LOTS OF SENIOR OFFICIALS SPILLING STATE SECRETS TODAY

Last year, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper said the following:

> I am asserting privilege over classified intelligence information, assessments, and analysis prepared, obtained, or under the control of any entity within the U.S. Intelligence Community concerning al-Qaeda, AQAP or Anwar al-Aulaqi that may be implicated by [Awlaki's father's attempt to sue for information about why Awlaki was on the CIA's assassination list]. This includes information that relates to the terrorist threat posed by Anwar al-Aulaqi, including information related to whether this threat may be "concrete," "specific," or "imminent."

Then Secretary of Defense Robert Gates said the following:

> DOD cannot reveal to a foreign terrorist organization or its leaders what it knows about their activities and how it obtained that information.
>
> [snip]
>
> **The disclosure of any operational information concerning actions U.S. armed forces have or may plan to take against a terrorist organization overseas would risk serious harm to national security and foreign relations**. Official confirmation or denial of any operations could tend to reveal information concerning operational capabilities that could be used by adversaries to evade or counter any future strikes.

> [snip]
>
> Finally, as discussed below, public confirmation or denial of either prior or planned operations could seriously harm U.S. foreign relations.
>
> [snip]
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> **The disclosure of information concerning cooperation between the United States and a foreign state, and specifically regarding any possible military operations in that foreign country, could lead to serious harm to national security**, including by disrupting any confidential relations with a foreign government. [my emphasis]

Then CIA Director and current Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta said the following:

> I am invoking the [state secrets] privilege over any information, if it exists, that would tend to confirm or deny any allegations in the Complaint [about CIA targeting Awlaki for assassination] pertaining to the CIA.

Yet in spite of the fact that these top government officials swore to a judge that revealing operational details about the CIA's assassination operations, US counterterrorist cooperation with Yemen, and confirmation of prior or planned military operations would harm foreign relations and national security, we're seeing details like this in reporting on Anwar al-Awlaki's death:

> An American-born cleric killed in Yemen played a "significant operational role" in plotting and inspiring attacks on the United States, U.S. officials said Friday, as they **disclosed detailed intelligence to justify the killing** of a U.S. citizen.
>
> Anwar al-Awlaki, an American-born

> radical Islamic preacher who rose to the highest level of al Qaeda's franchise in Yemen, was killed in **a CIA-directed strike** upon his convoy, **carried out with the U.S. Joint Special Operations Command's firepower**, according to a counterterrorist official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence.
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> [snip]
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> Four individuals were killed in Friday's attack, according to U.S. officials.
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> [snip]
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> Al-Awlaki had been under observation for three weeks while they waited for the right opportunity to strike, one U.S. official said.
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> [snip]
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> U.S. counterterrorism officials said that **counterterrorism cooperation between the U.S. and Yemen has improved in recent weeks**, allowing the U.S. to gather better intelligence on al-Awlaki's movements. The ability to better track him was a key factor the successful strike, U.S. officials said.

Or details like this, including John Brennan's comments on the record:

> Fox News has learned that two Predator drones hovering above al-Awlaki's convoy fired the Hellfire missiles which killed the terror leader. According to a senior U.S. official, **the operation was carried out by Joint Special Operations Command, under the direction of the CIA**.
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> [snip]
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> But American sources confirmed the CIA and U.S. military were behind the strike on al-Awlaki, whom one official

> described as a “big fish.”
>
> The strike hit a vehicle with three or four suspected Al Qaeda members inside, in addition to al-Awlaki. According to a U.S. senior official, the other American militant killed in the strike was Samir Khan, the co-editor of an English-language Al Qaeda web magazine called “Inspire.”
>
> [snip]
>
> Top U.S. counter terrorism adviser **John Brennan says such cooperation with Yemen has improved** since the political unrest there. Brennan said the Yemenis have been more willing to share information about the location of Al Qaeda targets, as a way to fight the Yemeni branch challenging them for power. **Other U.S. officials say the Yemenis have also allowed the U.S. to fly more armed drone and aircraft missions over its territory** than ever previously, trying to use U.S. military power to stay in power. [my emphasis]

Judge Bates, if I were you, I’d haul Clapper, Gates, and Panetta into your courtroom to find out whether they lied their ass off to you last year so as to deprive a US citizen of due process, and if they didn’t, then how long it will be until John Brennan and some other counterterrorism officials get charged with Espionage.