

DAVID OBEY: YET MORE PROOF THE CIA BRIEFING LIST IS TOTALLY WRONG

According to House Appropriations Chair David Obey, the CIA interrogation list records a Democratic Appropriations staffer attending a September 19, 2006 torture briefing, when all the staffer did was walk John Murtha and Bill Young to the briefing, but was turned away at the briefing.

In light of current controversy about CIA briefing practices, I was surprised to learn that the agency erroneously listed an appropriations staffer as being in a key briefing on September 19, 2006, when in fact he was not. The list the agency released entitled "Member Briefings on Enhanced Interrogation Techniques (EITs)", shows that House Appropriations Committee defense appropriations staffer Paul Juola was in that briefing on that date. In fact, Mr. Juola recollects that he walked members to the briefing room, met General Hayden and Mr. Walker, who were the briefers, and was told that he could not attend the briefing. We request that you immediately correct this record.

This is particularly significant given that Murtha, according to the CIA list, did not stay for the part of the briefing on torture. Obey's complaint is also interesting given that this is one of a number of briefings for which CIA claimed details on the briefing—such as who attended—were "not available."

But don't worry. I'm sure Pete Hoekstra will be out today claiming that it's John Murtha's fault

that Dick Cheney ordered CIA to torture.