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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

THE JOINT STAFF

11 July 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR LIEUTENANT GENERAL PUSTAY, USAF

Subject: Interim Evaluation, Grill Flame Project

1. Application of Project GRILL FLAME to the Iranian hostage situation was actively initiated by DA during mid-November 1979, with the initial session occurring on 27 November 1979.
2. JCS/J3/SOD was subsequently appraised of the program, and in conjunction with the INSCOM Project Manager, developed a joint exploitation approach which went into effect during the first week in December, 1979. During the 1 December 1979 and July 1980 time frame, more than 150 GRILL FLAME reports were prepared on behalf of JCS/SOD.
3. The comments provided below are based upon an examination of the reports cited above and reflect a judgemental analysis, after comparison of the report data with other available information. Sufficient correlation of physical verifiabiles has been obtained to indicate that GRILL FLAME data appears to provide insights that would not be readily available through other sources, particularly when working against a target in a denied or hostile environment.
4. GRILL FLAME reporting appears to have increased potential when proper care is taken to map out a strategy which involves:
 - a. A thorough requestor understanding of the GRILL FLAME process, its limitations, and its susceptibility to misinterpretation when viewed in isolation or when assumed to be precise.
 - b. A familiarization of the controller with the target area (in terms of physical verifiabiles and desired types of information).
 - c. Selection of proper source in relation to desired information (geographic, physical, or intellectual).
 - d. General orientation of source with target area (general physical or functional description).

ARMY and JCS review(s) completed.

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- e. Exercise of proper direction of source during mission period.
- f. Objective correlation of GRILL FLAME data by competent analyst (requestor) who has intimate knowledge of other available intelligence.

5. In summary, GRILL FLAME data appears to have potential value as a supplemental or keying source. Any decisions based solely on GRILL FLAME material, however, would be extremely risky and not recommended. Final evaluation of the GRILL FLAME data and validations/invalidations of the comments contained in this memorandum cannot be made until the hostage situation has been resolved and the hostages are available for debrief.


RODERICK WENAHAN
Lieutenant Colonel, USAF

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