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**Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA**

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**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

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**Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA**

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**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

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**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

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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**

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**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.

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## **Parker, Fatima Ms OSD PA**

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**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](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, ...

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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