

where he had been when they were launched. Several senior CIA officers who were interviewed, including the Deputy Director for Operations, two former CTC Chiefs, a former Chief of CTC's Bin Ladin unit, and a [_____]

_____]. Thus, CIA's general reluctance to rely on a single source of information or recommend missile launches based on human intelligence alone was compounded by concerns about the reliability of this information. In addition, policymakers sought information on the presence of non-combatants and property that might be damaged in a strike].

[The interviewees also mentioned contingency plans to launch additional cruise missile strikes at Bin Ladin had the Intelligence Community been able to obtain precise information on his location. [Page 321] As former National Security Advisor Sandy Berger explained to the Joint Inquiry:

Unfortunately, after August 1998, we never again had actionable intelligence information reliable enough to warrant another attack against Bin Ladin or his key lieutenants. If we had, President Clinton would have given the order. The President ordered two submarines loaded with cruise missiles on perpetual deployment off the coast of Pakistan for that very purpose. We also were engaged in a number of covert efforts I cannot discuss in this unclassified format].

According to a CIA document, in December 1999, the U.S. Special Operations Command had been tasked to begin planning and was "working closely" with CIA. The Joint Inquiry did not identify any operations that came about as a result of this planning.

In an interview with the Joint Inquiry, General Shelton, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff explained the military options beyond cruise missile strikes. In the fall of 2000, he prepared a paper containing 12 or 13 options for using military force against Bin Ladin. Several options reportedly involved "U.S. boots on the ground" in Afghanistan and were aimed at capturing Bin Ladin, [_____]. General Shelton, along with Secretary of Defense William Cohen, discussed these options with National Security Advisor Berger in late 2000, after Mr. Berger had expressed impatience with U.S. efforts to get Bin Ladin. The military Joint Staff's Director of Operations described the military options paper as an effort to "educate" the National Security Advisor about the "extraordinary complexity of the 'boots-on-the-ground' options." According to this officer, the military did not receive any tasking to develop