

Torture Undermines U.S. Intelligence Collection

The first anniversary of the Osama bin Laden operation reminds us how some tried to expropriate that moment for the sensational and incorrect assertion that torture led the United States to him.

We join together today to repudiate that claim and remind Americans that torture was not what helped locate bin Laden. Instead, the torture of Khalid Sheik Mohammed and others delayed U.S. efforts to find bin Laden, and may even have prolonged the war in Afghanistan.

Torture is unreliable. Our collective experience is that a victim of torture will say anything to get the torture to stop, yielding false and inaccurate leads. Abuse often only strengthens their resolve and makes it that much harder for an interrogator to find a way to elicit useful information. Torture is counter-productive to intelligence gathering and makes our nation less safe.

We know that building rapport and making a connection with the person you are interrogating is the most productive method of interrogation. Interrogation tactics that have kept America safe for generations are sophisticated, humane and lawful, and produce reliable, actionable intelligence in any interrogation scenario.

Matthew Alexander
Glenn Carle
James T. Clemente
Jack Cloonan
Barry Eisler
Mark Fallon
Mike German
Robert McFadden
Joe Navarro
Torin Nelson
Jack Rice
Patrick M. Skinner

Bios

Matthew Alexander

Matthew Alexander (a pseudonym) has spent more than 18 years in the U.S. Air Force and Air Force Reserves. He personally conducted more than 300 interrogations in Iraq and supervised more than a thousand. Alexander was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his achievements in Iraq, including leading the team of interrogators that located Abu Musab al Zarqawi, who was subsequently killed in an airstrike. Alexander has conducted missions in over 30 countries, has two advanced degrees, and speaks three languages. He is the author of *How to Break a Terrorist:*

The U.S. Interrogators Who Used Brains, Not Brutality, to Take Down the Deadliest Man in Iraq (Free Press, 2008) and *Kill or Capture: How a Special Operations Task Force Took Down a Notorious al Qaeda Terrorist* (St. Martin's Press, 2011).

Glenn Carle

Glenn L. Carle served twenty-three years in the Clandestine Services of the Central Intelligence Agency, working in a number of overseas posts on four continents and in Washington, DC. Mr. Carle has worked on terrorism issues at various times since the mid-1980s. He has worked extensively on Balkan, Central American, and European political, security, and economic issues. His last position was as Deputy National Intelligence Officer for Transnational Threats, on the National Intelligence Council, where his office was responsible for strategic analysis of terrorism, international organized crime, and narcotics issues.

James T. Clemente, FBI SSA (Retired)

Retired FBI Supervisory Special Agent (for 22 years), Clemente was a member of the National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime (NCAVC) Behavioral Analysis Unit (BAU), an integral part of the Critical Incident Response Group, which provides behavioral support during all FBI crisis incidents. Clemente has analyzed hundreds of cases for and has provided investigative, prosecutive, and sentencing guidance to FBI agents, federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, psychologists, social workers, and other professional organizations across the United States and overseas in cases involving sexual exploitation of children, child pornography, child sex abuse, child prostitution, child abduction, serial rape, incest, sexual assault, sexual homicide, serial homicide, kidnapping, and equivocal death.

Jack Cloonan

Jack Cloonan served as a special agent with the FBI from 1977 to 2002. He began investigating Al Qaeda in the early 1990's and served as a special agent for the Bureau's Osama bin Laden unit from 1996 to 2002.

Barry Eisler

Barry Eisler spent three years in a covert position with the CIA's Directorate of Operations, then worked as a technology lawyer and startup executive in Silicon Valley and Japan, earning his black belt at the Kodokan International Judo Center along the way. Eisler's bestselling thrillers have won the Barry Award and the Gumshoe Award for Best Thriller of the Year, have been included in numerous "Best Of" lists, and have been translated into nearly twenty languages. Eisler lives in the San Francisco Bay Area and, when he's not writing novels, blogs about torture, civil liberties, and the rule of law.

Michael German

Michael German served as an FBI Special Agent for 16 years, where he specialized in domestic terrorism and covert operations. He twice infiltrated domestic terrorist groups and successfully prevented terrorist acts through successful criminal prosecutions. He also served as a counterterrorism instructor at the FBI National Academy, where he co-taught a course on extremism in democratic societies and developed a graduate-level training program for state, local and international law enforcement officers. He was later an adjunct professor of Law Enforcement and Terrorism at the National Defense University and is the author of "Thinking

Like a Terrorist: Insights of a Former FBI Undercover Agent” (Potomac Books, 2007).

Mark Fallon

Mr. Fallon served for more than 30 years in the federal law enforcement and counterintelligence community, including as a Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) Special Agent and within the Department of Homeland Security, as the Assistant Director for Training of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC). He began his federal law enforcement career in 1979 with the US Marshals Service. His first sworn position was in 1976 as a Police Constable with the Old Lyme Police Department in Connecticut. Mr. Fallon has been involved in many high impact cases, including the prosecution of Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman and as the Commander of the USS Cole Task Force. Mr. Fallon is internationally recognized for his leadership ability in crisis situations, counterterrorism acumen, and training experience.

Robert McFadden

Robert McFadden is a 20-year Special of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), where he held a number of high-impact positions to include Senior Representative to the Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy (clandestine, sensitive, and low visibility operations oversight and policy), Deputy Assistant Director CI and National Security Operations, and Special Agent in Charge, Global Support Field Office. He was the co-case agent for the NCIS-FBI investigation of the USS Cole attack and al-Qa'ida maritime operations cell. He conducted scores of interviews and interrogations of terrorism subjects, witnesses, and sources.

Joe Navarro

For 25 years, Joe Navarro worked as an FBI special agent in the area of counterintelligence and behavioral assessment. A founding member of the National Security Division's Behavioral Analysis Program, he is on the adjunct faculty at Florida's Saint Leo University and the University of Tampa and remains a consultant to the intelligence community. Mr. Navarro is the author of a number of books about interviewing techniques and practice including *Advanced Interviewing*, which he co-wrote with Jack Schafer, and *Hunting Terrorists: A Look at the Psychopathology of Terror*. He currently teaches the Advanced Terrorism Interview course at the FBI.

Torin Nelson

Torin Nelson is the President of the Society for Professional Human Intelligence. He is a sixteen-year veteran interrogator and Human Intelligence specialist. Among other locations he has served at Guantanamo Bay, Abu Ghraib and the Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan.

Jack Rice

Jack Rice is a former Central Intelligence Agency Officer as well as a former prosecuting attorney. He appears frequently on MSNBC, Al Jazeera, CNN, and other networks and is currently a criminal defense attorney in Minnesota.

Patrick M. Skinner

Patrick M Skinner is a former CTC operations officer with the CIA, with experience in both Afghanistan and Iraq. He now runs a consulting firm, Used Canoe, Inc. that specializes in assistance with developing and using rapport and trust when dealing with CT sources or targets.