

Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

From: Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2011 4:58 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: FW: Boal/Bergen
Signed By: douglas.weinstein@osd.mil

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Bob,

FYSA from the WH.

Doug

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2011 4:14 PM
To: Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
Subject:

You should be hearing from Mark Boal, screenwriter for the UBL movie being directed by Katherine Bigallo, to request time with Dr Vickers for an interview/backgrounder. I'm getting a copy of the request from our WH press, and am not exactly sure how it was conveyed to us.

Peter Bergen is also interested in contacting your office for the book he's writing on UBL.

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2011 10:27 AM
To: Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
Cc: Marrs, James R BrigGen OSD OUSDI; Lowery, Todd R CIV OSD OUSDI; Vickers, Michael G
HON OSD OUSDI; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Thanks Doug.
R/Bob

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device

----- Original Message -----

From: Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2011 10:12 AM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Cc: Marrs, James R BrigGen OSD OUSDI; Lowery, Todd R CIV OSD OUSDI
Subject: RE: Bin Laden Movie

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Bob,

USD(I) will meet with Mark Boal at 1245-1330. Thanks.

Doug

-----Original Message-----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2011 7:02 AM
To: Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
Cc: Ferguson, Thomas A CIV, OSD OUSDI; Marrs, James R BrigGen OSD OUSDI; Lowery, Todd R CIV
OSD OUSDI; Smith, Heidi A CIV, OSD OUSDI
Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie

Doug, Need 30-45 minures Thursday as per the Boss.

I will be back in the office Thursday morning. Please let me know what is available so I can
coordinate. Will be on BB.

R/Bob

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device

----- Original Message -----

From: mark(b)(6) [mailto:mark(b)(6)]
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 10:13 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; 'mark(b)(6)' <'mark(b)(6)'
Cc: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI; Lowery, Todd R CIV OSD OUSDI

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie

Bob,
Thank you. Thursday is good for me, I'm in D.C, and available at your convenience.
Mark

-----Original Message-----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
To: 'mark (b)(6)'
Cc: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
Cc: Weinstein, Douglas EMr OSD OUSDI
Cc: Lowery, Todd R CIV OSD OUSDI
Subject: Bin Laden Movie
Sent: Jun 6, 2011 10:06 PM

Mark, Hello, I am Dr Vickers Public Affairs Officer. He will be in on Thursday if you are still going to be in town. If not we could look at doing something the next time you are in DC. He has agreed to meet with you, but you just caught him at a time when he has travel scheduled.

Resp,
Bob

----- Original Message -----

From: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 04:57 AM
To: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
Cc: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Re: Bin laden movie

They've already talked to DD/CIA Morell.

Happy to meet with them.

Sent from my wireless handheld

----- Original Message -----

From: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2011 11:30 PM
To: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Cc: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Fw: Bin laden movie

What do you all think? These guys are the Oscar winning team behind the Hurt Locker.

Geoff Morrell
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
Pentagon Press Secretary
703-614-2935 (O)
571-309-4978 (C)

----- Original Message -----

From: mark (b)(6) [mailto:mark (b)(6)]
Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2011 11:27 PM
To: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
Subject: Bin laden movie

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

Hi Geoff,

Regarding our upcoming film about the hunt for OBL -- which Kathryn Bigelow is directing and I am writing and producing, as our follow-up to The Hurt Locker -- am thinking that it would be wise for me to touch base with Under Secretary Mike Vickers.... Naturally, I understand the sensitivities, and more than anything, am simply hoping for an opportunity to briefly tell him about the project's scope....

Please let me know if you would you be up for facilitating an introduction. I'll be in D.C. for at least a few more days.

Thanks,
Mark Boal

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI

From: Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 5:29 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Re: EXSUM: Meeting with Mark Boal re UBL Movie

Correct. Senior Pentagon official.

----- Original Message -----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 05:25 PM
To: Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
Subject: RE: EXSUM: Meeting with Mark Boal re UBL Movie

Doug, Is this the article he is referring to?? Or is it a different Yemen article?

New York Times
June 9, 2011

U.S. Is Intensifying A Secret Campaign Of Yemen Airstrikes

By Mark Mazzetti

WASHINGTON – The Obama administration has intensified the American covert war in Yemen, exploiting a growing power vacuum in the country to strike at militant suspects with armed drones and fighter jets, according to American officials.

The acceleration of the American campaign in recent weeks comes amid a violent conflict in Yemen that has left the government in Sana, a United States ally, struggling to cling to power. Yemeni troops that had been battling militants linked to Al Qaeda in the south have been pulled back to the capital, and American officials see the strikes as one of the few options to keep the militants from consolidating power.

On Friday, American jets killed Abu Ali al-Harithi, a midlevel Qaeda operative, and several other militant suspects in a strike in southern Yemen. According to witnesses, four civilians were also killed in the airstrike. Weeks earlier, drone aircraft fired missiles aimed at Anwar al-Awlaki, the radical American-born cleric who the United States government has tried to kill for more than a year. Mr. Awlaki survived.

The recent operations come after a nearly year-long pause in American airstrikes, which were halted amid concerns that poor intelligence had led to bungled missions and civilian deaths that were undercutting the goals of the secret campaign.

Officials in Washington said that the American and Saudi spy services had been receiving more information – from electronic eavesdropping and informants – about the possible locations of militants. But, they added, the outbreak of the wider conflict in Yemen created a new risk: that one faction might feed information to the Americans that could trigger air strikes against a rival group.

A senior Pentagon official, speaking only on condition of anonymity, said on Wednesday that using force against militants in Yemen was further complicated by the fact that Qaeda operatives have mingled with other rebels and antigovernment militants, making it harder for the United States to attack without the appearance of picking sides.

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The American campaign in Yemen is led by the Pentagon's Joint Special Operations Command, and is closely coordinated with the Central Intelligence Agency. Teams of American military and intelligence operatives have a command post in Sana, the Yemeni capital, to track intelligence about militants in Yemen and plot future strikes.

Concerned that support for the campaign could wane if the government of Yemen's authoritarian president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, were to fall, the United States ambassador in Yemen has met recently with leaders of the opposition, partly to make the case for continuing American operations. Officials in Washington said that opposition leaders have told the ambassador, Gerald M. Feierstein, that operations against Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula should continue regardless of who wins the power struggle in Sana.

The extent of America's war in Yemen has been among the Obama administration's most closely guarded secrets, as officials worried that news of unilateral American operations could undermine Mr. Saleh's tenuous grip on power. Mr. Saleh authorized American missions in Yemen in 2009, but placed limits on their scope and has said publicly that all military operations had been conducted by his own troops.

Mr. Saleh fled the country last week to seek medical treatment in Saudi Arabia after rebel shelling of the presidential compound, and more government troops have been brought back to Sana to bolster the government's defense.

"We've seen the regime move its assets away from counterterrorism and toward its own survival," said Christopher Boucek, a Yemen expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "But as things get more and more chaotic in Yemen, the space for the Americans to operate in gets bigger," he said.

But Mr. Boucek and others warned of a backlash from the American airstrikes, which over the past two years have killed civilians and Yemeni government officials. The benefits of killing one or two Qaeda-linked militants, he said, could be entirely eroded if airstrikes kill civilians and lead dozens of others to jihad.

Edmund J. Hull, ambassador to Yemen from 2001 to 2004 and the author of "High-Value Target: Countering Al Qaeda in Yemen," called airstrikes a "necessary tool" but said that the United States had to "avoid collateral casualties or we will turn the tribes against us."

Al Qaeda's affiliate in Yemen is believed by the C.I.A. to pose the greatest immediate threat to the United States, more so than even Qaeda's senior leadership believed to be hiding in Pakistan. The Yemen group has been linked to the attempt to blow up a transatlantic jetliner on Christmas Day 2009 and last year's plot to blow up cargo planes with bombs hidden inside printer cartridges.

Mr. Harithi, the militant killed on Friday, was an important operational figure in Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and was believed to be one of those responsible for the group's ascendance in recent years. According to people in Yemen close to the militant group, Mr. Harithi travelled to Iraq in 2003 and fought alongside Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the Jordanian operative who led the Qaeda affiliate in Iraq until he was killed in an American strike in 2006. Mr. Harithi returned to Yemen in 2004, those close to the militants said, where he was captured, tried and imprisoned in 2006 but released three years later.

Even as senior administration officials worked behind the scenes with Saudi Arabia for a transitional government to take power in Yemen, a State Department spokesman on Wednesday

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called on the embattled government in Sana to remain focused on dealing with the rebellion and Qaeda militants.

"With Saleh's departure for Saudi Arabia, where he continues to receive medical treatment, this isn't a time for inaction," said the spokesman, Mark Toner. "There is a government that remains in place there, and they need to seize the moment and move forward."

Muhammad al-Ahmadi contributed reporting from Sana, Yemen, and Eric Schmitt and Scott Shane from Washington.

Commander Bob Mehal
Public Affairs Officer
Defense Press Operations
1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
Washington, DC 20301-1400
(703) 697-4162

-----Original Message-----

From: Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 5:18 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Re: EXSUM: Meeting with Mark Boal re UBL Movie

Bob,

Boss asked about information related to yesterday's NYT article on Yemen. Reference defense official remarks. Do you have any insights?

Doug

----- Original Message -----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 04:38 PM
To: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Cc: Ferguson, Thomas A CIV, OSD OUSDI; Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA; Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Lapan, David COL OSD PA; James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; Turner, James Mr OSD PA; Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA; Delvia, Vicente Mr OSD PA; Mann, James P BrigGen OSD OUSDI; Lowery, Todd R CIV OSD OUSDI; (b)(3):U.S.C. 403g
(b)(3):U.S.C. 403g (b)(6)
(b)(6) Rigler, Tara CIV OSD PA; Gregory, James LTC OSD PA; Robbins, Elizabeth L LTC OSD PA; Smith, Heidi A CIV, OSD OUSDI; Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI; Symonowicz, Erin C Ms OSD OUSDI
Subject: EXSUM: Meeting with Mark Boal re UBL Movie

Sir, I tried to capture the meeting below, in order to bring others up to speed and get all on the same page.

Mark Boal, Writer/Producer of "Hurt Locker", is working on a Sony Pictures Movie portrayal of the hunt for UBL.

The meeting lasted 45 minutes and Mark spent most of the time laying out his way ahead.

**They were just about to begin filming a movie focusing on the Battle of Tora Bora (2001) when 1 May changed everything.

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- TIMELINE:

-- Next two months will be spent on research/background to reconstruct as much as possible

-- Start Shooting in Fall of 2011

-- Release date set for 4th Qtr 2012 (Sep-Dec)

-- Boal indicated:

-- He wants it to be an accurate recreation of a historical event

-- Not interested in giving away TTPs (indicated that he was proud of not giving anything away in Hurt Locker)

-- Wants to highlight the great cooperation/coordination between CIA/DoD and the extensive Intel work (decade) that culminated in the OP.

-- He plans to return in late June, early July for some more in depth meetings (USDI indicated he would be willing to meet with him, but could not say at this point how much he would be able to discuss)

-- To Date:

-- To date has spoken with CIA pers to include DD Mike Morrell. (indicated he was going back tomorrow and would be returning the end of Jun)

-- Has not yet spoken to WH

-- Has not yet requested formal DoD support (realizes that will require a script for review)

USDI:

-- Recommended looking at it from 3 main components CIA, DoD, WH.

-- There was a 60-80% of certainty based on the Intell

-- Was a "Gutsy Decision" by the POTUS (WH involvement was critical)

-- Involved developing options, evolving and refining plans, rehearsing OP, and finally execution of OP

-- Asked if Boal had asked to speak with WH, SECDEF, CJCS, VCJCS, or

(b)(3):U.S.C. 130b

-- Response was not yet, but certainly something he would be looking at doing - possibly when he returns to DC late Jun/early Jul.

POST Meeting:

-- I suggested he reach out to the WH to get a sense of their position/support for the project.

-- Also, recommended at the very least an informal request to OSD PA in regard to DoD participation in the research phase

**(prior to a formal request for DoD support).

Vr/Bob

Commander Bob Mehal
Public Affairs Officer
Defense Press Operations
1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
Washington, DC 20301-1400
(703) 697-4162

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI

From: Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2011 9:31 AM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Cc: Lowery, Todd R CIV OSD OUSDI
Subject: RE: EXSUM: Meeting with Mark Boal re UBL Movie
Signed By: douglas.weinstein@osd.mil

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Bob,

Best days are Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 June. Thanks.

Doug

-----Original Message-----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2011 8:37 AM
To: Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
Cc: Lowery, Todd R CIV OSD OUSDI
Subject: FW: EXSUM: Meeting with Mark Boal re UBL Movie

Doug, Just FYI, we will likely end up needing a 60 minute slot the last week of June. Will keep you posted. R, Bob

Commander Bob Mehal
Public Affairs Officer
Defense Press Operations
1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
Washington, DC 20301-1400
(703) 697-4162

-----Original Message-----

From: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2011 7:02 AM
To: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA; Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
Subject: RE: EXSUM: Meeting with Mark Boal re UBL Movie

Doug, I spoke to Michael Morell (DD/CIA) on Friday. At the direction of Director Panetta, CIA is cooperating fully (not, obviously, giving away anything they shouldn't, but answering questions, such as "How did you feel at that point"?). Morell was also asked to offer his assessment of the Director's participation in the operation. Several CIA staff have talked with Mark. For the intelligence case, they are basically using the WH-approved talking points we used the night of the operation. I spoke with ADM Olson and (b)(3):U.S.C. on Friday about DoD participation. They are thinking it over. They would like to shape the story to prevent any gross inaccuracies, but do not want to make it look like the commanders think it's okay to talk to the media. They may want to offer up an O-6 SEAL, who played a key planning role and knows the operators and story well. Would appreciate any guidance on how we should proceed, if at all, i.e., will SD meet with them after he retires? CJCS? Mark would like to talk to me, and perhaps others, the last week of June when he comes back to DC

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

to talk to CIA. I obviously do not want to be out of step with the few other seniors who were involved in the operation. Thanks, Mike

-----Original Message-----

From: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2011 8:45 AM
To: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI; Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
Subject: RE: EXSUM: Meeting with Mark Boal re UBL Movie

+ Geoff. So far, from how Mark has described the project, we are providing initial assistance to him in connecting with you and others. He has not asked, nor have we volunteered, talking to SD, CJCS or (b)(3):U.S.C. at this point. I would be very interested to learn your findings from DD/CIA. In addition, WH is compiling list of similar requests to get a handle on quantity and quality to make assessments. All that said, Boal is a quality guy and has checked in with us re all his appt requests.

-----Original Message-----

From: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 8:22 PM
To: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA; Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Re: EXSUM: Meeting with Mark Boal re UBL Movie

Doug,

Is the DoD going to cooperate with Mark in his research for the film? Will SD, CJCS, (b)(3):U.S.C. talk to him? CIA has already met with Mark on their part. I will find out from DD/CIA how forthcoming they were.

Thanks, Mike

Sent from my wireless handheld

----- Original Message -----

From: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 05:45 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Subject: RE: EXSUM: Meeting with Mark Boal re UBL Movie

Thanks. Mike, thanks very much for doing this. Boal is a good guy.

-----Original Message-----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 4:39 PM
To: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Cc: Ferguson, Thomas A CIV, OSD OUSDI; Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA; Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Lapan, David COL OSD PA; James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; Turner, James Mr OSD PA; Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA; Ogilvie, Vicente Mr OSD PA; Mapps, James P Mr OSD PA; (b)(3):U.S.C. 403g (b)(6)
(b)(6); (b)(6) Rigler, Tara CIV OSD PA; Gregory, James LTC OSD PA; Robbins, Elizabeth L LTC OSD PA; Smith, Heidi A CIV, OSD OUSDI; Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI; Symonowicz, Erin C Ms OSD OUSDI
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- He plans to return in late June, early July for some more in depth meetings (USDI indicated he would be willing to meet with him,

- but could not say at this point how much he would be able to discuss)

-- To Date:

- To date has spoken with CIA pers to include DD Mike Morrell. (indicated he was going back tomorrow and would be returning the end of Jun)

- Has not yet spoken to WH

- Has not yet requested formal DoD support (realizes that will require a script for review)

USDI:

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- Was a "Gutsy Decision" by the POTUS (WH involvement was critical)

- Involved developing options, evolving and refining plans, rehearsing OP, and finally execution of OP

- Asked if Boal had asked to speak with WH, SECDEF, CJCS, VCJCS, or (b)(6) (b) (3)

- Response was not yet, but certainly something he would be looking at doing - possibly when he returns to DC late Jun/early Jul.

POST Meeting:

- I suggested he reach out to the WH to get a sense of their position/support for the project.

- Also, recommended at the very least an informal request to OSD PA in regard to DoD participation in the research phase

- ** (prior to a formal request for DoD support).**

Vr/Bob

Commander Bob Mehal
Public Affairs Officer
Defense Press Operations
1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
Washington, DC 20301-1400
(703) 697-4162

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI

From: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2011 7:15 PM
To: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA; Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Cc: Ferguson, Thomas A CIV, OSD OUSDI; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA; Lapan, David COL OSD PA; James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; Gregory, James LTC OSD PA; Robbins, Elizabeth L LTC OSD PA; Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI; (b)(3):U.S.C. 403g (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) @ ; Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA; Ogilvie, Vicente Mr OSD PA
Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed
Categories: Meeting To Schedule

Bob,

The 27 June-1 July period works better for me. Should have an answer on whether JSOC will provide a rep by then as well.

MV

Sent from my wireless handheld

----- Original Message -----

From: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2011 02:34 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Cc: Ferguson, Thomas A CIV, OSD OUSDI; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA; Lapan, David COL OSD PA; James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; Gregory, James LTC OSD PA; Robbins, Elizabeth L LTC OSD PA; Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI; (b)(3):U.S.C. 403g (b)(3):U.S.C. 403g (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA; Ogilvie, Vicente Mr OSD PA
Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie

Thanks, Bob. Ok to set up the second session with Vickers. I am getting additional guidance from WH

----- Original Message -----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2011 12:19 PM
To: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Cc: Ferguson, Thomas A CIV, OSD OUSDI; Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA; Lapan, David COL OSD PA; James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; Gregory, James LTC OSD PA; Robbins, Elizabeth L LTC OSD PA; Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI; (b)(3):U.S.C. 403g (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA; Ogilvie, Vicente Mr OSD PA
Subject: FW: Bin Laden Movie

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2011 12:19 PM
To: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Cc: Ferguson, Thomas A CIV, OSD OUSDI; Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA; Lapan, David COL OSD PA; James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; Gregory, James LTC OSD PA; Robbins, Elizabeth L LTC OSD PA; Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI; (b)(6); (b)(3):U.S.C. 403g; (b)(6); (b)(6); Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA; Ogilvie, Vicente
Subject: Mr OSD PA
FW: Bin Laden Movie
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Sir, From Mark Boal. Have you heard anything from leadership yet about how we want to proceed? I believe this is still in the research phase, but need to be clear on the approach we are taking before we schedule.

Vr/Bob

CDR Bob Mehal
OASD(PA)
703-697-4162

-----Original Message-----

From: M B [mailto:mark(b)(6)]
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2011 12:07 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie

Bob:

Good afternoon. Following up on the meeting with Dr Vickers, my take away is that we'd try to find some time to sit down again before the summer holidays. My dates when I'll next be in D.C. are:

20-21 June

27 June - 1 July.

Please let me know if any of those fit in Dr Vickers schedule.

Additionally, wanted to let you know that we anticipate making formal request for DOD support in early July. We are also talking to WH.

Thanks again for setting all this up.

Best,
Mark

On Jun 9, 2011, at 8:02 AM, Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA wrote:

> Mark, Great! I can start breathing again... I was worried we were going to lose the spot.
>
> I will be waiting at the Pentagon's Visitor's Center (Metro Entrance), please allow a few minutes for security screening.
>
> We will meet with Dr Vickers at 1215 and he has a hard 1300 stop.
>
> See you then.

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

>
> Resp,
> Bob
>
> Commander Bob Mehal
> Public Affairs Officer
> Defense Press Operations
> 1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
> Washington, DC 20301-1400
> (703) 697-4162
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Mark Boal [mailto:mark@ (b)(6)]
> Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 10:56 AM
> To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
> Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie
>
> Yes I can be there at noon
>
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Jun 9, 2011, at 9:59 AM, "Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA" <Robert.Mehal@osd.mil> wrote:
>
>> Mark, Please let me know if you can be here by 1200; trying to hold the spot.
>>
>> Vr/Bob
>>
>> Commander Bob Mehal
>> Public Affairs Officer
>> Defense Press Operations
>> 1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
>> Washington, DC 20301-1400
>> (703) 697-4162
>>
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
>> Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 8:42 AM
>> To: 'mark' (b)(6)
>> Subject: RE: Bin Laden Movie
>>
>> Mark, Is there any chance we can move up the meeting to 1200 or 1215? Dr Vickers is back today and his schedule is really full. He is willing to use his lunch to meet.
>>
>> Please let me know soonest.
>>
>> Resp,
>> Bob
>>
>> Commander Bob Mehal
>> Public Affairs Officer
>> Defense Press Operations
>> 1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
>> Washington, DC 20301-1400

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

>> (703) 697-4162

>>

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: mark(b)(6) [mailto:mark(b)(6)]

>> Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2011 5:57 PM

>> To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

>> Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie

>>

>> Roger

>> Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: "Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA" <Robert.Mehal@osd.mil>

>> Date: Tue, 7 Jun 2011 16:23:27

>> To: 'mark(b)(6)' <mark(b)(6)>

>> Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie

>>

>> Mark, Meet at the visitors' center at the Metro entance at 1230 pm Thursday. We have a 1245 with Dr Vickers.

>> Let me know if you have any questions.

>> Bob

>> -----

>> Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device

>>

>>

>> ----- Original Message -----

>> From: mark(b)(6) [mailto:mark(b)(6)]

>> Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 10:13 PM

>> To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; 'mark(b)(6)'

>> <'mark(b)(6)'

>> Cc: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI;

>> Lowery, Todd R CIV OSD OUSDI

>> Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie

>>

>> Bob,

>> Thank you. Thursday is good for me, I'm in D.C, and available at your convenience.

>> Mark

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

>> To: 'mark(b)(6)'

>> Cc: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA

>> Cc: Weinstein, Douglas EMr OSD OUSDI

>> Cc: Lowery, Todd R CIV OSD OUSDI

>> Subject: Bin Laden Movie

>> Sent: Jun 6, 2011 10:06 PM

>>

>> Mark, Hello, I am Dr Vickers Public Affairs Officer. He will be in on Thursday if you are still going to be in town. If not we could look at doing something the next time you are in DC. He has agreed to meet with you, but you just caught him at a time when he has travel scheduled.

>> Resp,

>> Bob

>>

>> ----- Original Message -----

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

>> From: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
>> Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 04:57 AM
>> To: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
>> Cc: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
>> Subject: Re: Bin laden movie
>>
>> They've already talked to DD/CIA Morell.
>>
>> Happy to meet with them.
>> -----
>> Sent from my wireless handheld
>>
>> ----- Original Message -----
>> From: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
>> Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2011 11:30 PM
>> To: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
>> Cc: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
>> Subject: Fw: Bin laden movie
>>
>> What do you all think? These guys are the Oscar winning team behind the Hurt Locker.
>>
>> Geoff Morrell
>> Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Pentagon Press Secretary
>> 703-614-2935 (O)
>> 571-309-4978 (C)
>>
>>
>> ----- Original Message -----
>> From: mark(b)(6) [mailto:mark(b)(6)]
>> Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2011 11:27 PM
>> To: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
>> Subject: Bin laden movie
>>
>> Hi Geoff,
>>
>> Regarding our upcoming film about the hunt for OBL -- which Kathryn Bigelow is directing
and I am writing and producing, as our follow-up to The Hurt Locker -- am thinking that it
would be wise for me to touch base with Under Secretary Mike Vickers.... Naturally, I
understand the sensitivities, and more than anything, am simply hoping for an opportunity to
briefly tell him about the project's scope....
>> Please let me know if you would you be up for facilitating an introduction. I'll be in
D.C. for at least a few more days.
>>
>> Thanks,
>> Mark Boal
>>
>>
>> Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T
>>
>> -----
>> Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device
>>
>>
>> Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Friday, June 24, 2011 4:25 PM
To: Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
Cc: Gentile, Philip D COL OSD OUSDI; Lowery, Todd R CIV OSD OUSDI
Subject: Scheduling items

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Doug, Here is the list of items that we need to try and schedule;

1. Mark Boal (UBL Movie) - will be in town (from LA) the week of 27 Jun-1 Jul (will need 30-45 minutes)(can do it over lunch if the Boss agrees).
2. Elisabeth Bumiller (NYTs) - USD(I) Profile article - 45-60 minutes (she'll be back from traveling with Panetta on 13 July)
3. OSS Award Video, taping session - Need to have done by end of July. 1 hour block of time - likely will only use about 30 minutes (Room 1E782).
4. Michael Bronner (CT Book) - 30-45 minutes the last week of July.
5. David Martin (CBS News) 20 minutes (works in the building can do on short notice)
6. Jim Miklaszewski (NBC News) 20 minutes (works in the building can do on short notice)
7. Barb Starr (CNN) TBD
8. Kim Dozier (AP) TBD

Will provide detailed info on each as we schedule them.

Resp,
Bob

Commander Bob Mehal
Public Affairs Officer
Defense Press Operations
1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
Washington, DC 20301-1400
(703) 697-4162

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2011 4:14 PM
To: Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

You should be hearing from Mark Boal, screenwriter for the UBL movie being directed by Katherine Bigallo, to request time with Dr Vickers for an interview/backgrounder. I'm getting a copy of the request from our WH press, and am not exactly sure how it was conveyed to us.

Peter Bergen is also interested in contacting your office for the book he's writing on UBL.

(b)(5)

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI

From: Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2011 4:58 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: FW: Boal/Bergen
Signed By: douglas.weinstein@osd.mil

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Bob,

FYSA from the WH.

Doug

----- Original Message -----

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2011 4:14 PM
To: Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
Subject:

You should be hearing from Mark Boal, screenwriter for the UBL movie being directed by Katherine Bigallo, to request time with Dr Vickers for an interview/backgrounder. I'm getting a copy of the request from our WH press, and am not exactly sure how it was conveyed to us.

Peter Bergen is also interested in contacting your office for the book he's writing on UBL.

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI

From: Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2011 3:40 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Re: Schedule

Bob,

I will check with Todd about the (b)(5) when they return from the Hill at 1700. No news yet.

Doug

----- Original Message -----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2011 03:38 PM
To: Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
Subject: Schedule

Doug, I called but missed you. Checking to see what you may have come up with tomorrow. Mark Boal indicated he would make himself available tomorrow afternoon - if the Boss's schedule opens up.

Bob

Commander Bob Mehal
Public Affairs Officer
Defense Press Operations
1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
Washington, DC 20301-1400
(703) 697-4162

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2011 9:53 AM
To: Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
Cc: Gentile, Philip D COL OSD OUSDI; Lowery, Todd R CIV OSD OUSDI
Subject: FW: Vickers Scheduling this week

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Doug, I swear Dr Vickers has a 6th sense. He asked me about the meeting with Mark Boal when I spoke to him Tues after the staff mtg. Is there any chance you could find about 45 minutes on his schedule on the 15th? I know he is TDY the week of 18-22 Jul.

R,
Bob

Commander Bob Mehal
Public Affairs Officer
Defense Press Operations
1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
Washington, DC 20301-1400
(703) 697-4162

-----Original Message-----

From: Mark Boal [mailto:mark(b)(6)]
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2011 5:32 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Re: Vickers Scheduling this week

Bob,
Good afternoon.

During our previous attempt to schedule a meeting, you'd asked when I'd be back in town. I now have an answer: July 15- July 22.

Please let me know if anything in that span works for Dr. Vickers. Apart from scheduled meetings on the afternoon of 15 July, I am open to anytime.

Last, Kathryn Bigelow, who directed Hurt Locker and is directing this film, will also be in D.C. in that timeframe.
I wonder if you agree that it would be advisable for her to join the meeting?

As always, Bob, Thanks very much for your work on this. Looking forward to talkin and seeing you soon.

Best,

Mark

Sent from my iPhone

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2011 2:23 PM
To: Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
Subject: RE: Vickers request WSJ profile
Signed By: robert.mehal@osd.mil

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Doug, Checking. Also Mark Boal confirmed Fri, 15 Jul at 1700.

Thanks.
Bob

Commander Bob Mehal
Public Affairs Officer
Defense Press Operations
1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
Washington, DC 20301-1400
(703) 697-4162

-----Original Message-----

From: Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2011 2:07 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: RE: Vickers request WSJ profile

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Bob,

Recommend we look at 1745-1800 on Thursday 14 July.

Doug

-----Original Message-----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2011 3:04 PM
To: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Cc: Ferguson, Thomas A CIV, OSD OUSDI; Gentile, Philip D COL OSD OUSDI; Lowery, Todd R CIV OSD OUSDI; Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
Subject: FW: Vickers request WSJ profile

Sir, Turnaround is fair play when it comes to profiles. Recommend we try to find 15 minutes late next week for you to speak with Siobhan on the phone in support of DepDir Morell. This is icw with a WSJ profile on him - I confirmed with George Little they are participating. Below is a glimpse of what she is interested in discussing. Sorry to disturb you on leave, but thought you might want to think about some anecdotes.
Vr/Bob

CDR Bob Mehal

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

OASD(PA)
703-697-4162

-----Original Message-----

From: Gorman, Siobhan [<mailto:Siobhan.Gorman@wsj.com>]
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2011 2:47 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: RE: Vickers request

Bob,

Thanks very much. If it's possible to chat by phone at the end of next week, that would be ideal because it's a little hard to do profile-type questions in written form.

But if he's not able to squeeze in a 10-minute conversation between trips, I'm mainly looking for his take on experiences working with Mr. Morell. I'm most interested in anecdotes that reflect how Mr. Morell thinks, manages, operates, etc. Any examples Mr. Vickers has of times when Mr. Morell has contributed a unique perspective or expertise in decision making or other types of meetings would also be of great interest, as would examples of how Mr. Morell has worked with the military, perhaps an example from the bin Laden raid planning, or even better, some other recent experience that is less well known.

Does that give you a feel for what I am looking for?

Thanks,
Siobhan

=====

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
(202) 862-9234 (w) | (202) 374-9781 (c)

-----Original Message-----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA [<mailto:Robert.Mehal@osd.mil>]
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2011 1:54 PM
To: Gorman, Siobhan
Subject: RE: Vickers request

Siobhan, I am sure he would be happy to do it, but he is currently out of the office on leave until next Thursday. He is back for two days and then on travel the following week. If you have some basic questions you could email me I might be able to get them to him and provide some written responses (not ideal I know), or we could try and do something next week (possibly on the phone). His schedule is always a major problem. What is does your deadline look like?

Resp,
Bob
Commander Bob Mehal
Public Affairs Officer
Defense Press Operations
1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
Washington, DC 20301-1400
(703) 697-4162

-----Original Message-----

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

From: Gorman, Siobhan [<mailto:Siobhan.Gorman@wsj.com>]
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2011 1:07 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Vickers request

Cdr. Mehal,

I am working on a profile of Mike Morell, and I was told Mr. Vickers would be a very good person to speak with about Mr. Morell.

Do you think Mr. Vickers would he have 15 minutes sometime in the next few days to talk about his experiences with Mr. Morell?

Thank you,
Siobhan

=====

Siobhan Gorman
Intelligence Correspondent
The Wall Street Journal.
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9234 (w) | (202) 374-9781 (c)

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI

From: Mark Boal [mark(b)(6)]
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2011 5:52 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Cc: Sarah Zukowski; Benner, Thomas K CIV, OSD OUSDI; (b) (3) (b) (6) Redding, Gregory Mr OSD PA; Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA; Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
Subject: Re: Mark Boal and Kathryn Bigelow 7/15 Meeting at Pentagon

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Pulling up now

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 15, 2011, at 9:45 AM, "Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA" <Robert.Mehal@osd.mil> wrote:

> Sarah, Car and passengers are cleared for the meeting this afternoon at 1800 (see below). I will meet them on the steps at the River Entrance.

>
> Tom, As discussed, could you please provide some short driving directions to be passed to Mr Virk - they will be coming from the agency to the River Entrance.

>
> R, Bob

> -----Original Message-----

> From: (b)(6)
> Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2011 6:37 PM
> To: Redding, Gregory Mr OSD PA
> Subject: RE: Mark Boal and Kathryn Bigelow 7/15 Meeting at Pentagon

>
> Gregory,

> Our Chief of Parking, (b)(6) took care of it. Here is his message:

> Mr. Boal and Ms. Bigelow have been cleared to be dropped off on 7-15-11 at River Entrance to meet with the Undersecretary.

> Their driver - Mr. Virk - has also been cleared to remain with the vehicle (b)(6)
(b)(6) He can park and remain with the vehicle in the River Triangle area, spaces 163 - 172.

>
> RM
> (b)(6)

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Sarah Zukowski [<mailto:szukowski@gloverparkgroup.com>]
> Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 2:04 PM
> To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

> Cc: Redding, Gregory Mr OSD PA
> Subject: RE: Mark Boal and Kathryn Bigelow 7/15 Meeting at Pentagon
>
> Great, thank you so much, Commander. The driver is (b)(6) and he will be bringing Mark Boal and Kathryn Ann Bigelow on Friday.
>
> Car info:
> (b)(6)
> (b)(6)
>
>
>
> Do you need any other details such as DOB, SSN, etc for them? Also, are there any specific directions as to where they should go to enter the complex/building? They will be coming from the Agency in Langley if that makes a difference.
>
>
>
> Thanks again,
>
> Sarah
>
>
>
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA [<mailto:Robert.Mehal@osd.mil>]
> Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 1:41 PM
> To: Sarah Zukowski
> Cc: Redding, Gregory Mr OSD PA
> Subject: RE: Mark Boal and Kathryn Bigelow 7/15 Meeting at Pentagon
>
>
>
> Sarah, Please pass along the Car info: Year, Make and Model, and State and Plate number.
>
>
>
> Names of visitors and driver and we should be able to clear them at the River Entrance.
>
>
>
> Hit reply to all and I will ensure Mr Redding takes care of it.
>
>
>
> Commander Bob Mehal
>
> Public Affairs Officer
>
> Defense Press Operations
>
> 1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

>
> Washington, DC 20301-1400
>
> (703) 697-4162
>
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
>
> From: Sarah Zukowski [<mailto:szukowski@gloverparkgroup.com>]
>
> Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 10:25 AM
>
> To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
>
> Subject: Mark Boal and Kathryn Bigelow 7/15 Meeting at Pentagon
>
>
>
> Hi Robert,
>
>
>
> I'm coordinating arrangements for Mark Boal and Kathryn Bigelow's meetings this Friday,
> July 15th at the Agency and the Pentagon and Mark said you are the person he has been in
> touch with regarding his meetings at the latter.
>
>
>
> Given your correspondence with Mark, are you the appropriate person to give their security
> clearance information to? I also have the information for the car and driver that will be
> bringing them to the Pentagon and assume I need to provide that as well. Please let me know
> who I should send these details to at your earliest convenience.
>
>
>
> Thanks in advance, Robert, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.
>
>
>
> All the best,
>
>
>
> Sarah
>
>
>
>
>
>
> Sarah Zukowski
>
>
>

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI

Subject: Interview w. Mark Boal & Kathryn Bigelow
Location: 3E834

Start: Fri 7/15/2011 6:00 PM
End: Fri 7/15/2011 7:00 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Meeting organizer

Organizer: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Required Attendees: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

7/8/11 DEW

Look for Classification Marking in Message Body

Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI

Subject: Interview w. Mark Boal
Location: 38E834

Start: Thu 6/9/2011 12:15 PM
End: Thu 6/9/2011 1:00 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Meeting organizer

Organizer: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Required Attendees: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

6/7/11 DEW
POC: CDR Bob Mehal, 697-4162

Gregory, James LTC OSD PA

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 2:27 PM
To: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
Cc: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI; Lowery, Todd R CIV OSD OUSDI; Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
Subject: Re: Bin laden movie

Mr Morrell, Do you have contact info? Or if not, I can just use his e-mail to see if we can schedule something for Thursday or a later date...

Vr/Bob

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device

----- Original Message -----

From: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 09:07 AM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
Subject: Re: Bin laden movie

If he's still in DC, happy to meet on Thurs. If not, can provide dates when I'll be in the Pentagon this summer.

Sent from my wireless handheld

----- Original Message -----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 06:59 AM
To: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
Subject: Re: Bin laden movie

Sir, Only issue will be timing. When are you back - before you head to NC?
Vr/Bob

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device

----- Original Message -----

From: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 04:57 AM
To: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
Cc: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Re: Bin laden movie

They've already talked to DD/CIA Morell.

Happy to meet with them.

Sent from my wireless handheld

----- Original Message -----

From: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA

Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2011 11:30 PM
To: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Cc: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Fw: Bin laden movie

What do you all think? These guys are the Oscar winning team behind the Hurt Locker.

Geoff Morrell
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
Pentagon Press Secretary
703-614-2935 (O)
571-309-4978 (C)

----- Original Message -----

From: mark(b)(6) [mailto:mark(b)(6)]
Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2011 11:27 PM
To: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
Subject: Bin laden movie

Hi Geoff,

Regarding our upcoming film about the hunt for OBL -- which Kathryn Bigelow is directing and I am writing and producing, as our follow-up to The Hurt Locker -- am thinking that it would be wise for me to touch base with Under Secretary Mike Vickers.... Naturally, I understand the sensitivities, and more than anything, am simply hoping for an opportunity to briefly tell him about the project's scope.... Please let me know if you would you be up for facilitating an introduction. I'll be in D.C. for at least a few more days.

Thanks,
Mark Boal

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

2
Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

From: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 9:00 PM
To: 'mark' (b)(6)
Cc: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Fw: Bin laden movie

Mark
Bob Mehal will assist you with this.
Best, Geoff

Geoff Morrell
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
Pentagon Press Secretary
703-614-2935 (O)
571-309-4978 (C)

----- Original Message -----

From: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 04:57 AM
To: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
Cc: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Re: Bin laden movie

They've already talked to DD/CIA Morell.

Happy to meet with them.

Sent from my wireless handheld

----- Original Message -----

From: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2011 11:30 PM
To: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Cc: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Fw: Bin laden movie

What do you all think? These guys are the Oscar winning team behind the Hurt Locker.

Geoff Morrell
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
Pentagon Press Secretary
703-614-2935 (O)
571-309-4978 (C)

----- Original Message -----

From: mark (b)(6) [mailto:mark (b)(6)]
Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2011 11:27 PM
To: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
Subject: Bin laden movie

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Please let me know if you would be up for facilitating an introduction. I'll be in D.C. for at least a few more days.

Thanks,
Mark Boal

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

3

Gregory, James LTC OSD PA

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2011 11:27 AM
To: Rigler, Tara CIV OSD PA
Cc: Gregory, James LTC OSD PA; Robbins, Elizabeth L LTC OSD PA; James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; Turner, James Mr OSD PA; Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA; Lapan, David COL OSD PA
Subject: Bin Laden Movie

Tara, Please add this to the events calendar:

INTERVIEW: Dr Michael Vickers, USD(I), background discussion with Mark Boal, Writer/Producer of the upcoming Bin Laden Movie. 1245-1330, Thursday 9 Jun, 3E834.

Note: He has already spoken with DepDir CIA Morrell.

----- Original Message -----

From: mark (b)(6) [mailto:mark (b)(6)]
Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2011 11:27 PM
To: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
Subject: Bin laden movie

Hi Geoff,

Regarding our upcoming film about the hunt for OBL -- which Kathryn Bigelow is directing and I am writing and producing, as our follow-up to The Hurt Locker -- am thinking that it would be wise for me to touch base with Under Secretary Mike Vickers.... Naturally, I understand the sensitivities, and more than anything, am simply hoping for an opportunity to briefly tell him about the project's scope....

Please let me know if you would you be up for facilitating an introduction. I'll be in D.C. for at least a few more days.

Thanks,
Mark Boal

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device

4
Gregory, James LTC OSD PA

From: mark@ (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 11:01 AM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie

Yes, I can make 12:00
I missed your email until now
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

-----Original Message-----

From: "Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA" <Robert.Mehal@osd.mil>
Date: Thu, 9 Jun 2011 09:59:52
To: 'mark (b)(6)' <mark (b)(6)>
Subject: RE: Bin Laden Movie

Mark, Please let me know if you can be here by 1200; trying to hold the spot.

Vr/Bob

Commander Bob Mehal
Public Affairs Officer
Defense Press Operations
1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
Washington, DC 20301-1400
(703) 697-4162

-----Original Message-----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 8:42 AM
To: 'mar (b)(6)'
Subject: RE: Bin Laden Movie

Mark, Is there any chance we can move up the meeting to 1200 or 1215? Dr Vickers is back today and his schedule is really full. He is willing to use his lunch to meet.

Please let me know soonest.

Resp,
Bob

Commander Bob Mehal
Public Affairs Officer
Defense Press Operations
1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
Washington, DC 20301-1400
(703) 697-4162

-----Original Message-----

From: mark (b)(6) [mailto:mark (b)(6)]
Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2011 5:57 PM

To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie

Roger

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

-----Original Message-----

From: "Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA" <Robert.Mehal@osd.mil>
Date: Tue, 7 Jun 2011 16:23:27
To: 'mark(b)(6)' <mark(b)(6)>
Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie

Mark, Meet at the visitors' center at the Metro entance at 1230 pm Thursday. We have a 1245 with Dr Vickers.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Bob

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device

----- Original Message -----

From: mark(b)(6) [mailto:mark(b)(6)]
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 10:13 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; 'mark(b)(6)' <'mark(b)(6)'
Cc: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI; Lowery, Todd R CIV OSD OUSDI
Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie

Bob,

Thank you. Thursday is good for me, I'm in D.C, and available at your convenience.

Mark

-----Original Message-----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
To: 'mark(b)(6)'
Cc: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
Cc: Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
Cc: Lowery, Todd R CIV OSD OUSDI
Subject: Bin Laden Movie
Sent: Jun 6, 2011 10:06 PM

Mark, Hello, I am Dr Vickers Public Affairs Officer. He will be in on Thursday if you are still going to be in town. If not we could look at doing something the next time you are in DC. He has agreed to meet with you, but you just caught him at a time when he has travel scheduled.

Resp,

Bob

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From: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 04:57 AM
To: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
Cc: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Re: Bin laden movie

They've already talked to DD/CIA Morell.

Happy to meet with them.

Sent from my wireless handheld

----- Original Message -----

From: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2011 11:30 PM
To: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Cc: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Fw: Bin laden movie

What do you all think? These guys are the Oscar winning team behind the Hurt Locker.

Geoff Morrell
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
Pentagon Press Secretary
703-614-2935 (O)
571-309-4978 (C)

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From: mark (b)(6) [mailto:mark (b)(6)]
Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2011 11:27 PM
To: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
Subject: Bin laden movie

Hi Geoff,

Regarding our upcoming film about the hunt for OBL -- which Kathryn Bigelow is directing and I am writing and producing, as our follow-up to The Hurt Locker -- am thinking that it would be wise for me to touch base with Under Secretary Mike Vickers.... Naturally, I understand the sensitivities, and more than anything, am simply hoping for an opportunity to briefly tell him about the project's scope....

Please let me know if you would be up for facilitating an introduction. I'll be in D.C. for at least a few more days.

Thanks,
Mark Boal

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device

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Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

From: mark (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 1:26 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA
Subject: Bin Laden movie

Thanks to all for facilitating the meeting with Under Secretary Vickers.

It was very productive... and we discussed meeting again when I am back in DC at the end of the month.

Mark

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

6

Gregory, James LTC OSD PA

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2011 7:57 AM
To: Lanan, David COL OSD PA; James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA
Cc: (b)(6) Gregory, James LTC OSD PA; Robbins, Elizabeth L LTC OSD PA
Subject: FW: EXSUM: Meeting with Mark Boal re UBL Movie
Signed By: robert.mehal@osd.mil

FYI/SA. Vr/Bob

CDR Bob Mehal
OASD(PA)
703-697-4162

-----Original Message-----

From: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2011 7:45 AM
To: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI; Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Kirby, John F Capt JCS SJS OCJCS PA
Subject: RE: EXSUM: Meeting with Mark Boal re UBL Movie

Mike, many thanks. Copying John Kirby, top comms advisor to CJCS, on this. I think this looks very good as a way forward, and agree particularly that we need to be careful here so we don't open the media floodgates on this. I'm going to check with WH to update them on status, and will report back. Geoff or you will be in best position to find out if SD will talk to Boal after he retires, although I understand he liked "The Hurt Locker". At this point, suggest you keep plans to meet with Boal when he returns, and I'll provide any additional context I get from WH. Thanks--Doug

-----Original Message-----

From: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2011 7:02 AM
To: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA; Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
Subject: RE: EXSUM: Meeting with Mark Boal re UBL Movie

Doug, I spoke to Michael Morell (DD/CIA) on Friday. At the direction of Director Panetta, CIA is cooperating fully (not, obviously, giving away anything they shouldn't, but answering questions, such as "How did you feel at that point?"). Morell was also asked to offer his assessment of the Director's participation in the operation. Several CIA staff have talked with Mark. For the intelligence case, they are basically using the WH-approved talking points we used the night of the operation. I spoke with ADM Olson and (b)(3):U.S.C. 130 on Friday about DoD participation. They are thinking it over. They would like to shape the story to prevent any gross inaccuracies, but do not want to make it look like the commanders think it's okay to talk to the media. They may want to offer up an O-6 SEAL, who played a key planning role and knows the operators and story well. Would appreciate any guidance on how we should proceed, if at all, i.e., will SD meet with them after he retires? CJCS? (b) would like to talk to me, and perhaps others, the last week of June when he comes back to DC to talk to CIA. I obviously do not want to be out of step with the few other seniors who were involved in the operation. Thanks, Mike

-----Original Message-----

From: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA

Sent: Friday, June 10, 2011 8:45 AM

To: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI; Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
Subject: RE: EXSUM: Meeting with Mark Boal re UBL Movie

+ Geoff. So far, from how Mark has described the project, we are providing initial assistance to him in connecting with you and others. He has not asked, nor have we volunteered, talking to SD, CJCS or VADM (b) (3) (b) (6) at this point. I would be very interested to learn your findings from DD/CIA. In addition, WH is compiling list of similar requests to get a handle on quantity and quality to make assessments. All that said, Boal is a quality guy and has checked in with us re all his appt requests.

-----Original Message-----

From: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 8:22 PM
To: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA; Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Re: EXSUM: Meeting with Mark Boal re UBL Movie

Doug,

Is the DoD going to cooperate with Mark in his research for the film? Will SD, CJCS, (b) (3) (b) (6) talk to him? CIA has already met with Mark on their part. I will find out from DD/CIA how forthcoming they were.

Thanks, Mike

Sent from my wireless handheld

----- Original Message -----

From: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 05:45 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Subject: RE: EXSUM: Meeting with Mark Boal re UBL Movie

Thanks. Mike, thanks very much for doing this. Boal is a good guy.

-----Original Message-----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 4:39 PM
To: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Cc: Ferguson, Thomas A CIV, OSD OUSDI; Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA; Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Lapan, David COL OSD PA; James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; Turner, James Mr OSD PA; Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA; Ogilvie, Vicente Mr OSD PA; Marrs, James R BrigGen OSD OUSDI; Lowery, Todd R CIV OSD OUSDI; (b)(3):U.S.C. 403g (b)(6)
(b)(3); (b)(6) Rigler, Tara CIV OSD PA; Gregory, James LTC OSD PA; Robbins, Elizabeth L LTC OSD PA; Smith, Heidi A CIV, OSD OUSDI; Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI; Symonowicz, Erin C Ms OSD OUSDI
Subject: EXSUM: Meeting with Mark Boal re UBL Movie

Sir, I tried to capture the meeting below, in order to bring others up to speed and get all on the same page.

Mark Boal, Writer/Producer of "Hurt Locker", is working on a Sony Pictures Movie portrayal of the hunt for UBL.

The meeting lasted 45 minutes and Mark spent most of the time laying out his way ahead.

**They were just about to begin filming a movie focusing on the Battle of Tora Bora (2001) when 1 May changed everything.

- TIMELINE:

- Next two months will be spent on research/background to reconstruct as much as possible
- Start Shooting in Fall of 2011
- Release date set for 4th Qtr 2012 (Sep-Dec)

- Boal indicated:
 - He wants it to be an accurate recreation of a historical event
 - Not interested in giving away TTPs (indicated that he was proud of not giving anything away in Hurt Locker)
 - Wants to highlight the great cooperation/coordination between CIA/DoD and the extensive Intel work (decade) that culminated in the OP.
 - He plans to return in late June, early July for some more in depth meetings (USDI indicated he would be willing to meet with him, but could not say at this point how much he would be able to discuss)

- To Date:
 - To date has spoken with CIA pers to include DD Mike Morrell. (indicated he was going back tomorrow and would be returning the end of Jun)
 - Has not yet spoken to WH
 - Has not yet requested formal DoD support (realizes that will require a script for review)

USDI:

- Recommended looking at it from 3 main components CIA, DoD, WH.
- There was a 60-80% of certainty based on the Intell
- Was a "Gutsy Decision" by the POTUS (WH involvement was critical)
- Involved developing options, evolving and refining plans, rehearsing OP, and finally execution of OP
- Asked if Boal had asked to speak with WH, SECDEF, CJCS, VCJCS, or (b)(6) (b) (3)
- Response was not yet, but certainly something he would be looking at doing - possibly when he returns to DC late Jun/early Jul.

POST Meeting:

- I suggested he reach out to the WH to get a sense of their position/support for the project.
- Also, recommended at the very least an informal request to OSD PA in regard to DoD participation in the research phase
 - ** (prior to a formal request for DoD support).

Vr/Bob

Commander Bob Mehal
Public Affairs Officer
Defense Press Operations
1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
Washington, DC 20301-1400
(703) 697-4162

7.
Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

From: M B [mark (b)(6)]
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2011 12:07 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie

Bob:

Good afternoon. Following up on the meeting with Dr Vickers, my take away is that we'd try to find some time to sit down again before the summer holidays. My dates when I'll next be in D.C. are:

20-21 June

27 June - 1 July.

Please let me know if any of those fit in Dr Vickers schedule.

Additionally, wanted to let you know that we anticipate making formal request for DOD support in early July. We are also talking to WH.

Thanks again for setting all this up.

Best,

Mark

On Jun 9, 2011, at 8:02 AM, Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA wrote:

> Mark, Great! I can start breathing again... I was worried we were going to lose the spot.

>

> I will be waiting at the Pentagon's Visitor's Center (Metro Entrance), please allow a few minutes for security screening.

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> We will meet with Dr Vickers at 1215 and he has a hard 1300 stop.

>

> See you then.

>

> Resp,

> Bob

>

> Commander Bob Mehal

> Public Affairs Officer

> Defense Press Operations

> 1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)

> Washington, DC 20301-1400

> (703) 697-4162

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Mark Boal [mailto:mark (b)(6)]

> Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 10:56 AM

> To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

> Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie

>

> Yes I can be there at noon

>

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

> On Jun 9, 2011, at 9:59 AM, "Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA" <Robert.Mehal@osd.mil> wrote:

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>> Mark, Please let me know if you can be here by 1200; trying to hold the spot.

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>> Vr/Bob

>>

>> Commander Bob Mehal
>> Public Affairs Officer
>> Defense Press Operations
>> 1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
>> Washington, DC 20301-1400
>> (703) 697-4162
>>
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>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
>> Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 8:42 AM
>> To: 'mark(b)(6)'
>> Subject: RE: Bin Laden Movie
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>> Mark, Is there any chance we can move up the meeting to 1200 or 1215? Dr Vickers is back today and his schedule is really full. He is willing to use his lunch to meet.

>> Please let me know soonest.

>> Resp,
>> Bob

>> Commander Bob Mehal
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>> Washington, DC 20301-1400
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>> From: mark(b)(6) [mailto:mark(b)(6)]
>> Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2011 5:57 PM
>> To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
>> Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie
>>

>> Roger
>> Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T
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>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: "Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA" <Robert.Mehal@osd.mil>
>> Date: Tue, 7 Jun 2011 16:23:27
>> To: 'mark(b)(6)' <mark(b)(6)>
>> Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie
>>

>> Mark, Meet at the visitors' center at the Metro entrance at 1230 pm Thursday. We have a 1245 with Dr Vickers.
>> Let me know if you have any questions.
>> Bob

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>> Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device
>>
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>> From: mark(b)(6) [mailto:mark(b)(6)]
>> Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 10:13 PM (b)(6)
>> To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; 'mark(b)(6)'
>> <'mark(b)(6)'
>> Cc: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSD;

>> Lowery, Todd R CIV OSD OUSDI

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>> Sent: Jun 6, 2011 10:06 PM

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>> Subject: Fw: Bin laden movie

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>> What do you all think? These guys are the Oscar winning team behind the Hurt Locker.

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8
Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

From: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2011 7:15 PM
To: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA; Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Cc: Ferguson, Thomas A CIV, OSD OUSDI; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA; Lapan, David COL OSD PA; James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; Gregory, James LTC OSD PA; Robbins, Elizabeth L LTC OSD PA; Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
(b)(3):U.S.C. 403g (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA; Ogilvie, Vicente Mr OSD PA
Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie

Bob,

The 27 June-1 July period works better for me. Should have an answer on whether JSOC will provide a rep by then as well.

MV

Sent from my wireless handheld

----- Original Message -----

From: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2011 02:34 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Cc: Ferguson, Thomas A CIV, OSD OUSDI; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA; Lapan, David COL OSD PA; James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; Gregory, James LTC OSD PA; Robbins, Elizabeth L LTC OSD PA; Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI (b)(3):U.S.C. 403g (b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA; Ogilvie, Vicente Mr OSD PA
Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie

Thanks, Bob. Ok to set up the second session with Vickers. I am getting additional guidance from WH

----- Original Message -----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2011 12:19 PM
To: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Cc: Ferguson, Thomas A CIV, OSD OUSDI; Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA; Lapan, David COL OSD PA; James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; Gregory, James LTC OSD PA; Robbins, Elizabeth L LTC OSD PA; Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI (b)(3):U.S.C. 403g
(b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA; Ogilvie, Vicente Mr OSD PA
Subject: FW: Bin Laden Movie

Sir, From Mark Boal. Have you heard anything from leadership yet about how we want to proceed? I believe this is still in the research phase, but need to be clear on the approach we are taking before we schedule.

Vr/Bob

CDR Bob Mehal
OASD(PA)
703-697-4162

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> 1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)

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9
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Bob

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> Bob

>

> Commander Bob Mehal

> Public Affairs Officer

> Defense Press Operations

> 1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)

> Washington, DC 20301-1400

> (703) 697-4162

>

>

> -----Original Message-----
> From: Mark Boal [mailto:mark@(b)(6)]
> Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 10:56 AM
> To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
> Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie
>
> Yes I can be there at noon
>
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Jun 9, 2011, at 9:59 AM, "Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA" <Robert.Mehal@osd.mil> wrote:
>
>> Mark, Please let me know if you can be here by 1200; trying to hold the spot.
>>
>> Vr/Bob
>>
>> Commander Bob Mehal
>> Public Affairs Officer
>> Defense Press Operations
>> 1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
>> Washington, DC 20301-1400
>> (703) 697-4162
>>
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
>> Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 8:42 AM
>> To: 'mark@'(b)(6)'
>> Subject: RE: Bin Laden Movie
>>
>> Mark, Is there any chance we can move up the meeting to 1200 or 1215? Dr Vickers is back today and his schedule is really full. He is willing to use his lunch to meet.
>>
>> Please let me know soonest.
>>
>> Resp,
>> Bob
>>
>> Commander Bob Mehal
>> Public Affairs Officer
>> Defense Press Operations
>> 1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
>> Washington, DC 20301-1400
>> (703) 697-4162
>>
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: mark@'(b)(6)' [mailto:mark@'(b)(6)']
>> Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2011 5:57 PM
>> To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
>> Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie
>>
>> Roger
>> Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T
>>
>> -----Original Message-----

Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

From: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2011 9:05 AM
To: Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA; Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Cc: (b)(3):U.S.C. 403g James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA
Subject: RE: Mark Boal - UBL film
Signed By: douglas.wilson@osd.mil

(b)(5)

-----Original Message-----

From: Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2011 9:04 AM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA
Cc: (b)(3):U.S.C. 403g James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA
Subject: RE: Mark Boal - UBL film

Bob,

Stop by the front office today and let's lock in a time.

Best,

JM

-----Original Message-----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2011 8:27 AM
To: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA
Cc: Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA; (b)(3):U.S.C. 403g James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA
Subject: RE: Mark Boal - UBL film

Copy all Sir. VR, Bob

Commander Bob Mehal
Public Affairs Officer
Defense Press Operations
1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
Washington, DC 20301-1400
(703) 697-4162

-----Original Message-----

From: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2011 8:27 AM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Cc: Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA; (b)(3):U.S.C. 403g James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA
Subject: RE: Mark Boal - UBL film

Thanks, Bob. (b)(5)

-----Original Message-----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2011 8:26 AM
To: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA
Cc: Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA; (b)(3):U.S.C. 403g James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA

Subject: RE: Mark Boal - UBL film

Sir, We are looking at a 29 or 30 June follow-up meeting between Dr Vickers and Mark Boals. Vr/Bob

CDR Bob Mehal
OASD(PA)
703-697-4162

-----Original Message-----

From: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2011 7:50 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(3):U.S.C. 403g Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Cc: Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA; 'Rhodes, Benjamin J.'
Subject: Mark Boal - UBL film

Mark Boal will be here briefly next week (at times I can't do a meeting), but is back again June 27-July 1. June 30 and July 1 are likely to be crazy with farewell to SD Gates and beginning of SD-designate Panetta tenure on July 1. But if we can find a time for George and me to bring (b)(5) (and whomever else you will include in that meeting) between June 27 and 29, that would be great. I'd like to bring Bob Mehal of our Pentagon press office, who is POC on intelligence matters, with us. Copying COL Jeremy Martin of my office who is my gatekeeper and who can help lock this on the schedule. If we can come up with a date and time soon, I'll coordinate with Boal.

Many thanks,

Doug

Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

From: Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2011 2:36 PM
To: Nye, Edward T COL USSOCOM HQ; Gregory, James LTC OSD PA; Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; (b)(3):U.S.C. 403g
Subject: FW: bin Laden movie

Gentlemen, FYI

Best,

Phil

Philip M. Strub
Director of Entertainment Media
Department of Defense
The Pentagon, 2E966
Washington, DC 20301-1400
P (703) 695-2936
F (703) 692-5294

-----Original Message-----

From: Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2011 8:52 AM
To: 'M B'
Cc: (b)(6) Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA; Farnsworth, Sarah S Ms OSD PA; Ogilvie, Vicente Mr OSD PA
Subject: RE: bin Laden movie

Hi Mark,

I'll be in today (Thurs 6/16) and tomorrow, from about 0830-1700 EDT.

Best,

Phil

Philip M. Strub
Director of Entertainment Media
Department of Defense
The Pentagon, 2E966
Washington, DC 20301-1400
P (703) 695-2936
F (703) 692-5294

-----Original Message-----

From: M B [mailto:mark(b)(6)]
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2011 7:13 PM

To: Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA

Cc: (b)(6) Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA

Subject: bin Laden movie

Hi Phil,

Hope this finds you well.

This is just a quick note to say that, as you may have heard, I'm writing and producing a new film -- which Kathryn Bigelow will direct and SONY will release in 2012 -- and which deals with the hunt for Osama Bin Laden and the May 1 raid that resulted in his death. I've been talking to various folks in the intel and military community in order to research the film, and wanted to reach out to you as well to give you a sense of our plans for the film going forward. If you have a chance to get on the phone for a few minutes tomorrow, or at your earliest convenience, that would be great. I'd welcome the opportunity to give you a quick briefing.

Best,

Mark Boal

12
Gregory, James LTC OSD PA

From: Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2011 4:12 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: RE: bin Laden movie

Will do.

-----Original Message-----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2011 4:10 PM
To: Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA
Subject: RE: bin Laden movie

Please let me know how it goes.

Vr/Bob

Commander Bob Mehal
Public Affairs Officer
Defense Press Operations
1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
Washington, DC 20301-1400
(703) 697-4162

-----Original Message-----

From: Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2011 2:36 PM
To: Nye, Edward T COL USSOCOM HQ; Gregory, James LTC OSD PA; Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA;
(b)(3):U.S.C. 403g
Subject: FW: bin Laden movie

Gentlemen, FYI

Best,

Phil

Philip M. Strub
Director of Entertainment Media
Department of Defense
The Pentagon, 2E966
Washington, DC 20301-1400
P (703) 695-2936
F (703) 692-5294

-----Original Message-----

From: Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA

Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2011 8:52 AM

To: 'M B'

Cc: (b) (3) (b) (6) Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA; Farnsworth, Sarah S Ms OSD PA; Ogilvie, Vicente Mr OSD PA

Subject: RE: bin Laden movie

Hi Mark,

I'll be in today (Thurs 6/16) and tomorrow, from about 0830-1700 EDT.

Best,

Phil

Philip M. Strub

Director of Entertainment Media

Department of Defense

The Pentagon, 2E966

Washington, DC 20301-1400

P (703) 695-2936

F (703) 692-5294

-----Original Message-----

From: M B [mailto:mark(b)(6)]

Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2011 7:13 PM

To: Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA

Cc: (b)(6) Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA

Subject: bin Laden movie

Hi Phil,

Hope this finds you well.

This is just a quick note to say that, as you may have heard, I'm writing and producing a new film -- which Kathryn Bigelow will direct and SONY will release in 2012 -- and which deals with the hunt for Osama Bin Laden and the May 1 raid that resulted in his death. I've been talking to various folks in the intel and military community in order to research the film, and wanted to reach out to you as well to give you a sense of our plans for the film going forward. If you have a chance to get on the phone for a few minutes tomorrow, or at your earliest convenience, that would be great. I'd welcome the opportunity to give you a quick briefing.

Best,

Mark Boal

>> From: "Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA" <Robert.Mehal@osd.mil>
>> Date: Tue, 7 Jun 2011 16:23:27
>> To: 'mark(b)(6)' <mark(b)(6)>
>> Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie
>>
>> Mark, Meet at the visitors' center at the Metro entance at 1230 pm Thursday. We have a 1245 with Dr Vickers.
>> Let me know if you have any questions.
>> Bob
>> -----
>> Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device
>>
>>
>> ----- Original Message -----
>> From: mark(b)(6) [mailto:mark(b)(6)]
>> Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 10:13 PM
>> To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; 'mark(b)(6)'
>> <'mark(b)(6)'
>> Cc: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI;
>> Lowery, Todd R CIV OSD OUSDI
>> Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie
>>
>> Bob,
>> Thank you. Thursday is good for me, I'm in D.C, and available at your convenience.
>> Mark
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
>> To: 'mark(b)(6)'
>> Cc: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
>> Cc: Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
>> Cc: Lowery, Todd R CIV OSD OUSDI
>> Subject: Bin Laden Movie
>> Sent: Jun 6, 2011 10:06 PM
>>
>> Mark, Hello, I am Dr Vickers Public Affairs Officer. He will be in on Thursday if you are still going to be in town. If not we could look at doing something the next time you are in DC. He has agreed to meet with you, but you just caught him at a time when he has travel scheduled.
>> Resp,
>> Bob
>>
>> ----- Original Message -----
>> From: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
>> Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 04:57 AM
>> To: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
>> Cc: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
>> Subject: Re: Bin laden movie
>>
>> They've already talked to DD/CIA Morell.
>>
>> Happy to meet with them.
>> -----
>> Sent from my wireless handheld
>>
>> ----- Original Message -----
>> From: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA

>> Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2011 11:30 PM
>> To: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
>> Cc: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
>> Subject: Fw: Bin laden movie
>>
>> What do you all think? These guys are the Oscar winning team behind the Hurt Locker.
>>
>> Geoff Morrell
>> Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Pentagon Press Secretary
>> 703-614-2935 (O)
>> 571-309-4978 (C)
>>
>>
>> ----- Original Message -----
>> From: mark (b)(6) [mailto:mark (b)(6)]
>> Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2011 11:27 PM
>> To: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
>> Subject: Bin laden movie
>>
>> Hi Geoff,
>>
>> Regarding our upcoming film about the hunt for OBL -- which Kathryn Bigelow is directing
and I am writing and producing, as our follow-up to The Hurt Locker -- am thinking that it
would be wise for me to touch base with Under Secretary Mike Vickers.... Naturally, I
understand the sensitivities, and more than anything, am simply hoping for an opportunity to
briefly tell him about the project's scope....
>> Please let me know if you would you be up for facilitating an introduction. I'll be in
D.C. for at least a few more days.
>>
>> Thanks,
>> Mark Boal
>>
>>
>> Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T
>>
>> -----
>> Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device
>>
>>
>> Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

13
Gregory, James LTC OSD PA

From: Ogilvie, Vicente Mr OSD PA
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2011 10:07 AM
To: Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA
Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie

Hope there's no fallout with Sarah that you shared this with me, showing Doug's Ps that it should be you, not me, to meet with MB.
Sent from my BB device.
Vicente.ogilvie@osd.mil

----- Original Message -----

From: Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2011 09:12 AM
To: Farnsworth, Sarah S Ms OSD PA
Cc: Ogilvie, Vicente Mr OSD PA
Subject: RE: Bin Laden Movie

Thanks, Sarah. I've heard nothing from Mark as yet. Will keep you informed if/when I do.

Best,

Phil

-----Original Message-----

From: Farnsworth, Sarah S Ms OSD PA
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2011 6:27 AM
To: Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA
Subject: Fw: Bin Laden Movie

Fyi

----- Original Message -----

From: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2011 06:25 AM
To: Farnsworth, Sarah S Ms OSD PA; Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA; Lapan, David COL OSD PA
Cc: Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA
Subject: RE: Bin Laden Movie

Phil should definitely meet with Mark and get his own sense of the film. We have been supportive to date, as has Director Panetta, but I will be interested in Phil's views on this one in particular. Thanks--Doug (PS -- It should be Phil that meets with Mark)

-----Original Message-----

From: Farnsworth, Sarah S Ms OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2011 2:59 PM
To: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA; Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA; Lapan, David COL OSD PA
Cc: Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA
Subject: FW: Bin Laden Movie

Hi Doug - this can wait but Vince/Phil forwarded your note to me regarding guidance from the WH as they were just contacted by Mark Boal so were looking for some guidance as how to proceed.

Appreciate the guidance - Sarah

----- Original Message -----

From: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA

Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2011 02:34 PM

To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI

Cc: Ferguson, Thomas A CIV, OSD OUSDI; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA;

Lapan, David COL OSD PA; James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; Gregory, James LTC OSD PA; Robbins,

Elizabeth LTC OSD PA; Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI. (b)(3):U.S.C. 403g

(b)(3):U.S.C. 403g

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA; Ogilvie, Vicente Mr OSD PA

Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie

Thanks, Bob. Ok to set up the second session with Vickers. I am getting additional guidance from WH

----- Original Message -----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2011 12:19 PM

To: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI

Cc: Ferguson, Thomas A CIV, OSD OUSDI; Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA;

Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA; Lapan, David COL OSD PA; James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; Gregory,

James LTC OSD PA; Robbins, Elizabeth LTC OSD PA; Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI; (b)(3):U.S.C. 403g

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA; Ogilvie, Vicente Mr OSD PA

Subject: FW: Bin Laden Movie

Sir, From Mark Boal. Have you heard anything from leadership yet about how we want to proceed? I believe this is still in the research phase, but need to be clear on the approach we are taking before we schedule.

Vr/Bob

CDR Bob Mehal

OASD(PA)

703-697-4162

-----Original Message-----

From: M B [mailto:mark (b)(6)]

Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2011 12:07 PM

To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie

Bob:

Good afternoon. Following up on the meeting with Dr Vickers, my take away is that we'd try to find some time to sit down again before the summer holidays. My dates when I'll next be in D.C. are:

20-21 June

27 June - 1 July.

Please let me know if any of those fit in Dr Vickers schedule.

Additionally, wanted to let you know that we anticipate making formal request for DOD support in early July. We are also talking to WH.

Thanks again for setting all this up.

Best,

Mark

On Jun 9, 2011, at 8:02 AM, Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA wrote:

> Mark, Great! I can start breathing again... I was worried we were going to lose the spot.

>

> I will be waiting at the Pentagon's Visitor's Center (Metro Entrance), please allow a few minutes for security screening.

>

> We will meet with Dr Vickers at 1215 and he has a hard 1300 stop.

>

> See you then.

>

> Resp,

> Bob

>

> Commander Bob Mehal

> Public Affairs Officer

> Defense Press Operations

> 1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)

> Washington, DC 20301-1400

> (703) 697-4162

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Mark Boal [mailto:mark(b)(6)]

> Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 10:56 AM

> To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

> Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie

>

> Yes I can be there at noon

>

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

> On Jun 9, 2011, at 9:59 AM, "Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA" <Robert.Mehal@osd.mil> wrote:

>

>> Mark, Please let me know if you can be here by 1200; trying to hold the spot.

>>

>> Vr/Bob

>>

>> Commander Bob Mehal

>> Public Affairs Officer

>> Defense Press Operations

>> 1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)

>> Washington, DC 20301-1400

>> (703) 697-4162

>>

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

>> Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 8:42 AM

>> To: 'mark(b)(6)

>> Subject: RE: Bin Laden Movie

>>

>> Mark, Is there any chance we can move up the meeting to 1200 or 1215? Dr Vickers is back today and his schedule is really full. He is willing to use his lunch to meet.

>>

>> Please let me know soonest.

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>> Resp,

>> Bob

>>

>> Commander Bob Mehal

>> Public Affairs Officer

>> Defense Press Operations

>> 1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)

>> Washington, DC 20301-1400

>> (703) 697-4162

>>

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: mark(b)(6) [mailto:mark(b)(6)]

>> Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2011 5:57 PM

>> To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

>> Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie

>>

>> Roger

>> Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: "Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA" <Robert.Mehal@osd.mil>

>> Date: Tue, 7 Jun 2011 16:23:27

>> To: 'mark(b)(6)' <mark(b)(6)>

>> Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie

>>

>> Mark, Meet at the visitors' center at the Metro entrance at 1230 pm Thursday. We have a 1245 with Dr Vickers.

>> Let me know if you have any questions.

>> Bob

>> -----

>> Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device

>>

>>

>> ----- Original Message -----

>> From: mark(b)(6) [mailto:mark(b)(6)]

>> Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 10:13 PM

>> To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; 'mark@markboal.com'

>> <'mark(b)(6)'

>> Cc: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI;

>> Lowery, Todd R CIV OSD OUSDI

>> Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie

>>

>> Bob,

>> Thank you. Thursday is good for me, I'm in D.C, and available at your convenience.

>> Mark

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

>> To: 'mark(b)(6)

>> Cc: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA

>> Cc: Weinstein, Douglas EMr OSD OUSDI

>> Cc: Lowery, Todd R CIV OSD OUSDI

>> Subject: Bin Laden Movie

>> Sent: Jun 6, 2011 10:06 PM

>>

>> Mark, Hello, I am Dr Vickers Public Affairs Officer. He will be in on Thursday if you are still going to be in town. If not we could look at doing something the next time you are in DC. He has agreed to meet with you, but you just caught him at a time when he has travel scheduled.

>> Resp,

>> Bob

>>

>> ----- Original Message -----

>> From: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI

>> Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 04:57 AM

>> To: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA

>> Cc: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

>> Subject: Re: Bin laden movie

>>

>> They've already talked to DD/CIA Morell.

>>

>> Happy to meet with them.

>> -----

>> Sent from my wireless handheld

>>

>> ----- Original Message -----

>> From: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA

>> Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2011 11:30 PM

>> To: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI

>> Cc: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

>> Subject: Fw: Bin laden movie

>>

>> What do you all think? These guys are the Oscar winning team behind the Hurt Locker.

>>

>> Geoff Morrell

>> Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Pentagon Press Secretary

>> 703-614-2935 (O)

>> 571-309-4978 (C)

>>

>>

>> ----- Original Message -----

>> From: mark(b)(6) [mailto:mark(b)(6)]

>> Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2011 11:27 PM

>> To: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA

>> Subject: Bin laden movie

>>

>> Hi Geoff,

>>

>> Regarding our upcoming film about the hunt for OBL -- which Kathryn Bigelow is directing and I am writing and producing, as our follow-up to The Hurt Locker -- am thinking that it would be wise for me to touch base with Under Secretary Mike Vickers.... Naturally, I understand the sensitivities, and more than anything, am simply hoping for an opportunity to briefly tell him about the project's scope....

>> Please let me know if you would you be up for facilitating an introduction. I'll be in D.C. for at least a few more days.

>>
>> Thanks,
>> Mark Boal
>>
>>
>> Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T
>>
>> -----
>> Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device
>>
>>
>> Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

14
Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

From: Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2011 10:57 AM
To: Nye, Edward T COL USSOCOM HQ; Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; McGraw, Kenneth S Mr CIV USSOCOM HQ
Cc: Ogilvie, Vicente Mr OSD PA; Gregory, James LTC OSD PA; (b)(3):U.S.C. 403g Augustine (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Mark Boal conversation

Sounds good. Do you want to set a time?

Phil

-----Original Message-----

From: Nye, Edward T COL USSOCOM HQ (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2011 10:40 AM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA; McGraw, Kenneth S Mr CIV USSOCOM HQ
Cc: Ogilvie, Vicente Mr OSD PA; Gregory, James LTC OSD PA; (b)(3):U.S.C. 403g (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Subject: Re: Mark Boal conversation

Phil - Bob, thanks for the info.

(b) (5)

Nye

----- Original Message -----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA [mailto:Robert.Mehal@osd.mil]
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2011 09:52 AM
To: Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA
Cc: Ogilvie, Vicente Mr OSD PA; Nye, Edward T COL USSOCOM HQ; Gregory, James Maj OSD PA (b)(3):U.S.C. 403g
(b)(3):U.S.C. 403g
Subject: RE: Mark Boal conversation

Phil, That is completely consistent with what I provided after his discussion with Dr Vickers.

Vr/Bob

Commander Bob Mehal
Public Affairs Officer
Defense Press Operations
1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
Washington, DC 20301-1400
(703) 697-4162

-----Original Message-----

From: Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2011 9:24 AM
To: Nye, Edward T COL USSOCOM HQ; Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; Gregory, James LTC OSD PA;
(b)(3):U.S.C. 403g

Cc: Ogilvie, Vicente Mr OSD PA
Subject: Mark Boal conversation

FYI,

I got a call yesterday from Mark Boal. He explained what had already been in the trade press, that he'd been working on a Tora Bora script when the Bin Laden operation took place, and now they've switched to that story. He mentioned the interviews here and at CIA, and hoped I would be in on these (at least at DoD) in the future. He said he expects to complete the script this summer, and was still wondering about potential filming locations. He intends to ask for DoD production assistance, TBD. The picture is expected to have a 4th quarter 2012 release. They are financing independently with Sony doing the distribution. He agreed to keep me up to date with his research efforts. Of course at some point he hopes to interview SEALs, and whether SOCOM/ would be amenable to this kind of research remains to be seen.

Best,

Phil

Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

From: Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2011 5:34 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA
Cc: James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; Gregory, James LTC OSD PA
Subject: RE: WH meeting with Mark Boal
Signed By: carl.woog@osd.mil

Bob,

We've got the green light to proceed with this at the schedule best for Vickers and us. The White House does want to engage with Mark but it probably won't be for a few more weeks. We should provide them a read-out of the session you do with Vickers.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Carl

 Carl Woog
 Special Assistant to the
 Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs
 Pentagon 2E964
 703-697-7341 direct
 703-697-9312 office
carl.woog@osd.mil
carl.woog@osd.smil.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2011 1:39 PM
To: Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA
Cc: James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; Gregory, James LTC OSD PA; Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA
Subject: RE: WH meeting with Mark Boal

Thanks sir. I am meeting with Dr Vickers at 0745 tomorrow and was hoping to have an answer when it comes up - i.e., his meeting with Boal, again.

If pressed I will tell him we will put it on the schedule tentatively and react to whatever happens with the WH mtg.

Vr/Bob

Commander Bob Mehal
 Public Affairs Officer
 Defense Press Operations
 1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
 Washington, DC 20301-1400
 (703) 697-4162

-----Original Message-----

From: Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2011 12:54 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

Cc: James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; Gregory, James LTC OSD PA; Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA
Subject: RE: WH meeting with Mark Boal

Hey Bob,

(b)(5)

Will follow up with you soonest.

JM

-----Original Message-----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2011 12:47 PM

To: Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA

Cc: James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; Gregory, James LTC OSD PA

Subject: WH meeting with Mark Boal

(b)(5)

holder on Dr Vickers' calendar.

Need to try to put a place

Vr/Bob

Commander Bob Mehal

Public Affairs Officer

Defense Press Operations

1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)

Washington, DC 20301-1400

(703) 697-4162

Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

From: Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2011 4:58 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: FW: Boal/Bergen
Signed By: douglas.weinstein@osd.mil

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Bob,

FYSA from the WH.

Doug

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2011 4:14 PM
To: Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
Subject:

You should be hearing from Mark Boal, screenwriter for the UBL movie being directed by Katherine Bigallo, to request time with Dr Vickers for an interview/backgrounder. I'm getting a copy of the request from our WH press, and am not exactly sure how it was conveyed to us.

Peter Bergen is also interested in contacting your office for the book he's writing on UBL.

17
Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

From: Mark Boal [mark (b)(6)]
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2011 7:14 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Re: Vickers Scheduling this week

310 773 1869
Am free:
9:30- 10:30, or anytime after 1400

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 28, 2011, at 6:46 PM, "Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA" <Robert.Mehal@osd.mil> wrote:

> Mark, What number and give me a time window.
> Bob

> -----
> Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: Mark Boal [mailto:mark (b)(6)]
> Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2011 06:32 PM
> To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
> Subject: Re: Vickers Scheduling this week

> Hey, I understand.
> I'll let u know as my schedule firms up, and thanks for trying.

> Btw , if you get a chance to talk for a few minutes tomorrow, that would be great. would like to give a quick progress report

> Sent from my iPhone

> On Jun 28, 2011, at 5:24 PM, "Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA" <Robert.Mehal@osd.mil> wrote:

>> Mark, Bad news from the schedulers. Dr Vickers mtg that we were hoping would be cancelled tomorrow afternoon is going to happen. So, at this point there is not a 30 minute window between now and Friday night - I don't know how he does it.

>> Are you planning to come back to town anytime soon?

>> Resp,
>> Bob

>> Commander Bob Mehal
>> Public Affairs Officer
>> Defense Press Operations
>> 1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
>> Washington, DC 20301-1400
>> (703) 697-4162

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: mark (b)(6) [mailto:mark (b)(6)]
>> Sent: Monday, June 27, 2011 6:29 PM
>> To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

>> Subject: Re: Vickers Scheduling this week

>>

>> Yes, I am available Wednesday

>>

>> Thank you for navigating this thru

>>

>> Mark

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

>> To: mb User

>> Subject: Vickers Scheduling this week

>> Sent: Jun 27, 2011 6:05 PM

>>

>> Mark, We are trying to shift around Dr Vickers schedule to try and find a window for you to speak with him. I will know better tomorrow, but if we can, would you be available Wed afternoon?

>>

>> Resp,

>> Bob

>>

>> Commander Bob Mehal

>> Public Affairs Officer

>> Defense Press Operations

>> 1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)

>> Washington, DC 20301-1400

>> (703) 697-4162

>>

>>

>>

>>

>> Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

18
Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

From: Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2011 10:55 AM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: RE: UBL Movie

Thanks! At least I'd hear some of what's been discussed.

-----Original Message-----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2011 10:51 AM
To: Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA
Cc: Ogilvie, Vicente Mr OSD PA
Subject: RE: UBL Movie

Good to know. I will push to include you. Vr/Bob

Commander Bob Mehal
Public Affairs Officer
Defense Press Operations
1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
Washington, DC 20301-1400
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-----Original Message-----

From: Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2011 10:50 AM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Cc: Ogilvie, Vicente Mr OSD PA
Subject: RE: UBL Movie

Thanks, Bob, I should be here.

Best,

Phil

-----Original Message-----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2011 10:44 AM
To: Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA
Cc: Ogilvie, Vicente Mr OSD PA
Subject: UBL Movie

Phil, Mark and Kathryn are in town 15-22 Jul. I am trying to get them on Dr Vickers schedule on the 15th - he is TDY the week of 18-22 Jul.

Vr/Bob

Bin Laden: The Movie

<http://www.google.com/url?sa=X&q=http://www.bostonreview.net/BR36.4/alan_a_stone_bin_laden_movie.php&ct=ga&cad=CACQAhgAIAAAoATAFOAVA5-fY8ARIAVAAWABiAmVu&cd=bqkBMhy_paE&usg=AFQjCNEurQvOsuHwwULxGw24XREfDhAiaw>
Boston Review

A team of highly trained special forces—Navy Seals willing to die for their country—had helicoptered deep into Pakistan and entered Bin Laden's secret compound in a late-night surprise attack. A firefight with Bin Laden's armed bodyguards followed, ...

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19
Gregory, James LTC OSD PA

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2011 10:41 AM
To: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Cc: Gentile, Philip D COL OSD OUSDI; Lowery, Todd R CIV OSD OUSDI; Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
Subject: UBL Movie

Sir, Doug and I are trying to get Mark and Kathryn on your schedule next week. They are in town 15-22 Jul (but you will be TDY 18-22). I included the link and the long version of the article. Vr/Bob

Bin Laden: The Movie

<http://www.google.com/url?sa=X&q=http://www.bostonreview.net/BR36.4/alan_a_stone_bin_laden_movie.php&ct=ga&cad=CACQAhgAIAAoATAFOAVA5-fY8ARIAVAWABiAmVu&cd=bqkBMhy_paE&usg=AFQjCNEurQvOsuHwwULxGw24XREfDhAiaw>

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The director of The Hurt Locker takes on the 9/11 mastermind Alan A. Stone Jonathan Olley / Summit Entertainment The first account of Osama Bin Laden's death was like the screenplay for a John Wayne movie. A team of highly trained special forces—Navy Seals willing to die for their country—had helicoptered deep into Pakistan and entered Bin Laden's secret compound in a late-night surprise attack. A firefight with Bin Laden's armed bodyguards followed, in which amazingly none of the Seals were injured or killed. The stronghold was secured. When the Seals reached Bin Laden's living quarters, the armed leader of al Qaeda tried to use one of his wives as a human shield, so a sharp-shooting Seal aimed high and blew away the top of his head.

Old-fashioned justice was served, not the law on the books, but the law of the Western frontier that has long been cinema's stock and trade. The villain dies with a gun in his hand, and the hero in the white hat, honest and honorable, overcomes impossible odds. The familiar narrative sent people out into the streets waving American flags in triumph and chanting, "U.S.A., U.S.A.," as Americans reportedly first did when our ragtag hockey team upset Soviet professionals in the 1980 Winter Olympics. This is the version of Bin Laden's death that most Americans wanted to hear, having waited for a decade after 9/11 to get the guy who did it.

In the days that followed, we learned that this story was far from the truth, which emerged more slowly and disjointedly. The raid had not been flawless: one of the high-tech choppers had gone down for unexplained reasons and had to be destroyed; the Seals faced almost no armed resistance; Bin Laden himself was not armed, nor did he use his wife as a shield; and two Seals shot him at close range, one bullet hitting him in the head, the other in the chest. Many in the Muslim world thought he died a martyr.

Which version of the story will take its place in popular history? No doubt Hollywood will have something to say about that. Only days after Bin Laden's corpse slid into the Arabian Sea, a Hollywood director, Kathryn Bigelow, announced that a screenplay was underway and the

first actor had been cast. In fact Bigelow and writer Mark Boal had already been working on a screenplay dealing with the search for Bin Laden. Now they had an ending.

Bigelow and Boal have collaborated before—on the screenplay and as co-producers of *The Hurt Locker*, which earned Bigelow an Oscar for direction, the first ever won by a woman. In an emotionally charged Oscar night, Bigelow took Best Picture from her former husband and collaborator James Cameron, whose 3D blockbuster *Avatar* was favored. Bigelow had tried a blockbuster herself, the confusingly titled *K-19: The Widowmaker* (2002), based on a true story about a Soviet atomic submarine that nearly exploded in 1961. When the sub's cooling system was compromised, Soviet officers faced an impossible dilemma: risk deadly radiation or allow a nuclear explosion that would surely lead to the third world war. Bigelow had a \$100 million budget, a first-rate cast, and an interesting idea: ordinary, even politically placed, officers with all the petty interests of self-serving human beings would unexpectedly do the right thing and save the world. According to the Web site Box Office Mojo, the film lost about \$35 million in theaters. So a few years later, while her ex-husband was making one of the most expensive movies in Hollywood history, Bigelow looked for a low-budget project.

Only days after Bin Laden's corpse slid into the Arabian Sea, Kathryn Bigelow announced that a screenplay was underway.

She found Boal, a journalist who had worked for *Playboy* and written about the Iraq War. That tragic, senseless slaughter of Iraqis and the sacrifice of young American lives grinds on under the Petraeus military strategy that asks our troops to bribe their way into the good graces of people whose lives we have ruined. If this were the plot for a Hollywood movie, no one would believe it.

American movie audiences have little interest in films based on the Iraq War. But they do care deeply about the soldiers who have fought there. And Boal's reporting focused on the plight of our soldiers, not the progress of our war. His first screenplay seems to have been based on the work of other reporters who tracked down a series of ghastly murders committed by soldiers returned from Iraq. The message of that film, *In the Valley of Elah* (2007), was that the horror of Iraq was turning our soldiers—our children—into monsters. Boal carefully stayed away from the psychiatric jargon of post-traumatic stress disorder, instead focusing on how the war was destroying the humanity of our soldiers: they had become lost souls, a price too high even in the name of god and country. The film was a succès d'estime mostly because of Tommy Lee Jones's performance as the father of a veteran murdered by other soldiers. It is an important antiwar film.

When Boal connected with Bigelow, he was working on a screenplay about his experience as a journalist embedded with a bomb-defusing squad in Baghdad in 2004. Bigelow—who resists the stereotypes about female directors saving us from the male “gaze” and the Y chromosome's preoccupation with violence—was interested. Her fascination with violence emerged in film school at Columbia, where her student project seems almost prophetic: a fifteen-minute sequence of two men (one apparently Gary Busey) beating each other, while on the soundtrack two semioticians theorize about the endless appetite for violence in films. It is not clear whether Bigelow, whose background is in avant-garde conceptual art, wanted to make a point about violence or whether the film was a kind of conceptual art with images and sounds approaching the same subject via different tracks—the thing itself and the discourse about it. Bigelow moved on to Hollywood and made films that she characterizes as “pushing the medium.” *Near Dark* (1987), about teenage vampires in Oklahoma, became a cult film, and *Point Break* (1991) is an action classic. She also earned the respect of critics and cineastes as one of the serious people in Hollywood.

Jonathan Olley / Summit Entertainment

Today Bigelow is so famous that the Museum of Modern Art recently announced a retrospective. In that announcement a discerning anonymous critic writes of Bigelow, “Her characters, often operating in an arena of adrenaline, straddle the line between superhero and heartbreakingly

human." There can be no better description of The Hurt Locker's Sergeant William James, played by Jeremy Renner. (Here in Cambridge, one cannot help but wonder how Boal and Bigelow chose that name for their protagonist.) Psychologists have many good explanations for cowardice but almost none for courage, and thus Sergeant James is a psychological mystery. Bigelow has always been interested in warriors, and Sergeant James may be her most intriguing, someone who cannot be compassed in the standard categories.

The Hurt Locker is a series of incidents involving a three-man team tasked with dismantling improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in and around Baghdad at the height of the insurgency. There is no orienting description of the military situation, geography of the city, or reasons for the war: the audience is left to supply its own. The film begins with the line, "war is a drug," so the subject, it seems, is addiction. The first scene appears to be filmed by a bystander using a smart phone—it has that kind of grainy quality and amateurish framing. We slowly realize we are watching a robotic device that has been dispatched to detonate what may be a bomb. The weapons of choice for insurgents in Iraq, IEDs are primitive devices that can nonetheless inflict considerable damage, allowing an unknown killer to retaliate against high-tech American weapons and soldiers. The robot gets stuck in rubble and comes to a halt; that image alone might be a metaphor for the Iraq War. Sergeant Matthew Thompson (Guy Pearce), head of the bomb squad, dons his protective armor and waddles toward the IED. The suspense mounts not with the subtle manipulation of Hitchcock but with heart-in-your-throat terror. The robot does not work, the armor offers no protection, and Thompson's team—Sergeant JT Sanborn (Anthony Mackie) and Specialist Owen Eldridge (Brian Geraghty)—watch their friend killed as the bomb explodes. They are stunned, as we are. Bigelow makes us believe that what we are seeing is real.

The Hurt Locker thus begins as a story of ineptitude and futility. These are not invincible soldiers like John Wayne. In every scene of soldiers risking their lives to defuse bombs, Iraqi civilians look on without sympathy or concern, their apathetic silence proclaiming the hollowness of this war. The insurgents who planted the bomb may even be there among the onlookers hoping to see a slaughter. The American troops recognize this disdain, and they fear that every Iraqi civilian—man or woman or child—may be a suicide bomber. The mutual hatred and contempt are palpable.

Bigelow shows a quality that many directors lack: compassion enough to make all her characters human.

Thompson's death leaves his men shaken to the core. Sanborn, a career soldier who does everything by the book, desperately tries to find safety in the words of his Army instruction manuals. He is almost immobilized by fear. For Eldridge the sergeant's death is the trauma that pushes him over the edge. Alarm bells keep going off in his brain; the slightest noise startles him. He can no longer trust his own senses to sort out the dangers he faces, nor can his fellow soldiers trust him.

Sergeant James leads these two men—one shaken and one broken. He is an existential antihero who believes in nothing but his project, like the doctor in Camus's *The Plague*. While Sanborn and Eldridge do their work reluctantly, filled with dread that each struggles to control in his own way, James seems to relish the work defusing roadside IEDs, explosives planted in the entrails of dead bodies, suicide vests chained to unwilling victims, booby-trapped cars. Faced with these dangers, James shows no sign of reluctance. If he did not always succeed we might think him reckless.

James's project has destroyed his ability to connect with his wife and children. Although he has what might be called episodes of human feeling in which he seems to care about people, he is incapable of real connection. When his rotation in Iraq is over, we see him lost in the supermarket. At the film's end, he is deplaning in Afghanistan.

But it is neither patriotism nor addiction that takes him back to war. Sergeant James has found his vocation. He is one of those rare workmen who enjoys his craft above all else. The opening line suggests that Bigelow and Boal want us to think we are watching someone addicted to the rush of adrenaline. But their Sergeant James cannot be reduced to an addict. His life, like ours, is a moral adventure, and everything he does, good or bad, is more than a reflexive habit; it is a measure of who he is. And he is, as the anonymous critic would have it, heartbreakingly human.

With *The Hurt Locker*, Bigelow shows a quality that many directors lack: compassion enough to make all her characters human. If any filmmaker is to tell the story of Bin Laden's pursuit and killing, we would be fortunate that it be she. She might not vindicate your political sensibilities, but she will make it real.

Commander Bob Mehal
Public Affairs Officer
Defense Press Operations
1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
Washington, DC 20301-1400
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20
Gregory, James LTC OSD PA

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2011 11:05 AM
To: Lapan, David COL OSD PA; Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA
Cc: James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; Turner, James Mr OSD PA; Parker, Tamara LTC OSD PA; Gregory, James LTC OSD PA; Robbins, Elizabeth L LTC OSD PA
Subject: FW: UBL Movie

Col Lapan, FYI/SA. Boal and Bigelow are scheduled to meet with DepCIA on the 15th and I am trying to get them on Dr Vickers schedule - will work to include Phil in that meeting as well.

Col Martin, Please feel free to forward to Mr Wilson at your discretion - he has personally been involved with this project.

Vr/Bob
CDR Bob Mehal
OASD(PA)
703-697-4162

Bin Laden: The Movie

<http://www.google.com/url?sa=X&q=http://www.bostonreview.net/BR36.4/alan_a_stone_bin_laden_movie.php&ct=ga&cad=CACQAhgAIAAoATAFOAVA5-fY8ARIAVAABiAmVu&cd=bqkBMhy_paE&usg=AFQjCNEurQvOsuHwwULxGw24XREfDhAiaw>

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21
Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

From: mark (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2011 11:34 AM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Re: Vickers Scheduling this week

Standing by
Thanks.
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

-----Original Message-----

From: "Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA" <Robert.Mehal@osd.mil>
Date: Fri, 8 Jul 2011 11:12:07
To: 'mark (b)(6)' <mark (b)(6)>
Subject: RE: Vickers Scheduling this week

Mark, We're working it. Probably won't have anything more definite until next week... but I think we may be able to make it work. Resp, Bob

Commander Bob Mehal
Public Affairs Officer
Defense Press Operations
1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
Washington, DC 20301-1400
(703) 697-4162

-----Original Message-----

From: mark (b)(6) [mailto:mark (b)(6)]
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2011 10:51 AM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Re: Vickers Scheduling this week

Would 1pm work
- or 5pm?

We have a Langley meeting with acting DCIA at 3pm.

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

-----Original Message-----

From: "Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA" <Robert.Mehal@osd.mil>
Date: Fri, 8 Jul 2011 10:17:21
To: 'Mark Boal' <mark (b)(6)>
Subject: RE: Vickers Scheduling this week

Mark, The only day the Boss might be available is Friday 15th, but I think his schedule may only be open in the afternoon. What time are your meetings on Friday?

He is out of the office the entire next week, so this may be the only opportunity for a while. Also, don't see an issue with including Kathryn in the meeting.

Let me know soonest, because once folks find out he is going to be here on Friday his schedule will fill up quickly.

Resp,
Bob

Commander Bob Mehal
Public Affairs Officer
Defense Press Operations
1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
Washington, DC 20301-1400
(703) 697-4162

-----Original Message-----

From: Mark Boal [mailto:mark(b)(6)]
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2011 5:32 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Re: Vickers Scheduling this week

Bob,
Good afternoon.

During our previous attempt to schedule a meeting, you'd asked when I'd be back in town. I now have an answer: July 15- July 22.

Please let me know if anything in that span works for Dr. Vickers. Apart from scheduled meetings on the afternoon of 15 July, I am open to anytime.

Last, Kathryn Bigelow, who directed Hurt Locker and is directing this film, will also be in D.C. in that timeframe. I wonder if you agree that it would be advisable for her to join the meeting?

As always, Bob, Thanks very much for your work on this. Looking forward to talkin and seeing you soon.

Best,

Mark

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 28, 2011, at 2:24 PM, "Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA" <Robert.Mehal@osd.mil> wrote:

> Mark, Bad news from the schedulers. Dr Vickers mtg that we were hoping would be cancelled tomorrow afternoon is going to happen. So, at this point there is not a 30 minute window between now and Friday night - I don't know how he does it.

>

> Are you planning to come back to town anytime soon?

>

> Resp,

> Bob

>

> Commander Bob Mehal

> Public Affairs Officer

> Defense Press Operations

> 1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)

> Washington, DC 20301-1400

> (703) 697-4162

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: mark(b)(6) [mailto:mark(b)(6)]

> Sent: Monday, June 27, 2011 6:29 PM

> To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

> Subject: Re: Vickers Scheduling this week

> Yes, I am available Wednesday

> Thank you for navigating this thru

> Mark

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

> To: mb User

> Subject: Vickers Scheduling this week

> Sent: Jun 27, 2011 6:05 PM

> Mark, We are trying to shift around Dr Vickers schedule to try and find a window for you to speak with him. I will know better tomorrow, but if we can, would you be available Wed afternoon?

> Resp,

> Bob

> Commander Bob Mehal

> Public Affairs Officer

> Defense Press Operations

> 1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)

> Washington, DC 20301-1400

> (703) 697-4162

> Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

27

Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

From: mark (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 3:09 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Cc: 'Sarah Zukowski'
Subject: Re: Meeting with Dr Vickers 15 July

No problem at all

-----Original Message-----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
To: mb User
Cc: 'Sarah Zukowski'
Subject: Meeting with Dr Vickers 15 July
Sent: Jul 13, 2011 11:37 AM

Mark, Is there any possibility of sliding our meeting Friday to a 6 p.m. start time? I know that is late, but the Boss has just been called out of the building for a 5:00-5:30 mtg over in DC. He could be back in the building for a 6 p.m. meeting, but wanted to see what your availability would be before we propose it to him.

My problem is he out of the office all next week on travel.

Resp,
Bob

Commander Bob Mehal
Public Affairs Officer
Defense Press Operations
1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
Washington, DC 20301-1400
(703) 697-4162

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

23
Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

From: Mark Boal [mark (b)(6)]
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2011 5:52 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Cc: Sarah Zukowski; Benner, Thomas K CIV, OSD OUSDI; (b)(6) Redding, Gregory Mr OSD PA; Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA; Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI
Subject: Re: Mark Boal and Kathryn Bigelow 7/15 Meeting at Pentagon

Pulling up now

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 15, 2011, at 9:45 AM, "Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA" <Robert.Mehal@osd.mil> wrote:

> Sarah, Car and passengers are cleared for the meeting this afternoon at 1800 (see below). I will meet them on the steps at the River Entrance.

> Tom, As discussed, could you please provide some short driving directions to be passed to Mr Virk - they will be coming from the agency to the River Entrance.

> R, Bob

> -----Original Message-----

> From: (b)(6)
> Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2011 6:37 PM
> To: Redding, Gregory Mr OSD PA
> Subject: RE: Mark Boal and Kathryn Bigelow 7/15 Meeting at Pentagon

> Gregory,

> Our Chief of Parking, (b)(6) took care of it. Here is his message:

> Mr. Boal and Ms. Bigelow have been cleared to be dropped off on 7-15-11 at River Entrance to meet with the Undersecretary.

> Their driver - Mr. Virk - has also been cleared to remain with the vehicle (b)(6) He can park and remain with the vehicle in the River Triangle area, spaces 163 - 172.

> (b)(6)

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Sarah Zukowski [mailto:szukowski@gloverparkgroup.com]
> Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 2:04 PM
> To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
> Cc: Redding, Gregory Mr OSD PA
> Subject: RE: Mark Boal and Kathryn Bigelow 7/15 Meeting at Pentagon

> Great, thank you so much, Commander. The driver is (b)(6) and he will be bringing Mark Boal and Kathryn Ann Bigelow on Friday.

> Car info:

> (b)(6)

> Do you need any other details such as DOB, SSN, etc for them? Also, are there any specific directions as to where they should go to enter the complex/building? They will be coming from the Agency in Langley if that makes a difference.

> Thanks again,

> Sarah

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA [<mailto:Robert.Mehal@osd.mil>]

> Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 1:41 PM

> To: Sarah Zukowski

> Cc: Redding, Gregory Mr OSD PA

> Subject: RE: Mark Boal and Kathryn Bigelow 7/15 Meeting at Pentagon

> Sarah, Please pass along the Car info: Year, Make and Model, and State and Plate number.

> Names of visitors and driver and we should be able to clear them at the River Entrance.

> Hit reply to all and I will ensure Mr Redding takes care of it.

> Commander Bob Mehal

> Public Affairs Officer

> Defense Press Operations

> 1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)

> Washington, DC 20301-1400

> (703) 697-4162

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Sarah Zukowski [<mailto:szukowski@gloverparkgroup.com>]

> Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 10:25 AM

> To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

> Subject: Mark Boal and Kathryn Bigelow 7/15 Meeting at Pentagon

> Hi Robert,

> I'm coordinating arrangements for Mark Boal and Kathryn Bigelow's meetings this Friday, July 15th at the Agency and the Pentagon and Mark said you are the person he has been in touch with regarding his meetings at the latter.

> Given your correspondence with Mark, are you the appropriate person to give their security clearance information to? I also have the information for the car and driver that will be bringing them to the Pentagon and assume I need to provide that as well. Please let me know who I should send these details to at your earliest convenience.

> Thanks in advance, Robert, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

> All the best,

> Sarah

> Sarah Zukowski

24
Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

From: mark (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2011 10:40 AM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Re: Follow up

Bob,
Thanks. I'll give you a shout this afternoon.
Mark

-----Original Message-----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
To: mb User
Subject: RE: Follow up
Sent: Jul 19, 2011 10:05 AM

Mark, I have as of yet been able to link up with our 06 contact. Let's see if we can try and schedule something the next time you are going to be in town.

Resp,
Bob

CDR Bob Mehal
OASD(PA)
703-697-4162

-----Original Message-----

From: mark (b)(6) [mailto:mark (b)(6)]
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2011 10:43 AM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Re: Follow up

Thanks, Bob.

-----Original Message-----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
To: mb User
Subject: Re: Follow up
Sent: Jul 16, 2011 5:54 PM

Mark, Will get the info from Mr Vickers and engage on Monday.
R/Bob

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device

----- Original Message -----

From: Mark Boal [mailto:mark (b)(6)]
Sent: Saturday, July 16, 2011 04:50 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Follow up

Bob,

Thanks again for your work on the meeting yesterday.

To recap, I am in D.C. through Tuesday, and so is (b)(6) has any availability in that span, that would be great and I will find time at his convenience.

Please feel free to pass along my contact information.

Thanks again

Best
Mark

Sent from my iPhone

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

"We have no additional operational details, or comments on operational details, to make at this time."

- On orders of the President, a small U.S. team assaulted a secure compound in an affluent suburb of Islamabad to capture or kill Osama bin Laden. The raid was conducted with U.S. military personnel assaulting on two helicopters. The team methodically cleared the compound, moving from room to room in an operation lasting nearly 40 minutes. They were engaged in a firefight throughout the operation, and Osama bin Laden was killed by the assaulting force.
- In addition to the bin Laden family, two other families resided in the compound: one family on the first floor of the bin Laden building, and one family in a second building.
- One team began the operation on the first floor of the bin Laden house and worked their way to the third floor. A second team cleared the separate building.
- On the first floor of bin Laden's building, two al Qaeda couriers were killed, along with a woman who was killed in crossfire. Bin Laden and his family were found on the second and third floor of the building. There was concern that bin Laden would oppose the capture operation -- operation rather, and, indeed, he did resist.
- In the room with bin Laden, a woman -- bin Laden's -- a woman, rather, bin Laden's wife, rushed the U.S. assaulter and was shot in the leg but not killed. Bin Laden was then shot and killed. He was not armed.
- Following the firefight, the noncombatants were moved to a safe location as the damaged helicopter was detonated. The team departed the scene via helicopter to the USS Carl Vinson in the North Arabian Sea.
- Aboard the USS Carl Vinson, the burial of bin Laden was done in conformance with Islamic precepts and practices. The deceased's body was washed and then placed in a white sheet. The body was placed in a weighted bag; a military officer read prepared religious remarks, which were translated into Arabic by a native speaker. After the words were complete, the body was placed on a prepared flat board, tipped up, and the deceased body eased into the sea.

Narrative of Events

Osama Bin Laden Compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan

On orders of the President, a small U.S. team assaulted a secure compound in an affluent suburb of Islamabad to capture or kill Osama bin Laden.

The raid was conducted with U.S. military personnel assaulting on two helicopters. The team methodically cleared the compound moving from room to room in an operation lasting nearly 40 minutes. They were engaged in a firefight throughout the operation and Osama Bin Laden was killed by the assaulting force.

In addition to the bin Laden family, two other families resided in the compound: one family on the first floor of the bin Laden building and one family in a second building. One team began the operation on the first floor of the bin Laden house and worked their way to the third floor; a second team cleared the separate building.

On the first floor of bin Laden's building, two Al Qaeda couriers were killed along with a woman who was killed in cross-fire. Bin Laden and his family were found on the second and third floor of the building. There was concern that bin Laden would oppose the capture operation and indeed he resisted.

In the room with bin Laden, a woman – bin Laden's wife – rushed the U.S. assaulter and was shot in the leg but not killed. Bin Laden was then shot and killed. [he was not armed]

Following the firefight, the non-combatants were moved to a safe location as the damaged helicopter was detonated.

The team departed the scene via helicopter to the USS Carl Vinson in the North Arabian Sea.

Aboard the USS Carl Vinson, the burial of bin Laden was done in conformance with Islamist precepts and practices. The deceased's body was washed and then placed in a white sheet. The body was placed in a weighted bag; a military officer read prepared religious remarks, which were translated into Arabic by a native speaker. After the words were complete, the body was placed on a prepared flat board, tipped up, and the deceased body eased into the sea.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ferguson, Thomas A CIV, OSD OUSDI

Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2011 2:33 PM

To: 'Long Letitia A NGA-D USA CIV'; 'Rowland Lloyd B Mr NGA-DD USA CIV'; Burgess Jr., LTG Ronald L.; 'david.shedd@dia.mil'; 'Bruce.Carlson@nro.mil'; Sapp, Betty, Ms. NRO; 'Kbalex2@nsa.gov'; 'Inglis, John C'

Cc: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI; Gentile, Philip D COL OSD OUSDI; Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; Smith, Heidi A CIV, OSD OUSDI

Subject: Recent Media Leaks

All,

While we are past the initial media blitz that followed the successful [REDACTED] operation, we are now seeing an increase in detailed requests in conjunction with books, documentaries, and film projects. These requests are being sent directly to the CSAs and are being sent simultaneously to multiple agencies. On behalf of Secretary Gates and Dr. Vickers, I request that you decline any direct requests for information regarding the UBL operation, current or previous CT operations, or any other operational issues related to CT activities.

Recently there have also been a number of sensitive items appearing in the press, which is quite troubling. We need your assistance in stopping such information from appearing in the news. Even the simplest of comments, taken out of context or as an accumulation of information, can be extremely damaging to OPSEC. The guidance from the Secretary Gates and Dr. Vickers has been very clear--such unauthorized releases are unacceptable.

Therefore, I ask before you engage with the news media, publishing or the entertainment industry, please ensure that all engagements/information requests are thoroughly coordinated with the Department of Defense Public Affairs Office. The OSD Public Affairs Officer for OUSD(I) is CDR Bob Mehal (703-697-4162 or robert.mehal@osd.mil). I also request that you remind your respective workforces and senior leadership of appropriate media engagement policies.

Tom Ferguson
PDUSD(I)

Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA

From: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2011 7:13 AM
To: 'Rhodes, Benjamin J.'
Cc: Smith, Jamie; (b)(3):U.S.C. 403g
Subject: UBL Film
Signed By: douglas.wilson@osd.mil

Need your guidance: Mark Boal, the Oscar-winning screenplay writer for "Hurt Locker", is teaming again with "Hurt Locker" director Kathryn Bigelow (the first woman to win an Academy Award for film direction) on "The Hunt for UBL". Both Boal and Bigelow are well-known to both Geoff and me. Both Geoff and I highly respect both of them. (FYI, Bigelow is actively assisting in Hollywood on "Joining Forces" and other military family issues.) SD Gates shares that admiration for their previous film efforts.

Boal has been working with us and with CIA (via George Little) for initial context briefings -- at DoD this have been provided by Mike Vickers, and at CIA by relevant officials with the full knowledge and full approval/support of Director Panetta.

I know that Jamie is keeping an informal list of press and film requests on this topic. Boal and Bigelow are pretty far along on their research, and will soon be engaging with the Pentagon's film liaison (who works for me).

Our overall engagement with Boal and Bigelow to date has been pretty general. But as this progresses, Mike Vickers and I (and I'm sure George as well) would welcome guidance regarding parameters, in particular those for Boal and Bigelow. My recommendation would be for us to link by phone sometime in the next couple of weeks with you and with John Brennan. Let me know your thoughts.

Thanks,

Doug

DoD:

This film project is only in the script development phase, and DoD is providing assistance with script research, which is something we commonly do for established filmmakers. Until there is a script to review, and a request for equipment or other DoD support, there is no formal agreement for DoD support. When people working on articles, books, documentaries or movies that involve the Department of Defense request assistance, we do our best to accommodate them to make sure the facts are correct. We do not discuss classified information.

CIA:

"As part of our public outreach, this Agency - like others in our government - has over the years engaged with writers, documentary filmmakers, movie and TV producers, and others in the entertainment industry. Our goal is an accurate portrayal of the men and women of the CIA, their vital mission, and the commitment to public service that defines them."

WH:

"These claims are ridiculous. When people working on articles, books, documentaries or movies that involve the President ask to speak to administration officials, we do our best to accommodate them to make sure the facts are correct. That's hardly a novel approach to the media. We do not discuss classified information. I'd hope that as we face a continued threat from terrorism, the House Committee on Homeland Security would have more important topics to discuss."

EXCERPTS FROM: THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS BRIEFING

For Immediate Release, August 10, 2011, 12:46 P.M. EDT

BY PRESS SECRETARY JAY CARNEY

ON OBL RAID MOVIE:

Q Peter King, the congressman, is calling for an investigation based on a report in Maureen Dowd's column today saying that Sony Pictures moviemakers doing the OBL raid movie have been given top-level access to the most clarified -- classified mission in history from an administration that's tried to throw more people in jail for leaking classified administration than the Bush administration. I think Mr. King is less involved, less concerned about the last part. But what's your response to that report -- both King's interest and also the inherent criticism that Maureen Dowd is --

MR. CARNEY: Well, I do have a response to that. First of all, the claims are ridiculous. When people, including you, in this room are working on articles, books, documentaries or movies that involve the President, ask to speak to administration officials, we do our best to accommodate them to make sure the facts are correct. That is hardly a novel approach to the media.

We do not discuss classified information. And I would hope that as we face a continued threat from terrorism, the House Committee on Homeland Security would have more important topics to discuss than a movie.

The information that this White House has provided about that mission has been focused on the President's role in -- there is no difference in the information that we've given to anybody who is working on this topic from what we gave to those of you in this room who worked on it in the days and weeks after the raid itself. In fact, the most specific information we've given from this White House about the actual raid I read to you from this podium. So it's simply false.

Parker, Fatima Ms OSD PA

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2011 11:05 AM
To: Lapan, David COL OSD PA; Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA
Cc: James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; Turner, James Mr OSD PA; Parker, Tamara LTC OSD PA; Gregory, James LTC OSD PA; Robbins, Elizabeth L LTC OSD PA
Subject: FW: UBL Movie

Col Lapan, FYI/SA. Boal and Bigelow are scheduled to meet with DepCIA on the 15th and I am trying to get them on Dr Vickers schedule - will work to include Phil in that meeting as well.

Col Martin, Please feel free to forward to Mr Wilson at your discretion - he has personally been involved with this project.

Vr/Bob
CDR Bob Mehal
OASD(PA)
703-697-4162

Bin Laden: The Movie

<http://www.google.com/url?sa=X&q=http://www.bostonreview.net/BR36.4/alan_a_stone_bin_laden_movie.php&ct=ga&cad=CACQAghAIAAoATAFOAVA5-fY8ARIAVAAWABiAmVu&cd=bqkBMhy_paE&usg=AFQjCNEurQvOsuHwwULxGw24XREfDhAiaw>

Boston Review

A team of highly trained special forces—Navy Seals willing to die for their country—had helicoptered deep into Pakistan and entered Bin Laden's secret compound in a late-night surprise attack. A firefight with Bin Laden's armed bodyguards followed, ...

Bin Laden: The Movie

The director of The Hurt Locker takes on the 9/11 mastermind Alan A. Stone Jonathan Olley / Summit Entertainment The first account of Osama Bin Laden's death was like the screenplay for a John Wayne movie. A team of highly trained special forces—Navy Seals willing to die for their country—had helicoptered deep into Pakistan and entered Bin Laden's secret compound in a late-night surprise attack. A firefight with Bin Laden's armed bodyguards followed, in which amazingly none of the Seals were injured or killed. The stronghold was secured. When the Seals reached Bin Laden's living quarters, the armed leader of al Qaeda tried to use one of his wives as a human shield, so a sharp-shooting Seal aimed high and blew away the top of his head.

Old-fashioned justice was served, not the law on the books, but the law of the Western frontier that has long been cinema's stock and trade. The villain dies with a gun in his hand, and the hero in the white hat, honest and honorable, overcomes impossible odds. The familiar narrative sent people out into the streets waving American flags in triumph and chanting, "U.S.A., U.S.A.," as Americans reportedly first did when our ragtag hockey team upset Soviet professionals in the 1980 Winter Olympics. This is the version of Bin Laden's death that most Americans wanted to hear, having waited for a decade after 9/11 to get the guy who did it.

In the days that followed, we learned that this story was far from the truth, which emerged more slowly and disjointedly. The raid had not been flawless: one of the high-tech choppers had gone down for unexplained reasons and had to be destroyed; the Seals faced almost no armed resistance; Bin Laden himself was not armed, nor did he use his wife as a shield; and

two Seals shot him at close range, one bullet hitting him in the head, the other in the chest. Many in the Muslim world thought he died a martyr.

Which version of the story will take its place in popular history? No doubt Hollywood will have something to say about that. Only days after Bin Laden's corpse slid into the Arabian Sea, a Hollywood director, Kathryn Bigelow, announced that a screenplay was underway and the first actor had been cast. In fact Bigelow and writer Mark Boal had already been working on a screenplay dealing with the search for Bin Laden. Now they had an ending.

Bigelow and Boal have collaborated before—on the screenplay and as co-producers of *The Hurt Locker*, which earned Bigelow an Oscar for direction, the first ever won by a woman. In an emotionally charged Oscar night, Bigelow took Best Picture from her former husband and collaborator James Cameron, whose 3D blockbuster *Avatar* was favored. Bigelow had tried a blockbuster herself, the confusingly titled *K-11: The Widowmaker* (2002), based on a true story about a Soviet atomic submarine that nearly exploded in 1961. When the sub's cooling system was compromised, Soviet officers faced an impossible dilemma: risk deadly radiation or allow a nuclear explosion that would surely lead to the third world war. Bigelow had a \$100 million budget, a first-rate cast, and an interesting idea: ordinary, even politically placed, officers with all the petty interests of self-serving human beings would unexpectedly do the right thing and save the world. According to the Web site Box Office Mojo, the film lost about \$35 million in theaters. So a few years later, while her ex-husband was making one of the most expensive movies in Hollywood history, Bigelow looked for a low-budget project.

Only days after Bin Laden's corpse slid into the Arabian Sea, Kathryn Bigelow announced that a screenplay was underway.

She found Boal, a journalist who had worked for *Playboy* and written about the Iraq War. That tragic, senseless slaughter of Iraqis and the sacrifice of young American lives grinds on under the Petraeus military strategy that asks our troops to bribe their way into the good graces of people whose lives we have ruined. If this were the plot for a Hollywood movie, no one would believe it.

American movie audiences have little interest in films based on the Iraq War. But they do care deeply about the soldiers who have fought there. And Boal's reporting focused on the plight of our soldiers, not the progress of our war. His first screenplay seems to have been based on the work of other reporters who tracked down a series of ghastly murders committed by soldiers returned from Iraq. The message of that film, *In the Valley of Elah* (2007), was that the horror of Iraq was turning our soldiers—our children—into monsters. Boal carefully stayed away from the psychiatric jargon of post-traumatic stress disorder, instead focusing on how the war was destroying the humanity of our soldiers: they had become lost souls, a price too high even in the name of god and country. The film was a succès d'estime mostly because of Tommy Lee Jones's performance as the father of a veteran murdered by other soldiers. It is an important antiwar film.

When Boal connected with Bigelow, he was working on a screenplay about his experience as a journalist embedded with a bomb-defusing squad in Baghdad in 2004. Bigelow—who resists the stereotypes about female directors saving us from the male "gaze" and the Y chromosome's preoccupation with violence—was interested. Her fascination with violence emerged in film school at Columbia, where her student project seems almost prophetic: a fifteen-minute sequence of two men (one apparently Gary Busey) beating each other, while on the soundtrack two semioticians theorize about the endless appetite for violence in films. It is not clear whether Bigelow, whose background is in avant-garde conceptual art, wanted to make a point about violence or whether the film was a kind of conceptual art with images and sounds approaching the same subject via different tracks—the thing itself and the discourse about it. Bigelow moved on to Hollywood and made films that she characterizes as "pushing the

medium." Near Dark (1987), about teenage vampires in Oklahoma, became a cult film, and Point Break (1991) is an action classic. She also earned the respect of critics and cineastes as one of the serious people in Hollywood.

Jonathan Olley / Summit Entertainment

Today Bigelow is so famous that the Museum of Modern Art recently announced a retrospective. In that announcement a discerning anonymous critic writes of Bigelow, "Her characters, often operating in an arena of adrenaline, straddle the line between superhero and heartbreakingly human." There can be no better description of The Hurt Locker's Sergeant William James, played by Jeremy Renner. (Here in Cambridge, one cannot help but wonder how Boal and Bigelow chose that name for their protagonist.) Psychologists have many good explanations for cowardice but almost none for courage, and thus Sergeant James is a psychological mystery. Bigelow has always been interested in warriors, and Sergeant James may be her most intriguing, someone who cannot be compassed in the standard categories.

The Hurt Locker is a series of incidents involving a three-man team tasked with dismantling improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in and around Baghdad at the height of the insurgency. There is no orienting description of the military situation, geography of the city, or reasons for the war: the audience is left to supply its own. The film begins with the line, "war is a drug," so the subject, it seems, is addiction. The first scene appears to be filmed by a bystander using a smart phone—it has that kind of grainy quality and amateurish framing. We slowly realize we are watching a robotic device that has been dispatched to detonate what may be a bomb. The weapons of choice for insurgents in Iraq, IEDs are primitive devices that can nonetheless inflict considerable damage, allowing an unknown killer to retaliate against high-tech American weapons and soldiers. The robot gets stuck in rubble and comes to a halt; that image alone might be a metaphor for the Iraq War. Sergeant Matthew Thompson (Guy Pearce), head of the bomb squad, dons his protective armor and waddles toward the IED. The suspense mounts not with the subtle manipulation of Hitchcock but with heart-in-your-throat terror. The robot does not work, the armor offers no protection, and Thompson's team—Sergeant JT Sanborn (Anthony Mackie) and Specialist Owen Eldridge (Brian Geraghty)—watch their friend killed as the bomb explodes. They are stunned, as we are. Bigelow makes us believe that what we are seeing is real.

The Hurt Locker thus begins as a story of ineptitude and futility. These are not invincible soldiers like John Wayne. In every scene of soldiers risking their lives to defuse bombs, Iraqi civilians look on without sympathy or concern, their apathetic silence proclaiming the hollowness of this war. The insurgents who planted the bomb may even be there among the onlookers hoping to see a slaughter. The American troops recognize this disdain, and they fear that every Iraqi civilian—man or woman or child—may be a suicide bomber. The mutual hatred and contempt are palpable.

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Sergeant James leads these two men—one shaken and one broken. He is an existential antihero who believes in nothing but his project, like the doctor in Camus's *The Plague*. While Sanborn and Eldridge do their work reluctantly, filled with dread that each struggles to control in his own way, James seems to relish the work defusing roadside IEDs, explosives planted in the entrails of dead bodies, suicide vests chained to unwilling victims, booby-trapped cars.

Faced with these dangers, James shows no sign of reluctance. If he did not always succeed we might think him reckless.

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But it is neither patriotism nor addiction that takes him back to war. Sergeant James has found his vocation. He is one of those rare workmen who enjoys his craft above all else. The opening line suggests that Bigelow and Boal want us to think we are watching someone addicted to the rush of adrenaline. But their Sergeant James cannot be reduced to an addict. His life, like ours, is a moral adventure, and everything he does, good or bad, is more than a reflexive habit; it is a measure of who he is. And he is, as the anonymous critic would have it, heartbreakingly human.

With *The Hurt Locker*, Bigelow shows a quality that many directors lack: compassion enough to make all her characters human. If any filmmaker is to tell the story of Bin Laden's pursuit and killing, we would be fortunate that it be she. She might not vindicate your political sensibilities, but she will make it real.

Commander Bob Mehal
Public Affairs Officer
Defense Press Operations
1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
Washington, DC 20301-1400
(703) 697-4162

Parker, Fatima Ms OSD PA

From: Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2011 12:10 PM
To: Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA
Subject: FW: UBL Movie

Jeremy M. Martin
Colonel, USA
Senior Military Assistant
Office of the Assistant Secretary
of Defense for Public Affairs
703-693-0776

-----Original Message-----

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2011 11:05 AM
To: Lapan, David COL OSD PA; Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA
Cc: James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; Turner, James Mr OSD PA; Parker, Tamara LTC OSD PA; Gregory, James LTC OSD PA; Robbins, Elizabeth L LTC OSD PA
Subject: FW: UBL Movie

Col Lapan, FYI/SA. Boal and Bigelow are scheduled to meet with DepCIA on the 15th and I am trying to get them on Dr Vickers schedule - will work to include Phil in that meeting as well.

Col Martin, Please feel free to forward to Mr Wilson at your discretion - he has personally been involved with this project.

Vr/Bob
CDR Bob Mehal
OASD(PA)
703-697-4162

Bin Laden: The Movie

<http://www.google.com/url?sa=X&q=http://www.bostonreview.net/BR36.4/alan_a_stone_bin_laden_movie.php&ct=ga&cad=CacQAhgAIAAoATAFOAVA5-fY8ARIAVAABiAmVu&cd=bqkBMhy_paE&usg=AFQjCNEurQvOsuHwwULxGw24XREfDhAiaw>

Boston Review

A team of highly trained special forces—Navy Seals willing to die for their country—had helicoptered deep into Pakistan and entered Bin Laden's secret compound in a late-night surprise attack. A firefight with Bin Laden's armed bodyguards followed, ...

Bin Laden: The Movie

The director of The Hurt Locker takes on the 9/11 mastermind Alan A. Stone Jonathan Olley / Summit Entertainment The first account of Osama Bin Laden's death was like the screenplay for a John Wayne movie. A team of highly trained special forces—Navy Seals willing to die for their country—had helicoptered deep into Pakistan and entered Bin Laden's secret compound in a late-night surprise attack. A firefight with Bin Laden's armed bodyguards followed, in which amazingly none of the Seals were injured or killed. The stronghold was secured. When the Seals reached Bin Laden's living quarters, the armed leader of al Qaeda tried to use one

of his wives as a human shield, so a sharp-shooting Seal aimed high and blew away the top of his head.

Old-fashioned justice was served, not the law on the books, but the law of the Western frontier that has long been cinema's stock and trade. The villain dies with a gun in his hand, and the hero in the white hat, honest and honorable, overcomes impossible odds. The familiar narrative sent people out into the streets waving American flags in triumph and chanting, "U.S.A., U.S.A.," as Americans reportedly first did when our ragtag hockey team upset Soviet professionals in the 1980 Winter Olympics. This is the version of Bin Laden's death that most Americans wanted to hear, having waited for a decade after 9/11 to get the guy who did it.

In the days that followed, we learned that this story was far from the truth, which emerged more slowly and disjointedly. The raid had not been flawless: one of the high-tech choppers had gone down for unexplained reasons and had to be destroyed; the Seals faced almost no armed resistance; Bin Laden himself was not armed, nor did he use his wife as a shield; and two Seals shot him at close range, one bullet hitting him in the head, the other in the chest. Many in the Muslim world thought he died a martyr.

Which version of the story will take its place in popular history? No doubt Hollywood will have something to say about that. Only days after Bin Laden's corpse slid into the Arabian Sea, a Hollywood director, Kathryn Bigelow, announced that a screenplay was underway and the first actor had been cast. In fact Bigelow and writer Mark Boal had already been working on a screenplay dealing with the search for Bin Laden. Now they had an ending.

Bigelow and Boal have collaborated before—on the screenplay and as co-producers of *The Hurt Locker*, which earned Bigelow an Oscar for direction, the first ever won by a woman. In an emotionally charged Oscar night, Bigelow took Best Picture from her former husband and collaborator James Cameron, whose 3D blockbuster *Avatar* was favored. Bigelow had tried a blockbuster herself, the confusingly titled *K-11: The Widowmaker* (2002), based on a true story about a Soviet atomic submarine that nearly exploded in 1961. When the sub's cooling system was compromised, Soviet officers faced an impossible dilemma: risk deadly radiation or allow a nuclear explosion that would surely lead to the third world war. Bigelow had a \$100 million budget, a first-rate cast, and an interesting idea: ordinary, even politically placed, officers with all the petty interests of self-serving human beings would unexpectedly do the right thing and save the world. According to the Web site Box Office Mojo, the film lost about \$35 million in theaters. So a few years later, while her ex-husband was making one of the most expensive movies in Hollywood history, Bigelow looked for a low-budget project.

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She found Boal, a journalist who had worked for *Playboy* and written about the Iraq War. That tragic, senseless slaughter of Iraqis and the sacrifice of young American lives grinds on under the Petraeus military strategy that asks our troops to bribe their way into the good graces of people whose lives we have ruined. If this were the plot for a Hollywood movie, no one would believe it.

American movie audiences have little interest in films based on the Iraq War. But they do care deeply about the soldiers who have fought there. And Boal's reporting focused on the plight of our soldiers, not the progress of our war. His first screenplay seems to have been based on the work of other reporters who tracked down a series of ghastly murders committed by soldiers returned from Iraq. The message of that film, *In the Valley of Elah* (2007), was that the horror of Iraq was turning our soldiers—our children—into monsters. Boal carefully

stayed away from the psychiatric jargon of post-traumatic stress disorder, instead focusing on how the war was destroying the humanity of our soldiers: they had become lost souls, a price too high even in the name of god and country. The film was a succès d'estime mostly because of Tommy Lee Jones's performance as the father of a veteran murdered by other soldiers. It is an important antiwar film.

When Boal connected with Bigelow, he was working on a screenplay about his experience as a journalist embedded with a bomb-defusing squad in Baghdad in 2004. Bigelow—who resists the stereotypes about female directors saving us from the male “gaze” and the Y chromosome’s preoccupation with violence—was interested. Her fascination with violence emerged in film school at Columbia, where her student project seems almost prophetic: a fifteen-minute sequence of two men (one apparently Gary Busey) beating each other, while on the soundtrack two semioticians theorize about the endless appetite for violence in films. It is not clear whether Bigelow, whose background is in avant-garde conceptual art, wanted to make a point about violence or whether the film was a kind of conceptual art with images and sounds approaching the same subject via different tracks—the thing itself and the discourse about it. Bigelow moved on to Hollywood and made films that she characterizes as “pushing the medium.” *Near Dark* (1987), about teenage vampires in Oklahoma, became a cult film, and *Point Break* (1991) is an action classic. She also earned the respect of critics and cineastes as one of the serious people in Hollywood.

Jonathan Olley / Summit Entertainment

Today Bigelow is so famous that the Museum of Modern Art recently announced a retrospective. In that announcement a discerning anonymous critic writes of Bigelow, “Her characters, often operating in an arena of adrenaline, straddle the line between superhero and heartbreakingly human.” There can be no better description of *The Hurt Locker*’s Sergeant William James, played by Jeremy Renner. (Here in Cambridge, one cannot help but wonder how Boal and Bigelow chose that name for their protagonist.) Psychologists have many good explanations for cowardice but almost none for courage, and thus Sergeant James is a psychological mystery. Bigelow has always been interested in warriors, and Sergeant James may be her most intriguing, someone who cannot be compassed in the standard categories.

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Commander Bob Mehal
Public Affairs Officer
Defense Press Operations
1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
Washington, DC 20301-1400
(703) 697-4162

Parker, Fatima Ms OSD PA

From: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2011 12:19 PM
To: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Cc: Ferguson, Thomas A CIV, OSD OUSDI; Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA; Lapan, David COL OSD PA; James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; Gregory, James LTC OSD PA; Robbins, Elizabeth L LTC OSD PA; Weinstein, Douglas F Mr OSD OUSDI; (b)(3):U.S.C. 403g (b)(6)
(b)(6) Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA; Ogilvie, Vicente Mr OSD PA
Subject: FW: Bin Laden Movie

Sir, From Mark Boal. Have you heard anything from leadership yet about how we want to proceed? I believe this is still in the research phase, but need to be clear on the approach we are taking before we schedule.

Vr/Bob

CDR Bob Mehal
OASD(PA)
703-697-4162

-----Original Message-----

From: M B [mailto:mark(b)(6)]
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2011 12:07 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie

Bob:

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Please let me know if any of those fit in Dr Vickers schedule.

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Thanks again for setting all this up.

Best,
Mark

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> I will be waiting at the Pentagon's Visitor's Center (Metro Entrance), please allow a few minutes for security screening.
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> We will meet with Dr Vickers at 1215 and he has a hard 1300 stop.
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> See you then.
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> Resp,
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> -----Original Message-----

> From: Mark Boal [mailto:mark(b)(6)]
> Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 10:56 AM
> To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
> Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie

> Yes I can be there at noon

> Sent from my iPhone

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>> To: 'mark(b)(6)'
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>> Please let me know soonest.

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>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: mark(b)(6) [mailto:mark(b)(6)]

>> Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2011 5:57 PM
>> To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
>> Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie
>>
>> Roger
>> Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: "Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA" <Robert.Mehal@osd.mil>
>> Date: Tue, 7 Jun 2011 16:23:27
>> To: 'mark(b)(6)' <mark(b)(6)>
>> Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie
>>
>> Mark, Meet at the visitors' center at the Metro entance at 1230 pm Thursday. We have a
1245 with Dr Vickers.
>> Let me know if you have any questions.
>> Bob
>> -----
>> Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device
>>
>>
>> ----- Original Message -----
>> From: mark(b)(6) [mailto:mark(b)(6)]
>> Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 10:13 PM
>> To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; 'mark(b)(6)'
>> <'mark(b)(6)'
>> Cc: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI;
>> Lowery, Todd R CIV OSD OUSDI
>> Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie
>>
>> Bob,
>> Thank you. Thursday is good for me, I'm in D.C, and available at your convenience.
>> Mark
>>
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>> To: 'mark(b)(6)'
>> Cc: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
>> Cc: Weinstein, Douglas EMr OSD OUSDI
>> Cc: Lowery, Todd R CIV OSD OUSDI
>> Subject: Bin Laden Movie
>> Sent: Jun 6, 2011 10:06 PM
>>
>> Mark, Hello, I am Dr Vickers Public Affairs Officer. He will be in on Thursday if you
are still going to be in town. If not we could look at doing something the next time you are
in DC. He has agreed to meet with you, but you just caught him at a time when he has travel
scheduled.
>> Resp,
>> Bob
>>
>> ----- Original Message -----
>> From: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
>> Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 04:57 AM
>> To: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
>> Cc: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
>> Subject: Re: Bin laden movie
>>

>> They've already talked to DD/CIA Morell.
>>
>> Happy to meet with them.
>> -----
>> Sent from my wireless handheld
>>
>> ----- Original Message -----
>> From: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
>> Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2011 11:30 PM
>> To: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
>> Cc: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
>> Subject: Fw: Bin laden movie
>>
>> What do you all think? These guys are the Oscar winning team behind the Hurt Locker.
>>
>> Geoff Morrell
>> Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Pentagon Press Secretary
>> 703-614-2935 (O)
>> 571-309-4978 (C)
>>
>>
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>> From: mark(b)(6) [mailto:mark(b)(6)]
>> Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2011 11:27 PM
>> To: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
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>> Hi Geoff,
>>
>> Regarding our upcoming film about the hunt for OBL -- which Kathryn Bigelow is directing
and I am writing and producing, as our follow-up to The Hurt Locker -- am thinking that it
would be wise for me to touch base with Under Secretary Mike Vickers.... Naturally, I
understand the sensitivities, and more than anything, am simply hoping for an opportunity to
briefly tell him about the project's scope....
>> Please let me know if you would you be up for facilitating an introduction. I'll be in
D.C. for at least a few more days.
>>
>> Thanks,
>> Mark Boal
>>
>>
>> Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T
>>
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Parker, Fatima Ms OSD PA

From: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2011 2:35 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Cc: Ferguson, Thomas A CIV, OSD OUSDI; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA; Lapan, David COL OSD PA; James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; Gregory, James LTC OSD PA; Robbins, Elizabeth L LTC OSD PA; Weinstein, Douglas F Mr OSD OUSDI;
(b)(3):U.S.C. 403g (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA; Ogilvie, Vicente Mr OSD PA
Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie

Thanks, Bob. Ok to set up the second session with Vickers. I am getting additional guidance from WH

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Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2011 12:19 PM
To: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Cc: Ferguson, Thomas A CIV, OSD OUSDI; Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA; Lapan, David COL OSD PA; James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; Gregory, James LTC OSD PA; Robbins, Elizabeth L LTC OSD PA; Weinstein, Douglas F Mr OSD OUSDI;
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>> Sent: Jun 6, 2011 10:06 PM
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>> Bob

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>> ----- Original Message -----

>> From: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI

>> Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 04:57 AM

>> To: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA

>> Cc: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

>> Subject: Re: Bin laden movie

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>> They've already talked to DD/CIA Morell.

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>> Happy to meet with them.

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>> Sent from my wireless handheld

>>

>> ----- Original Message -----

>> From: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA

>> Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2011 11:30 PM

>> To: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI

>> Cc: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

>> Subject: Fw: Bin laden movie

>>

>> What do you all think? These guys are the Oscar winning team behind the Hurt Locker.

>>

>> Geoff Morrell

>> Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Pentagon Press Secretary

>> 703-614-2935 (O)

>> 571-309-4978 (C)

>>

>>

>> ----- Original Message -----

>> From: mark (b)(6) [mailto:mark (b)(6)]

>> Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2011 11:27 PM

>> To: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA

>> Subject: Bin laden movie

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>> Hi Geoff,

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>> Regarding our upcoming film about the hunt for OBL -- which Kathryn Bigelow is directing and I am writing and producing, as our follow-up to The Hurt Locker -- am thinking that it would be wise for me to touch base with Under Secretary Mike Vickers.... Naturally, I understand the sensitivities, and more than anything, am simply hoping for an opportunity to briefly tell him about the project's scope....

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>> Thanks,

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Parker, Fatima Ms OSD PA

From: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2011 7:15 PM
To: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA; Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA
Cc: Ferguson, Thomas A CIV, OSD OUSDI; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA; Lapan, David COL OSD PA; James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; Gregory, James LTC OSD PA; Robbins, Elizabeth L LTC OSD PA; Weinstein, Douglas F Mr OSD OUSDI;
(b)(3):U.S.C. 403g (b)(6)
(b)(6) Strub, Philip Mr OSD PA; Ogilvie, Vicente Mr OSD PA (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Bin Laden Movie

Bob,

The 27 June-1 July period works better for me. Should have an answer on whether JSOC will provide a rep by then as well.

MV

Sent from my wireless handheld

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From: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2011 02:34 PM
To: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI
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Vr/Bob

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> Public Affairs Officer

> Defense Press Operations

> 1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)

> Washington, DC 20301-1400

> (703) 697-4162

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Parker, Fatima Ms OSD PA

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Cc: Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA
Subject: FW: Bin Laden Movie

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Cc: Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA
Subject: RE: Bin Laden Movie
Signed By: douglas.wilson@osd.mil

Phil should definitely meet with Mark and get his own sense of the film. We have been supportive to date, as has Director Panetta, but I will be interested in Phil's views on this one in particular. Thanks--Doug (PS -- It should be Phil that meets with Mark)

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>> To: 'mark (b)(6)'

>> Cc: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA

>> Cc: Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI

>> Cc: Lowery, Todd R CIV OSD OUSDI

>> Subject: Bin Laden Movie

>> Sent: Jun 6, 2011 10:06 PM

>>

>> Mark, Hello, I am Dr Vickers Public Affairs Officer. He will be in on Thursday if you are still going to be in town. If not we could look at doing something the next time you are in DC. He has agreed to meet with you, but you just caught him at a time when he has travel scheduled.

>> Resp,

>> Bob

>>

>> ----- Original Message -----

>> From: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI

>> Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 04:57 AM

>> To: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA

>> Cc: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

>> Subject: Re: Bin laden movie

>>

>> They've already talked to DD/CIA Morell.

>>

>> Happy to meet with them.

>> -----

>> Sent from my wireless handheld

>>

>> ----- Original Message -----

>> From: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA

>> Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2011 11:30 PM

>> To: Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI

>> Cc: Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA

>> Subject: Fw: Bin laden movie

>>

>> What do you all think? These guys are the Oscar winning team behind the Hurt Locker.

>>
>> Geoff Morrell
>> Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
>> Pentagon Press Secretary
>> 703-614-2935 (O)
>> 571-309-4978 (C)
>>
>>
>> ----- Original Message -----
>> From: mark(b)(6) [mailto:mark(b)(6)]
>> Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2011 11:27 PM
>> To: Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
>> Subject: Bin laden movie
>>
>> Hi Geoff,
>>
>> Regarding our upcoming film about the hunt for OBL -- which Kathryn Bigelow is directing
and I am writing and producing, as our follow-up to The Hurt Locker -- am thinking that it
would be wise for me to touch base with Under Secretary Mike Vickers.... Naturally, I
understand the sensitivities, and more than anything, am simply hoping for an opportunity to
briefly tell him about the project's scope....
>> Please let me know if you would you be up for facilitating an introduction. I'll be in
D.C. for at least a few more days.
>>
>> Thanks,
>> Mark Boal
>>
>>
>> Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T
>>
>> -----
>> Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device
>>
>>
>> Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

Parker, Fatima Ms OSD PA

From: Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2011 3:33 PM
To: 'mark'(b)(6)
Cc: Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA
Subject: RE: greetings from Hollywood: bin laden movie

Mark,

The good Colonel is on leave today so responding in his stead.

Doug's happy to host you for a meeting here if you'd like or this can all be done over drinks -- whichever you guys prefer. He has some time Tuesday afternoon that we can do. Let me know.

Carl

Carl Woog
Special Assistant to the
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs Pentagon 2E964
703-697-7341 direct
703-697-9312 office
carl.woog@osd.mil
carl.woog@osd.smil.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2011 12:08 PM
To: Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA
Subject: Fw: greetings from Hollywood: bin laden movie

Carl,

Over to you for any follow up.

JM

Sent using BlackBerry

----- Original Message -----

From: Mark Boal [mailto:mark(b)(6)]
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2011 06:17 PM
To: Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA
Cc: Kathryn Bigelow <(b)(6)>; Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA; (b) (3) (b) (6)
<(b)(6)>
Subject: Re: greetings from Hollywood: bin laden movie

Done! Thank you.

Jeremy, I might have lost track here...are we also still trying to schedule an office meeting at the Pentagon on Tuesday?

Thanks again.

Mark

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 13, 2011, at 11:36 AM, "Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA" <jeremy.martin@osd.mil> wrote:

> Good afternoon Mark,
>
> Mr. Wilson recommends Ris at 23rd and L Streets, NW.

> All Best,

> Jeremy

> Jeremy M. Martin
> Colonel, USA
> Senior Military Assistant
> Office of the Assistant Secretary
> of Defense for Public Affairs
> 703-693-0776

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Mark Boal [mailto:mark(b)(6)]
> Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 1:41 PM
> To: Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA
> Cc: Kathryn Bigelow; Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA; (b) (3) (b) (6)
> Subject: Re: greetings from Hollywood: bin laden movie

> Suggest perhaps bar at Georgetown Ritz?

> Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 13, 2011, at 8:01 AM, "Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA" <jeremy.martin@osd.mil> wrote:

>> Thanks, Mark.

>> We'll follow up a bit later with the location.

>> All Best,

>> Jeremy

>> Jeremy M. Martin
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>> Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 10:47 AM
>> To: Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA
>> Cc: Kathryn Bigelow; Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA; (b)(6)

>> Subject: Re: greetings from Hollywood: bin laden movie
>>
>> Jeremy,
>> Good afternoon.
>> 6pm on 19 July works for us, thank you very much.
>> location tbd.
>> Best,
>> Mark
>> Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: "Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA" <jeremy.martin@osd.mil>
>> Date: Wed, 13 Jul 2011 09:22:58
>> To: 'M B' <[mark\(b\)\(6\)@osd.mil](mailto:mark(b)(6)@osd.mil)>
>> Cc: Kathryn Bigelow <kbigelow@osd.mil>; Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA <Carl.Woog@osd.mil>
>> Subject: RE: greetings from Hollywood: bin laden movie
>>
>> Good morning Mark,
>>
>> I hope you and Kathryn are well.
>>
>> Mr. Wilson is available for drinks on July 19th - shall we say 6:00 pm with location to be determined?
>>
>> All Best,
>>
>> Jeremy
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>> Colonel, USA
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>> From: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA
>> Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 6:30 AM
>> To: 'M B'
>> Cc: Kathryn Bigelow; Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA; Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA
>> Subject: RE: greetings from Hollywood: bin laden movie
>>
>> Mark and Kathryn -- I'm copying COL Jeremy Martin and Carl Woog of my office, to lock in a meeting with you here on July 19, and a drink while you are here. Jeremy Bash and I talked yesterday, and he and I will work to unclog the SOCOM pathway for you. Assume you are getting what you need from Mike Vickers, but in any case we'll review where you are next week and move the ball forward.
>>
>> Warm regards,
>>
>> Doug
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: M B [[mailto:mark\(b\)\(6\)@osd.mil](mailto:mark(b)(6)@osd.mil)]
>> Sent: Tuesday, July 12, 2011 2:39 PM
>> To: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA

>> Cc: Kathryn Bigelow
>> Subject: greetings from Hollywood: bin laden movie
>>
>> Hi Doug,
>>
>> Good afternoon -
>>
>> Congratulations on a successful tour with the new Sec Def. It's been exciting to read about here on the coast.
>>
>> Wanted to let you know that Kathryn and I will be back in D.C. for a few days, from 15 July - 19 July, to further our research on the Bin Laden movie.
>>
>> I think it would be worthwhile, if your schedule permits, to schedule a meeting to update you on our progress and further discuss DoD support.
>>
>> Perhaps on Tuesday - 19 July? And separately... let us know if there is any chance you can meet for that drink.
>>
>> Wishing you safe travels and looking forward to talking soon.
>>
>> Mark
>>

Parker, Fatima Ms OSD PA

From: mark (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, July 16, 2011 4:58 PM
To: Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA
Cc: Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA
Subject: Re: greetings from Hollywood: bin laden movie

Thanks for the clarification.
Sounds like the 6pm appointment gets it done.
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

-----Original Message-----

From: "Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA" <Carl.Woog@osd.mil>
Date: Fri, 15 Jul 2011 15:33:19
To: 'mark (b)(6)' <mark (b)(6)>
Cc: Martin, Jeremy COL OSD PA <jeremy.martin@osd.mil>
Subject: RE: greetings from Hollywood: bin laden movie

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>> Good afternoon -

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>> I think it would be worthwhile, if your schedule permits, to schedule a meeting to update you on our progress and further discuss DoD support.

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>>

>> Wishing you safe travels and looking forward to talking soon.

>>

>> Mark

>>

**Transcript from background interview with Marl Boal and Katherine Bigelow
(15 Jul 2011)**

Mike Vickers – MV
Phil Strub – PS

Mark Boal – MB
Bob Mehal – BM

Katherine Bigelow – KB

MB – Katherine is going to somehow figure out how to turn my disorganized screenplay into a terrific movie – and a great recreation of the events

So since we last talked, just to catch you up, to speak, on what I have been doing. I took your guidance and spoke to the WH and had a good meeting with Brennan and McDonough and plan to follow up with them; and they were forward leaning and interested in sharing their point of view; command and control; so that was great, so thank you.

I met with Acting Director Morrell today at Langley and continued to talk to various people in the IC.

MV- This was a follow-up? You've met with him before – correct?

MB- Yes correct; this was a follow-up.

MB – So intel stuff is going great and pretty well along on that, before I talked with you; but let's say between 2nd and 3d base on that. The WH stuff, I think is in good shape as well, so the last leg of the stool is obviously DoD. So that's what, hopefully we can talk about some of that here, but I wanted to give you sort of inside baseball.

One of the things we had talked about was eventually I will be going, hopefully going, down to SOCOM and talking to somebody down there – maybe McRaven or whoever-still on the horizon.

MV- I have some news for you on that front. So, and have you talked to Sec Panetta – as the Director, though.

MB- Yes.

MV- I know he is very interested in supporting.

MB- We're going to have dinner at some point, but I didn't want to interrupt - travel plan to Afghanistan.

BM- Part of that discussion was from the last movie.

MV- I'm sorry, what?

BM- Part of those discussions, were in reference to the movie they were planning on making.

MV- Yes, okay; but I know he is interested and supportive.

MV- So from the DoD point of view, here is what we can do, first off to just give you some context; the people who were involved, were very few, so to put them in categories: You had the very, very top of the Pentagon, so Secretary Gates, the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and me – initially, and that was sort of the first four and then ADM McRaven was actually number five (who becomes the Operational Commander) and then you have the cast of operators and planners. And then, the only other two DoD people, who end up getting involved from the senior point of view are my colleague the Under Secretary for Policy, Michelle Flournoy; reasonably later in the game like maybe a month or six weeks before (something like that) and then our General Council, kind of at the very end on one issue; but that's it at the senior level. And then, Adm Olson, toward the very, very end, the SOCOM Commander, Admiral McRaven's Boss, and then the rest are really planners or operators. And that, just to give you the context.

MB- We've talked about this before, because I brought it up at dinner with a few Army Generals that I know and said Gen Casey, give me some stuff on this and he said I didn't know (shit) and I said to Gen Corelli, common Pete tell me something and he said that's Title 10 (I believe he meant Title 50) and I didn't know anything about it.

MV- So that literally is the roadmap. So now here is what we're going to do for you, at least for now. With me, I will try to be as forthcoming as I can, but you are going to get a little bit of operational stuff but more really policy, like how did we make the decision, the risks, that kind of stuff. But then the other people that are really central to this obviously are Secretary Gates, Adm Mullen, Hoss Cartwright; in that regard, we are all kind of in the same boat if you will, but that's between you and them about them talking to you.

MB- Gates is on my short list; again...he's got a lot on his (inaudible)

MV- He did the 60 minutes thing, I know you said down the road after he is retired, and try to get him...

MB- Give the guy a break.

MV- Give the guy a break, but that's between you and him now that he is retired. What I can't promise you really is at the DoD senior level, whether I'll be it or if there will be a few others, but I wanted to give you the roadmap.

MB- Uh-huh.

MV- I've been told to do for you what Michael Morrell and others, so that's what I'm going to try to do for you tonight and others. Now on the operators side; Adm McRaven and Adm Olson do not want to

talk directly, because it's just a bad, their just concerned as commanders of the force and they're telling them all the time – don't you dare talk to anybody, that it's just a bad example if it gets out – even with all sorts of restrictions and everything.

MB- Uh-huh.

MB- I'll take (b)(3)-10 U.S.C. 130 (b)(b)(6) or someone like that.

MV- Well the basic idea is they'll make a guy available who was involved from the beginning as a planner; a SEAL Team 6 Operator and Commander.

MB- Are you talking about (b)(3)-10 U.S.C. 130(b)(b)(6)

MV- A guy name (b)(3)-10 U.S.C. 130(b)(b)(6) And so, he basically can probably give you everything you would want or would get from Adm Olson or Adm McRaven.

MB- That's dynamite - by the way.

KB- That's incredible.

MB- This is me happy.

MV- And so, he'll speak for operators and he'll speak for senior military commanders, because their all the same tribe and everything, and so you should get most of what you need from him. Now, again the reason Adm Olson and Adm McRaven didn't want to talk is this command conflict of interest. And then with (b)(3)-10 U.S.C. 130(b)(b)(6) the only thing we ask is that you not reveal his name in any way as a consultant, because again, it's the same thing, he shouldn't be talking out of school, this at least, this gives him one step removed and he knows what he can and can't say, but this way at least he can be as open as he can with you and it ought to meet your needs and give you lots of color.

KB- Fabulous

MB- That's dynamite.

MV- So we'll put you in touch with him or have him get in touch with you - at the end of this meeting. And whatever your schedule is we'll make that work, I just haven't had a chance to talk with him.

KB- Is he located in the Washington DC area?

MV- He's in the Washington DC area. He travels some, but when we get out of here I can try to arrange that. OK? So, that's it.

MB- Thank you very much!

KB- That's incredible

MB- You delivered.

MB- Do you have some time, I can throw a few questions at you?

MV- I do.

MB- We'll take 10-15 minutes?

MV- I could stay as much 45 minutes. I apologize for keeping you waiting.

MB- I don't want to suck up all your time, but I am greedy.

MV- But if you want to come back, but you're here, I know you traveled, so whatever, the time is yours.

MB- Just in a very general sense, there is obviously momentum coming from the agency, I'm talking about the month leading up to this raid, there is momentum coming from the agency that this seems like something that is going to be a worthwhile target to do something with, right? You have the President's stated intention to make catching OBL one of his priorities. If you look back at when you're first hearing about this and even going into Feb and Mar; and I'm asking you this because you navigated many, many Washington sort of complicated - joining of different forces. Did this feel like an inevitable outcome? I don't mean a helo borne or B2, but that something was going to be done, did it seem to you when you first heard about this that something was going to be done - was that inevitable sort of outcome or was there a moment or many moments where you felt like, God I could see this thing going either way, I could see the agency spending another six months on collection or this or another year?

MV- Sure.

MV- So when we really get the intelligence break that locates the person at this compound, which is in late August 2010, then, the first thing is that this is a huge intelligence break and biggest secret of the US government. First I'm going to try to put context into this and tell you how I come into this and how I felt about it, then, try to answer your question. You probably got this from CIA, but as all the people who worked this so hard for so many years, then they know, initially I think, wow, I'll give you my own perspective on this at this period, this is the biggest intelligence lead we've had in a decade, but at this

point it is still fundamentally an intelligence problem and an incredible secret. So through the end of 2010 basically, this is a period of okay, who do I have to tell at this point. So the President, Vice President, National Security Advisor (Brennan), McDonough, etc. but a handful of people in the White House, literally just five, six people and then, the four I talked about here in Defense, and Director Panetta is making all these decisions in consultation with the White House, you know the Secretary, the Chairman, Vice Chairman and me, and then the DNI and that's kind of it for a while. And so it's, okay this is unbelievable, it's a big secret – keep working; so that's generally people's reaction, so after the jaw dropping moment, and then a number of us have been intensively focused on this for a long time, but after we had gotten a glimpse of this guy a year earlier and then lost him. I remember specifically, vividly, at the time of that glimpse, “wholly crap we are on to something” and then “oh man we lost him.” Cause it was clear this guy might lead us to something big. But then - how we going to get him again? This mirage that popped up one time and was gone in two seconds, but now we had at least one location for a fleeting moment in time, so then 12 months later when now we got him a lot more finitely and we got him at a location or fix, then it's - my own reaction was right at the time was “ah hah” a year's work or we got lucky a year later and now we got the son-of-a-bitch and let's see where it goes and there was enough initially that there was something there, but it wasn't clear that it was actionable. So the idea, still an intelligence problem, so continue to work the intelligence problem. At least from my own perspective, yah you start to think about things, but the first thing you got to do is develop the intelligence and everybody else is pretty much in that mode. The other thing I would want to convey to you is it's extremely closely guarded, but also the pace at this point is kind of development - every month or couple of weeks or something – it's not the intense pace that comes later. So yes, there is the President's guidance, but that's still more in the back of the mind at this point, no one's decided to do anything of any kind except try to develop the intelligence picture better.

PS- Excuse me, but after the intelligence you received in Aug of last year, the group, and there was such a high degree of confidence in identification, was there a shift from this uncertainly, to more of a well now this is set, now it's a matter of the nuts and bolts of continuing to collect intelligence that would lead towards the possible action - outcome.

BM- The way you laid out the phases yesterday was really good.

MV- Again, what I would say is it's a big deal and it's an incredibly big secret, that's so closely held. I guess what I would say is that my interactions with all the people at CTC and everything was “okay,” What else have we learned? How are we moving this along? What else do we need to do - that refine the picture? But as we talk among the inner circle about what this means, it really isn't until early in the year where we start thinking - okay we need to develop options, and so then - Bob was reminding me about – the “First phase” is kind of intelligence development from the last four months of 2010. Now this is on my mind like nothing else, just speaking for me personally, but it's at a slower pace. Then, coming back from the holidays in January, I had a real sense of you know we are shifting into a new phase and we are going to develop options and so then that “Second phase” is kind of okay well now we

are pretty sure we got something here, but not sure anyone wants to do anything or that its good enough to do anything about, but let's start developing what we could do. So the way that proceeds is first a tiny little group, mostly CIA, and me, and then this one Navy Seal - at this point who is given to us by Adm McRaven, but the first step is really all just CIA. So, in January, they internally come up with five or so options, various ways we could do this, with the government's assistance, without, and various operational means, but in any event, they're very broad courses of action. You can kind of do it this way - with them - without them, but it literally is basic very broad descriptions - this sounds plausible, sort of a 50,000 foot level; and so then that takes another month of okay some of these look plausible, some maybe less so, we debate them, and think about how we want to refine them. But then we think, Panetta decides, I need to bring in Adm McRaven, and so that's roughly about mid-Feb.

MB- And that's specifically for the helo version of this?

MV- That's for his portions, but his portions are a lot of variants on a theme; so I don't want to go into real specific details, I'll leave that to the SEALs - but again you can do it with the PAKs, without, bigger force, smaller force, go in this way, go in that way, and so - but in any event a number of those would have involved him, not all the courses of action, but a number. And so the desire is to first bring him in just him and nobody else and then - okay now what we need from you is, here's how we are going to proceed, we need a planner, one guy to help us flush out a few of these with CIA, but if that then looks promising and we decide we are going down this path then we'll bring in more people to help flush it out even more. It's all kind of sketched out as I talked to him, kind of sketched out here is where we might need this thing, or this thing in the next month or two - just notionally.

MV- Then the next phase that I would describe; so that sort of takes us from Valentine's Day essentially to mid Mar; So then in mid-Mar is where you then swing into - now these phases become parallel at this point - but you go from Intelligence (keeping the big secret), to concept develop (broad course of action development) a little more refinement and then now in mid March you start a series of Presidential meetings and senior White House meetings - there's five meetings with the President between mid-Mar and the end of Apr and multiple meetings with Brennan, Morrell and me and others - Cartwright - and McRaven. And so that then becomes okay - Which options do we like better? Which paths do you start to go down? Are we going to do this sooner rather than later? Are we going to do this at all? Nobody is going to make that decision until they have to, but if we are going to do it, when do we want to be ready to do it - is it sooner rather than later, which options, is it ground or air, with the Paks, or without, so you don't rule things out, but you start to sorting more and figure okay these few I am going to develop probably heading down this path, and so there's a period of kind of initial Presidential guidance that results in, I want to do this sooner rather than later, probably unilateral, but I haven't decided to do it, but I want to keep my options open, so any plausible option I want to look at. So there is still more than one option. And so planning teams then are told to develop their things further, basically in March, the second half of March and those are presented at the White House and flushed out and refined and

refined and refined. One air option is rejected and replaced with another and then that one is carries through to the end but ultimately not decided on.

MB - At this point, again given your experience...

MV - And air meaning an airstrike...

MB - Right, I understand, meaning a B2 or more precise version. Are you, your 25,000 view, is it hey we're moving toward action here, that something is going to happen, I can't put money on is it a helo borne or the precision strike, or something, but we're moving toward something? That's what I'm trying to ...

MV - So again as you start then sort of ...

MB - Or could it have still been nothing?

MV - Well it still could have been nothing. But I guess, as I say, from the turn of the year on, where I started intensely engaging every week on concept development, because that was when the decision was made okay let's start thinking about how we're going do this. Then, from mid-Feb on, it became very, very intense; okay time to call in Adm McRaven, and we got to bring, and he doesn't know any of this stuff for six months, and so bring him up to speed, and here's what we want from you, and an intense series of White House meetings through March. So then, by mid-March when the meetings with the President start and sort of a six weeks period to get the decision and narrowing down the decision; it becomes increasingly intense and that there is now a pretty high probability we might do something, in other words we might not, we might delay, we might choose this or that - but this is now moved into lets develop really serious options.

MB - Uh-huh

MV - And so as I said, that winnowing peoples' opinions, change about what the majority favors, initial reaction is I like this and we end up doing something else, they initially weren't too wild about what we ended up doing.

MB - You're talking about the White House?

MV - No, not just the White House, but senior policy makers - senior policy makers. You know, opinions shifted as things got examined in much greater detail. You could be for something conceptually, because it sounded simple and elegant and it's going to do the job, but then when you examine and all the ramifications of it you say, that doesn't look good take that off the table.

MB – A B2 sounds good until you think of the collateral damage?

MV – Among other things, but lots of reasons that what looks good initially, may not so good after. What will happen when you can't prove that you got the guy, etc... so then a number of issues... what will happen to relationship afterwards. Again, we're trying to keep every viable option on the table. So as one air option goes away, another gets substituted in - and then that planning team is a totally separate group, a very tiny group, but they've got to be brought into this, a couple of people, and plan all this with a different instrument. But meanwhile, as we're narrowing down Adm McRaven's options; he is refining and refining his plan and then by the end of March early April, we narrow it down to essentially two options and with a target the end of April or that window that was actually done very, very late April to very early May. CIA had the great foresight of building a mock-up of the facility; we started that actually in January, before we had decided to do anything and even bring in Adm McRaven, and so it was ready when the time came that that was going to be a viable option. And then in early April, probably the second or third... I think we met with the President in mid March and then the end March and the other three meetings were in April, including right before, a couple the week before. So in any event, then it is basically, okay these two options, still not sure we are going to do this, but sooner rather than later, target the end of the month, we'll make the decision the end of the month, but proceed as if we're doing it - go get ready. So at that point then...

MB – What was the other option aside from the Helo borne assault that was on the table?

MV – An airstrike of one form, but not....

MB – But not the B2?

MV – Not the B2.

MV – So then, we swing into high gear of bringing in basically all the operators and planners who are actually going to do - for the air option it doesn't require a lot, requires a handful of people to plan - for the ground option, that we actually did, it required not only the people who executed the mission but all sorts of staff and so by the end of this thing we had gone from, not counting CIA, so if you exclude CIA I think there were like eight or nine people outside of CIA, who actually knew about this last Fall... not counting the Intelligence Community, because there's some at NSA, at NGA a couple, but not a lot... in order of CIA, NSA, NGA, but the policy makers I talked about it was very, very small and then there's a few that are added toward the end, I mentioned the DoD side but the Secretary of State is a couple of weeks before, the Attorney General, Homeland Security, the FBI, that's all the weekend of and so...

MB – And Secretary of State is brought in, is that partly because there is a concern about embassies and State should really have a heads-up that their embassy might get stormed on Monday?

MV – Yes, but also as a National Security policy maker, if you are going to do something like that she has a major vote in whether you do it or not, the President is going to turn to her immediately and say should we do this or not, but then there is all this stuff... but again the problem is then even at the end there is only a handful of people in these organizations that know about it, so you have to answer those kinds of questions from the very the top. You don't have all your bureaucracy to work with; you got a Secretary, and a Deputy, a person who worries about security and maybe an Ambassador, but that's it. So you've got to transmit this - okay be prepared to do this, plan, as well as for policy making, and again, I don't want to speak for her or anybody else but myself.

MV - But the SEALs and JSOC, Adm McRaven's organization, now have to start doing rehearsals and doing detailed planning and everything else, so that starts in April; 7-8 April and another big one the week after that, what we call full mission rehearsal where you're doing everything, flying, not just what you're going to do on the target, but how you get to the target, and the time it takes and everything, as realistic conditions as we can do. So Adm Mullen and I flew out West for that to watch that full profile and flew back, and....

MB – By the way, when you saw it, you thought this is going to work this is pretty cool?

MV – Yes. I mean it was a big change in just a week of practicing just seeing doing it on the mock-up facility versus the whole thing, an enormous, enormous change from the first time you try it to I've done it for a week straight and now, I'm putting all the pieces together...

KB - Oh, that's interesting

MV - Even for these experts, it's kind of - crawl, walk, run, - you're watching crawl the first time and then walk, and by the end they're running, it's almost what it's exactly going to look like two weeks later. Then after that is done, back to the policy making side that goes over six weeks. In probably late April, 18-21 April there's another meeting with the President and that's the decision, well still haven't decided to do this and I haven't decided which option I am going to do, but I could do one of these things in two weeks, and I want to be ready and so then there's the decision to posture the force, and so that has to take place kind of the week prior. And so people get deployed, now again, not a lot of people know about this at this point, so people are being told right as, hey guess what some guys are going to show up in your country and you as the four star commander probably ought to at least know about this, but that's probably all you need at this point. Then there's the final decision to go, which is made the Thursday/ Friday before that Sunday - Friday morning actually, but Thursday night was the last big meeting with the President and Secretary Gates and the Chairman. I guess in the period between the 15th of March or 15 to 20-something March, I can't remember, I guess around the second meeting, around the end of March, the 28th of March; between that period, there's going confidence in Adm McRaven's mission or option and then I would say that builds as they rehearse and we get results and the plan gets refine and you make changes to it; I'm still not comfortable at how you are going to this, if things go bad

- how are you going to get out? Okay, I got your guidance, now I got to plan to do that, now we got to come back and show you that, okay now I like that and so confidence rises, but even at that point as I said, thru sort of mid April to the end of April there are divided views among the deputies and the principals whether to do this, which way to do it, and again there's more people shifting toward Adm McRaven, but it is still divided camps maybe half on one side and half, it goes from more people, an overwhelming majority in favor of an option that ultimately never even made to the end to maybe half and half at some point, at the very end it becomes more I'd say 85 to 15 (or maybe a little more than that) in favor of Adm McRaven, but there are some people who recommend don't do it at all, or don't do anything, if you've got to do it choose the one that we don't end up doing, so that is why the common story that this is intelligence ten years in the making, a real remarkable story over the last year or last ten months in piecing it together and then Special Operations both planning and adaptive execution, because what they do on the target wasn't their primary plan and had to change in a couple of ways and hardly looked like it did, but also why Secretary Gates and others said a gutsy decision by the President. Again, he had very senior people telling him don't do this Mr. President. I mean he had a majority who said did (sic) it, but still an incredibly gutsy decision; and people passionately arguing for another course of ... you know senior advisors.

MB - My understanding is you liked the helo from the beginning or let me say that you were an early adapter on that; can you...?

MV - Well my view is keep all your options open, everything, so this is what I started with because there is pros and cons of everything and then continue to refine and analyze there's innumerable details you have got to work out, like okay, if I go with this Adm McRaven option - what do I do with the body? Who do I notify afterwards? That takes a lot of time, to work out all those details and then you start thinking this a good idea and then you think no it's not a good idea, I'm going to go this way and eventually ended up where we did, but it took awhile. So yes, I would say by the end of March I was clearly in Adm McRaven's camp; he said I was an early adopter and persuaded others, but, by the end there was a strong majority both in the deputies and the principals.

MB - And your reasoning for that is based on...?

MV- One, I felt more and more confident that we had a really good plan, that we could actually get in and we could...

MB - But you would say that the principal thing is that you got the body?

MV- Yes, that was the dispositive, all the critical things that could go wrong, and there is some operation risk, but the critical strategic and political things that could go wrong, really revolved around, they weren't operational questions, they were could I prove this and the end of the day; and if could I do that and then also too, once you had enough confidence that you could potentially get in and out

undetected, then there was the question - What if he's not there? Then obviously a ground raid looks a lot better than an air strike when you're not killing people you don't need to.

I go there he's not there and nobody dies theoretically and we'll wonder what the hell happened, but there was a reasonable probability that we could... and also too there might be reasons to keep it quiet; which is one of the reasons we did it through the CIA at the end of the day; we could have done it with the Secretary in charge rather than a dual relationship.

MB - Let's say the worse thing, so they go there...?

MV - So, this whole thing about (85) 95 percent down to forty, let me just talk about that for a second...

MB - You're talking about the range of views on the probability that he is actually there?

MV - Yes, yes, because I mean...

MB - You already told me you thought that....

MV - So basically, just as a safety check, the National CounterTerrorism Center, Mike Leiter, and company are brought in very late in the game, like two weeks before, and the poor guy was getting married the day before, ruined/cancelled his honeymoon and other stuff. But first he's told here is the big secret in the US government and the second thing is he volunteers to have a red team to just reassess the intelligence, because NCTC kind of completes in terrorism intelligence with CIA. And so, in any event, they bring in some analysts from CIA but also from DIA and others at NCTC and they do this red team and they try to come up with all alternative hypotheses and everything else, and one of those guys was "Mr Forty Percent," now that was still very strong, but he was kind of a naysayer, and then the others were 60-70, but also people like Morrell were 60; some of the others at CTC were in the 80 camp, I considered myself in the 80 camp, but as I was saying 80, 40, it's still the same evidence it's a circumstantial case and you know that's why it's a gutsy decision by the President.

MB - Let's say....

MV - Now I would say on the intel.

MB - Okay...

MV - The number of people, who they were, where they were, was all 100 percent spot on, 100 percent spot on. The identities of people and where they were, which house, which floor, etc. was all spot on. So that was pretty good. Now, there were a few other surprises, like all the crap he had that we took off the target and others and a few other things, but you couldn't know that in advance...

KB – Right.

MV – You couldn't know he was there and turned out to be probably stronger than...

MB – They understated...

MV- Yes.

MB – Now let me ask you a hypothetical? Let's say the worse case happens during the raid there is a firefight the SEALs get pinned down they shoot their way, in your mind in terms of worst casing this, what is the worst possible strategic... are we at war with Pak..., could that happen? What is the worst outcome here of the raid?

MV – Well...

MB – Obviously the guys die; but I mean it terms of the big strategic picture of the country?

MV – So one, I mean having lots of messy things go bad; so having helicopters crash - big fear...

MB – Well I mean, say a guy comes out from the neighborhood shoots an RPG, they shoot back, he turns out ...

MV – Yah, you get a Blackhawk down or something, where things just go terribly bad on the objective or on route to the objective, I mean it's less of a problem because at that point you don't know where you are going but you are still violating somebody's territory, but again, depends, as long as I can get the force out, and then I just got a wreckage – you know as Desi Arnaz, "I got some splaining to do," or Lucy does, or whatever it is; but it is less bad, than if I've just got a bunch of people dead and stuff on the objective; and so the worst case is where you actually have a big fight with the Pakistani Security Forces, so a critical consideration is, as I say – one, what if he is not there; can I get in and out, essentially surgically, without killing anybody or without them really knowing I was there; a good probability of that but not a hundred percent. And then second, if I got in there and things were a little messier than I thought, can I at least extract myself before they really go bad. So say I had again a downed helicopter, I got to think, could I get everybody out of there and just... rather than I holed up in the Alamo and then I've got to negotiate their way out or something, so that's where it really turned bad

MB - And did you game out what happens if there is a big fight with Pak Security Forces?

MV – Yes, but we tried to develop a plan as I say that would avoid that, which would get us out well before they could react under any

MB - And you had high confidence?

MV - We had high confidence we could do that.

MB - In being able to assess their ability, given what you knew about quickly they could....?

MV - Yes, we knew where everybody was and what their likely reaction times were and we had enough redundancy that we were confident that we could get out if we had to and a lot of protection, and turned out we didn't need any of that.

MB - Was there a turning... You mentioned the January period as sort of like one of these transitions between... As January being a sort of transition between phase one and phase two as you described them, is there... I know there was that November phone call where the intercept says I'm still working for the same brothers as before?

MV - Yah, it gives you higher confidence as you build the case, but again part of the period, the reason I divide it that way is you know, other than okay Mr. President we're going to tell you this big secret; and okay, well continue to develop it and keep me informed, okay keep you informed; it isn't until mid February when it's, or even really with the President mid... I mean he is kept advised by Donilon and Brennan and stuff, but really it isn't until mid March when okay, lets assess the strength of this case. So that's when you are really putting it together and you're refining that, you know, why do you have confidence in this, what are plausible alternative explanations, what more can you do to collect to narrow the uncertainty, which again, is it worth delaying, what am I going to get if I try this or this to... you know, so there are all these discussions going on about try to convince me that this is really what you think it is and not something else, and then secondarily, convince me of your plan, or which option is the right one. But, there's a period between mid March, and I would say, early April where you are still trying to make the case, so you can look back at evidence like hey we got this and we got this, but it took more than that it took, even if a piece of evidence is consequential its well how can I test this hypothesis that it's not some drug lord or whatever it is you know to what would I see if that were the case fitting of all the evidence.

KB - Hum, Right.

MB - Could be communicating with his supplier or something like that?

MV - Yah, right; or it's someone else, number two or something else. So there is a lot of that but at the end of the day once it gets very refined and there's not additional opportunities for collection without risk, then it's, okay what do you make of it. It is what it is; and then what do you make of the plan or plans, which one do you like. So that's where we ended up.

MB – Great, yes.

MV – You got fifteen more minutes if you want, but you ask I've been talking too much, so go ahead.

MB – No, no.

KB – You've been so incredible.

MB – You've been great.

MB – (to KB) did you?

KB – No you asked the one that I was curious about what happened...

MB – The Pak... Obviously part of the challenge for us is to capture how difficult this was because there is a version of it that in hindsight, it just looks like it fell into place, right so, that is why I just wanted to ask you hypothetically about what could have happened wrong, because it makes it more dramatic when it all goes right

MV – I guess I would say that even though there was a majority at the end that felt the same way I did, a strong majority, that we ought to do the raid for the variety of reasons; to get the body because it dealt with all the bad contingencies in the right way and we could do it. And I felt we ought to do it, many others did too, at the very end there was still a wonder, are we going to go with option A or option B, are we going to delay further and just collect more intelligence and you know in hindsight you could see the President was extremely determined to move this as... when it was ready to move it, as fast as humanly possible and not take any chances that it would leak out or anything, so from 15 Mar to May 1st, I mean that, in hindsight like April 1st; it was very clear what he was going to do, but it wasn't clear on April 28th.

MB – Right.

MV – So, the next morning when he decided, 100 percent Friday morning; we had our last big meeting with him Thursday night and then the inner White House circle Saturday morn... Friday morning, he issued the order and stuff like that, and I still didn't know which way he was going to go; I mean a high probability I thought he would go the way he did, but as you say things look clearer in hindsight then they actually were at the time.

MB – Uh-huh, Uh-huh. And was part of the reason that you didn't do the more surgical strike just not having as much confidence in that technology working or was it again going back to the verification issue?

MV – It's a mixture; so once you get away...once it becomes surgical then you're less worried about killing lots of people that you didn't mean to kill, but then there's the issue of number one, did I really get my guy and....

MB – As opposed to he's just in a tunnel somewhere...

MV – Yah, or just you missed. Like if we had to abort for some reason in route to the target, without a crashed helicopter, they never would have been the wiser. A very strong very high probability that we could have gone in three quarters of the way, turned around come back and tried again...

MB – A couple weeks later... a month later...

MV – A month later... and you needed everything, temperature and those sorts of things, but I mean you could have had a second chance. If you did the raid on the target it would of spooked them; even if he was there or others were there, whatever if we missed for some reason you probably don't get a second chance. But clearly if you strike and miss, you're done. Even if the security forces don't figure it out, the guys who are there clearly figure it out and so the same thing, if you kill the wrong person, any kind of miss you're finished. It's one shot. And then, as I said the trouble is okay, I did get him but I really didn't know it was him 100 percent, and now how can I prove it, afterwards, what do I say, what do I do, I mean how do I know that I really did get him, even if I have a high confidence I think I did.

MB – Uh-hum.

MV - And then, if you have the diplomatic problem of what the hell are you doing bombing my country; even if it's with small bombs and only a few people or something, if there is any women... the idea that you could get just him and not someone else dashing out, because there's kids and women periodically with him and stuff like that...

MB – Was the idea that you would literally just strike the third floor?

MV – No.

MB – So, it was take the whole building?

MV – No, not the whole building, but to try to get just him if possible. But it probably wasn't possible to get just him. So again, there is a series of things that make that risky both strategic and tactical. But again, there were some people who were for it, but let them speak for themselves.

KB – So extraordinary, just extraordinary.

MV – A very intense period.

MB – Yah; well thank you for taking the time.

MV – Well again, with some of this, provided you don't drop bombs, it's repeatable and so that's what attracted some people to it. So I could fly over....

MB – But why would you pull them back in the middle of the flight? What are you going to find out on midnight on Sunday?

MV – Because, the period that you might be there, the limited window, he may not be available and so in that sense you could try again, but on the other hand, once you drop that bomb you don't get to try it again. And then even if you hit him you don't know that you have strategic success and so that is ultimately the problem.

MV – So should I have (b)(3)-16 U.S.C. 130(b), (b)(6) reach out to you or?

MB – I'll call him, however you want to play it. I take your guidance...and very grateful.

MV – And what's your schedule look like?

KB – We leave early Wednesday morning and go back to Los Angeles but we could come back or ...

MV – Because I am going off to Afghanistan/Pakistan on Sunday.

MV – So we'll try to arrange it, if he's here, before Wednesday; and if not we'll at least establish a mechanism to where you guys can work it out.

MB – Okay; thank you, have a good weekend.

KB – So wonderful meeting you.