

Exhibit 61

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Date:

TO: [redacted]

FROM:

SUBJECT: EYES ONLY - FOLLOW-UP ON THE 13 AUGUST VTC

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

TOT: 13 [redacted] AUG 02 ALEC [redacted]

SECRET

STAFF [redacted] 13 [redacted] ALEC [redacted]

TO: IMMEDIATE [redacted] INFO DIRECTOR.

FROM: CTC [redacted] INFO DDO, ADDO, CHIEF/CTC, CTC [redacted] [redacted]
CTC/LGL, [redacted] OMS, [redacted] OTS [redacted]

[redacted]

SUBJECT: EYES ONLY - FOLLOW-UP ON THE 13 AUGUST VTC

REF: [redacted]

B. [redacted]

C. ALEC 184255 [redacted]

D. [redacted] 10607 [redacted]

TEXT:

1. ACTION REQUIRED: 1) PLEASE CONTINUE WITH THE AGGRESSIVE INTERROGATION STRATEGY FOR THE NEXT 2-3 WEEKS. [redacted]
CONCURRENCE AND POC/HOTEL INFORMATION FOR IMMEDIATE TDY [redacted]
ALEC [redacted] [redacted] AND [redacted] /CTC/LGL [redacted] PER BELOW ITINERARY.

2. HQS/ALEC MUCH APPRECIATES OPPORTUNITY AFFORDED BY TODAY'S VTC TO DISCUSS WITH THE [redacted] TEAM AND COS [redacted] OUR CURRENT

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STRATEGY ON DEBRIEFING ((ABU ZUBAYDAH)). BASED ON THE COMPELLING BODY OF REPORTING OUTLINED IN REF A, IT REMAINS THE HQS CONSENSUS THAT ABU ZUBAYDAH POSSESSES PRIVILEGED INFORMATION ON A VARIETY OF AL-QA'IDA ISSUES THAT POTENTIALLY COULD PROVIDE ACTIONABLE LEADS TO THREATS AGAINST US INTERESTS. WE UNDERSTAND THE COLLECTIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE TEAM IS THAT ABU ZUBAYDAH HAS NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO PROVIDE ON WHAT HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN DEFINED AS THE "CORE QUESTIONS" WHICH ADDRESS THE NEXT ATTACK PLANNED AGAINST U.S. INTERESTS, WHO ARE THE OPERATIVES INVOLVED, DETAILS OF THE SUPPORT NETWORK, AND DETAILS OF THE CELLS IN THE U.S. NOW. THE TEAM HAS ALSO ASSESSED THAT ABU ZUBAYDAH HAS BECOME COMPLIANT AND APPEARS WILLING TO DISCUSS OTHER ISSUES. AS A MEANS OF TESTING ABU ZUBAYDAH'S COMPLIANCE, WE AGREE WITH THE TEAM'S APPROACH TO WIDEN THE SCOPE OF QUESTIONING. WE WILL BE SENDING SPECIFIC, DETAILED REQUIREMENTS ON ISSUES AND TOPICS THAT WE ARE CERTAIN ABU ZUBAYDAH HAS DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF. WE CONTINUE TO ASSESS THAT OBTAINING INFORMATION FROM ABU ZUBAYDAH IS CRITICAL TO SAVING AMERICAN LIVES. THE EVIDENCE OF ABU ZUBAYDAH'S INVOLVEMENT IN OPERATIONAL PLANNING PRIOR TO HIS CAPTURE SIMPLY DOES NOT SQUARE WITH THE VAGUE, GENERAL INFORMATION HE HAS PROVIDED TO DATE, DESPITE THE PASSIVITY OF HIS CURRENT BEHAVIOR AND THE PERSISTENCY OF HIS DENIALS.

3. AS NOTED IN THE VTC, DURING THIS PERIOD OF EXPANDED QUESTIONING, WE WILL BE CONTINUING WITH THE CURRENT MODIFIED INTERROGATION STRATEGY, WITH ALL OF THE PRESSURES WE HAVE THE LEGAL AUTHORITIES TO BRING TO BEAR ON ABU ZUBAYDAH FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT TWO IF NOT THE NEXT THREE WEEKS. REST ASSURED THAT EVERY ACTION THE [REDACTED] TEAM HAS TAKEN WITH ABU ZUBAYDAH FALLS WELL WITHIN THESE LEGAL PARAMETERS. AS HAS BEEN THE CASE SINCE THE START OF THIS PROCESS, THE [REDACTED] TEAM MAY USE ITS DISCRETION ON THE TYPE AND FREQUENCY OF PRESSURES USED AGAINST ABU ZUBAYDAH -- AS LONG AS THE STRESS REMAINS ON HIM TO BE COMPLIANT AND TO PRODUCE ACTIONABLE INFORMATION. HQS/ALEC BELIEVES THAT IT IS CRITICAL TO MAINTAIN AN AGGRESSIVE STRATEGY IN THESE INTERROGATIONS AND TO USE THE PRESSURES SHREWDLY SO THAT WE MAXIMIZE THE INFORMATION ABU ZUBAYDAH PROVIDES.

4. AS SUGGESTED IN THE VTC AND WITH BASE'S CONCURRENCE, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] THE SERE INTERROGATORS WILL CONTINUE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THAT ABU ZUBAYDAH REMAINS COMPLIANT THROUGH THE PRESSURES WHILE [REDACTED] WILL HEAD UP THE SUBSTANTIVE INTERROGATIONS. ALEC STATION WILL SUPPORT THESE INTERROGATIONS THROUGH FOCUSED REQUIREMENTS AND IMMEDIATE FEEDBACK ON ABU ZUBAYDAH'S DISCLOSURES. [REDACTED] WILL BE ACCOMPANIED TO [REDACTED] BY [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] AS [REDACTED] WILL BE ON HAND TO PROVIDE LEGAL AND OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE, RESPECTIVELY. THEIR ITINERARY IS AS FOLLOWS. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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5. AT THE END OF THIS INTERROGATION PROCESS, WE REALIZE AND UNDERSTAND THAT WE MAY REPEAT MAY LEARN THAT ABU ZUBAYDAH HAS THE INNER PERSONAL STRENGTH AND MENTAL ACUMEN TO WITHSTAND ANY PRESSURE WE CAN PUT TO BEAR AGAINST HIM. UNTIL WE REACH THE END OF THIS PHASE OF THE PROCESS, HOWEVER, WE WOULD LIKE TO BRING TO BEAR ALL OF THE RESOURCES, ENERGY, AND CREATIVITY WE CAN MUSTER TOWARD THESE INTERROGATIONS. WE THANK THE [REDACTED] TEAM AND [REDACTED] STATION FOR THE COMMITMENT YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED TO THIS CRITICAL MISSION. YOU HAVE OUR COMPLETE SUPPORT.

END OF MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~