

# **Exhibit B**

**From:** ARLINGTON, JOHN G (SES) CIV SIGAR GEN COUN (US) [mailto:john.g.arlington.civ@mail.mil]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 23, 2018 5:25 PM  
**To:** Whitlock, Craig <Craig.Whitlock@washpost.com>  
**Cc:** LaVelle, Philip J CIV (US) <philip.j.lavelle.civ@mail.mil>; Weaver, Adam J CIV (US) <adam.j.weaver6.civ@mail.mil>  
**Subject:** SIGAR Lessons Learned Program Records Request

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Mr. Whitlock:

Phil Lavelle forwarded your questions about the Lessons Learned Interview list to me.

We are granting your FOIA request for the audio recordings and transcripts of interviews conducted by our Lessons Learned Program.

As you know from the interview inventory list we provided to you, our Lessons Learned Program has conducted 410 interviews to date. I thought I would add some clarification so that you can better understand what you are seeing on that list.

The majority of these interviews, namely 374, were conducted without an audio recording or transcript. The interviewer simply took notes of whatever he or she thought was interesting.

Of the 36 interviews that were recorded, 19 of those were interviews of Afghans in Afghanistan, conducted through an Afghan interpreter. Those 19 were then transcribed by the interpreter and the transcript was delivered to SIGAR. SIGAR did not request copies of the recordings and they are now presumed lost. As a result, we have only 17 recordings of the 36 interviews that were recorded.

Of the 17 interviews for which we have recordings, we had transcripts made of only 9. Seven of those interviews were conducted "for attribution", and therefore the person being interviewed is identified on the inventory. However, in 2 cases the person being interviewed requested anonymity, and therefore they are not identified on the inventory.

It is important to note that SIGAR is prohibited by law from disclosing the identity of a source who wishes to remain anonymous. Section 8L(b)(2)(B) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 provides:

**"Anonymity.**—The Inspector General of each Agency shall not disclose the identity of any individual making a report under this paragraph without the consent of the individual unless the Inspector General determines that such a disclosure is unavoidable during the course of an investigation."

In other words, we have no choice in the matter. But that also explains why you found six quotes in SIGAR's "Corruption" report citing interviews that are listed on the inventory as "not for attribution." In the course of writing the report, the SIGAR researchers went back to the person who was interviewed and asked permission to use specific quotes in the report and to use their names, and they gave permission. However, the remainder of those interviews remain "not for attribution."

Incidentally, while there was an audio recording of the interview with General Flynn, no transcript was ever made. The document we provided to you regarding the Flynn interview comprised the notes made by the interviewer (with classified information redacted). In addition, we provided you with a copy of the recording (with the classified portions redacted by the Justice Department).

Finally, I would like to clarify two of the terms used in the inventory list we provided. The heading "Verbatim Transcript" is redundant. The correct term is "Transcript." In addition, the status "none found" is needlessly ambiguous; in all cases

the correct term is “none.” Finally, I note the entry for the Flynn interview says “Being Adjudicated.” This is simply incorrect and has been changed to indicate that the interview was “for attribution.” A corrected inventory is attached.

I hope this clarifies the issues you raised. We are reviewing the transcripts and recordings that we have not yet provided and will get them to you as soon as we complete those reviews. However, I would like clarification from you in that regard: strictly speaking, your FOIA request was for transcripts and recordings. As explained above, the majority of our interviews were conducted without either a transcript or recording; for these there are only the interviewer’s notes. Are you requesting copies of these also? If so, please let me know, as this will require substantially more time and resources to review.

Should you have any further questions about this, please let us know.

John Arlington  
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