

RPTR HUMISTON

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SELECT COMMITTEE ON BENGHAZI,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

INTERVIEW OF: [REDACTED]

Tuesday, June 30, 2015

Washington, D.C.

The interview in the above matter was held in Room HVC-205,
Capitol Visitor Center, commencing at 2:16 p.m.

Appearances:

For the SELECT COMMITTEE ON BENGHAZI:

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THE WARNER

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Ms. Jackson. Good afternoon. This is a transcribed interview of [REDACTED] or --

Mr. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Ms. Jackson. [REDACTED]

Mr. [REDACTED] Yes.

Ms. Jackson. Conducted by the House Select Committee on Benghazi. This interview is being conducted voluntarily as part of the committee's investigation into the attacks on the U.S. diplomatic security facilities in Benghazi, Libya, and related matters pursuant to House Resolution 567 of the 113th Congress and House Resolution 5 of the 114th Congress.

Sir, could state your name for the record, please?

Mr. [REDACTED] Sure. I'm [REDACTED]

Ms. Jackson. And would you spell your last name for us?

Mr. [REDACTED] Sure. [REDACTED] as in [REDACTED]

Ms. Jackson. Okay. We appreciate your being here today and answering our questions this afternoon.

Mr. [REDACTED] Sure.

Ms. Jackson. Again, my name is Sharon Jackson. I am one of the counsel for the majority staff of the committee. And I'm going to ask everyone to go around the table and introduce themselves so that you know who we are.

Mr. [REDACTED] Okay.

Ms. Jackson. I promise you there will not be a quiz at the end as to everybody's name.

Mr. [REDACTED] Good. Okay.

Ms. Jackson. Just for your lawyer, we will have a quiz for him. And he cannot pass it off to his associate either.

Mr. Turk. And speak slowly, okay?

Ms. Jackson. But we'll start with the counsel that is here with you today.

Mr. Turk. I'm Randy Turk from Baker Botts here in Washington, and I represent [REDACTED], along with my colleague, Kyle Clark.

Mr. Clark. And I'm Kyle Clark from Baker Botts, also represent [REDACTED].

Mr. Evers. Austin Evers. I work at the State Department.

Ms. Sawyer. Heather Sawyer with the minority staff.

Ms. Sachsman Grooms. I'm Susanne Sachsman Grooms with the minority staff.

Ms. Boyd. Krista Boyd with the minority staff.

Ms. Betz. Kim Betz with the majority staff.

Ms. Clarke. Sheria Clarke with the majority staff.

Mr. Davis. My name is Carlton Davis. I work for Chairman Gowdy.

Mr. Chipman. And I'm Dana Chipman with the majority staff.

Ms. Jackson. Okay. We were talking right before we went on the record, and it is my understanding, Mr. Turk, that you would like to raise an issue on the record.

Mr. Turk. I would. Thank you. [REDACTED] mother in [REDACTED] received a telephone call yesterday from a reporter from The Washington Post, and we believe that the likelihood that this reporter was calling

about anything other than [REDACTED] appearance here today is extremely unlikely, and we're concerned about it. We don't want The Post to know anything about what happens today, even if they already know he's appearing today.

And we ask not only that people in the room not speak to reporters, but that their staff, that they make sure their staff is not doing that. Because clearly I think it's pretty obvious that somebody let The Washington Post know that [REDACTED] was testifying today, and we don't want to see another story or any story in the Post about that.

So I make that request. And I thank everybody on the staff for listening to us and hopefully following through.

Ms. Jackson. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Turk.

Mr. Turk. Can I put one more point on the record?

Ms. Jackson. Yes.

Mr. Turk. And that is, I want to note that [REDACTED] retired from his position at the State Department back in 2012, I think within a couple of weeks of the events in Benghazi. So it's been a while now, several years, almost 3, since he was there, and I think that should be something in the background as we go forward in terms of memory and involvement in things.

Ms. Jackson. Okay.

Mr. Turk. So that said --

Ms. Jackson. Okay. Thank you.

Before we begin with the questioning, there's obviously rules and procedures that we will follow this afternoon, and so I just wanted

to outline those to you. Your attorney may have had conversations with our chief counsel about this, but I just want to set them out for us here today.

The way that we proceed is that a member -- and for the majority staff it will be for the most part me -- will ask questions for up to an hour, and then we'll stop, we'll switch, and the minority staff will be able to ask questions for up to the next hour. And we will proceed back and forth until each side has asked all the questions that they have of you.

Mr. [REDACTED] Okay.

Ms. Jackson. Questions can only be asked by a member of the committee, a Member of Congress assigned to this committee, or a staff member.

And additionally, in this interview, which is a voluntary transcribed interview, it is unlike testimony or a deposition in litigation, so we are not bound by the rules of evidence. So we may ask your opinion, we may ask what you've heard from other people, and the like. And also, because we don't follow the rules of evidence, that it's rare that we have any objections to any of the questions.

The witness or his counsel may raise objections for privilege, and those are then subject to the review of the chairman of the committee. If these objections cannot be resolved in the context of this interview, you can be required to return to answer those questions after the chairman has ruled on that. But Members of Congress and the staff that is here today are not permitted to raise objections when

either side is asking questions. So this has not been an issue that we've had in the course of our interviews, but I just want to put it out there that we are all clear on the process.

We are in an unclassified setting today and we anticipate that there will be no question posed to you or answer given that would go into any type of classified materials.

Mr. [REDACTED] Okay.

Ms. Jackson. If for any reason you think that an answer you would be called upon to give would go into that realm, please just let us know and we can reserve that question until another time or just decide to go on and not have it --

Mr. [REDACTED] Okay.

Ms. Jackson. -- have the answer as part of our proceedings.

You are welcome to confer with your counsel as often as you would like and for as long as you would like today. But if it's a mere matter of you need a question clarified or restated or perhaps simplified in some way, please just say so, and we'll try and take care of that at the time. But, again, at any time if you want to confer with the counsel that you've brought today, we will afford you the opportunity to do so. We'll simply go off the record, we'll allow you a private opportunity to talk with one another, and then we'll come back and resume.

Mr. [REDACTED] Okay.

Ms. Jackson. We will also take a break whenever it's convenient for you. Typically we do this at the end of every hour, as we have

to change seats and things like that, it's just a good opportunity to break. But if you need a break before then, please, again, just let us know, and we'll afford you whatever time you need for a break. We have water here. We have chocolate here. And if you need anything else, please just let us know. We're going to try and make this process as easy as possible of you.

As you see, we have an official reporter here that's taking down everything that is said so that we can have a record of these proceedings. So one thing that is important is that we give verbal responses, or that you give verbal responses to the questions, because it's very difficult for the reporter to be taking everything down --

Mr. [REDACTED] A nod.

Ms. Jackson. -- and watching nods of the head, shakes of the head, and things like that.

The other thing that the reporter asks of us is that only one person talks at a time. And so I will try and be very good at not starting my questions before you've finished your answer, and if you could wait to provide an answer until the question is completed, the reporter will love us both at the end of the proceeding. Otherwise, we might get chastised during the proceedings.

Mr. [REDACTED] Okay.

Ms. Jackson. And, again, if you need any question repeated, clarified, I know sometimes my mind wanders and I don't hear all of the question, so, please, we just want to make sure that you understand the question before giving an answer. We'll be happy to clarify or

repeat anything.

We will be asking you to give your best recollection of events. And as your counsel noted, it has been some years since you've been with the State Department. So, you know, we don't want you to guess, but we do want you to give us the most complete and truthful answer that you can.

If we pose a question to you and you don't know the answer but you know someone who would know the answer or is likely to know the answer, we will ask that you give us that information so that we can then go and turn to that person to seek the answers to the questions that we have.

This is a congressional committee conducting an investigation into certain events. Do you understand that you are required to answer the questions posed to you by Congress truthfully?

Mr. [REDACTED] I am.

Ms. Jackson. Okay. And do you understand that this also applies when questions are asked to you by a committee of Congress?

Mr. [REDACTED] Yes.

Ms. Jackson. Okay. Do you understand that witnesses who knowingly provide false testimony could be subject to a prosecution for perjury or for making false statements? Do you understand that?

Mr. [REDACTED] Yes.

Ms. Jackson. Okay. Is there any reason as you sit here today that you would not be able to give complete and truthful answers to this committee's questions?

Mr. [REDACTED] No.

Ms. Jackson. Okay. All right. That's the end of my preamble.

Mr. [REDACTED] Okay.

Ms. Jackson. Do you have any questions for us at this time?

Mr. [REDACTED] I don't.

Ms. Jackson. Okay. I'm going to ask if the minority has anything that they would like to add at this time.

Ms. Sawyer. We'd just like to welcome you. Thank you for coming, thank you for appearing voluntarily. I think my colleague indicated that we're a committee investigating certain events. They are the events surrounding the attacks in Benghazi. So we appreciate your counsel's clarification as to when your tenure ended with regard to those attacks in particular. So thank you.

Mr. [REDACTED] Okay.

Ms. Jackson. Okay. With that, I see that the clock is now at 2:25, and I'll start the first hour of questioning.

EXAMINATION

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q Mr. [REDACTED], how long were you at the State Department?

A I was at the State Department 38.9 years.

Q You couldn't make it to 40?

A No.

Q And when did you retire?

A I retired November 2 in 2012.

Q Okay. And what was your last position at the State

Department?

A I was director of the Systems Office on the seventh floor.

Q And would that be what we have come to know as the seventh floor principals of the State Department?

A Yes.

Q Okay.

A Yes. We handle that system.

Q And who were -- or what positions were in the system that you handled? You know, was it Secretary, the deputy secretaries? How far down did it go?

A It was all of those, all of the top officials at State.

Q Okay. Did that include the under secretaries of State?

A Yes.

Q Did it go below that level to assistant secretaries?

A Possibly. I just can't remember off the top of my head. But we may have had an assistant secretary on our staff, though those were usually handled by Bureau. So I don't think so.

Q Okay. But certainly from under secretary level upward?

A Above, yes.

Q Okay. And did that include the staff that worked for those principals?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And part of your answer to a question indicated that you had a separate network or server for those seventh floor principals?

A Yes.

Q Okay. Can you explain how that operated?

A There were two systems, classified and unclassified. So I'm not sure exactly which --

Q But there were separate -- there was a separate classified and a separate unclassified system that serviced only the seventh floor principals and their staffs?

A Correct, to a degree.

Q Okay. Could you explain that degree to me?

A The degree, the classified was, as far as I remember, that it was -- we were the sole caretakers of that. The unclassified system, we worked with big IRM, the big Systems Office, and so they had a view into our system.

Q Okay. Did the network or server for the unclassified system for the seventh floor principals, did it only service them even though you coordinated with big IRM?

A Yes. What we handled and serviced them, that's what we did.

Q From what position did you retire from the State Department in November of 2012?

A I retired as the director.

Q Okay. Of IRM?

A Not IRM. S/ES. S/ES is the designation, the Executive Secretariat, S/ES-IRM.

Q Okay. And what does IRM stand for?

A Information Resource Management.

Q Okay. So would it be safe to say that you were the head

tech guy for the seventh floor principals?

Mr. Turk. The what?

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q Head tech guy.

A Yes, for -- yes.

Q Okay. What were your duties and responsibilities? What did you do on a day-to-day basis?

A I handled the running of the office. We had teams with team leaders, and I had a couple of deputies, and we had roughly 1,000 users on our network. So just keeping things operational.

Q Okay. And we're talking the technology side, keeping things operational?

A Yes, keeping the systems up and running, absolutely.

Q Now, you said there were about 1,000 users?

A Yes, at a given -- any given time. I mean, some would come and go depending on -- we were actually working with big IRM to -- they took some of the users that we had.

Q Okay. So you would have the Secretary of State and her staff. Is that correct?

A Yes.

Q And the deputy secretaries of state and their staffs?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And then the -- I can't remember if there were six or seven.

A S, D, P, E, T, M, C were the acronyms: Secretary, the deputy

secretary, the under secretary for political affairs, economic affairs, it used to be security assistance, science and technology, but I think that has changed, and then under secretary for management, and then counselor of the Department.

Q Okay.

A Those were the big ones that I recall.

Q Okay. And so you were in charge of making sure all the technology systems were running and operational for these offices and positions?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And how long were you in that position as the director of IT for the Executive Secretariat-IRM?

A I took that position, I believe it was June 2008, and then retired in November 2012. So a little over 4 years.

Q Okay. Let me just step aside for a minute. When did you learn that this committee wanted to talk to you?

A I learned when I was in New England, taking a vacation in New England. And I just happened to check my email, and there was an email that had sat in my in-box for a while. I just hadn't been thinking about it. And then I immediately called the HR person who had tried to contact me and gave them my phone number, my mobile, and said, "Please call me."

Q And approximately when was that? When were you on vacation?

A That -- I got back to D.C. around the 17th, and we were gone

8 days, so roughly the 9th, May 9, through the 17th or 18th, roughly.

Q Okay.

A Yeah.

Q Okay. So during your entire tenure as director of IT for the executive-level leadership, did they always have a separate network or server for the unclassified system?

A Yes, yes.

Q Do you know how long -- I mean, how long it had been in effect prior to your taking over in 2008?

A I believe it was while Colin Powell was in office and said that we should have -- I believe that's when it was the unclassified system. Yeah.

Q Were you still working in information technology in the State Department when Secretary Powell was --

A Yes.

Q Okay.

A Yes.

Q And what was your position back then?

A I was a deputy director.

Q Of what office?

A Oh, in Information Resource Management, S/ES. My entire career was in the Executive Secretariat. But I worked in the Document Branch at the beginning for -- of 12 years, and then --

Q But you've always worked in the --

A I have, yes.

Q All right. And do you know why it was that a separate network -- well, let me back up and make sure we have the right terminology, because I am not a technical person.

Is a network and a server kind of synonymous terms or do they mean something different to you as an expert in the technology field?

A I would say they're very similar. You have to have servers to make up part of the network.

Q Okay.

A So I think that's a safe assumption.

Q So I can use them interchangeably in my questions and you'll know what I'm talking about?

A Sure.

Q Okay. Do you know why it was that Secretary Powell decided to implement a separate network for the executive leadership?

A And we're talking unclassified side?

Q Yes.

A Oh. I'm not so sure that it was a deliberate thing. It's just that the classified side was separate. And then we pride ourselves on giving great customer service to the principal officers and have an understanding of their mission. So --

Q Was there any concern about the protection of information that is transmitted at that level?

A Yes.

Q And did the executive leadership network provide additional protections for the information that was transmitted on that system?

A Could you clarify that?

Q By segregating out the flow of information to and from the senior leadership of the State Department, did that protect it in any additional way from other systems in the State Department?

A I believe there were firewalls in place that would provide extra protection.

Q Okay. Were the systems backed up in any way?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And can you describe those for us?

A My recollection is that they were backed up [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Q And it may be an obvious question, but what's the importance of having backups to a system?

A In case something happens, if the system crashes, for having an extra copy.

Q Okay. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Were there ever times when there was, like, a snapshot of the entire network taken and preserved, say, at the end of the year, end of the fiscal year, anything like that?

A A snapshot? I'm not sure what you mean of --

Q Like a backup tape preserved for time immortal.

A I don't know. I don't know.

Q Okay. And where were the backup systems located, if you

recall? And if you want, just focus on 2011, 2012, the last 2 years you were there.

A Okay.

Q For a variety of questions, if in doubt, let's just -- if I don't give a timeframe, let's talk about 2011, 2012.

A And 2012.

Q Okay?

A Okay.

Q Yeah.

A [REDACTED]

Q Okay. [REDACTED] ?

A Yes.

Q [REDACTED] ?

A No.

Q Okay.

Mr. Evers. Sharon, I know that there's an agreement on protecting information from public release, but I think especially in light of the IT security issues in the executive branch recently, that the information that you're going into now, while maybe it's not classified, Mr. [REDACTED] the right judge for that, I think it would be particularly prudent to protect this information from public disclosure. It's certainly sensitive.

Ms. Jackson. Okay. We'll take that into due consideration.

Mr. Evers. Thank you.

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q Were there intrusion detection systems in place on the seventh floor principals network?

A I believe so.

Q Okay. Were you in charge of that?

A In charge meaning -- yes. I was in charge of everything, but we certainly had the experts who were more technical than I who handled that.

Q That's understood. So it was under your umbrella --

A Sure.

Q -- but you weren't the one who was physically monitoring --

A Exactly.

Q -- the systems? Okay.

Did the Department have email in 2011, 2012?

A Yes.

Q Okay. Do you know when the State Department had widespread use of email, when they first started?

A This is going way back.

Q Way back.

A Oh. Well, we had limited just interoffice in the 1980s --

Q Okay.

A -- the Wang Office Systems.

Q I remember Wang. I'm dating myself, but I remember Wang rooms, yes.

A And then we had Wang minicomputers late '80s, early '0s,

and then we went to client-server architecture the end of the '90s.

Q Do you know when you had Internet-based email?

A We had very -- when Secretary Powell came onboard, we had very limited -- we had, like, a PC in each office, a walkup PC, and people could use that for the Internet. But we did not have them at everyone's desktop until Secretary Powell said we need to deploy those.

Q So would you say that based on your experience in the State Department, that Secretary Powell made you take a giant step forward in technology use in the State Department during his tenure?

A Yes, I would -- by giving everyone unclassified networks and Internet access, absolutely.

Q Okay. In 2011, 2012, what type of email system was being used on the unclassified side?

A Gosh, I believe it was XP. Is that what you're asking, the operating system?

Q It was Microsoft?

A Yes.

Q Outlook?

A Yes.

Q Okay. You didn't have Gmail or Hotmail or --

A No.

Q -- commercially available --

A No.

Q -- things like that? Okay.

Did the State Department's computer systems get a major upgrade

at any time after 2005?

A I don't recall.

Q Okay.

A We -- I would imagine it went to the latest version of the operating system.

Q Do you recall at any time in perhaps 2009 that an outside company came in to completely overhaul the State Department's computer systems?

A I don't recall that.

Q Okay. Do you recall whether the Foreign Affairs Manual or Foreign Affairs handbook was revised in 2009 with regard to email use or Internet use?

A I don't know that.

Q Would you have had any involvement in that process if it occurred?

A The involvement would have been chopping off on the language. There was probably suggested language, and do you agree with this. But I just don't recall that I did that personally.

Q Okay. There are some terms that we have heard, and we want to make sure that we have a full understanding of them. And some of the terms are S-A-S, or perhaps SAS, Freedoms, smart, POEMS, STARS, and Everest. Do any of those terms mean anything to you?

A Sure.

Q Okay. Well, could you describe each of those either systems or programs and what they do and whether they were in place

while you were there, and specifically 2011, 2012 timeframe?

A Could you give me one at a time so I could --

Q Well, let me ask --

A Okay.

Q Let me do it this way --

A Okay.

Q -- so it might help categorize them. Are some, like, network hardware things and others more software programs on how to manage information, or do they all do kind of the same thing?

A I would need to hear those again.

Q Okay.

A Sorry.

Q S-A-S, SAS.

A I don't recall what that --

Q The State Archiving System?

A Okay.

Q Okay?

A I just don't --

Q How about Freedoms?

A Freedoms?

Q F-r-e-e-d-o-m-s.

A I don't --

Q Recall that one?

A -- know about that one, no.

Q POEMS? Yes --

A That was --

Q -- you know that one?

A -- seventh floor.

Q And what was it about, what did POEMS do?

A It stood for Principal Officers Executive Management System.

Q Okay.

A So it was basically email and some databases and the like.

Q Did it house the directories or documents of the principal officers?

A Yes.

Q Okay. Was there a shared network or individual -- did each principal have, like, an individual directory that he or she controlled, as well as a shared directory among all the principals, if you recall?

A From what I do recall, yes, area responsibility, and then there was a collective archive, I believe.

Q Okay. So there was some sort of shared directory that all of the principals could access?

A I don't know that for sure. They could access certainly their documents, but I'm not sure about sharing documents of other principals.

Q Okay. But POEMS also managed their email system, their email traffic?

A Yes.

Q Would POEMS be the network or what you call the network or server for the principal officers?

A Yes.

Q Okay. What about STARS, S-T-A-R-Z? Do you recall that?

A Secretariat Tracking and Retrieval System.

Q Oh, it probably ends in an S, not a Z, right?

A Yes.

Q Okay.

A Yes.

Q And would you tell us that again, Secretariat --

A Secretariat Tracking and Retrieval System.

Q And what was it used for?

A That housed the documents of the principals, things that were tasked and tracked by the seventh floor.

Q And so that would be information memos, action memos, other decisions of the principals?

A Decision -- yes. Letters to sign and the like.

Q Okay. And how was the information within STARS organized?

A Well, there were various ways to call it up. Is that what you're asking?

Q Yes. If you wanted to go into STARS and find out all the information about Libya, how would you do that?

A You could do a search on that.

Q By country?

A Yes.

Q Okay. Could you do a search by individuals, say, you wanted all the information regarding a particular ambassador?

A Yes. That was in the system.

Q And what do you mean by --

A Things that were put into the system.

Q Okay. And other than action memos, information memos, correspondence, were other type of information put into the system, such as cables or schedules of the principals?

A I don't believe cables were put in there as a rule, unless they were attached to perhaps one of these memos.

Q Okay. If the FAM or some other policy -- if the FAM was being revised and it was being sent out to the field to say, here's the latest section of the FAM, would you find that memo in STARS?

A I'm not sure.

Q Okay.

A I'm not sure.

Q One other system or name we heard was Everest. Do you know what Everest is?

A I do. That was the replacement for STARS.

Q Okay. So Everest was the system that was in place when you left the Department to handle the documents of the seventh floor principals?

A Yes, yes.

Q And, again, did it categorize documents in a same or similar manner as STARS?

A Yes.

Q Okay. So it did it by topic or subject or country, that type of thing?

A Yes.

Q Okay.

A Yes.

Q I saw you nodding. I was going to make you say yes.

A Yes. Sorry.

Q You know.

A Okay.

Q Within the State Department, is there something known as TAGS, T-A-G-S?

A Yes.

Q Okay. What are TAGS?

A TAGS are Department-approved symbols, I believe they're four letters. For instance, if something was administrative, it would be A and then four letters. And I actually did not use TAGS that much, so I'm not overly familiar with them, but I know it's a handbook, and you would go in there and it's a way of retrieving things. So --

Q For example, did Diplomatic Security have one or more TAGS that they would use to categorize the information that came to or from that Bureau?

A Probably.

Q Okay. Did all of the substantive bureaus have one or more TAGS that they would use to categorize their information?

A I believe they did.

Q Okay. You in your work didn't use them on a regular basis?

A No, I didn't.

Q All right. Of the email accounts of the seventh floor principals at the time period of 2011, 2012, I believe you said that they used some version of Microsoft Outlook. Is that correct?

A That's correct.

Q Okay. Was Outlook a searchable database, if you will, of information?

A I need a little clarification. Searchable by?

Q You've got an in-box and it's got 450 emails in there and you've got to go look for one. Can you go find it?

A There's a search feature within Microsoft Outlook, yes.

Q Okay. And the State Department had a version of Outlook that had that feature in it?

A I believe so.

Q All right. Was there any type of automatic archiving of the emails of the seventh floor principals in 2011, 2012?

A I do not believe so.

Q Okay. So if someone deleted an email from their in-box or their outbox or their sent items box, it would just be gone?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And was that true for the entire time that you were at the State Department? You didn't, like --

A Would you repeat --

Q You didn't have --

A -- just to be sure I'm clear on --

Q Yeah. You didn't have automatic archiving and then got an upgrade and didn't have it anymore or anything like that?

A No.

Q Okay.

A No.

Q When one of the principals departed the State Department, left, what, if anything, would happen to their electronic information, their email account, their directory, anything that they may have had on a CD, memory stick, DVD?

A That would be looked at by the records people, I believe, to see what needed to be -- go to the official archive.

Q Did you and your team undertake any steps to capture the electronic information so that it could be reviewed for archiving?

A We did the mechanics of taking the snapshot, is my understanding, of the in-box.

Q Of just the in-box?

A I believe so. Yeah. I don't recall exactly what all in it -- what it all included, but I know it would have been the in-box.

Q Okay. What about the sent items box?

A I don't know.

Q If the individual principal had set up folders within their email system, would it have captured those folders?

A It would be a guess on my part.

Q Okay.

A I don't remember.

Q Who would have physically done this during the last 2 years of your tenure at the State Department?

A That would have been our, I believe, primarily our administrative team, and perhaps our technical team if they needed additional help.

Q And who were the heads of your administrative team and your technical team in the last 2 years of your tenure?

A You want names?

Q Uh-huh.

A Okay. [REDACTED]

Q Could you spell that for us, please?

A Sure. It's [REDACTED] And then the team lead of the technical team was [REDACTED].

Q Common spelling?

A Yes.

Q Okay. To your knowledge, are they still with the State Department?

A Yes.

Q Okay. Were the directories of the seventh floor principals retained in some way when they departed the State Department, make a snapshot of those? So if they had a drive where they had documents stored, was that also --

A I don't know that for sure. Well -- yeah.

Q Again, would the administrative or technical team be the people who would have physically done that?

A Probably.

Q Okay.

Mr. Turk. If it were done.

Mr. [REDACTED] If it --

Ms. Jackson. Yeah. Okay.

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q During your tenure, and in particular at least 2011, 2012, but before that if necessary, did you ever have to reinstall or reestablish an email account or a directory from any type of backup tape or because someone's system crashed or something like that?

A I don't recall any specifics, just -- probably, but I don't -- it could be something that happens in the system.

Q I've never known a system not to crash or do --

A Yeah.

Q Have you ever had to reinstall a PST file?

A I haven't.

Q You haven't. Okay. Who would have done that in the State Department under your supervision for the senior leadership?

A That would have been the two teams that I just gave you.

Q Okay. Do you have an estimate of the average size of what an email account would be in a 2-year period for one of the seventh floor principals?

A I do not. I do not.

Q Okay. Do you know how large the universe was for all of the seventh floor principals? What was the size of the network or server that you had?

A I don't know that answer.

Q We talked a little bit just a few minutes ago about the search feature of Microsoft Outlook. Do you know how extensive that search feature was? Could you do a date range search?

A I don't recall what the searchable fields were.

Q Yeah. Do you use Microsoft Outlook today?

A I do very little.

Q You really --

A Actually I don't use Outlook.

Q You really retired from the technical field?

A I did, I did, yes.

Q Okay. We talked about an automatic or periodic archiving process, and you don't recall there being one for the seventh floor principals in 2011, 2012. Is that correct?

A No, I don't recall.

Q Okay. So there wasn't any mechanism to automatically capture the emails of any of the principals and retain them for posterity or review for records-retention purposes?

A Not that I can recall.

Q Okay. Do you recall if there was any archiving, periodic or otherwise, of the directories, memos, letters, things that were kept in the individual directories?

A Are you talking part of the Everest system or you're talking individual --

Q Apart from Everest.

A I don't know.

Q Let me ask you a few more things about STARS and Everest then.

A Okay.

Q Were drafts and other documents kept within those systems or did STARS and Everest only maintain the final copy of something?

A It could be a work in progress, so it could be a draft.

Q Okay.

A Yeah.

Q Do you know the frequency in which drafts were kept as part of the official recordkeeping of the seventh floor principals?

A It depends on subject matter and -- yeah, if there were bureaus involved. And so it's --

Q So, in other words, like the more widespread a particular memo was sent out, the more likely that drafts and comments would be maintained as opposed to just the final product?

A I don't believe the comments would be -- usually the system had things pretty much in final form, is what I recall.

Q Okay.

Ms. Jackson. Yes.

BY MS. BETZ:

Q So just going back to the STARS and Everest.

A Okay.

Q Would searches be contingent on how those records or documents were entered into the system?

A Absolutely.

Q And so that would really be dependent on the person --

A Yes.

Q -- how the person entered. And is there any type of -- were there any type of records kept as to how that person entered those documents into the system?

A We, meaning the IT people?

Q The IT people, yes.

A We didn't get involved in that.

Q You didn't get involved into that. But someone within the Exec Sec administrative would have?

A You're asking me now about another office --

Q Correct.

A -- so I would --

Q So within Exec Sec.

A I would imagine so.

Q Imagine. Okay.

A Yeah.

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q I want to move on to Secretary Clinton's use of a personal email account that was housed on a private server, so I have a series of questions about that.

A Okay.

Q You were in your current position as of mid-2008. Is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Okay. So you would have been the head IT guy when she came into office in January of 2009. That's correct?

A Yes, for the seventh floor, yes.

Q Okay. Did you or did anyone at your direction set up an official email account for her before her arrival?

A Not that I'm aware of.

Q Okay. Do you know if one was set up at the time of her arrival?

A I don't know definitively if there was or was not.

Q What is your belief?

A If she wanted one, we would have set up one for her.

Q Okay.

A Yeah.

Q And who would have done that?

A That would have been our administrative team.

Q And that would have been [REDACTED] --

A Yes.

Q -- whose last name I cannot pronounce?

A [REDACTED] yep. Yes.

Q [REDACTED]

A Yes.

Q Okay. I'm going to practice that.

Are you aware of any conversations that Secretary Clinton or a representative on her behalf had with [REDACTED] or anyone else in her division about establishing an official email account?

A I don't know.

Q Okay. If the Secretary did not want an official email account, would that be something that would have been brought to your attention?

A Not necessarily.

Q Okay. When did you first learn that Secretary Clinton was using a personal email account to conduct official business?

A In the papers whenever it came out, yeah.

Q So you had no knowledge of that --

A No.

Q -- during the time that you worked for the State Department and she was Secretary of State?

A Again, when it came out in the papers. And I just didn't follow that a whole lot. So --

Q Okay. So you as the director of the IT services for the principals of the State Department was not -- you were not consulted in any way regarding her use of a personal email account for official business?

A No.

Q Were you aware that any other member of the senior leadership, the principals, did not use an official government account,

email account?

A I was not aware.

Q Okay. Were official government accounts set up for the other senior principals during Secretary Clinton's tenure?

A Certainly they were afforded that.

Q Okay.

A Yeah.

Q During Secretary Clinton's tenure and the time that you were there, were you aware of whether other principals of the organization used both official and personal email accounts to conduct official business?

A I do not know that.

Q When did you become aware that Secretary Clinton's personal email address was being maintained on a -- had been maintained on a private server?

A When it came out in the papers.

Q And that would have been earlier this year?

A Yes.

Q Okay. So at no time during your tenure at the State Department?

A No.

Q Okay. Were you aware that on President Obama's first day in office he issued an executive order on open and transparency in government?

A I don't recall that.

Q Was it a directive of the State Department that you have an open and transparent government while you were there?

A I'm not sure I exactly understand the question.

Q I'll move on and ask another one. It was kind of an odd question.

A Okay.

Q At any time did Secretary Clinton or her representatives explain to anyone on your staff why she believed her private email system was necessary or preferable to using an official State government account?

A Not that I'm aware of.

Q If she did not have that -- if she or her representative did not have that conversation with you, who would they have had a conversation with, if it did occur?

A Someone above my pay grade.

Q Okay.

A Yeah.

Q And who would that be?

A I'm guessing the Executive Secretary.

Q Okay.

A Yeah.

Q All right. Do you have any knowledge of anyone at the State Department who was aware that she exclusively was using a personal email account during her tenure?

A No.

Q Do you know of anyone within the State Department who knew that her personal email account was housed on a private server?

A No.

Q Have you come to learn that?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And what have you come to learn?

A What I've read in the papers. And I honestly haven't followed it that closely. I did walk away when I walked away and just --

Q Okay. So you haven't had any conversations with any former colleagues or anything like that?

A Not to any degree about this, no.

Q Okay.

A No.

Q So neither you nor any member of your staff was asked to take any steps to determine whether Secretary Clinton's decision to use the personal email and a private server complied with any applicable laws, regulations, or policies within the State Department?

A No.

Q Do you know whether Secretary Clinton or anyone on her behalf conferred with the State Department's cyber intrusion team regarding her use of a personal email account on a private server?

A I don't know that answer.

Q Did the State Department have a cyber intrusion team?

A Yes, yes.

Q And did they do monitoring of the State Department's systems?

A It's another office, but, yes.

Q And was that 24/7?

A I don't know for sure. I would imagine.

Q Okay. I want to show you something that you probably wish you'd never see again in your life, but I'm marking as Deposition Exhibit No. 1, or exhibit No. 1, a copy of the specific provision of the Foreign Affairs Manual and ask you -- what I've put before you as exhibit No. 1 is 12 FAM 540, which is part of the Foreign Affairs Manual on Sensitive But Unclassified Information.

[█████████ Exhibit No. 1

Was marked for identification.]

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q And specifically going to ask you about 12 FAM 544.3, which is on page 5 of 7. So why don't we go off the record for a minute and I'll let you review that, because it may have been a time or two since you've read that. But specifically 12 FAM 554 -- actually, I'll probably ask you a couple questions about 554.2 and .3, so why don't you take a minute or 2 and review those?

A I notice they were, looks like, revised in 2013, office of origin Diplomatic Security.

Q Would this mean that this one has not been revised since 2005? Is that what that means?

A I would imagine that Diplomatic Security drafted this at

that time.

Q Right. So these provisions would have been the same?

[Witness reading document.]

Mr. Turk. How far did you want him to read?

Ms. Jackson. 544.2 and .3.

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q Have you had a chance to --

A Oh, .2?

Q .2. It's very short.

A Okay.

Q Have you had enough time to look that over?

A I have.

Q Okay. We'll go back on the record.

As to exhibit 1 and 12 FAM 544.3, which is entitled "Electronic Transmission Via the Internet," right under that subheading in parentheses is (CT:DS-117; 11-04-2005). Can you decipher that for us and what that means, or generally what that means?

A I don't know. I would imagine the DS is Diplomatic Security. The CT --

Q Would that be counterterrorism?

A Could be.

Q Okay.

A Computer technology. It's a guess.

Q Okay.

A It was a guess.

Q And what appears to be a date of 11-04-2005, would that be the date that this particular provision was implemented?

A That would make sense that it was.

Q Okay. So as you read 12 FAM 544.3, do you recall, was this the policy in place when you were the director of IRM for the Executive Secretariat?

A As it's written, it must have been.

Q And if I read from subsection a of that, and it is, I quote, "It is the Department's general policy that normal day-to-day operations be conducted on an authorized AIS, which has the proper level of security control to provide nonrepudiation, authentication and encryption, to ensure confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the resident information," end quote, end of the first sentence.

That's a mouthful of a sentence. I'd like to examine the various components and parts of it, if I could. It says, "It's the department's general policy that normal day-to-day operations be conducted on an authorized AIS." What's an authorized AIS?

A It's an Automated Information System, I believe.

Q So that means it's a State Department-issued computer or network or --

A Yes.

Q -- information system?

A Yes.

Q Okay. So the general policy -- and did this general policy apply to everyone in the State Department?

A I don't -- I don't know that.

Q Okay. Certainly no one's excluded by this provision. Is that correct? No one's expressly excluded in the language here.

A Right.

Q Okay.

A If it's part of the FAM.

Q Okay. And then it goes on to say that the reason that you want to conduct the normal day-to-day operations on an authorized system within the State Department is to, quote -- or to ensure that it has, quote, "the proper level of security control to provide nonrepudiation, authentication and encryption." And then let's just stop there. What is meant by "nonrepudiation"?

A I don't know.

Q Okay.

A I wasn't the author of this, and I don't --

Q What about authentication? What does that mean in technical terms? Does it mean that the person is who they say they are, because of passwords and recognition?

A I believe so.

Q Okay. And as to encryption, was there encryption on the State Department systems? Were they encrypted in some way?

A I believe so.

Q Okay. In 2011, 2012, were they encrypted in some way?

A Yes.

Q Okay. Then it goes on to say, "to ensure confidentiality,

integrity, and availability of the resident information." So let's break that apart a little bit. Were there mechanisms in place to ensure the confidentiality of communications that were transmitted on the Department's system?

A In general, yes.

Q Were there mechanisms to ensure the integrity of the information that was transmitted across the State Department systems?

A Yes.

Q They were monitored in some way?

A I don't know that.

Q Okay. And then the last phrase is to ensure the availability of the resident information. And does that mean to ensure that the State Department's records reside on State Department networks and systems?

A I don't know.

Q Okay.

A I don't know.

Q Subpart b of this section says, and I quote, "The Department is expected to provide, and employees are expected to use, approved secure methods to transmit SBU information when available and practical." What does this provision mean to you?

A To use State Department systems.

Q Okay. And were approved secure methods available to the seventh floor principals for their use to transmit SBU information?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And particularly in 2011, 2012, what kind of devices were available to the seventh floor principals? Were they each provided a laptop? Were iPads in use at the time, BlackBerrys, iPhones? In particular, what type of portable devices were available and used by the seventh floor principals?

A From what I recall, BlackBerrys and laptops.

Q And the laptops have the ability to be connected to the State Department networks?

A They could, yes.

Q Okay. And how did they do that? What was the mechanism that you had to follow to do that?

A There was software that would be the entry point into the Department's system. And I'm not sure --

Q When I was at the Justice Department, we called that remote access.

A Yes. Exactly.

Q Okay. So the State Department had some sort of remote access?

A Remote access.

Q So if you were traveling and you had a State Department-issued laptop, you could connect to the State Department networks?

A [Nonverbal response.]

Q Is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Okay. Would those laptops also allow you to connect to the Internet if you needed to do a Google search or something like that?

A I don't know for sure.

Q Okay. Wouldn't they have to have some sort of Internet connectivity in order to do remote access?

A They would --

Q Okay.

A -- I believe, yes.

Q So they would have had to connect to the Internet --

A Internet for the transmission lines to get -- yes.

Q To get back.

A Yes.

Q And then did it have what was known as a VPN or Virtual Private Network?

A I don't know for sure.

Q Okay. But the laptops had Internet connectivity. Is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Okay. So they would have allowed someone to go to Google or go to MSN and check personal email?

A I don't know that for sure.

Q Did you have a laptop at that time?

A No.

Q Oh, okay. What about the BlackBerrys that were used by the seventh floor principals at that time? Were they able to connect to

the Internet?

A From what I recall, the BlackBerrys served as the -- you got your messages on the BlackBerrys.

Q So you got your internal emails?

A Yes.

Q Okay.

A Yes.

Q Do you know if they had the capability of accessing a personal email account?

A I don't know that.

Q Okay. We talked just a minute ago about remote access. And I'd like to direct your attention to 12 FAM 544.2, where it talks about -- the second sentence starts, quote, "Where warranted by the nature of the information, employees who will be transmitting SBU information outside of the Department network on a regular basis to the same official and/or most personal addresses, should contact IRM/OPS/ITI/SI/PKI" -- I don't know how you all get so many letters -- "to request assistance in providing a secure technical solution for those transmissions. Availability of a Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) solution for a home computer will depend upon the computer's operating system," end quote.

What is this saying?

A I am by no means expert on that. I didn't draft that.

Q Is this saying that you have to be careful when you're transmitting SBU information because of the level of sensitivity that

it entails?

A As the way it's written, yes.

Q Okay. And did the Department have available to it ways in which people could transmit SBU information when they were outside of the State Department and its networks?

A According to this, you had the Public Key Infrastructure.

Q Okay. Is that the way that you get that secure remote access, is through those PKI keys?

A That would be my understanding --

Q Okay.

A -- according to this.

Q Who instituted these -- in other words, who is IRM/OPS/ITI/SI/PKI?

A IRM is -- what I would term the big IRM, handling most of the people in State and overseas. OPS is operations. I'm not sure what ITS, I'm not sure what SI is, and of course PKI is pretty obvious on that one.

Q To your knowledge, did any of the seventh floor principals in 2011, 2012 avail themselves of these PKI solutions?

A I don't know about the principals.

Q Okay. Who would know in your department? Who would have known?

A The mobile -- I believe it was the mobile solutions unit that would --

Q And were they part of your group?

A Yes, yes.

Q And who was in charge of the mobile --

A That would have been --

Q Okay. I'm sorry. Let me --

A Oh.

Q Mobile solutions unit?

A I believe that's what they were.

Q And in 2011, 2012, who was in charge of that group?

A That would have been [REDACTED].

Q [REDACTED]

A [REDACTED]

Q [REDACTED]

A [REDACTED]

Q [REDACTED] I get.

A [REDACTED] yes.

Ms. Jackson. That went fast. I see that I have reached the end of my first hour. I do have -- I'm more than halfway through. But we will go off the record, take a short break, and resume after we've had a few minutes.

[Recess.]

RPTR BLAZEJEWSKI

EDTR CRYSTAL

[3:40 p.m.]

Ms. Jackson. Again, it's Sharon Jackson, and I am going to continue questioning of the witness. It is now 3:40 in the afternoon, and we will continue.

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q You have before you exhibit No. 1 again, which I would like to direct your attention to 12 FAM 544.3, and then d(6), which is on page 6 of 7 of this document at the top of the page.

It states, and I quote, "SBU information resident on personally owned computers connected to the Internet is generally more susceptible to cyber attacks and/or compromise than information on government-owned computers connected to the Internet," end quote.

Do you agree with that statement, Mr. [REDACTED]?

A I'm sorry, I wasn't following the correct --

Q On page 6.

A Page 6 at the top, okay.

Q At the top. "SBU information resident on personally owned computers connected to the Internet is generally more susceptible to cyber attacks and/or compromise than information on government-owned computers connected to the Internet."

Do you agree with that statement?

A Generally, yes.

Q Okay. And why would government-owned computers connected

to the Internet be safer than personally owned computers connected to the Internet?

A There would be safeguards from the whole network to protect the network.

Q And ongoing monitoring?

A Yes.

Q We've talked about whether anyone on the technical side of the house was consulted before Secretary Clinton set up a private server to house her personal email account. To your knowledge, did anyone in the records management part of the State Department know about her arrangement?

A I couldn't answer that because that's a totally different office.

Q Okay. So --

A We provided the network to them to house documents and all, but I have no --

Q Okay. No meetings, no conversations, no discussions?

A I wouldn't know any of that.

Q Okay. I assume the answer to this is no. Do you know whether Secretary Clinton or any of her representatives got any legal advice before they implemented this arrangement?

A I wouldn't know that.

Q Okay. So you don't know whether State's general counsel was consulted, private counsel, or anything?

A I do not know that.

Q Okay. Did you or your staff or your superiors have any awareness or involvement in the planning and procurement of the private server?

A Would you read that again, please.

Q Did you or your staff or your superiors have any awareness or involvement in the planning and procurement of the private server for Secretary Clinton?

A Not that I'm aware of.

Q Do you know who was actually responsible for carrying out the planning, procurement, and setup of the private server?

A No.

Q Do you know if there was any vetting done of the contractors or individuals providing the hardware and software for the server?

A I don't know that.

Q Is vetting important?

Let me ask this.

A Yes.

Q Are contractors that work on the State Department's systems vetted in any way, vetted and approved?

A Are you talking about security clearances and the like?

Q Or people who come in and work on your information technology systems.

A Sure, they're cleared individuals.

Q Do you know whether the State Department paid for any part of the establishment or maintenance of the private server for Secretary

Clinton?

A I don't know any of that.

Q Do you know where the server and associated equipment were physically located?

A No.

Q Do you know who controlled and provided the physical security for the server and related equipment that she used?

A No.

Q Are you aware of any of the safeguards that were provided at the facilities where the server was housed?

A No.

Q At any time were you or your staff asked to confer with those who were responsible for maintaining her private server?

A Not that I'm aware of.

Q Okay. Do you know what, if any, encryption software was used on her private server?

A No.

Q Do you know if there were any mechanisms in place that would identify potential cyber threat information on the systems that she used?

A No.

Q Does the State Department conduct periodic or episodic checks on its system for cyber intrusions or attempted intrusions?

A I am sure they do.

Q And who -- what --

A It would be another office.

Q And what would that office be?

A Diplomatic Security.

Q Okay.

A And perhaps IRM too.

Q Would Diplomatic Security be the component that would have been asked to review any security standards or protocols for a private server or would that be your office or would that be some other office?

A I don't know.

Q Do you know whether there were any security breaches to her private server?

A I don't know.

Q Do you know whether there were any data losses?

A I do not know.

Q Do you know what type of portable devices Secretary Clinton used during her tenure? By this I mean BlackBerrys, iPads, laptops, any type of portable electronic device.

A I don't know what she used.

Q Okay. None were issued by your section?

A I don't know.

Q Okay. Who would know?

A [REDACTED].

Q And that was the mobile security unit?

A Mobile Solutions.

Q Solutions?

A Yes.

Q Okay. So Mobile Solutions is probably just like its name said, but what all types of equipment would they be able to provide?

A BlackBerrys and laptops.

Q Were iPads in use before you left?

A I don't believe so. We may have gotten one or two to experiment with, but I don't believe so.

Q Okay. Did the Secretary have a desktop computer in her office?

A I don't know.

Q You don't recall ever being called up there to work on it?

A No. No.

Q Would it be you or [REDACTED] office who would be called upon if Secretary Clinton had a problem with any of her personal devices or mobile devices?

A That would have been the correct place to go, but it depends on what the problem was and if somebody else could help, another level --

Q And [REDACTED] reported to you?

A Yes.

Q Okay. At any time in your tenure as the director, did [REDACTED] ever report to you that she was fixing any type of device or monitoring any type of device for the Secretary?

A Not that I recall.

Q I'm going to ask a couple questions about managing

electronic documents in general.

So someone creates a memo on their computer and they put it in a directory. Did the systems for the seventh floor principals allow staff to access directories and emails and things like that? I mean, can you set up permissions to allow other people to have access to your directories so that they can assist you in the execution of your duties?

A Yes.

Q Okay. How broadly could that be done? Could you do it as broadly as you wanted or was there a finite number? Were there any restrictions on the number of individuals that you could select to have permissions?

A I don't know that.

Q Okay. So were you aware of whether there were any designated individuals, such as special assistants, that were charged with managing Secretary Clinton's documents and other electronic information?

A I don't know.

Q Okay. What about for the other seventh floor principals, for the deputy secretaries and for the under secretaries?

A I don't know factually if they did.

Q Who would have been in charge of setting up these permissions, if you will, to allow special assistants or other staff members to have access to directories and email accounts, calendars, and the like?

A Our help desk could assist in giving guidance on how that's

done.

Q And who was in charge of your help desk in 2011, 2012?

A Let's see. That would have been -- at the time I left it was [REDACTED]. In 2011 it would have been someone different, and it just escapes me right now. [REDACTED] I don't remember his last name. He was the team leader over Mobile Solutions' help desk.

Q Okay. Good enough for 3 years down the road.

A Thank you.

Q Without describing how it was done, did the State Department receive any type of assistance from other government agencies, such as the NSA, other intelligence agencies, to assist in the monitoring of its technology systems for possible breaches, intrusions, or attempted intrusions?

A I don't know.

Q Who would know within the State Department?

A Probably Diplomatic Security.

Q How long have you been in the -- how long were you professionally in the IT field?

A I started, roughly, 1987.

Q And what's your educational background? Was it in the technology sciences or romance literature or --

A Actually, I was an English major.

Q You were?

A I was. And I got my undergraduate degree, and then I went back when I transitioned into IT and took some IT courses just at the

local university. And then later on I went to -- I did a few courses at George Washington University, graduate level. I didn't complete that. And then I went to National Defense University.

Q I'm sorry, national what university?

A Defense University. And they had liaison programs with other universities. I earned a half a master's degree there and a CI certificate and then went to Syracuse University and finished my master's there in management information systems.

Q It's a far cry from being an English major in college. And what intrigued you about information management that took you in that direction? I would much rather read books all day.

A Being honest, I just kind of fell into the field because they needed people. And where I was in the secretariat I saw a great opportunity to be at the beginning of bringing up systems, and it was a whole different -- the nature of systems changed during that time.

Q And approximately when did you complete your master's?

A I completed my master's in -- from Syracuse, it would have been around 2004 or 2005, roughly.

Q So you've had sort of ongoing and continuous education?

A Exactly, yeah.

Q Do you have an opinion as to whether the use of a personal email account on a private server put Secretary Clinton's information at greater risk of being hacked, intercepted, or monitored than would her use of a State Department account on its networks?

A Would you repeat that?

Q Do you have an opinion or belief that the use of a personal email account on a private server put Secretary Clinton's electronic information at greater risk of being hacked, intercepted, or monitored than if she had used a State Department-issued device on the State Department networks?

A I don't know.

Q Who do you think would have an opinion as to that within the State Department?

A Probably Diplomatic Security.

Q Is there a particular part or component of Diplomatic Security that deals with cyber intrusions?

A Yes.

Q So that office?

A I believe so.

Q Okay. We've talked about some of the monitoring that goes on with the State Department networks. Are these the same networks that monitor BlackBerry transmissions, iPhone transmissions, or do they just monitor what I would call the intranet of the State Department?

A I don't know.

Q Okay. Did you or any of the offices that you supervise advise the seventh floor principals regarding security risks when they traveled overseas with respect to use of technology?

A Somebody on my staff?

Q Uh-huh.

A There was a security officer assigned to the Bureau, and that person, my understanding is, specifically for travel would advise principals about the risk overseas.

Q So you said there's a security person on the Bureau?

A At the Bureau level assigned to the Executive Office.

Q In what bureau?

A S/ES-EX, Executive Secretariat, Executive Office. And then that's a -- is it BSO, bureau security officer, something like that -- and they would be the ones to -- sometimes we worked with them -- to flesh things out. They would be the ones liaising, is my understanding, with the principals.

Q In 2011, 2012, do you recall who that individual was?

A The name escapes me. I know what he looks like, but I can't --

Q It was a "him"?

A Yes.

Q Did your office or any of the offices that you supervise ever issue different devices to any of the seventh floor principals when they undertook foreign travel for security reasons? For example, a clean BlackBerry, a clean laptop?

A I would say probably. I don't know any specifics, but probably.

Q Would that be the Mobile Solutions unit?

A Mobile Solutions, yes.

Q Are you aware of whether travel to certain countries poses

a higher risk of cyber intrusion, cyber attack than other countries?

A It does.

[REDACTED] Exhibit No. 2
Was marked for identification.]

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q I am going to hand you another exhibit. Only two? Shocking. How is that possible? And I have put before you something from chapter 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, and particularly if I could direct your attention to section 1236.22, which is there, and in particular on the back page, on the page marked as 884, subsection (b). If you could read that particular sentence or paragraph. It's just one sentence.

Mr. Turk. What's this from?

Ms. Jackson. The Code of Federal Regulations, 36 CFR 1236.22.

Mr. [REDACTED] Does it start off "Agencies that maintain"?

Ms. Jackson. Uh-huh.

Mr. Evers. Is there a date on the regulation, Sharon? Or do you know the date?

Ms. Jackson. It became effective in 2009, I do know the date.

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q I'm going to read from subparagraph (b) of 36 CFR section 1236.22, subsection (b), which says, I quote, "Agencies that allow employees to send and receive official electronic mail messages using a system not operated by the agency must ensure that Federal records sent or received on such systems are preserved in the appropriate agency

recordkeeping system," end quote. Do you see that?

A I do. I was reading along with you.

Q Do you recall that this was in effect since 2009, and thus in effect during Secretary Clinton's tenure?

A I don't know. That's actually outside my area of expertise.

Q Okay. Were you asked in any way to ensure or assist in ensuring that email traffic and messages used on her private server that contained Federal records were preserved in the appropriate agency recordkeeping system?

A No.

Q Apart from this regulation, do you recall whether the State Department had any policies in place that prohibited or discouraged the use of personal email accounts for official business?

A I don't know.

Q Okay. We did look at one, which was exhibit 1, 12 FAM 544.3, that was discouraging the use of personal email accounts, was it not?

A As it's written, but I believe in that it also said if you needed to go outside those, here's what you needed to do.

Q And that was to use the --

A Hence PKI.

Q -- get the PKI?

A Yes.

Q Okay. Were there other mechanisms in which the Department

communicated its discouragement of using personal email accounts to conduct official business?

Ms. Sachsman Grooms. I don't believe the witness has actually testified that they, quote, "discouraged the use of personal email accounts."

Ms. Jackson. If you think another word is appropriate, you should feel free to supply that word.

Mr. Turk. Can you ask the question again?

Mr. [REDACTED] Yeah, ask it again.

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q Tell you what, let me ask it this way. During your tenure with the State Department, did occasionally cables go out advising the employees of the State Department regarding the appropriate use of information technology systems?

A I believe so.

[REDACTED] Exhibit No. 3

Was marked for identification.]

Ms. Jackson. Okay. I've marked something as Exhibit 3, and if you would like to take a look at that. We can go off the record for a minute.

[Witness reading document.]

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q Let's go back on the record.

Exhibit 3 that has been put before you is a cable issued by the State Department that I believe is numbered 11 STATE 65111. Is that

the number of the cable, the top number?

A It is.

Q And it was issued on June 28th, 2011. Is that correct?

A That's correct.

Q Okay. And did it go to everyone within the State Department?

A On the action line it does say "All Diplomatic and Consular Posts Collective," so it should have been available to everyone.

Q Okay. So it would have been a directive applicable to everyone?

A As it's written. As it's written, it would be applicable to the State Department.

Q And what is the subject of this cable? What is on the subject line?

A "Securing Personal E-mail Accounts."

Q Okay. I would like to direct your attention to the bottom of the cable under subsection (e), where it states -- -- I'm sorry, subsection (d), where it states, quote, "Avoid conducting official Department business from your personal e-mail accounts," end quote. Do you see that?

A I do.

Q Do you remember this cable?

A I don't.

Q Okay. As you've read it and reviewed it, did it refresh your recollection as to what happened that precipitated the issuance

of this cable?

A I don't.

Q Let me read paragraph 2 to you, and I quote: "Recently, Google has asserted that online adversaries are targeting the personal Gmail accounts of U.S. Government employees," end quote.

Do you recall that that was an issue in 2011, that there were attempted intrusions into -- intrusions or attempted intrusions or hacked into personal email accounts of Google?

A I don't know that specifically.

Q Do you recall whether or not you or any of your staff or any of those that you supervised took any actions in response to this? Did your mobile security unit have any meetings with the seventh floor principals or their staff regarding this?

A Not that I can recall.

Q Okay. But it does advise that Department employees are to avoid conducting official business from their personal email accounts, does it not?

A That's how it's written, yes.

Q Okay. Was that admonishment to avoid conducting official business from personal email accounts sound advice, in your opinion?

A As it's written, yes.

Q Okay. As you look at this cable, were there any groups of people that were excluded from its mandate or directive?

A No, because the first sentence is "Department of State users."

Q Do you recall that the inspector general issued a report in 2012 regarding the embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, in which the Ambassador was criticized in part for establishing a commercial email system at the embassy and not using the State Department system?

A I don't recall.

Q You don't recall that?

A No.

Q You don't recall any discussions generating from that report?

A I don't recall.

Q As the IT director for the Executive Secretariat, were you or any office that you supervised involved in the search of electronic records of the Secretary and other principals in response to congressional inquiries or FOIA requests or litigation-related requests?

A On occasion.

Q And how would that come to your attention?

A That would usually be a tasking from the -- talking about FOIA requests -- from the Office of Administration, I believe, the documents section, because they would ask us to search our system for documents. But it would also come through our records officer on the seventh floor because he would be the one who we would assist and give him the information.

Q Okay. About how often would that occur?

A I don't know. It could be -- I just -- I don't even have

a guess.

Mr. Turk. Can I clarify one thing, whether you were talking about FOIA or litigation or congressional investigations?

Ms. Jackson. All of the above.

Mr. Turk. Okay. Any?

Ms. Jackson. Any of them.

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q Does your answer change whether it's a FOIA request or --

A No, I don't recall the frequency of how often we got these. I think sometimes it could be more than less, but what that is I don't recall.

Q And who under your supervision would have been tasked with fulfilling that or who would have received the tasking from the FOIA office or Legislative Affairs or whomever sent it?

A Probably our administrative team.

Q And, again, was that [REDACTED] whose last name I cannot pronounce?

A Yes, [REDACTED]

Q Okay.

Following the attacks on the diplomatic facilities in Benghazi, Libya, the Secretary convened an Accountability Review Board. Were you or anyone under your supervision tasked with looking for records of the seventh floor principals in response to that ARB?

A I don't know that.

Q Do you recall that happening?

A I don't. I was one foot out the door in September of 2012.

Q Were you retired in place in September 2012?

A No, no, no, no. I'm not one of those. Oh, no. No, I wasn't retired in place. But I just had a little leave to use, and then I went to the retirement seminar. So --

Q So you were not at the State Department on a day-to-day basis?

A Not in October. In September, I know I took a week's leave the end of September, so I don't -- I think a lot of it -- I was transitioning to a deputy, meaning until they filled the position for someone filling in and briefing them.

Q Who took your place?

A Who got the position?

Q Uh-huh.

A A gentleman named [REDACTED]. He's now the director.

Q Okay. So you don't -- ARBs are unusual. They don't happen very often. But you don't recall any one of your units being tasked with looking for records responsive to the ARB?

A I don't know.

Q Did your office play any role -- let me start again. When a seventh floor principal would leave the State Department, we talked before about whether your office played any role in taking a snapshot of their electronic records, and I believe you said there was a snapshot taken of their at least in-box. Is that correct?

A Yes.

Q And remind me again what your answer was regarding whether their directory or other type of electronic records were retained or maintained?

A I don't know that answer.

Q And, again, who would have been tasked with that?

A Our administrative team.

Q Okay. When you retired, was a snapshot of your electronic account, email account, or records created?

A I believe so.

Q Okay. Did you do that?

A I don't do it. Our administrative team would have done that upon my departure.

Q Okay. And do you know how extensive that snapshot was of what they took a snapshot of your records when you left?

A I don't know.

Q Okay. Do you recall whether you had to sign any type of separation statement when you left the State Department certifying that all official records were left with the State Department?

A I don't recall.

[█████████ Exhibit No. 4

was marked for identification.]

BY MS. JACKSON:

Q Let me show you an example of one, and let me show you what I've marked as Exhibit 4 and see if perhaps seeing one might jog a memory as to whether you filled out such a statement.

A It actually looks like a very old form because the first USIA went away in the 1990s. State-USIA Separation Statement, and the very first says, "I make the following statement in connection with my separation from employment in the Department of State of the United States Information Agency."

Q So you think if this form still exists --

A This is old.

Q -- it may exist in an updated form?

A Perhaps.

Q Okay.

A And I did a security debrief, so I don't know if this would be very similar with that. When you go outside, you have to leave the stuff inside, you know. So I don't -- I may have done this, but I don't know for sure. And like I say, this looks like a very old, and it could have been updated. I just don't -- I don't know in my exit.

Q Do you recall during your exit process whether you received any briefing from anyone affiliated with the records management division about leaving behind the official records of the State Department or ensuring that --

A Not that I recall. I didn't do records, I didn't do policy stuff, so I'm not sure how germane that would have been to me.

Ms. Jackson. I believe that is all the questions that I have. I see that it is 4:20. I have not taken an entire hour, I'm pleased to say, for you and for me and for my colleagues in this room. So why don't we go off the record, take another short break, and we will turn

it over to our colleagues.

[Recess.]

Ms. Sawyer. We can go back on the record. It's 4:30.

EXAMINATION

BY MS. BOYD:

Q So my name is Krista Boyd. Again, I'm with the minority staff. Thank you again for being here. It's been a couple hours now, we haven't talked yet.

You described your professional history, but I have to admit, I'm not sure I remember exactly where you were when, so if you could help me out. Were you working in IT at the time that former Secretary Powell was in office?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And do you know whether Secretary Powell used an official email account during his tenure?

A I don't know that for sure. I don't know.

Q Okay. This is a followup that you also may not know, but do you know if he was issued an official email account?

A I don't know.

Q Okay. Secretary Powell has talked about the fact that he used personal email for official business during his tenure. Are you aware of whether anyone in your office was consulted before he set up his personal email account or started using it for official business?

A No, I'm not aware.

Q Do you recall whether Secretary Powell had a computer in

his office?

A I believe he did.

Q Okay. He has talked about -- in his autobiography he talks about actually setting up a laptop in his office in addition to his State Department computer. Do you have any recollection of him having a laptop in his office?

A I don't remember that.

Q Okay. Were you aware of whether Secretary Powell was -- at the time, during his tenure -- was he using any kind of particular security software protections on his laptop?

A I don't know that. I don't know.

Q Okay. Do you know whether Secretary Powell used any kind of mobile device?

A I don't know, no.

Q All right. Let's move to former Secretary Rice.

A Okay.

Q Do you know, during her term in office, whether she had -- whether she used an official email account?

A I believe she did.

Q Okay.

A I don't know that for sure, but I just -- I believe that she had an account.

Q Do you have any -- go ahead.

A No, that's all. That's all.

Q Okay. Do you have any recollections of an official account

being set up for her?

A I don't.

Q Do you recall whether former Secretary Rice had a computer in her office?

A I don't recall.

Q Do you remember whether Secretary Rice used any kind of mobile device?

A I believe she did.

Q Do you remember what kind of device she might have used?

A I believe we were using BlackBerrys then.

Q Do you recall any other kind of mobile device she might have used?

A I don't.

Q And do you have any specific recollection of whether she was using a BlackBerry, what kind of email it would have had on it, like whether she would have been using an official account or a personal account?

A I don't know that. I don't know.

BY MS. SAWYER:

Q So I was going to ask you to take a look back at one of the exhibits that you were shown during the prior round. And I'm going to ask you to take a look at what was marked for identification purposes as exhibit 1, which on its front says "12 FAM 540 Sensitive But Unclassified Information (SBU)."

A Okay.

Q So you had a fair amount of discussion about section 12 FAM 544.3 that starts on page 5 of that exhibit. I wanted to ask you a couple of questions about what is -- it looks like paragraph c of 12 FAM 544.3, and I'll just read that first sentence. "Employees should be aware that transmissions from the Department's OpenNet to and from non-U.S. Government Internet addresses, and other .gov or .mil addresses, unless specifically directed through an approved secure means, traverse the Internet unencrypted."

I am not a technology person at all, so I need your help in understanding exactly what this means. So if I am -- and let's just take Secretary Rice for an example. If she did, indeed, have an official email account at State.gov, if someone sent her an email that came from outside that government Internet address, like from a Gmail account, or a personal server or some different server, would that have traversed the Internet unencrypted to get to her?

A You said from a Gmail account or --

Q Yeah, anything that is to and from non-U.S. Government Internet addresses.

A Okay.

Q So we can take Gmail.

A I don't know for sure. I don't believe there's any encryption on the Gmail. It's just a guess, though.

Q So something that someone sent her that was sent from their personal, nongovernment Internet address, a Gmail account, a Yahoo! account, a personal server, personal account, would have traversed to

her or anyone else sitting in the government unencrypted?

A Assuming they had encryption software on their device, if they had encryption software, then --

Q So the originating -- it's possible that the originating server for a personal email would have --

A Possibly.

Q -- an encryption mechanism?

A [Nonverbal response.]

Q But there would be no way for you to know?

A I wouldn't know that, no. I wouldn't know that.

Q And if she then hit reply and said, "Thanks for sending, this is useful," her reply to a nongovernment email address would have traversed, even from a State.gov address, would have traversed the Internet unencrypted?

A I don't know. I don't know.

Q So just in terms of emails to and from individuals who are not within the State system, the risk of it passing over the Internet unencrypted is potentially the same whether or not you are receiving it -- let's just take a concrete example. If I, Heather Sawyer, at a Gmail.com address send to Secretary Clinton an email, and she gets it at a SecretaryClinton@state.gov, there is a risk, unless my account has encryption, that it passed unencrypted. Is that true?

A To her account, that description sounds like a yes.

Q And there would potentially be a risk that if I sent it to Secretary Clinton, not at a State.gov account, but at a Clinton.email

server, there is also a risk that it could pass unencrypted unless my server had an encryption?

A The way you painted it, yes.

Q So there is, in essence, the same risk whether I am emailing her as someone outside the government using a nongovernment Internet address that it will pass unencrypted?

A I believe so.

Q And that would be true -- it's not just something like a Gmail, right? It says, "and other .gov or .mil addresses." So if I'm sitting in Congress and I'm Heather Sawyer and I send an email to Secretary Clinton at State.gov, there is also a chance it's going to pass unencrypted even though I'm sending it to her official account. Is that correct?

A Yes, sounds that way.

Q Now, you indicated, I think, something that could potentially mitigate that, which is if my email server that I am personally using has an encryption device. Now, you answered a number of questions in the last hour that I think made it very clear, but I just want to make it additionally clear for the record, you don't know one way or the other whether the device that Secretary -- a server -- I think it was called a server at sometimes, it was called a network at others -- a server or network she may have been using had any kind of an encryption mechanism.

A I don't know that answer.

Q And I'd just direct your attention back to exhibit 1 on page

6 of that document, there's a subsection h. I'll just give you a moment to read that.

I'm just going to read, the first sentence says, "All users who process SBU information on personally owned computers must ensure that these computers will provide adequate and appropriate security for that information."

Now, again, this deals specifically with SBU, which is sensitive but unclassified. That certainly doesn't mean every communication that occurs from a computer either at State or here it's talking about personally owned. So this is specific to SBU, is that accurate?

A Yes.

Q So with regard to that particular class, it does certainly contemplate the notion that someone is going to potentially use a personally owned computer, does it not?

A The way it's written, yes.

Q And the term is, "All users who process SBU information...must ensure." As it reads, it would indicate to me that that is placing on the individual user a responsibility to make sure that these steps have been taken. Do you think that's a fair reading?

A I would agree with that.

Q And it has, I think, four particular things that it asks the user to determine. Number one is disabling unencrypted wireless access. Two is maintenance of adequate physical security. Three, use of antivirus and spyware software. And then, four, ensuring all operating systems and other software security patches, virus

definitions, firewall version updates, and spyware definitions are current.

So with regard to those four things that it asks the user to do, you do not know, do you, whether Secretary Clinton had, indeed, taken these steps with regard to any personal computers?

A I don't know. I don't know that.

Q So it's very possible that she had completed all of these, you just don't know one way or the other?

A I don't know.

Q And the same would certainly be true of former Secretary Powell if he had been using a personal computer and he had, as the user, undertaken these or similar steps, you just wouldn't know one way or another on that?

A I don't know that.

Q Now, one other, I think, pretty quick. And then I just wanted you to take a look at what has previously been marked as exhibit 2 for identification purposes, and that was a provision of the CFR. And you had been asked to take a look at page 884, subsection (b) by my colleague. And I think you made this clear earlier, I just want to make sure I am particularly clear. That provision talks about ensuring that Federal records sent or received are preserved.

Your role, duties as the head of IT or involved in IT before that did not involve preservation of Federal records specifically, did it?

A No.

Q And then that, on its face, I think my colleague read it

to you, but it says, "Agencies that allow employees to send and receive official electronic mail messages using a system not operated by the agency must ensure that Federal records sent or received on such systems are preserved in the appropriate agency recordkeeping system."

So, again, understanding you're not a Federal records officer --

A Officer, yes.

Q -- on its face it at least contemplates that an agency would allow or that it happens that employees send and receive official electronic mail messages using a system not operated by the agency.

A The way it's written, it does.

Q And I think there was some question about whether or not this could be or should be perceived as encouraging, discouraging, or otherwise making a statement about the use of a personal email address or a personal server. To me this reads as a statement of fact, not a statement of encouragement or discouragement. Would you agree?

A And when you say statement of fact, the entire paragraph there or --

Q Yes, and only that paragraph, that it says agencies that allow employees to send and receive must take certain steps to make sure Federal records are preserved. A statement of fact, asking them to do that.

A I am not an expert, but it sounds like it would be a fact.

BY MS. BOYD:

Q Returning to the issue of sensitive but unclassified information, what I heard you describe earlier is that the State

Department has two systems, one for classified information and then one for unclassified information.

A Correct.

Q So would sensitive but unclassified information be contained in the system for unclassified information?

A Yes.

Q Okay. So there not like a -- there's not a third system?

A A third system, no.

Q Okay.

BY MS. SAWYER:

Q And just to be clear, that was true for the S/ES system that was not fully part of the broader IRM?

A That we have on the seventh floor, then it would be --

Q That there would both be a classified and an unclassified?

A Yes, and an unclassified, that's correct.

Q And the SBU, for purposes of that S/ES separate, would traverse and be included in the unclassified?

A In the unclassified.

Ms. Boyd. I want to go back to just a couple things that you said much earlier, just to make sure we're completely clear on the record about what you have direct personal knowledge of.

Mr. [REDACTED] Okay.

Ms. Boyd. One of the things you were asked about, whether there were, I'm paraphrasing, but whether there are 24/7 cyber intrusion protection efforts. It would actually be -- and you said, you imagine

that there would be, but I just want to make clear because that actually would be rather surprising during that time period had there been because most agencies are just now moving toward that. Those of us who work in this area, much to our frustration, we seem to have been a little slow in that area. So I just wanted to --

Ms. Jackson. You know, we're going to object to that. That's adding information to the record that may or may not be accurate.

Ms. Boyd. I will say some people -- some people, some Members of Congress have raised concerns about the pace of agency compliance with moving toward around-the-clock protection.

So I just want to ask whether you have direct personal knowledge of whether the State Department during -- I think the time period you were speaking of then was 2011, 2012 -- whether they had around-the-clock --

Mr. [REDACTED] I don't know.

Ms. Boyd. -- cyber intrusion protection.

Mr. [REDACTED] I don't know.

BY MS. BOYD:

Q Okay. And then another area where you -- you talked about encryption. And then you said, at least as I wrote it down, you said you believe so, that the State Department systems are encrypted.

Do you have direct personal knowledge about which systems may or may not have been encrypted and how they were encrypted?

A I believe I answered that just in a general sense, that the unclassified system would have some encryption available on it. But

I don't -- I don't have -- are you talking about the architecture or the software or --

Q Any of it.

A I don't --

Q Yeah, I mean, like, whether there were certain programs that did and certain, you know, systems or records that didn't or --

A I don't know that.

Q Okay, thank you.

Just generally, I guess I'm interested in hearing your perspective, in your experience, whether agency systems can sometimes be vulnerable to outside intrusion, that even if whatever protections are in place, in your experience, were there times where there were security incidents, IT-related security incidents?

A I would imagine there were. I just don't have a specific example at my fingertips. I don't.

BY MS. SACHSMAN GROOMS:

Q I think right now we're living in the world of the OPM's recent incident, right?

A Oh, yes.

Q So I feel like we're all very cognizant of the dangers of --

A Continually targeting.

Q -- of even government systems, right? So, I mean, can government systems be vulnerable to attack, I guess is the question.

A Sure.

Q And sometimes they can actually be successfully attacked,

regardless of the fact that they're government systems?

A Sure.

BY MS. SAWYER:

Q You did mention when you were answering that question that there's the potential also for targeting. Is it the case that government --

A For targeting?

Q Targeting for attack. I'm sorry, I apologize.

A That's okay.

Q I thought you said that -- and maybe you didn't.

In your experience, was there the potential that official government accounts and servers would be targeted specifically for potential hacking by outside entities?

A Yes, I'm sure they would.

BY MS. BOYD:

Q I'm now going to ask you a series of questions that we're asking all witnesses.

A Okay.

Q If you can just please speak to whatever you have personal knowledge of.

A Okay.

Q I'm not asking you to speculate in these questions?

A Okay.

Q This is now the eighth congressional investigation into the Benghazi attacks, and we want to make sure that this is the last one.

We are therefore asking every witness about a series of public allegations that have been made since the attack. It is our understanding that even whether these questions have been answered by other investigations, our colleagues in the majority are pursuing these allegations, and so we want to ask about them.

While anyone can speculate about the Benghazi attacks, and plenty of people have, only a limited universe of people have actual knowledge or evidence of what happened before, during, and after the attacks. What I'm asking here is, again, not for your opinion, but just what you have firsthand information of. There are about a dozen of these questions, so please bear with me as I go through them. If you need me to repeat any of them, let me know.

A Okay.

Q It has been alleged that Secretary of State Clinton intentionally blocked military action on the night of the attack. One Congressman has speculated that Secretary Clinton told Leon Panetta to stand down, and this resulted in the Defense Department not sending more assets to help in Benghazi. Do you have any evidence that Secretary of State Clinton ordered Secretary of Defense Panetta to stand down on the night of the attack?

A I do not.

Q Do you have any evidence that Secretary of State Clinton issued any kind of order to Secretary of Defense Panetta on the night of the attack?

A I do not.

Q It has been alleged that Secretary Clinton personally signed an April 2012 cable denying security to Libya. The Washington Post fact checker evaluated this claim and gave it four Pinocchios, its highest award for false claims. Do you have any evidence that Secretary Clinton personally signed an April 2012 cable denying security resources to Libya?

A No.

Q Do you have any evidence that Secretary Clinton was personally involved in providing specific instruction on day-to-day security resources in Benghazi?

A No.

Q It has been alleged that Secretary Clinton misrepresented or fabricated intelligence on the risk posed by Qadhafi to his own people in order to garner support for military operations in Libya in spring 2011. Do you have any evidence that Secretary Clinton misrepresented or fabricated intelligence on the risk posed by Qadhafi to his own people in order to garner support for military operations in Libya in spring 2011?

A No.

Q It has been alleged that the U.S. mission in Benghazi included transferring weapons to Syrian rebels or to other countries. A bipartisan report issued by the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence found that the CIA was not collecting and shipping arms from Libya to Syria and that they found no support for this allegation. Do you have any evidence to contradict the House Intelligence

Committee's bipartisan report finding that the CIA was not shipping arms from Libya to Syria?

A Could you just read that again? My mind wandered a little bit.

Q Sure. I won't take it personally.

A Okay.

Q Do you have any evidence to contradict the House Intelligence Committee's bipartisan report finding that the CIA was not shipping arms from Libya to Syria?

A No.

Q Do you have any evidence that the U.S. facilities in Benghazi were being used to facilitate weapons transfers from Libya to Syria or to any other foreign country?

A No.

Q A team of CIA security personnel was temporarily delayed from departing the Annex to assist the Special Mission Compound, and there have been a number of allegations about the cause of and the appropriateness of that delay. The House Intelligence Committee issued a bipartisan report concluding that the team was not ordered to stand down, but that instead there were tactical disagreements on the ground over how quickly to depart. Do you have any evidence that would contradict the House Intelligence Committee's finding that there was no stand-down ordered to CIA personnel?

A No.

Q Putting aside whether you personally agree with the

decision to delay temporarily or think it was the right decision, do you have any evidence that there was a bad or improper reason behind the temporary delay of CIA security personnel who departed the Annex to assist the Special Mission Compound?

A No.

Q A concern has been raised by one individual that in the course of producing documents to the Accountability Review Board, damaging documents may have been removed or scrubbed out of that production. Do you have any evidence that anyone at the State Department removed or scrubbed damaging documents from the materials that were provided to the ARB?

A No.

Q Do you have any evidence that anyone at the State Department directed anyone else at the State Department to remove or scrub damaging documents from the materials that were provided to the ARB?

A No.

Q Let me ask you these questions also for documents that were provided to Congress. Do you have any evidence that anyone at the State Department removed or scrubbed damaging documents from the materials that were provided to Congress?

A No.

Q It has been alleged that CIA Deputy Director Michael Morell altered unclassified talking points about the Benghazi attacks for political reasons and that he then misrepresented his actions when he told Congress that the CIA faithfully performed our duties in

accordance with the highest standards of objectivity and nonpartisanship. Do you have any evidence that CIA Deputy Director Mike Morell gave false or intentionally misleading testimony to Congress about the Benghazi talking points?

A No.

Q Do you have any evidence that CIA Deputy Director Morell altered the talking points provided to Congress for political reasons?

A No.

Q It has been alleged that Ambassador Susan Rice made an intentional misrepresentation when she spoke on the Sunday talk shows about the Benghazi attacks. Do you have any evidence that Ambassador Rice intentionally misrepresented facts about the Benghazi attacks on the Sunday talk shows?

A No.

Q It has been alleged that the President of the United States was virtually AWOL as Commander in Chief on the night of the attacks and that he was, quote, "missing in action." Do you have any evidence to support the allegation that the President was virtually AWOL as Commander in Chief or missing in action on the night of the attacks?

A No.

Q It has been alleged that a team of four military personnel at Embassy Tripoli on the night of the attacks who were considering flying on the second plane to Benghazi were ordered by their superiors to stand down, meaning to cease all operations. Military officials have stated that those four individuals were instead ordered to remain

in place in Tripoli to provide security and medical assistance in their current location.

A Republican staff report issued by the House Armed Services Committee found that, quote, "There was no stand-down order issued to U.S. military personnel in Tripoli who sought to join the fight in Benghazi," unquote. Do you have any evidence to contradict the conclusion of the House Armed Services Committee that there was no stand-down order issued to U.S. military personnel in Tripoli who sought to join the fight in Benghazi?

A No.

Q It has been alleged that the military failed to deploy assets on the night of the attack that would have saved lives. However, former Republican Congressman Howard "Buck" McKeon, the former chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, conducted a review of the attacks, after which he stated, "Given where the troops were, how quickly the things all happened, and how quickly it dissipated, we probably couldn't have done more than we did," unquote. Do you have any evidence to contradict Congressman McKeon's conclusion?

A No.

Q Do you have any evidence that the Pentagon had military assets available to them on the night of the attacks that could have saved lives, but that the Pentagon leadership intentionally decided not to deploy?

A No.

Ms. Boyd. Thank you.

Ms. Sawyer. Thank you. I think that concludes the questions that we had for you this afternoon. Again, we really do appreciate you taking the time, your willingness to appear voluntarily, and for your service for so many years with the government.

Mr. [REDACTED] Sure. Thank you.

Ms. Sawyer. We do appreciate it very much. So thank you.

Ms. Jackson. We join in thanking you.

Mr. [REDACTED] Thank you.

Ms. Sawyer. We can go off the record.

[Whereupon, at 4:59 p.m., the interview was concluded.]

Certificate of Deponent/Interviewee

I have read the foregoing ____ pages, which contain the correct transcript of the answers made by me to the questions therein recorded.

Witness Name

Date

Errata Sheet

Select Committee on Benghazi

The State Department provided the witness's private counsel with a copy of the accompanying transcript for review. The witness's counsel did not provide the Department with any proposed corrections or a certification of its accuracy.