

RELEASE IN
PART B5

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2012 9:17 AM
To: H
Subject: FW: MIST

Worth a read.

From: Gordon, Philip H
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2012 5:37 AM
To: Sullivan, Jacob J
Subject: FW: MIST

Jake: I see S is meeting with head of SOCOM this week. As he may well bring up issue of MIST (Military Information Support Teams), I wanted to share with you an exchange I had with Bill and Wendy about it in February, [redacted] There will be a para in her briefer on it, but given sensitivities not all the sharply expressed views below, which she should be aware of.

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Thx.

From: Sherman, Wendy R
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 8:21 PM
To: Burns, William J; Gordon, Philip H; Nides, Thomas R
Subject: Re: MIST

[redacted]

From: Burns, William J
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 06:44 PM
To: Gordon, Philip H; Nides, Thomas R; Sherman, Wendy R
Subject: RE: MIST

Thanks, Phil. [redacted]

[redacted]

From: Gordon, Philip H
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 6:09 PM
To: Burns, William J; Nides, Thomas R; Sherman, Wendy R
Subject: MIST

Bill, Tom, Wendy –

I wanted to provide some context to Jim Miller's note regarding the MIST program, which is a subject I have discussed previously with Bill. As background on MIST, I have attached the 2010 DOD memo which fairly

clearly lays out its origins and objectives. MIST (or MISO in the attached note) is the renamed version of what used to be called psyops; the program continues to be run by SOCOM and, although DOD personnel under MIST are offered to posts under COM authority, SOCOM sees this effort as a means of conducting information operations in areas of strategic interest to them.

I am a strong supporter of whole-of-government efforts. EUR has worked hard with DOD to ensure that our policy in Europe overall is reflective of Administration priorities and is fully integrated. And as I made clear to Jim, I am not in a position to comment on the utility or advisability of deploying MIST in other parts of the world; I certainly don't question the value -- to take one example from the attached memo -- of programs urging civilians to report insurgent activity in Iraq or Afghanistan.

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