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SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
U.S. SENATE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

INTERVIEW OF: STEPHEN C. LAYCOCK

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020
WASHINGTON, D.C.

The interview in this matter was held at the
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room SD-226, commencing at
10:00 a.m.

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1 APPEARANCES:

2 Zachary N. Somers, Chief Investigative Counsel
3 (Majority)

4 Arthur Radford Baker, Senior Investigative Counsel
5 (Majority)

6 Sara Zdeb, Senior Counsel (Minority)

7 Joseph Charlet, Counsel (Minority)

8 [REDACTED], FBI Office of the General Counsel,
9 Assistant General Counsel

10 [REDACTED], FBI Office of the General Counsel,
11 Assistant General Counsel

12 [REDACTED], US DOJ FBI Supervisory Special
13 Agent, Office of Congressional Affairs

14 Richard L. Swick, Counsel for the witness

15 [REDACTED], Counsel, DOJ

16 [REDACTED], FBI OGC

17 Mary Grace Castleberry, Court Reporter

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I N D E X

EXAMINATION BY

COUNSEL FOR THE MAJORITY: PAGE

By Mr. Somers 4, 17, 22, 26, 27, 29,
31, 33, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 45, 47, 49, 58, 62, 64, 65,
66, 67

By Mr. Baker 13, 17, 27, 29, 31, 32,
35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 45, 46, 48, 60, 64, 65, 66, 67

COUNSEL FOR THE MINORITY

By Ms. Zdeb 52

EXHIBITS

(No exhibits were marked.)

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2
3 Mr. Somers: This is a transcribed interview of
4 Stephen Laycock. Chairman Graham requested this interview
5 as part of an investigation by the Senate Judiciary
6 Committee into matters related to the Justice Department's
7 and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's handling of the
8 Crossfire Hurricane investigation, including applications
9 for and renewals of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance
10 Act Warrant on Carter Page.

EXAMINATION

11
12 BY MR. SOMERS:

13 Q Would the witness please state his name and
14 current position at the FBI for the record.

15 A Stephen C. Laycock, L-a-y-c-o-c-k. Executive
16 assistant director, intelligence branch.

17 Q Thank you. On behalf of Chairman Graham, I
18 want to thank you for appearing today and we appreciate
19 your willingness to appear voluntarily.

20 My name is Zachary Somers. I'm majority chief
21 investigative counsel for the Judiciary Committee. I'd now
22 like to ask everyone else here in the room to introduce
23 themselves for the record except for your personal counsel
24 who I'll get to in a few moments.

25 Mr. Baker: Arthur Baker, senior investigative

1 counsel, majority staff, Chairman Graham.

2 Ms. Zdeb: Sara Zdeb, senior counsel for Ranking
3 Member Feinstein.

4 Mr. Charlet: Joe Charlet, counsel for Ranking
5 Member Feinstein.

6 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], FBI OGC.

7 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], FBI OGC.

8 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], FBI OGC.

9 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], FBI OGC.

10 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], FBI OCA.

11 BY MR. SOMERS:

12 Q The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure do not
13 apply in this setting, but there are some guidelines that
14 we follow that I would like to go over.

15 Our questioning will proceed in rounds. The
16 majority will ask questions for the first hour and then the
17 minority will have the opportunity to ask questions for an
18 equal period of time. We will go back and forth in this
19 manner until there are no more questions and the interview
20 is over.

21 Typically we take a short break at the end of each
22 hour of questioning, but if you would like to take a break
23 apart from that, please let us know.

24 As I noted earlier, you're appearing today
25 voluntarily. Accordingly, we anticipate that our questions

1 will receive complete responses. To the extent that you
2 decline to answer our questions or if counsel instructs you
3 not to answer, we will consider whether a subpoena is
4 necessary.

5 As you can see, there's an official reporter taking
6 down everything that is said to make a written record, so
7 we ask that you give verbal responses to all questions. Do
8 you understand that?

9 A Yes, I do.

10 Q So if the reporter can take down a clear
11 record, it is important that we don't talk over one another
12 and/or interrupt each other if we can help it. The
13 committee encourages witnesses who appear for transcribed
14 interviews to freely consult with counsel if they so
15 choose. And you're appearing here today with counsel.

16 Mr. Somers: Would counsel please state his name for
17 the record.

18 Mr. Swick: Richard Swick.

19 BY MR. SOMERS:

20 Q We want you to answer our questions in the
21 most complete and truthful manner possible so we will take
22 our time. If you have any questions or if you do not
23 understand one of our questions, please let us know.

24 If you honestly don't know the answer to a question,
25 do not remember it, it is best not to guess. Please give

1 us your best recollection and it is okay to tell us if you
2 learned the information from someone else.

3 If there are things you don't know or can't
4 remember, just say so and please inform us who, to the best
5 of your knowledge, might be able to provide a more complete
6 answer to the question.

7 You should also understand that although this
8 interview is not under oath, you are required by law to
9 answer questions from Congress truthfully.

10 Do you understand that?

11 A Yes, I do.

12 Q This also applies to questions posed by
13 congressional staff in the interview. Do you understand
14 this?

15 A Yes, I do.

16 Q Witnesses who knowingly provide false
17 testimony can be subject to criminal prosecution for
18 perjury for making false statements. Do you understand
19 this?

20 A Yes, I do.

21 Q Is there any reason you are unable provide
22 truthful answers to today's questions?

23 A No.

24 Q Finally, we ask that you not speak about what
25 we discuss in this interview with anyone outside of who is

1 here in the room today so that we can preserve the
2 integrity of our investigation. That's the end of my
3 preamble.

4 Do you have any questions before we begin?

5 A No, I don't.

6 Q It's now 10:02. We'll begin our first round
7 of questioning. Have you had a chance to review or read
8 the December 2019 report, IG report on the Carter Page FISA
9 application?

10 A Portions of it.

11 Q Other than your attorney, did you speak with
12 anyone in preparation for today's interview?

13 A No.

14 Q What we're mainly interested in -- and I'm
15 assuming FBI counsel talked to you about this today -- is
16 discussing your interactions with Kathleen Kavalec relating
17 to Christopher Steele that occurred presumably in the fall
18 of 2016, although we do have some other areas that I think
19 we'll go into.

20 What position did you hold at the FBI in the fall of
21 2016?

22 A I was the section chief for the
23 counterintelligence division, Eurasia program.

24 Q And who did you report to in that position?

25 A During my time there, I reported to the

1 deputy assistant director. My first one was William
2 Johnson, second one was Jen Boone.

3 Q And when did that division between the two of
4 them occur, roughly?

5 A I don't remember. One got promoted and -- I
6 don't remember.

7 Q Do you recall if it was Jen Boone throughout
8 the relevant time period, the fall of 2016?

9 A Yes, it was.

10 Q And what were your responsibilities in your
11 position as the section chief of the Eurasia division?

12 A So I -- as the section chief, I covered the
13 traditional counterintelligence work relating to Russia,
14 Eurasia countries, Belarus, Ukraine. I was the national
15 program manager for the FBI.

16 Q And those responsibilities, those would be
17 counterintelligence responsibilities for Eurasia, they
18 don't extend -- it's not Eurasia generally. It's
19 counterintelligence for Eurasia?

20 A Yes.

21 Q So in the criminal division, there may also
22 be a Eurasia specialist section chief?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Could you briefly walk us through your career
25 progression up to becoming the section chief for Eurasia?

1 A From the very beginning?

2 Q From the beginning. You can be brief, but I
3 would just like to get a little bit of a picture of your
4 FBI progression.

5 A Sure. I first entered on duty with the FBI
6 around April 1992 as a physical science technician in the
7 laboratory division. In 1995 November, I reported to
8 Quantico new agents class. Upon graduation in March '96, I
9 went to San Francisco and I was an agent in San Francisco
10 until the fall of 2003.

11 I returned to headquarters in the
12 counterintelligence division in 2003 working in China
13 matters. I worked down at Quantico as a program manager in
14 crisis management, a unit chief in counterintelligence
15 after that, reported to the Norfolk, Virginia Field Office
16 where I was the counterintelligence supervisor for about
17 five years. And I was in the Richmond, Virginia division
18 as an assistant special agent in charge overseeing national
19 security program and intelligence.

20 And that led me to -- in August of 2015 was when I
21 reported to FBI counterintelligence division to be the
22 section chief of the Eurasia program.

23 Q And how long did you stay in that position?

24 A I was in that position until April of 2017.

25 Q And where did you go in April 2017?

1 A I was assigned to special agent in charge,
2 counterintelligence program for the Washington Field
3 Office.

4 Q And that was the last job you held before
5 this job?

6 A No, sir. In April of 2018, I was promoted as
7 assistant director for the director of intelligence at FBI
8 headquarters. And I served in that role from April of 2018
9 until approximately October of 2019 where I assumed the
10 current role that I'm in right now.

11 Q And then in your role as the section chief of
12 the Eurasia section, how many people were you supervising?

13 A Approximately 50.

14 Q Fifty. Is that a combination of agents and
15 analysts or is it --

16 A Agents, analysts, professional staff.

17 Q Were any of those people experts on Russia?

18 A It depends on how you define experts.

19 Q Did anyone specialize in Russia versus other
20 countries in Eurasia?

21 A They probably had more knowledge of Russia
22 than other countries. We've got people determined to be an
23 expert and they do a little bit more on the Russia program
24 than analysts working in the China program or non-Eurasian
25 country.

1 Q Did any of them speak Russian?

2 A No.

3 Q Have you worked on FISAs in your career at
4 the FBI?

5 A Yes.

6 Q How many, approximately?

7 A Twenty to 25.

8 Q In what type of roles did you work on FISAs?

9 A I was an author of FISAs. I was -- and I say
10 that meaning as a case agent in the field, obviously office
11 of intelligence, OIPR at the time. The DOJ writes the
12 actual FISAs and we provide the input and the information
13 for it.

14 As a case agent in San Francisco and then as a
15 supervisor, I was part of the approval process. All the
16 way up until my role as a special agent in charge, I was a
17 part of the approval process for FISAs.

18 Q So you've obviously signed a Woods form
19 before then?

20 A Yes.

21 Q How familiar are you with the Woods
22 procedures?

23 A Pretty familiar.

24 Q How did you learn or gain that familiarity?

25 A It's part of the training when you're working

1 in counterintelligence and FISA, you are aware of the
2 different processes and steps that are required as an
3 affiant as well as an approver, you are ensuring that
4 correct information is in the FISA packages. So you're
5 aware of the different steps that are involved in the
6 approval.

7 BY MR. BAKER:

8 Q Is that training you would get as soon as you
9 enter into a counterintelligence role? Is it something you
10 get as just basic training as a new agent before you even
11 know what your assignment might be? When in the process do
12 you become familiar with Woods requirements?

13 A It depends on the person and the time.
14 There's specific training you get at Quantico. There's a
15 basic counterintelligence course that you would take where
16 you learn steps along the way.

17 Some of it you learn -- I had not had a -- when I
18 first did a FISA in the field, I had not had formalized
19 training. I had a training agent who would help me who had
20 seniority in the counterintelligence program who showed me
21 the way.

22 Q So this training agent is somebody that
23 themselves was versed in counterintelligence, actually had
24 a practical knowledge of what you had to do with Woods
25 procedures and other counterintelligence nuances?

1 A Actually, I don't recall when Woods
2 procedures first came into play in the FBI. I can't
3 remember specifically when that happened.

4 Q In addition to your experience with
5 counterintelligence matters from a field agent and then in
6 your executive management roles at headquarters, did you
7 ever have occasion as an assistant inspector, as an
8 inspector to go around and audit other counterintelligence
9 investigations that you were not directly involved in as an
10 auditor from the inspection division to check on
11 compliance?

12 A Specific to counterintelligence or just did I
13 do inspections?

14 Q Both. I assume you did inspections based on
15 your rank now; is that correct?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Do you have any recollection of specifically
18 doing counterintelligence audits? And I guess the
19 follow-up would be any training related to that, what you
20 were supposed to look for as an assistant inspector or an
21 inspector.

22 A In my experience of doing inspections, on one
23 occasion, there's six inspection credits required for
24 promotion at the time. One of those inspections involved
25 another division's counterintelligence program. I don't

1 recall the number of FISAs that may or may not have been
2 looked at for that division at that time.

3 Q I don't want to spend a lot of time on it,
4 but what is the goal of these audits? I'm
5 familiar -- we've heard testimony in addition to the
6 structured audits that you would have done as an inspector
7 or an assistant inspector that the counterintelligence
8 program is subject to a lot of other audits.

9 I think OGC sends people out with DOJ lawyers and
10 there's some files and cases that are randomly selected for
11 compliance. I'm just curious, what is the goal of either
12 the inspection type that you do or this other type -- and
13 you may or may not be familiar with them -- what do you do
14 when you leave a field office? You have findings, there's
15 deficiencies? What happens post audit and what is it that
16 you're ultimately looking for?

17 A I think -- well, there's two different ways
18 of looking at that. In inspection, you're looking at how
19 the division, a program or a subprogram, is performing
20 throughout a specific range of time. And you're looking
21 at -- and that can take different forms and fashions if you
22 lead, either state a specific program or the entire
23 division or field office. So you're evaluating performance
24 on how they are doing based off this set of guidelines and
25 metrics that the inspection division will put forth.

1 In those you could have findings of compliance
2 issues, following guidelines or not following guidelines.
3 You will find some deficiencies and you will find some
4 positive recommendations or feedback that have happened in
5 the field office.

6 And specifically for FISA, there are some national
7 security reviews, I think they're called, and FISA reviews
8 where the FBI with DOJ randomly picks a FISA to go through
9 and audit it to make sure that it satisfied all the
10 compliance rules for that FISA.

11 Q Separate and apart from anything we're
12 talking about today with Crossfire Hurricane, are you aware
13 either on inspections that you did or compliance audits
14 that you may have done or just discussion amongst
15 inspectors or assistant inspectors about deficiency issues
16 in the FISA process in general?

17 A How do you mean?

18 Q Are you aware of any trend of the findings?
19 I think they were ineffective/inefficient was the worst
20 finding you could come out of an inspection with.

21 Was there a trend in the FISA audits of compliance
22 issues, not necessarily related to this, just a trend in
23 general where somewhere for some reason the training wasn't
24 getting out or there was a misunderstanding that there was
25 a trend of a lot of deficiencies, a lot of errors,

1 omissions in the FISA process?

2 [REDACTED]: Are you asking to his personal knowledge?

3 Did any of the inspections he was involved in? Or are you

4 asking if he knows of any trend at the Bureau writ large?

5 Mr. Baker: Both.

6 [REDACTED]: To the extent you know.

7 The Witness: I'm not aware of, no.

8 Mr. Baker: Okay. Thank you.

9 BY MR. SOMERS:

10 Q Did you look at the Inspector General's

11 recent audit of the Woods procedures?

12 A I haven't read it. I know about them, but I

13 haven't read it.

14 Q The division you currently head, do they

15 apply for FISAs?

16 A No.

17 BY MR. BAKER:

18 Q I would be curious to back up just a bit.

19 You went through your work history and you're obviously

20 very versed or seem to be very versed in

21 counterintelligence matters.

22 Could you just generally explain the setup of a

23 division? We would be curious to know -- you know,

24 obviously the director's at the top of the pyramid and as

25 far as agents are concerned, SSA would be at the bottom.

1 But some of the other ranks for the record would be
2 beneficial. And like how many? You talked about section
3 chief. How many section chiefs might be under a DAD. How
4 many DADs would be under a division.

5 And I guess it's going to depend on the size of the
6 division or whatnot. So I guess for our purposes,
7 counterintelligence division, to the best if you know.

8 A So when you say division, you mean
9 headquarters division, not a field office?

10 Q Yes, sir. A headquarters division.

11 A How about if we start with this. I'll
12 explain my division when I was assistant director. So you
13 have the director of the FBI, you have a deputy director of
14 the FBI and associate deputy director of the FBI. And then
15 the next level is where I'm at, the executive assistant
16 director. There's dotted lines to other folks in there,
17 general counsel, public affairs, congressional affairs on
18 how that works and they have their own respective
19 divisions.

20 Under my purview right now, I have three divisions,
21 the director of intelligence, which I was assistant
22 director for, Office of Partner Engagement and Office of
23 Private Sector. I'll describe to you, because I was the
24 assistant director, how my division was set up for the
25 director of intelligence.

1 So I was the assistant director. I had three deputy
2 assistant directors and below their branches, I had eight
3 section chiefs and each section chief was responsible for a
4 different set of programs. Under the section chiefs, you
5 would have a varying amount of unit chiefs or units that
6 were run by a unit chief, a GS-15 unit chief.

7 The size and scope of the individual units,
8 depending on what their primary focus was, some could be
9 very small, some could be much larger depending on the
10 number of employees that you would have. And then within
11 there, you would have supervisory special agents,
12 management program analysts or intelligence analysts or
13 contractors that are working to support that.

14 Each division generally is the same makeup. The
15 counterintelligence division today is different than where
16 it was when I was as a section chief in there. They have
17 reorganized. And I don't know in detail, but they have
18 mission centers now versus sections for Eurasia. It's a
19 little bit different. So I can't speak to exactly how
20 that's set up right now, but usually my division that I was
21 an AD over, that's generally how that is set up.

22 Q Now, was your division bigger or smaller than
23 counterintelligence?

24 A That's a good question. I don't know.

25 Q And when we started this question, you wanted

1 to know if I was talking about a field or headquarters.

2 Just generally, how does the field interact with the

3 headquarter division, specifically in relation to the

4 counterintelligence agent that's out in the field? How do

5 they interact with headquarters? How does headquarters

6 communicate with an agent assigned a counterintelligence

7 matter in a field office?

8 A Typically, it depends. I mean, really based

9 off -- I mean, headquarters' job is to program manage from

10 a national strategic perspective for all 56 field offices

11 and to some extent the lead attaches. They will send the

12 principles of that strategy out to the different field

13 offices.

14 Typically, depending on the level you are at at

15 headquarters will determine your level of normal

16 interaction. As a section chief, I would not talk to an

17 agent in the field or an analyst. It's just from a

18 hierarchical standpoint not the normal thing to do. You

19 would hit your commensurate level, an ASAC or maybe an SAC

20 in the field office, on any kind of discussions.

21 Program managers, management program analysts, and

22 intelligence analysts at headquarters would interact with

23 the various squads and supervisors and street agents or

24 analysts in the field office on a day to day -- not that

25 they speak day to day, but the day-to-day activities of

1 what they are working on in terms of guidance, instruction,
2 awareness, especially when there's operations involved.

3 Q So for a CI investigation in the field that
4 would result in the FISA technique, that agent in the field
5 would interact with a counterpart in the
6 counterintelligence division at FBI headquarters? Is that
7 the first place they interact or are there also places that
8 FISA flows in the field office before it leaves the field
9 office and gets to headquarters?

10 A The initial discussions would be from the
11 field office agent to a headquarters program manager, maybe
12 a supervisor or to a supervisor. But that's typically the
13 starting point for discussing whether a FISA is warranted
14 or whether we should go down that investigative technique
15 to apply for, and then you'll start engaging other parties
16 within your field office, your legal counsel and so forth.
17 And then, depending on where you're at, the approval
18 process will kick in as soon as you start your application
19 process.

20 Q And somewhere in that infancy, there is
21 somebody that's looking to make sure that this
22 investigation, that this technique is consistent with
23 whatever the Bureau has identified as goals or objectives
24 or -- I mean, a field agent can't just open a case on
25 anything and they can't employ any technique they want on

1 anything.

2 I'm assuming there's national goals, objectives,
3 priorities based on current threat trends and intelligence
4 reporting that helps the Bureau decide where they're going
5 to put their resources at; is that correct?

6 A Correct.

7 BY MR. SOMERS:

8 Q And then you mentioned a program manager.
9 What type of rank is he? Where do they fit in the rankings
10 there?

11 A So program manager, typically a supervisory
12 special agent, GS-14, in headquarters. Different divisions
13 might have -- you might use a management program analyst
14 who's also considered a program manager that's just
15 interacting with the field. It typically is a GS-14
16 supervisory special agent.

17 Q So that SSA could shut down a request from
18 the field to seek a FISA when they're initially consulted?

19 A Yeah. Yes.

20 Q Let's turn specifically to Crossfire
21 Hurricane. When did you become aware that the FBI had
22 opened the Crossfire Hurricane investigation?

23 A Around the fall of 2016.

24 Q So it was open when you first learned of it?

25 A I found out after it was opened that it was

1 opened.

2 Q So you were not consulted on the decision to
3 open it?

4 A No, sir.

5 Q Were you generally aware in the summer of
6 2016 about allegations or -- I'm not sure of the exact
7 word -- but threats that Russia was trying to interfere in
8 the 2016 election?

9 A I don't know the exact time frame of when I
10 learned of that. Sometime between late summer and fall of
11 2016.

12 Q Were threats, Russian threats to the
13 integrity of the 2016 election, is that something in the
14 purview of the Eurasia section?

15 A It was not at that time.

16 Q And so when you learned of Crossfire
17 Hurricane sometime in the fall of 2016, what was your
18 understanding of what the investigation was when you
19 learned of it?

20 A I had learned that the counterintelligence
21 division had a team of folks that were looking at Crossfire
22 Hurricane as an umbrella investigation and they were
23 looking at threats from Russia or allegations or reviewing
24 allegations of Russia tampering with the election process.

25 Q In what context did you learn about Crossfire

1 Hurricane?

2 A Through meetings with my superiors.

3 Q So did you just pick it up on the side or
4 were you specifically sort of told, hey, we're doing this
5 Crossfire Hurricane investigation, what's it about?

6 A I can't remember exactly how it transpired
7 that I learned about the investigation. So, again, for
8 context, sometimes I might be an acting DAD. My boss is
9 out of town or away and in that capacity, I might pick up
10 on things in that capacity to learn about different things
11 that are happening within the division.

12 Q As I mentioned at the beginning, obviously,
13 one of the specific things we want to ask you about
14 is -- you know, you had interactions with Kathleen Kavalec
15 regarding her meeting with Christopher Steele. That
16 meeting occurred on October 11th, 2016.

17 Do you know whether you had knowledge of Crossfire
18 Hurricane prior to October 11th, 2016?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And did you take any investigative steps,
21 have any input, any involvement in Crossfire Hurricane
22 other than knowing about it prior to October 11, 2016?

23 A I did not.

24 Q So you're just picking up -- prior to that,
25 you just have an understanding there's an investigation?

1 A Correct.

2 Q And then after October 11th, 2016, we have
3 what we want to talk to you about with Kathleen Kavalec.
4 But other than the relaying of information from Kathleen
5 Kavalec to you related about her meeting to Christopher
6 Steele, did you have any involvement going forward after
7 October 11 with Crossfire Hurricane other than the sort of
8 general knowledge that it existed?

9 A General knowledge it existed.

10 Q So you had no investigative steps, no -- you
11 weren't consulted, you weren't asked questions about, hey,
12 we're looking at this, can you -- what's your opinion on
13 that?

14 A Nope. Nope.

15 Q Do you know if any of the agents, analysts or
16 other employees in your section had any involvement in
17 Crossfire Hurricane?

18 A I -- can I talk to him?

19 Q Yes, please.

20 (Witness confers with counsel.)

21 The Witness: So during that time, I had a GS-15
22 unit chief as an interlocutor between my section and the
23 Crossfire Hurricane team.

24 BY MR. BAKER:

25 Q Who was that?

1 A I don't think I should -- am I able to tell
2 that?

3 Mr. Somers: Do you know if it was someone
4 identified by an identifier in the report? We could get
5 the answer that way.

6 ██████████: I'm not aware that this individual is
7 identified in the org charts on the OIG's report because I
8 don't believe -- and correct me if I'm wrong -- that that
9 person was a member of the Crossfire Hurricane team. But
10 they would be non-SES.

11 Mr. Somers: I understand that.

12 BY MR. SOMERS:

13 Q So they were not -- this unit chief, they
14 were not a member of the Crossfire Hurricane team?

15 A No.

16 Q But you're saying they did -- they had more
17 involvement than you did in terms of the actual
18 investigation; is that right?

19 A I wouldn't characterize it that way. In the
20 event there was information sharing required if they came
21 up, that was the interlocutor between my section and the
22 Crossfire Hurricane team.

23 Q Could you -- I mean, it's kind of like -- I
24 guess we're asking questions -- it's kind of a long way to
25 get at. Maybe you can answer it this way.

1 I read that you're the Eurasia section chief and
2 Russia is in Eurasia, a huge investigation of Russia. So
3 I'm just trying to get an understanding within
4 counterintelligence why there's not more involvement from
5 the Eurasia section in a major investigation involving
6 Russia. Maybe that's a better way to just ask the
7 question.

8 A I wasn't part of the decision process to
9 create the team, Crossfire Hurricane team, nor why it
10 needed to be separated from the Eurasia program.

11 BY MR. BAKER:

12 Q Who did decide that it was going to be
13 separate from the Eurasia program?

14 A Assistant director for counterintelligence.

15 Q And that was who at the time?

16 A Bill Priestap.

17 Mr. Baker: Thank you.

18 BY MR. SOMERS:

19 Q And when Crossfire Hurricane began, Peter
20 Strzok was also a section chief, also of the same rank that
21 you hold?

22 A He did serve as a section chief, which is the
23 same rank. I can't remember at which point he transitioned
24 from section chief to deputy assistant director.

25 Q And he transitioned in September of 2016,

1 September 4th, 2016.

2 A Okay.

3 Q How many -- at the time, how many sections
4 were there in counterintelligence?

5 A They were numbered at the time. So I'm
6 thinking [REDACTED].

7 Q Maybe [REDACTED]?

8 A They went through CD [REDACTED]. And then there
9 was -- I stand corrected. [REDACTED] sections. [REDACTED] sections.

10 Q So you had like a geographic section, meaning
11 Eurasia section chief. Were there other geographic
12 sections? I mean, I'm not expecting you to tell me all 10
13 of them. I'm just trying to get a sense of is it Eurasia?
14 You know, is it -- just if you can just give me some sense
15 of the other sections.

16 A Again, this is my trying to understand why the
17 Eurasia section is not involved in the investigation of
18 Russia.

19 A There were a few sections that covered
20 geographic areas and then there were issue threat countries
21 for like espionage -- or I'm sorry, issue threats out
22 there, espionage, that would cover all countries.
23 Counter-proliferation, that would cover all countries. And
24 then you had some specialized programs, intelligence
25 programs, and then you had the geographic sections.

1 Q But even within Eurasia -- and I think you
2 answered this earlier, but just to be clear, it's still
3 Eurasia counterintelligence. Does that include
4 counterespionage? Is that part of counterintelligence?

5 A It does not.

6 Q It does not?

7 A It's part of counterintelligence, but
8 espionage is its own section. But, I mean, if you had
9 Eurasia espionage, it would be run out of a different
10 section.

11 Q Okay.

12 BY MR. BAKER:

13 Q So was there just a section that was more
14 finely tuned to be the section where the case was worked
15 out of based on everything that was known about the case
16 and that's why your section was not the one chosen? There
17 was just one that was better based on the totality of what
18 the investigators knew?

19 A Yeah. I don't know the reason why they
20 decided to separate that. I wasn't part of that
21 discussion.

22 BY MR. SOMERS:

23 Q Do you know -- and I'm guessing you probably
24 answered this more generally in some of your previous
25 responses. Do you know if anyone in the Eurasia section

1 tried to verify any facts in the Steele dossier?

2 A I'm not aware.

3 Q Do you know if they tried to help identify or
4 locate any of Steele's sources or sub-sources?

5 A No, I'm not aware.

6 Q So Kathleen Kavalec meets with Christopher
7 Steele on October 11th. Sometime thereafter, I think she
8 contacts you to relay that she met with Steele. Prior to
9 your discussion with Kathleen Kavalec where she relays her
10 October 11th meeting, did you know anything about
11 Christopher Steele?

12 A I had heard the name before.

13 Q Who did you think he was prior to that?

14 A I knew he was somebody that was associated
15 with the Crossfire Hurricane investigation.

16 Q You didn't have any knowledge of him apart
17 from Crossfire Hurricane in general?

18 A No.

19 Q How regularly did you have contact with
20 Kathleen Kavalec just in general in your role as the
21 Eurasia section chief?

22 A Probably a couple of times a month.

23 Q And by contacts, is that email, telephone,
24 you would see her at meetings? What are we talking about?

25 A All of the above.

1 Q And just generally -- I don't want to get
2 into any specific cases, concerns, anything like
3 that -- what did your contacts consist of other than this
4 Steele contact?

5 A All of our contacts that we had related to
6 she was overseeing the Eurasia/Russia program as part of
7 her portfolio at the State Department. And I was her
8 natural counterpart for the FBI to work with her on things
9 that deal with Russia or Eurasian countries in terms of
10 information sharing, actions from a diplomatic standpoint.
11 That would be our normal course of interaction.

12 BY MR. BAKER:

13 Q Did you have standing meetings with her --

14 A Yes.

15 Q -- or sort of ad hoc -- so you had regularly
16 scheduled meetings? Okay.

17 A It might not have been the same day each
18 month, but they were pretty regular.

19 Q But it was an established liaison channel?

20 A Correct.

21 Q It was not just something that came up.

22 A Correct.

23 Mr. Baker: Okay. Thank you.

24 BY MR. SOMERS:

25 Q So she had knowledge of other investigations

1 the FBI was conducting?

2 A Yes.

3 Q What about Victoria Nuland. Did you have
4 contact with Victoria Nuland?

5 A Yes.

6 Q What did those contacts consist of?

7 A Those were very infrequent. Probably a
8 handful of times. Maybe 10 to 12 times I had contact with
9 her. Again, it was just -- most of the time it was in
10 relation to Kathleen Kavalec and our meetings. There might
11 be something that needed to be clarified or something we
12 asked approval for that might get moved up to Victoria
13 Nuland that she would be made aware of and I would be
14 involved in that discussion.

15 BY MR. BAKER:

16 Q Did the FBI have any detailees over at State
17 in the Kavalec area, section or whatever?

18 A Yes, they had detailees over there. Not in
19 Kavalec's section per se.

20 Q Would those detailees answer to you or report
21 to you in any way or you to them with requests for
22 information or your official channel was Kavalec or how did
23 that work?

24 A Yes. At that time, there was two detailees
25 assigned from the FBI to State Department Office of Foreign

1 Missions, I believe. Although those detailees reported to
2 me, they handled FBI and counterintelligence matters across
3 the multiple divisions, not just the Russia program.

4 Q Would you have learned about Christopher
5 Steele from them?

6 A I might have. I don't know. I can't
7 remember.

8 Mr. Baker: Thank you.

9 BY MR. SOMERS:

10 Q Did you have any contact with Jonathan Winer?

11 A No.

12 Q Did Ms. Kavalec contact you about Christopher
13 Steele prior to her October 11th, 2016 meeting?

14 A I don't remember.

15 Q So you don't know if she bounced the name off
16 of you prior to meeting with him, asked if you knew
17 anything about him? Just trying to jog your recollection.

18 A One meeting I had over there is my normal
19 liaison meeting. She told me we needed to talk afterwards.
20 Probably she really said I need to share some information.
21 I don't know the timeline and how that relates to
22 October/November. It's all in that timeline.

23 I just don't know specifically what happened before
24 in that sequence unless, you know, I know there were some
25 emails that were forwarded in there. I just don't know the

1 timeline accurately enough to say it happened right before
2 or during the same exact time.

3 Q Let's talk about the actual interaction
4 regarding Christopher Steele. So what happens? She meets
5 with Steele and I gather she tells you about it.

6 When did she tell you about it?

7 A Again, I don't know specifically when. It
8 was during one of my normal liaison meetings over there.
9 We had our meetings. The liaison that I have assigned over
10 there was part of those meetings. We finished, went out
11 and had a conversation. She goes, I have information you
12 probably need to be made aware of. Because of my
13 peripheral understanding of Crossfire, and I had heard of
14 Mr. Steele's name before, when something was brought up, it
15 triggered my memory. I know people that are working on
16 this. I will put you in touch with the right people to
17 make sure that information is passed.

18 Q And what did she convey to you in this --

19 A I don't remember exactly what she said.

20 Q But she definitely made clear Christopher
21 Steele and Christopher Steele --

22 A I don't know if it was about Christopher
23 Steele or I just can't recall specifically what that
24 information was that she had to mention. I know there was
25 a contact. Whether it was Mr. Steele, I don't remember

1 that. And she wanted to share some information.

2 Q So you're told, you say, in your mind, at
3 least, there's other people that are handling this. So
4 what did you do with the information, whatever it was that
5 Kavalec tells you in this meeting?

6 A I gave that information, whatever it was, and
7 informed the folks in the Crossfire Hurricane team about
8 it, made them aware of it.

9 Q Did you tell her who to contact or did you
10 take care of that on your end, like I'm just going to
11 convey this information and tell them to reach out?

12 A I told her that there's a team that's working
13 on this and that I will put them in contact with you for
14 follow-up.

15 Q So you didn't give her a name and say,
16 contact John Smith --

17 A I don't remember if I gave her a name.

18 Q -- and he'll take care of it?

19 A Yeah. I don't remember if I said a name or
20 if I said I know some people that are working on it that
21 probably should get this information.

22 BY MR. BAKER:

23 Q And how soon did you relay the information
24 internally?

25 A That day.

1 Q That day?

2 A The day that -- whatever the day we had that
3 sidebar meeting.

4 Q And you gave that instruction to the team
5 that they should reach out to her?

6 A I gave them the option that they needed to do
7 follow-up, that that would be up to their discretion
8 however they wanted to proceed.

9 Q Do you know if they did?

10 A I don't know.

11 Q Just for the record, these two detailees,
12 they're below the SES rank?

13 A Correct.

14 Mr. Baker: Okay. Thank you.

15 BY MR. SOMERS:

16 Q So who did you give the information to at
17 FBI?

18 A I informed Peter Strzok and another
19 supervisor.

20 Q Would you clarify if that was SSA 1? Do you
21 know who was SSA 1 as identified in the --

22 A I don't know.

23 Mr. Somers: Can you tell him who SSA 1 is so I
24 can --

25 (Witness confers with counsel.)

1 The Witness: It seems that's SSA 1.

2 ██████████: And you are using SSA as it relates to SSA
3 1 in the IG report?

4 Mr. Somers: In the IG report, yes.

5 BY MR. SOMERS:

6 Q So Peter Strzok and SSA 1 are the two people
7 you relayed the Kavalec/Steele information to?

8 A Correct.

9 Q But you didn't give them an instruction. You
10 just said take it, here's the information if you want it?

11 A I sent it to him in an email. I'm sure
12 there's words in there that I put in my email, but --

13 Q I'm not --

14 A -- here's the information, if there's
15 anything you need me to do. I'm sure that's my normal
16 follow-up is here's the information pertaining, you let me
17 know; otherwise, it's in your care and custody now.

18 BY MR. BAKER:

19 Q Did I either of them follow up with you for
20 any clarification or --

21 A There might have been some back and forth
22 initially and then I don't remember exactly what it was.

23 Q But nothing that you recall about, well, who
24 should I call over at State or --

25 A No.

1 Mr. Baker: Thank you.

2 BY MR. SOMERS:

3 Q And then the IG report also mentions there's
4 an FBI liaison at the State Department, I assume it's like
5 some sort of permanent position of some sort, and that
6 Kavalec was at some point told to relay information to the
7 FBI liaison.

8 Did you give that instruction to her or did that
9 come from somewhere else?

10 A So to clarify, the liaison you're talking
11 about now is the same one I was speaking about before.

12 Q Okay.

13 BY MR. BAKER:

14 Q It's one of the two agents.

15 A There's one agent, one in MAPA that's over
16 there.

17 Q Okay.

18 [REDACTED]: Can you repeat the question?

19 BY MR. SOMERS:

20 Q I want to know, did you suggest to
21 Ms. Kavalec that she contact this FBI liaison?

22 A I advised -- yes. For any logical follow-up,
23 they could go through the liaison who sits over her at the
24 State Department.

25 [REDACTED]: I want to clarify things. We're using

1 the term, I think, "liaison" and "detailee"
2 interchangeably. Are you talking about the detailee from
3 FBI over the State Department?

4 The Witness: Yes.

5 BY MR. BAKER:

6 Q The agent detailee?

7 A Yes.

8 BY MR. SOMERS:

9 Q As to how to describe this person, the FBI
10 liaison/detailee, did you ever speak to them -- to him or
11 her about the Kavalec/Steele interaction? Did you say,
12 hey, she may reach out to you with some information?

13 A I spoke to the liaison detailee assigned
14 there to follow up with Kavalec as need be to share
15 information she has back to the Hurricane Crossfire team.

16 Q Did you ever inquire later of Strzok or SSA 1
17 or anyone else on the Crossfire Hurricane team and say, you
18 know, hey, whatever happened to that information we got
19 from the State Department?

20 A Kavalec reached out to me for a follow-up
21 that I followed up with the Crossfire team, is there
22 anything more that you need, something to that effect.
23 Those aren't the exact words, but just a general follow-up.
24 And then I followed up and basically left it back in the
25 hands of the Crossfire team for anything further.

1 BY MR. BAKER:

2 Q So the Crossfire team could then have gone
3 directly to the liaison/detailee and vice versa. You would
4 not have necessarily been a conduit either way?

5 A Correct, correct.

6 BY MR. SOMERS:

7 Q Have you ever heard impression, demeanor
8 regarding this information? Was this really urgent? Was
9 it time sensitive, very important? I mean, I don't -- I'm
10 just --

11 A Not really. Just -- not really.

12 Q You don't really recall or you don't really
13 recall if that was your attitude?

14 A I don't recall a sense of urgency other than
15 the fact that I just shared the information -- or what I
16 knew the day I received it to the right team so they could
17 make the determination on how they wanted to follow up.

18 BY MR. BAKER:

19 Q And you're not aware of any follow-up that
20 the Crossfire team did with her?

21 A I don't recall any.

22 Q But you probably would have heard either from
23 her, in your normal standing meetings or your
24 liaison/detailee, that Crossfire came over, there was a
25 call -- you probably would have heard if there was

1 something; is that correct?

2 A Not necessarily. It depends on the nature of
3 how that proceeded. Again, I was separated from the
4 Crossfire team, so I might not have necessarily been made
5 aware of every discussion or communication they had.

6 Q This liaison/detailee, they were, on the org
7 chart, assigned to your section back at the Bureau?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Would you have had regular -- not necessarily
10 operational contact with them -- would you have had any
11 managerial contact with them --

12 A Yes.

13 Q -- when they came in for a period -- I mean,
14 it was never specifically mentioned in any of those
15 contacts that there had been any follow-up from the
16 Crossfire team?

17 A Not that I recall.

18 Mr. Baker: Thank you.

19 BY MR. SOMERS:

20 Q If I could just read a passage here and ask
21 you about an email, read a passage from the IG report.
22 Page 119 of the IG report, it says, "Two days after the
23 meeting with Steele, Kavalec emailed an FBI CD section
24 chief a document that Kavalec received from Winer
25 discussing allegations about a linkage between Alpha Bank

1 and the Trump Campaign, a topic that was discussed in the
2 October 11th meeting. Kavalec advised the FBI section
3 chief in the email that the information related to an
4 investigation that Steele's firm had been conducting. The
5 section chief forwarded the document to SSA 1 the same
6 day."

7 And I assume you're that section chief?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Any reaction from SSA 1 regarding that
10 document?

11 A Not that I recall.

12 Q And you didn't do anything further with the
13 document?

14 A No.

15 Q Other than forward it on?

16 A Correct.

17 BY MR. BAKER:

18 Q Was there any reaction at all from the
19 Crossfire team about the information that you channeled in
20 their direction?

21 A I don't remember.

22 BY MR. SOMERS:

23 Q What was your reaction to it, what Kavalec
24 told you when you heard it? Did you think it was a matter
25 of urgent concern or anything else?

1 A I don't think it was a matter of like
2 imminent urgency, but just information that needed to be
3 passed to the right people. That's what I normally would
4 do. You get information that's out of your control to act
5 upon, you get it to the right people so they can make the
6 determination from there.

7 Q Do you recall if you were already familiar
8 with anything she relayed to you? I mean, I think she had
9 a meeting with Steele. We can tell from her notes that he
10 basically went over things in the dossier.

11 Was there any familiarity with what she told you
12 that you already knew from meetings or anything?

13 A The only thing that was familiar to me was
14 she had mentioned something about something in [REDACTED]. And I
15 had heard that as part of the discussion that happened with
16 the Crossfire Hurricane team during a daily meeting that
17 they would have and that's why I put the connection
18 together and said I know who you needed to be talking to
19 for this information.

20 Q And then Strzok and the SSA 1 were the only
21 two people you had -- and this FBI liaison/detailee -- but
22 on the Crossfire team, only Strzok and SSA 1, those were
23 the only two people you had contact with about the
24 information you received?

25 A From what I recall, yes.

1 Q Did they tell you, you know, do you recall,
2 this is no big deal, we already know about this, any sort
3 of reaction like that from them?

4 A Not that I remember.

5 Q And I think you mentioned one conversation.
6 Were there any -- it was just the one conversation with her
7 where she followed up later? So you have this initial
8 conversation -- she meets on October 11th. You have an
9 initial conversation with her. You also receive an email
10 from her all on this -- the email is dated October
11 13th -- so all in a short period of time.

12 At some later time, did you have a conversation with
13 her about either Crossfire Hurricane or Christopher Steele?

14 A We might have. I don't remember
15 specifically.

16 Q So nothing huge?

17 A Nothing that stands out.

18 Q Did she ever ask you why she was not
19 interviewed by the FBI regarding --

20 A No.

21 Q -- her interactions with Steele?

22 A No.

23 Q Did you bring up the possibility with her
24 that the FBI -- somewhere she got the impression that the
25 FBI was going to interview her.

1 Did you at all raise the prospect when you initially
2 met with her or at some other time that, hey, the FBI may
3 want to interview you about this?

4 A I don't know -- once the information was
5 passed and they could make the determination whether a
6 logical follow-up or an interview would be required, I
7 wasn't part of that decision-making. So I don't know what
8 led her to believe -- there could have been conversations
9 that had happened that I'm not privy to or said she might
10 be in, but I don't know.

11 BY MR. BAKER:

12 Q So what would be -- you wouldn't necessarily
13 think it was unusual if there wasn't follow-up because you
14 were the conduit. The team had the specifics of what they
15 were looking for, what they needed to look for, whatever.
16 It was in their hands whether they needed to follow up?

17 A Yes.

18 Mr. Baker: Okay.

19 BY MR. SOMERS:

20 Q Would that be an unusual step for the FBI to
21 interview a State Department employee about information
22 conveyed about a criminal investigation?

23 A Say that again.

24 Q I'll ask it another way. Would it be a
25 logical step, a State Department employee gets information

1 about an ongoing -- I'm sorry, I should say
2 counterintelligence investigation. Would it be a logical
3 step to interview that employee?

4 A Interviewing folks is a logical step to do an
5 investigation.

6 BY MR. BAKER:

7 Q Did you say a few moments ago you were at a
8 Crossfire Hurricane meeting?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Would you have been regularly in attendance
11 at those meetings or --

12 A Yes.

13 Q And how often did they have meetings?

14 A There was a period of time, I don't know the
15 exact window, that led up to the election in 2016 where we
16 had a daily meeting.

17 Q And was it just one meeting for Crossfire
18 Hurricane team or were there other meetings where the
19 attendees were narrowed?

20 A That was the only meeting for Crossfire
21 Hurricane that I'm aware of. Whether there were other
22 meetings, I don't know.

23 Q So who else -- at what rank would people have
24 attended this? Was this a section chief meeting or higher,
25 a roundtable about what cases were going on?

1 A It was sometimes attended by the
2 counterintelligence division assistant director. Sometimes
3 the deputy assistant director for counterintelligence and
4 the section chiefs from both the counterintelligence and
5 cyber division. And the Office of General Counsel would be
6 a part of it.

7 Q So would this meeting have just been for that
8 case or was it by cases in the division and that would be
9 one that was presented?

10 A It was relating to Crossfire Hurricane and
11 other -- some few tangential cases that were associated
12 too.

13 Q So the primary focus was Crossfire Hurricane?

14 A Yes.

15 BY MR. SOMERS:

16 Q Do you recall -- just trying to jog your
17 memory here in case you do recall -- Ms. Kavalec conveying
18 information to you that Steele conveyed to her information
19 about a Russian consulate being located in Miami and that
20 was an inaccurate assessment on Steele's part?

21 A I recall a conversation about a consulate in
22 Miami independent of the -- what she had mentioned
23 regarding what Mr. Steele said to her.

24 Q But you don't -- do you recall how that came
25 up?

1 A During our normal meetings, our liaison
2 meetings. It could have been -- I don't know how -- I
3 don't know if she knew that through other channels in terms
4 of her -- because she runs the diplomatic aspect of
5 countries here in the United States. It came up in some
6 other discussion regarding if there was a consulate in
7 Miami, which we both knew is not true because we know where
8 all the consulates and embassies are around the country.
9 That's where I would handle normally in my purview as the
10 section chief of the Eurasia program. So when it came up
11 in a discussion, it was like, we don't have a consulate in
12 Miami.

13 Q That came up in a discussion in headquarters,
14 with FBI personnel?

15 A Yes. Independent of the Mr. Steele piece in
16 here, it came up through other discussions.

17 BY MR. BAKER:

18 Q Would that have been at this standing
19 Crossfire Hurricane meeting?

20 A It might have been mentioned there, but it
21 would have also been mentioned through my interaction with
22 Ms. Kavalec in our normal liaison relationship, our normal
23 relationship that we have.

24 Q Was Christopher Steele discussed at this
25 standing meeting?

1 A Yes.

2 Q And his reporting, was that discussed?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Could it have been at that meeting that
5 someone pointed out that there was an issue about a
6 consulate that didn't exist in the city that perhaps he
7 said did?

8 A It might have. I don't recall specifically
9 what was discussed in those meetings.

10 Mr. Baker: Thank you.

11 BY MR. SOMERS:

12 Q Another person that Ms. Kavalec had
13 interactions with, I wonder if you also had interaction
14 with them is Bruce Ohr.

15 Do you know Bruce Ohr?

16 A I know the name.

17 Q But you don't know him?

18 A Never met him.

19 Q Never met him. I assume you're not part of
20 the Russian Malign Influence Group that Kavalec established
21 in the summer of 2016?

22 A I was initially.

23 Q You were initially?

24 A Uh-huh.

25 Q Ohr was not part of that group?

1 A Not that I recall.

2 Q And what was the purpose of that group, the
3 Russian Malign Influence Group?

4 A Initially it was to bring together the
5 community, being the intelligence community and government
6 agencies, to discuss ways to identify and counter-malign
7 foreign influence.

8 Q So election interference, is that a malign
9 influence?

10 A It was a category of, yeah.

11 Q Did Russia interference in the 2016 election,
12 did that come up as part of the Russian Malign Interference
13 Group discussions?

14 A I'll say the allegation of Russian influence
15 came up.

16 Q Did coordination, collusion, anything along
17 those lines regarding the Trump Campaign and Russia come up
18 as part of the Russian Malign Influence Group discussions?

19 A I don't recall.

20 Q Do you recall whether the Crossfire
21 Hurricane, maybe by code number, investigating the Trump
22 Campaign, did that come up as part of the Russian Malign
23 Influence Group?

24 A No.

25 Q Let me just read another passage here from

1 the IG report, just ask your awareness of this and the
2 facts in there. This is footnote 238 on page 107. It
3 says, "SSA 1 had forwarded an email on September 30th from
4 the State Department's Bureau of European and Eurasian
5 Affairs indicating that senior staff there, including
6 Assistant Secretary Nuland, were aware of a planned meeting
7 between Steele and the FBI in early October in a European
8 city, and that FBI officials from headquarters were flying
9 to Europe to participate in the meeting."

10 Were you aware of the October meeting between FBI
11 and Steele?

12 A I was -- if you take that statement, that
13 footnote, I was aware of a meeting in a foreign European
14 country. Whether it was Steele or not, I don't know if it
15 was specifically about him.

16 Q Could you have been the one that informed the
17 State Department's Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs
18 about the meeting?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Do you know if you were? So I asked if you
21 could have been. Ultimately you were or not.

22 A The European country was where I made a
23 connection where they advised me they had information about
24 something that dealt with Rome. And I knew from the
25 Crossfire Hurricane team about something in Rome. And I

1 put that connection together and said I know who I need you
2 to issue a contact with.

3 Q So they may have learned this from somewhere
4 else, but it may have also been from you?

5 A True.

6 Q Did you ever consider going to the meeting in
7 October?

8 A No.

9 Q Do you know why an acting section chief was
10 sent to the meeting instead of you as the Eurasian section
11 chief?

12 A No.

13 Q Do you recall any consternation, something
14 along those lines among section chiefs as to why this
15 particular acting section chief was given the task of going
16 to [REDACTED] to meet with Steele?

17 A No.

18 Mr. Baker: I think we're done for this round.
19 We'll see if we have any follow-up.

20 (Recess.)

21 EXAMINATION

22 BY MS. ZDEB:

23 Q It is 11:09 and we can go back on the record.
24 Good morning, Mr. Laycock.

25 A Good morning.

1 Q Thanks for being here. As we mentioned
2 earlier, my colleague, Mr. Charlet and I, work for Senator
3 Feinstein's staff on the committee and we just have a
4 couple of questions for you.

5 So you were asked a couple of questions about the
6 Inspector General's report. On page Roman I of the report,
7 the inspector general notes that his office examined more
8 than a million documents and interviewed more than 100
9 witnesses during the course of their investigation which
10 took around two years.

11 Did you cooperate with the Inspector General's
12 investigation?

13 A Did I what?

14 Q Did you cooperate with the Inspector --

15 A Yes.

16 Q And were you interviewed as part of the
17 Inspector General's investigation?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Do you recall, was it once, more than once
20 that you were interviewed?

21 A Once.

22 Q And did you provide truthful answers to the
23 Office of Inspector General?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And did you, to the best of your ability,

1 provide complete answers to the Inspector General's
2 investigation?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Did you or to your knowledge, did the FBI
5 provide any documents to the Inspector General as part of
6 his investigation?

7 A Did I or did the FBI?

8 Q Either one.

9 A I did not provide any documents.

10 Q And --

11 A I'm pretty certain the FBI has turned over
12 some documents to the Inspector General.

13 Q Did the Office of Inspector General ever
14 complain that it needed more information or more documents
15 related to your involvement?

16 A My involvement? No.

17 Q I think you said earlier that you had
18 reviewed portions of the Inspector General's report. Did
19 you have an opportunity to do that before he finalized the
20 report last December?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And did you provide any comments to the
23 Inspector General after you reviewed those portions?

24 A I did not.

25 Q If there had been any errors or

1 mischaracterizations in the portions of his draft report
2 that you reviewed, would you have called those to the
3 Inspector General's attention?

4 A I would have called them to the FBI, the
5 person in charge of that, the relationship with the
6 Inspector General, for them to then share with the
7 Inspector General.

8 Q So the fact that you didn't call any errors
9 or mischaracterizations about your testimony to the IG to
10 the attention of the FBI liaison who was working with the
11 Inspector General's office, is it fair to say that's a
12 reflection of the fact that you didn't have any concerns
13 about the way the draft report characterized your testimony
14 to the IG?

15 A Correct.

16 Q So back in December of last year, our
17 committee held a hearing with Inspector General Horowitz
18 that took about six hours. We have since held additional
19 hearings on Crossfire Hurricane and notwithstanding the
20 fact that the Inspector General concluded that there was no
21 documentary or testimonial evidence of political bias
22 impacting the decision to open Crossfire Hurricane or
23 particular investigative steps that were taken during the
24 investigation, we have continued to hear a number of
25 allegations against the FBI during the course of the

1 hearings I just mentioned. So I want to ask you just a
2 couple of questions about some of those allegations.

3 So as I just mentioned, the Inspector General found
4 that there was no documentary or testimonial evidence of
5 bias impacting the FBI's work in Crossfire Hurricane.
6 Nonetheless, we've continued to hear that there is, quote,
7 "tons of evidence of bias."

8 So I think you just said a moment ago that your
9 involvement in Crossfire Hurricane was limited to the role
10 you played in passing along an email from Kathleen Kavalec
11 to the Crossfire Hurricane team as well as perhaps one,
12 potentially, potentially two conversations with Kathleen
13 Kavalec; is that right.

14 A Correct.

15 Q And did political bias or anti-Trump bias
16 influence those steps that you took as part of these series
17 of events?

18 A No.

19 Q And are you sitting here today personally
20 aware of any evidence that anyone else involved in
21 Crossfire Hurricane acted with political bias or other
22 improper motivation?

23 A No.

24 Q It has also been alleged that the FBI engaged
25 in, quote, "a massive criminal conspiracy over time to

1 defraud the FISA court."

2 Do you personally have any evidence that the FBI
3 engaged in a massive criminal conspiracy to defraud the
4 FISA court?

5 A No.

6 Q It has also been alleged that Crossfire
7 Hurricane was a hoax and a witch hunt intended to hurt
8 President Trump politically.

9 Was your goal to hurt President Trump or then
10 Candidate Trump politically?

11 A No.

12 Q And do you have any evidence that Crossfire
13 Hurricane was part of a deep state effort to take down
14 President Trump?

15 A No.

16 Q There have recently been allegations that
17 Crossfire Hurricane was composed of, quote, "people who
18 hated Trump" and who had, quote, "an agenda to destroy him
19 before he was elected and after he was elected."

20 Again, recognizing that you were not personally a
21 part of the Crossfire Hurricane team, did you personally
22 have an agenda to destroy candidate Trump before he was
23 elected or President Trump after he was elected?

24 A No.

25 Q And do you have any evidence that the goal of

1 Crossfire Hurricane was to destroy Trump before and/or
2 after he was elected?

3 A No.

4 Ms. Zdeb: I think those conclude our questions. It
5 is 11:15 and we can go off the record.

6 (Pause.)

7 EXAMINATION

8 BY MR. SOMERS:

9 Q It's now 11:16. We'll go back on the record.
10 I just had a quick follow-up.

11 You mentioned that your section in the last round
12 didn't have a lot of involvement and maybe no involvement
13 for the most part in the Crossfire Hurricane investigation.

14 In general, do sections like the Eurasia section and
15 the counterespionage section within counterintelligence, do
16 they work investigations together?

17 A They can, yes.

18 Q So there's no prohibition on two sections
19 working the same investigation?

20 A They will collaborate. They can collaborate.
21 There will be one section that will own the investigation
22 from a program management standpoint so as not to create
23 confusion. But they would collaborate or continue working
24 together in terms of in furtherance of just working all
25 together for the field's purposes.

1 Q And what you just described in terms of
2 collaboration, that's not what occurred on Crossfire
3 Hurricane? You wouldn't say you collaborated in any
4 significant manner between the Eurasia section and the
5 counterespionage section?

6 A To clarify that, Crossfire Hurricane wasn't
7 part of the counterespionage section. Would you repeat
8 your question again?

9 Q Okay. So which section was Peter Strzok the
10 section chief of?

11 A At the time, he was the section chief of
12 counterespionage.

13 Q Your section did not -- let's leave sections
14 out of it. Your section did not coordinate in the way you
15 just described, when I asked you about coordination between
16 sections, with another section or more generally the
17 Crossfire Hurricane team?

18 A Two different areas again. I would
19 collaborate with the counterespionage section as a normal
20 course of business. The Crossfire Hurricane team was a
21 separate team put together for the purposes of the
22 Crossfire Hurricane program, case. I did not collaborate
23 with the Crossfire Hurricane team like I would the
24 counterespionage team in normal practice.

25 Q Was anyone from the Eurasia section assigned

1 to the Hurricane Crossfire team?

2 A No.

3 BY MR. BAKER:

4 Q And just to clarify something, the reason
5 that you would collaborate with the counterespionage
6 section is, I think, based on something you said earlier.
7 That was a specialty section for that type of investigation
8 and that would have gone across other sections?

9 A Correct.

10 Q In the last round, you indicated that there
11 was a standing meeting or a regularly scheduled meeting for
12 Crossfire Hurricane and you would be there?

13 A Correct.

14 Q Would all sections have been there or only
15 certain section chiefs represented at the meeting? Who
16 would come to these meetings?

17 A Typically those that were involved in the
18 Crossfire Hurricane matter. I would, myself or my
19 assistant section chief would sometimes attend. Tried to
20 be at almost every one of those meetings. And a
21 representative from the cyber division would be part of
22 that meeting.

23 Q Were any other sections regular attendees to
24 the Crossfire Hurricane meetings?

25 A The intelligence section for

1 counterintelligence would be represented by either a deputy
2 assistant director or a section chief or a delegate,
3 depending on the day and people's attendance.

4 And the leadership for counterintelligence division
5 would be there, too. Not every day, just depending on the
6 schedules for the day.

7 Q And would people at a rank higher than just
8 counterintelligence division be there? Would the director
9 be there? Would the deputy director be there?

10 A I never saw him. Anybody above the assistant
11 director, I never saw anyone in any of those meetings.

12 Q And who conducted the meetings?

13 A Typically run by -- initially it was run by
14 the assistant director for counterintelligence and cyber
15 division. And at various times one or the other or both
16 may or may not be there, but typically a deputy assistant
17 director or a section chief level would be there on those
18 meetings.

19 Q So the AD for counterintelligence would have
20 been Mr. Priestap?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And who for the cyber division?

23 A At that time, I believe it was Mr. Trainor.

24 Q And that's James Trainor?

25 A James Trainor, yes.

1 Q And who were the deputies that would have
2 substituted for either of them?

3 A Peter Strzok would have been one for
4 counterintelligence. Dina Corsi was in those meetings
5 sometimes. She ran the intelligence branch. Eric Sporre
6 was the deputy assistant director in cyber division. He
7 would have been part of them.

8 Q Would they have ever been led by anybody less
9 than a DAD rank? Would a section chief ever --

10 A Some of them. In the course of having a
11 meeting every day, schedules might have gotten in the way
12 where some of the assistant directors or deputies couldn't
13 make it and then there might have been a section chief that
14 was running it. I don't recall exactly the attendees for
15 each meeting.

16 Q Were they the same attendees or was there a
17 core of common attendees that made it more often than not?

18 A Yeah, there was a core group that would
19 attend.

20 Q Do you recall -- or did a designee on your
21 behalf that attended the meeting ever report back that the
22 discussion of that particular meeting was that Mr. Steele's
23 credibility had been called into question?

24 A I don't recall that.

25 BY MR. SOMERS:

1 Q Were the Crossfire Hurricane team members
2 also in this meeting or was this pretty much section chief
3 and above?

4 A For some of the meetings, it would have been
5 members of the Crossfire Hurricane investigative team
6 there.

7 Q And you mentioned different section chiefs
8 sometimes and DADs and they weren't -- certain people
9 weren't able to attend. So in general, did Bill Priestap
10 lead these meetings?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And then if he wasn't there, Peter Strzok
13 would be the next logical person to lead?

14 A Correct.

15 Q So someone like Dina Corsi, you mentioned she
16 would not have run these meetings in the absence of Strzok
17 or Priestap, it would have gone to someone else on the
18 Crossfire Hurricane team?

19 A She might have. I don't remember
20 specifically the days where she might have been the most
21 senior person there. I just don't recall that.

22 Q And what generally was discussed at these
23 meetings? What's the purpose of the meetings?

24 A Status updates of what's going on with their
25 investigation. Cyber division would provide an update on

1 information they might have. My section might brief on
2 things that are just general atmospheres for the Russia
3 program writ large.

4 BY MR. BAKER:

5 Q But you don't have any recollection of a
6 discussion where Mr. Steele's credibility was called into
7 question?

8 A I don't recall any.

9 Q Any recollection of excitement that he had
10 provided some interesting information that would be logical
11 lead material?

12 A No.

13 BY MR. SOMERS:

14 Q Did these meetings begin before the Carter
15 Page FISA application on October 21st, 2016?

16 A Yes, I believe so.

17 Q Was verification of the Steele allegations
18 discussed in these meetings? What steps were being taken
19 to verify the information?

20 A I don't recall specifically any steps. It
21 was more just status updates of kind of where things were.

22 Q Did the topic of primary sub-source ever come
23 up? Steele's primary sub-source?

24 A I don't recall.

25 Q Do you recall whether the topic of any

1 excitement or the topic of the team discovering who
2 Steele's primary sub-source was and then interviewing him
3 in January of 2017?

4 Do you know if that ever came up?

5 A No.

6 Q Did the topic of whether Carter Page was
7 affiliated in some way or collaborated with another
8 government agency ever come up?

9 A Not that I recall.

10 BY MR. BAKER:

11 Q Do you have a recollection of the deputy
12 director or director ever coming to any of these meetings
13 even just to stick their head in to say hello to the team?

14 A I remember on one occasion the deputy
15 director came down, we had a meeting in that same room. I
16 don't know if it was during that meeting or not. And I
17 don't remember the timeline when that would have occurred.
18 Might have been far after the election time frame. Deputy
19 McCabe at the time came down and just met with folks and
20 said hi.

21 Q You say that's Andrew McCabe?

22 A Correct.

23 Q But nothing of substance you recall?

24 A No.

25 BY MR. SOMERS:

1 Q Did the topic of who paid for the Steele
2 dossier or Steele's work, I should say, ever come up?

3 A Not that I -- not with me.

4 Q Do you recall having any awareness of who
5 paid Steele for his work?

6 A No.

7 BY MR. BAKER:

8 Q Did you ever hear from any of your
9 subordinates or anybody really grumbling or griping about
10 anybody that wanted to be on the Crossfire team and for
11 whatever reason they weren't selected?

12 A No.

13 Q Was it ever clear in your mind how people
14 were chosen to be on the Crossfire team?

15 A No.

16 BY MR. SOMERS:

17 Q Did the investigation into Michael Flynn ever
18 come up in these meetings?

19 A I can't recall that specific case coming up
20 in these meetings. I don't recall. Very well may have. I
21 just don't recall.

22 Q Would that have been -- the meetings began
23 before October 21st. Do you recall exactly when they began
24 roughly?

25 A My recollection, they were started in the

1 fall, on or about September-ish, October, early October.
2 And I think they ended after the election. So early
3 November. At least the ones that I participated in.
4 Whether those meetings continued after that, I don't know.

5 Q So you were not going to meetings in December
6 of 2016 related to Crossfire Hurricane?

7 A No.

8 BY MR. BAKER:

9 Q Was Lisa Page at these meetings?

10 A She was at some of them, yes.

11 Q And what was her role in the meetings that
12 she was present?

13 A Attorney.

14 Q Did she present anything, discuss anything,
15 was just in attendance or --

16 A I don't know. I didn't even know her at the
17 time.

18 Q So she's not an attorney that your section
19 would have normally interacted with?

20 A No.

21 BY MR. SOMERS:

22 Q Were there other representatives of the
23 general counsel's office in these meetings?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Did you get the impression whether she was

1 there on behalf of the general counsel's office or on
2 behalf of the deputy director's office?

3 A I honestly did not know her at the time, nor
4 what her role was.

5 Mr. Somers: I think that's all we have.

6 Mr. Baker: Thank you.

7 Mr. Somers: That concludes the interview and I
8 thank you for coming here today and coming voluntarily.

9 The Witness: Thank you very much.

10 (Whereupon, the proceedings were adjourned at 11:30
11 a.m.)

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ERRATA

Notice Date:

Deposition Date: **June 15, 2020**

Deponent: **Stephen C. Laycock**

Case Name: **Senate Judiciary Committee**

Page:Line	Now Reads	Should Read
<u>53:7</u>	<u>inspector general</u>	<u>Inspector General</u>
<u>54:4</u>	<u>Did you or to your knowledge,</u>	<u>Did you, or to your knowledge,</u>
<u>56:16</u>	<u>these series</u>	<u>this series</u>
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