position was in 1976 as a Police Constable with the Old Lyme Police Department in Connecticut. Mr. Fallon has been involved in many high impact cases, including the prosecution of Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman and as the Commander of the USS Cole Task Force. Mr. Fallon is internationally recognized for his leadership ability in crisis situations, counterterrorism acumen, and training experience.

Charlton Howard

Chuck Howard was the Executive Assistant Director/Chief, Intelligence & Information Sharing with the US Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS).

Brigadier General David R. Irvine, USA (Ret.)

Brigadier General Irvine enlisted in the 96th Infantry Division, United States Army Reserve, in 1962. He received a direct commission in 1967 as a strategic intelligence officer. He maintained a faculty assignment for 18 years with the Sixth U.S. Army Intelligence School, and taught prisoner of war interrogation and military law for several hundred soldiers, Marines, and airmen. He retired in 2002, and his last assignment was Deputy Commander for the 96th Regional Readiness Command. General Irvine is an attorney, and practices law in Salt Lake City, Utah. He served 4 terms as a Republican legislator in the Utah House of Representatives, has served as a congressional chief of staff, and served as a commissioner on the Utah Public Utilities Commission.

Tim James

Tim James is a retired Special Agent with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. He was the Special Agent in Charge of the Criminal Investigation Task Force in Guantanamo Bay Cuba for a period during 2002 – 2003.

Steven Kleinman

Steven Kleinman is a Senior Advisor and Strategist of the National Security Program for the Soufan Group. He is a career intelligence officer with more than 26 years of operational and leadership experience in assignments worldwide. He is a recognized subject matter expert in the full spectrum of human intelligence operations, intelligence support to special operations, and special survival/resistance to interrogation training. Mr. Kleinman is a highly decorated veteran of three major military campaigns – Operation Just Cause, Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom – during which he served as an interrogator, the chief of a joint and combines interrogation team, and as a senior advisor on interrogation operations to a special operations task force. He has been recognized as one of the most prolific interrogators during the first Gulf War.

Mr. Kleinman served as the director of the Air Force Combat Interrogation Course and as an advisor to the National Defense Intelligence College's program on human intelligence and counterintelligence studies. As a senior advisor to the first contemporary study on interrogation sponsored by the Office of Director of National Intelligence and the Intelligence Science Board,

Mr. Kleinman has been a major force in rethinking the American approach to strategic interrogation. He continues to serve as a senior consultant on interrogation-related studies being conducted at leading universities and research centers across America. He has testified on interrogation and detainee policy before the Senate and House Judiciary and Intelligence Committees. His articles and research papers have been published in the Harvard University Press, Willan Publishing (UK), the New York City Law Review, the Defense Intelligence Journal, the American Intelligence Journal, and the National Defense Intelligence College Press. He was a contributing editor to the Encyclopedia of Intelligence and Counterintelligence published in 2004. He was also been cited in publications ranging from Newsweek, the New Yorker, and the New York Times, to Der Stern, CNN, and the BBC.

Marcus Lewis

Marcus Lewis is a former army interrogator, interrogation instructor, Arabic linguist, and reserve officer. Marcus has served in national defense for over 10 years. He enlisted in the Army after 9/11, worked as an interrogation team sergeant in Iraq, and recently returned from a position as an intelligence analyst in Afghanistan.

Colonel Britain P. Mallow – U.S. Army (Ret.)

Colonel Britain Mallow served as the commander of the unique Criminal Investigation Task Force (CITF), a unit of military investigators formed in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks to prepare criminal cases against suspected terrorists. A former military police officer who rose to become second-in-command of the Army's detective bureau, Colonel Mallow holds an advanced degree in Middle Eastern studies and a working knowledge of Arabic. In 2002, he ordered members of his CITF team at Guantanamo to "stand back " from the increasingly coercive interrogations being implemented at the prison camp.

Mike Marks

Mike Marks is a retired NCIS agent with 23 years of experience. He has served in more than 20 countries, including Bahrain, Afghanistan, and Yemen. He assisted in the investigation of the USS Cole bombing, was assigned to the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force, and conducted numerous interrogations as part of the Criminal Investigations Task Force in Afghanistan.

Robert McFadden, NCIS Special Agent in Charge (Retired)

Robert McFadden is a 30-year veteran of federal law enforcement, intelligence and counterintelligence communities, where he held a number of high-impact positions to include Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS)'s Senior Representative to the Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy (clandestine, sensitive, and low visibility operations oversight and policy), Deputy Assistant Director CI and National Security Operations, and Special Agent in Charge, Global Support Field Office. He was the co-case agent for the NCIS-FBI investigation of the USS Cole attack and al-Qa'ida maritime operations cell. He conducted scores of interviews and interrogations of terrorism subjects, witnesses, and sources.

Charles Mink

Charles Mink is a former Army interrogator and Program Coordinator for the University of Arizona's "Project GO." His research includes U.S. counterterrorism policy in the Mid East during the 21st Century, particularly extraordinary rendition and intelligence sharing between the

U.S. and many (now defunct) regimes. He has advanced proficiency in Arabic, and also serves as an analyst for The Soufan Group.

Joe Navarro

For 25 years, Joe Navarro worked as an FBI special agent in the area of counterintelligence and behavioral assessment. A founding member of the National Security Division's Behavioral Analysis Program, he is on the adjunct faculty at Saint Leo University and the University of Tampa and remains a consultant to the intelligence community. Mr. Navarro is the author of a number of books about interviewing techniques and practice including Advanced Interviewing which he co-wrote with Jack Schafer and Hunting Terrorists: A Look at the Psychopathology of Terror. He currently teaches the Advanced Terrorism Interview course at the FBI.

Walt O'Brien

Walt O'Brien is a retired Special Agent with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

William Quinn

William Quinn is an officer in the United States Army. From 2001 to 2006, he worked as an Army interrogator. He was deployed to Iraq from February 2005 to February 2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and was stationed at Abu Ghraib and Camp Cropper, where he conducted hundreds of interrogations with senior members of insurgent and terrorist organizations. Will is currently stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

Haviland Smith

Haviland Smith is a retired CIA operations officer and Station Chief, having focused most of his 27-year professional life on the Cold War recruitment and handling of Soviet and East European agents and on the management of that effort. During his career, he was involved in joint operations with the FBI and lectured frequently on both Counterterrorism and Soviet recruitment operations at their training courses at Quantico and at in-service sessions in FBI Field Offices. He was assigned to Prague, Berlin, Beirut, Tehran, Washington and Langley. He served as a Branch Chief and Group Chief in Soviet operations, as Chief of the CIA's Counterterrorism Staff, as Executive Assistant in the Director's Office and as a Station Chief, both at home and abroad.

Lieutenant General Harry E. Soyster (Ret.)

Lieutenant General Soyster served as Director, Defense Intelligence Agency during DESERT SHIELD/STORM. He also served as Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of the Army, Commanding General, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command and in the Joint Reconnaissance Center, Joint Chiefs of Staff. In Vietnam he was an operations officer in a field artillery battalion. Upon retirement he was VP for International Operations with Military Professional Resources Incorporated and returned to government as Special Assistant to the SEC ARMY for WWII 60th Anniversary Commemorations completed in 2006.