

[redacted] - Int/ Interrogation Plan #63

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Interrogation Plan #63

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As promised, attached is a "hybrid" plan for #63 that incorporates a phase where our desired techniques are employed. DOD here on the ground agreed to this plan and will discuss it during the 1600 meeting today. I believe that is the same meeting you are attending. We are also sending the plan to the BAU for their review. We remain ambivalent about this hybrid approach even though they bought off on a rapport building phase one. One of the downsides is that it is not a plan that allows for a long term rapport building technique. Success or failure will be determined in 5-7 days before moving on to a next phase. Also attached is a narrative written by [redacted] which advocates a long term approach-- also being sent to BAU. A concern with embracing the hybrid approach is that there will be many variables that we will have no control over. As I understand it, we are not to participate with DOD in the actual interrogation. I think this is wise. However, in order to further diplomacy we met with DOD at its request, to determine if there was any middle ground between their approach and our proposed approach. The hybrid approach was that middle ground. But we still have misgivings:

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1. The DHS plan seems better suited for the battlefield and not for long-term detainees.
2. Although very enthusiastic, DHS interrogators appear to have limited experience in any kind of interview approach which emphasizes patience or being friendly over a long period of time. They appear to be highly susceptible to pressure to get quick results, and this pressure will be reflected in they improvise plans as they go along.
3. The reliability of their interview techniques is questionable. Worse, there appears to be no one on the DHS side who seems to be concerned about this. They are quick to dismiss any approach that extends beyond their experience or imagination.
4. Their embacement of a fear-based approach is consistent with the military environment in which they operate, but may not be conducive to the long term goal of obtaining reliable intelligence.

I know that you may have news for us following your 1600 meet. Please review the documents attached and advise as to whether we should participate further in any way or gracefully back out of this one. If you want us to back out, I request that HQ provide a written communication directing us not to get involved. Otherwise, our continued dealings with other agencies here are cramped.

[From [redacted]] >> Although I agree with the above, I think DHS will likely revert back to their original plan, which basically begins with Phase II of this hybrid plan, if we don't give our blessing to the hybrid plan. While the hybrid is not the best plan, I do believe it is the lesser of two evils. I also believe that this hybrid plan does simulate some of the important factors found in Stockholm Syndrome cases. Specifically, extended hours awake under increased stress continuing over a number of days, extended periods of time where rapport may be developed and the interviewer can become humanized in the detainee's eyes, opportunity for the detainee to be convinced that they are going through this ordeal together, all work together to possibly accelerate the bonding process. For these reasons I think this hybrid has more opportunity for success than the DHS original plan.

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Thanks,
The GTMO Guys

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