

UNCLASSIFIED

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE  
WASHINGTON, DC

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

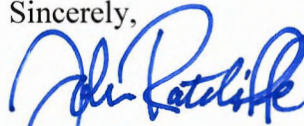
**JUL 23 2020**

The Honorable Ron Johnson  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Grassley and Chairman Johnson:

Pursuant to multiple prior requests regarding intelligence briefings provided during the 2016 Presidential campaign, including your letters dated 25 April 2019; 16 October 2019; and 16 April 2020, please see the enclosed declassified documents.

Sincerely,



John Ratcliffe

Enclosures:

1. Document Brief to Republican Candidate for U.S. President, 30 August 2016
2. Outline Used During Trump Brief, 17 August 2016
3. Emails Related to Transition Team CI Briefs, 24 August 2016

Cc:

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
The Honorable Mark R. Warner  
The Honorable Adam Schiff  
The Honorable Devin Nunes  
The Honorable William Barr  
The Honorable Christopher Wray

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**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**Electronic Communication**

**Title:** [REDACTED] Document Brief to Republican  
Candidate for U.S. President

**Date:** 08/30/2016

**From:** WASHINGTON FIELD  
WF-CI1

**Contact:** Joe Pientka III, [REDACTED]

**Approved By:** KEVIN E. CLINESMITH  
STRZOK PETER P II

**Drafted By:** Joe Pientka III

**Case ID #:** 97F-HQ-2063661

[REDACTED] CROSSFIRE HURRICANE;  
FOREIGN AGENTS REGISTRATION ACT -  
RUSSIA;

97F-NY-2069860

SENSITIVE INVESTIGATIVE MATTER  
[REDACTED] CROSSFIRE RAZOR  
FOREIGN AGENTS REGISTRATION ACT -  
RUSSIA;  
SENSITIVE INVESTIGATIVE MATTER

**DRAFT DOCUMENT/DELIBERATIVE MATERIAL**

Do not disseminate outside the FBI without the permission of the originator or program manager.

**Synopsis:** [REDACTED] This communication documents writer's counterintelligence and security briefing to the Republican candidate for U.S. President Donald J. Trump, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and General (retired) Michael Flynn.

**Reason:** [REDACTED]  
D [REDACTED]

**Declassify On:** [REDACTED]

**Full Investigation Initiated:** 07/31/2016

**Enclosure(s):** Enclosed are the following items:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Title: [REDACTED] Document Brief to Republican Candidate for U.S. President

Re: 97F-HQ-2063661, 08/30/2016

1. [REDACTED] Outline of brief given on 08/17/2016

**Details:**

On August 17, 2016, writer, provided a counterintelligence and security briefing to U.S. Presidential Candidate Donald J. Trump, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, and retired General Michael Flynn. The brief was held at the FBI's New York Field Office in the TS/SCI SCIF conference room (west side) on the 25th floor and was in support of ODNI briefings provided to U.S. Presidential candidates and two of their advisors.

[REDACTED] Writer's brief lasted approximately thirteen minutes, starting at 1555 and ending at 1608. Upon entering the room Trump, Christie and Flynn shook hands with all of the briefers. Trump, Christie and Flynn sat with their backs to the clocks facing the windows while the briefers sat across from them. An ODNI briefer, Edward Gistaro, initiated the briefing by discussing the history of the briefings and establishing the ground rules regarding the brief, specifically that the briefers would not answer policy related questions and would not discuss any operations. Gistaro then introduced writer, who provided the following brief (not verbatim, this is a summary):

[REDACTED] Good afternoon gentlemen and welcome to the FBI's New York Field Office. My name is Joe Pientka and I'm a Supervisory Special Agent of a Foreign Counterintelligence Squad at the FBI's Washington Field Office. Prior to you receiving the classified presentations from the ODNI briefers, I will provide you with a counterintelligence and security brief that will give you a baseline on the methodology used by Foreign Intelligence Services to the detriment of U.S. National Security. In addition, this brief will advise you that if you are not already a target of a Foreign Intelligence Service, due to the fact you are receiving this classified briefing, you will be. Foreign Intelligence Services want information pertaining to political,

[REDACTED]

Title: [REDACTED] Document Brief to Republican Candidate for U.S. President

Re: 97F-HQ-2063661, 08/30/2016

economic, energy, technology and military policy/plans of the U.S. This information is extremely valuable to our trusted allies. Putting it plainly, Foreign Intelligence Services look to collect inside information to give their country a competitive advantage over the U.S.

[REDACTED] Before I speak to the methodology on how Foreign Intelligence Services collect this information, I should lay out their presence here in the United States. Foreign Intelligence Services deploy intelligence collectors - known as Intelligence Officers or IOs in one of two ways. The first is through the official diplomatic presence at their embassies, consulates and establishments in the U.S. IOs are deployed using diplomatic cover. As an example, IOs will purport to be an official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but in fact their real position is an IO. The second method of deploying intelligence operatives to the U.S. is through non-official cover or NOCs. NOCs can be tourists, businessmen, students, whoever that are not affiliated with their government. This is the most difficult to detect as we would need some forehand knowledge regarding who or what to look for.

[REDACTED] Statistically speaking the FBI has approximately [REDACTED] cases on Known or Suspected Russian IOs posted to the US. We also have approximately [REDACTED] cases on Known or Suspected Chinese IOs - almost [REDACTED] the Russian establishment presence. What is interesting about the two services is how they have different methodology regarding how they will collect intelligence. The Russians [REDACTED] [REDACTED] rely on an establishment presence while the Chinese take a more asymmetrical approach.

[REDACTED] Trump asked the following question, "Joe, are the Russians bad? Because they have more numbers are they worse than the Chinese?" Writer responded by saying both countries are bad. The numbers of IOs present in the U.S. is not an indicator of the severity of the threat. Writer reminded Trump the Chinese asymmetrical presence in the U.S.



[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In addition, the OCONUS cyber threat posed by 3PLA would also need to be considered when making comparisons.

[REDACTED] Flynn then asked writer, "How many Special Agents are in the FBI?" Writer told Flynn he thought over 10,000. Flynn stated, "You have 17,000." Flynn then asked writer, "How many HVE cases does the FBI have?" Writer stated the FBI has approximately [REDACTED] HVE cases, a statistic backed up by John Mulligan, Deputy Chief of the National Counterterrorism Center. Flynn then spoke to Trump and said, "See, they dont have enough resources to work the HVE threat and the IOs." Flynn then asked writer, "Is it worse now than during the Cold War?" Writer responded that the number of identified known and suspected IOs from hostile Foreign Intelligence Services posted in the U.S. are equal to or greater than during the Cold War.

[REDACTED] Following that exchange, writer continued by stating, Foreign Intelligence Services collect intelligence in three ways: HUMINT or through Human Intelligence, SIGINT or Signals Intelligence and Cyber or through computer intrusions. In the classical sense, an IO will attempt to recruit an individual to tell him or her the things he or she wants to know. This is known as HUMINT. It is highly unlikely a Foreign Intelligence Service will attempt to recruit you, however you need to be mindful of the people on your periphery: your staff, domestic help, business associates, friends, etc. Those individuals may present more vulnerabilities or be more susceptible to an approach. Those individuals will also be targeted for recruitment due to their access to you. That does not mean IOs will not make a run at you. They will send their IOs in diplomatic cover, businessperson NOCs, as well as sources they have developed around you to elicit information and gain assessment on you.

[REDACTED] To better explain the methodology, I will combine SIGINT and Cyber operations. Foreign Intelligence Services rely on our dependency to communicate. In this day and age to communicate effectively we must



[REDACTED]

Title: [REDACTED] Document Brief to Republican Candidate for U.S. President

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communicate electronically, which is a vector for exploitation by a Foreign Intelligence Service. You should be mindful of your use of landline telephones, cellular telephones, e-mail and computer networks. As you are aware, discussions regarding classified information should only be held in a facility certified for classified discussions. Therefore, a Foreign Intelligence Service would not necessarily target you technically to gain access to the classified information you were briefed on, but you will be targeted for sensitive and personal information about you.

[REDACTED] At this time, Flynn interjected, "I did SIGINT." Writer responded that he could then appreciate what our country can do technically to exploit a Tier 1 target and we must extrapolate a Foreign Intelligence Service could do the same to us. Trump then stated, "Yes I understand its a dark time. Nothing is safe on computers anymore. We used to lock things in a safe in a room, now anyone can get in. My son is ten years old. He has a computer and we put a codeword on it. Within ten minutes he broke the codeword and we needed to put another one on the computer. Kids are genius."

[REDACTED] Writer followed up by stating, in addition, you should not only consider how you communicate but where you communicate sensitive or personal information. Foreign Intelligence Services will develop a pattern on where you hold private meetings or discussions. They will attempt to determine if the location is a meeting room, kitchen, bedroom, vehicle, etc. Once a pattern is established they will attempt to exploit that location technically.

[REDACTED] Pending any questions gentlemen, that's all I have. I will also remind you the FBI is working with your transition team to provide the team with a similar counterintelligence and security brief. Thank you for your time.

[REDACTED] Following SSA Pientka's briefing the following ODNI briefers presented classified briefings on topics where they are

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Title: [REDACTED] Document Brief to Republican Candidate for U.S. President

Re: 97F-HQ-2063661, 08/30/2016

subject matter experts:

John Mulligan

[REDACTED]  
National Intelligence Manager for [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] During the ODNI briefs, writer actively listened for topics or questions regarding the Russian Federation. During Mulligan's brief, he stated the U.S. is the world leader in Counterterrorism. Trump then asked, "Russia too?" During a discussion regarding nuclear testing, Russia and China were brought up as cheating on the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. Trump asked, "Who's worse?" [REDACTED] stated, "They are both bad, but Russia is worse." Trump and Christie turned toward each other and Christie commented, "Im shocked."

[REDACTED] Due to time constraints, not all ODNI briefers presented their material. At 1750 the briefing ended to allow the candidate to meet his plane at 1900. Trump, Christie and Flynn shook hands with all presenters and exited the SCIF at approximately 1751.

◆◆



FD-340 (Rev. 8-7-97)

1A9

Universal Case File Number 97F-HQ-2063661

Field Office Acquiring Evidence HQ

Serial # of Originating Document 26

Date Received 8/17/2016

From JOE PIENKA  
(Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

(City and State)

By JOE PIENKA  
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned  Yes  No

Receipt Given  Yes  No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)

Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

Yes  No

Title: CROSSFIRE HURRICANE

Reference: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description:  Original notes re interview of

OUTLINE USED DURING TRUMP BRIEF ON

8/17/2016

Intro

*Before*

*METHOD*

- ✓ Purpose – CI and Security brief give Baseline on FIS threat to US National Security.
- ✓ Advise - if not already targeting, due to this briefing and access – you are
- ✓ FIS collect Political, economic, technological and military intelligence
- ✓ Basically they want inside information to give their country a competitive advantage over US.
- ✓ FIS use Intelligence Officers as their operatives or collectors in 2 ways
- ✓ Official Cover by using IOs under diplomatic cover at US based foreign establishments
- ✓ Non official cover (NOCS) – tourists, students, academics, business people
- ✓ In the US – Russian Fed has [redacted] known or suspected IOs, while China has [redacted]
- ✓ Russian threat is more traditional – establishment based IOs, while China takes an asymmetrical approach using NOCS.

- ✓ FIS will collect intel in 3 ways – HUMINT, SIGINT or Cyber
- ✓ HUMINT – IO attempt to recruit a person to provide Intel
  - Highly unlikely FIS attempt to recruit you: Staff, Business associates, domestic help
  - However – will come at you to elicit information – diplomats or NOCS
  - Classified, Sensitive, Private information

✓ SIGINT & CYBER – FIS rely on our dependency to communicate electronically & look to exploit.

- Mindful landline, cell calls, email, computer networks
- Mindful not only how you communicate but where
- Insider Threat – enable FIS technical penetrations

*Forward Pass*

*Worse than / than Cold War*

*Flynn informant 17,000 -*

*Russia work? China  
Ousted 1980-1985*

*Flynn Secret*

*CIUWGR  
Russia Too*

*126/1015*

*landline - be 30 mins*

*Russianium involvement  
Case Name not  
6/14/2015 54/14/1/20?*

CHINA June 2015 OPM

SF-86  
CLEARANCE ADJUDICATION

CUS control verification of EPS

3 PLA 2014

INDICT 5 CHINESE

STATE TRADE SECRETS

CHINESE COMPANIES  
US STEEL



BURYAKOV - Russian Banker  
NOC

Vnesheconombank

Podbnyy - RNOU  
SpetsktoU

2. SYRAPS MAY

PLA <sup>COOK</sup> INDICTMENT <sup>INDICATED</sup>

TIGER BRAND - Econ-Bankers

IBIS -

OPM MARK - Chinese <sup>Phase 1/2/3</sup>  
SF 96?

OrcomB



**From:** [REDACTED] (TA) (FBI)  
**To:** [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: Transition team CI briefs --- UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~  
**Date:** Monday, May 20, 2019 9:24:18 AM

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~  
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**From:** [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2016 8:14 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (WF) (FBI) [REDACTED]@fbi.sgov.gov>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI) [REDACTED]@fbi.sgov.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Transition team CI briefs --- UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~  
=====

That makes things easier since we are not sure what their capabilities are for showing a PP --- especially if they are just moving in. That is always a coordination piece that can be difficult even when it is a permanent facility.

Once you know the dates and times, I'll let [REDACTED]'s secretary know and send him an unclass email, so he can lock those times in.

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**From:** [REDACTED] (WF) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2016 8:08 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Transition team CI briefs --- UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~  
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Thank you [REDACTED]!

That is fine. No need for a powerpoint if you haven't used one in the past.

I was anticipating more of a discussion. IE 30-40 minute presentation, then 15-20 minutes of questions.

Hopefully I'll have an answer this morning regarding the date and times.

[REDACTED]  
Presidential Transition Team Deputy Lead

(Office) [REDACTED]

(Cell) [REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2016 6:59 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (WF) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Transition team CI briefs --- UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~  
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[REDACTED]: Hi! Do you want a Power Point for this? [REDACTED] wasn't sure what would be appropriate when we talked two weeks ago about this. [REDACTED] and I are using Joe Pientka's outline as a guide. Joe went thru it with me verbally yesterday and seemed to make a lot of sense. We will send you a draft of that later today. Please let us know if you suggest anything else. [REDACTED] has had a lot of experience and I've had some, so we can tailor this however you want. [REDACTED] is out this week, but we did discuss his thoughts a couple of weeks ago.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] (WF) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2016 11:57 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI); [REDACTED] (CD)(FBI); PIENKA, JOE (WF) (FBI); STRZOK, PETER P. (CD) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI); [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI); [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI); [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI); [REDACTED] (CD)(FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Transition team CI briefs --- UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~  
=====

Sounds great.

Thank you [REDACTED]!

[REDACTED]

Presidential Transition Team Deputy Lead

(Office) [REDACTED]

(Cell) [REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2016 11:47 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (CD)(FBI); PIENKA, JOE (WF) (FBI); STRZOK, PETER P. (CD) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI); [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI); [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI); [REDACTED] (WF) (FBI); [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI); [REDACTED] (CD)(FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Transition team CI briefs --- UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

=====  
[REDACTED]: Thank you for the information! [REDACTED] and I will provide an outline to ASAC [REDACTED] soon.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] (CD)(FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2016 11:30 AM  
**To:** PIENKA, JOE (WF) (FBI); [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI); STRZOK, PETER P. (CD) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI); [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI); [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI); [REDACTED] (WF) (FBI); [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI); [REDACTED] (CD)(FBI); [REDACTED] (CD)(FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Transition team CI briefs --- UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~  
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All –

As of this morning, DAD Pete Strzok has identified CD-4 A/SC [REDACTED] as the briefer for the 2 unclassified briefs (one for each of the transition teams).

[REDACTED] – thanks in advance. Will leave to you to prepare the brief outline. I will be out of the office the remainder of this week. Once you have an outline, please provide copy to WFO ASAC [REDACTED] (cc'd) who is the FBI's Deputy PTT lead. I have not yet heard back from the GSA POC, but we offered dates starting the week of 08/29 (next Monday+). [REDACTED] can interface with our GSA POC to establish the exact date(s). [REDACTED] has a meeting tomorrow (08/24) with another group, but GSA may be there also. [REDACTED] will advise. [REDACTED] will attend both these briefs with CD-4 as our overall FBI PTT rep.

[REDACTED] – below are talking points SSA Joe Pientka put together for the NY brief.

<< File: Trump brief.docx >>

Thanks everyone,

[REDACTED]

Chief of Staff  
Executive Staff Unit (ESU)  
Office of Assistant Director  
Counterintelligence Division FBIHQ



Desk: [REDACTED]

Cell: [REDACTED]

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**From:** PIENKA, JOE (WF) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2016 11:05 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI); STRZOK, PETER P. (CD) (FBI); [REDACTED] (CD)(FBI)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI); [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI); [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Transition team CI briefs --- UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~  
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[REDACTED] – please see attached document I created and used to develop a final outline for the brief I provided the candidate. It is not the final cut or verbatim, but is a good framework of the topics I covered.

<< File: Trump brief.docx >>

Let me know if you need anything further.

Regards,

Joe

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**From:** [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2016 10:53 AM  
**To:** STRZOK, PETER P. (CD) (FBI); PIENKA, JOE (WF) (FBI); [REDACTED] (CD)(FBI)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI); [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI); [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Transition team CI briefs --- UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~  
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Joe was kind enough to stop by and brief me, so CD4 will be good to go. I'll keep my calendar open for next week. I am supposed to visit Boston Field Office on 9/1, so I would like to avoid that if possible. [REDACTED] and I had previously asked [REDACTED] to help with the slides, so I am looping him in on this email.

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**From:** STRZOK, PETER P. (CD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2016 10:28 AM  
**To:** PIENKA, JOE (WF) (FBI); [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI); [REDACTED] (CD)(FBI)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI); [REDACTED] (CD) (FBI)  
**Subject:** Transition team CI briefs --- UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~  
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All, I spoke with Joe after [REDACTED] and I discussed these briefings earlier today. [REDACTED], let's

change what I initially indicated; I would like you (or someone from CD4) to give these transition briefs with someone from Joe's team along with you as a back bencher. [REDACTED], please note [REDACTED] will have the lead for CD in coordinating these two briefings. Any questions, please let me know.

Thanks,

Pete

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

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