

Mr. Tim Morrison – Key Points

1. Mr. Morrison did not believe anything improper occurred on the July 25 call. (p. 60)

Q: And in your view, there was nothing improper that occurred during the call?

A: Correct.

2. Mr. Morrison testified that the memorandum of conversation (a phrase used to describe the call transcript) of the July 25 call was complete and accurate. (p. 60)

Q: The memorandum of conversation that, the mem-con, you believed it was accurate?

A: I believe it was accurate and complete.

3. Mr. Morrison, who listened to the July 25 call, testified that he was not concerned about the substance of what was discussed on the call – only that the transcript might leak. (p. 46-47)

*Q: Okay. I just wanted to follow up a bit on this. One of the concerns, and there may be an overlap between the first two concerns you mentioned about the call, and if the call became public. First, you said you were concerned how it would play out in Washington's polarized environment and, second, how a leak would affect bipartisan support for our Ukrainian partners. **Were those concerns related to the fact that the President asked his Ukrainian counterpart to look into or investigate the Bidens?***

A: No, not specifically.

Q: So you didn't think that the President of the United States asking his counterpart to conduct an investigation into a political opponent in the 2020 election might influence bipartisan support in Congress?

A: No.

Q: And you weren't concerned that the President bringing up one of his political opponents in the Presidential election and asking a favor with respect to the DNC server or 2016 theory, you weren't concerned that those things would cause people to believe that the President was asking his counterpart to conduct an investigation that might influence his reelection campaign?

A: No.

Q: That never occurred to you?

A: No.

Q: Did you recognize during the --- as you listened to the call that if Ukraine were to conduct these investigations, that it would inure to the President's political interests?

A: No.

4. Mr. Morrison was told by National Security Council lawyer John Eisenberg that the July 25 call record mistakenly ended up on the highly classified system, debunking the Democrats' allegations of an attempted "cover up."

Q: *At some point did you become aware of whether it was put into the highly classified...system?*

A: *I don't want to acknowledge the terms for the systems, but yes.*

Q: *We will just talk about a highly classified system. **And were you ever provided with an explanation for why it was placed in the highly classified system?***

A: *Yes.*

Q: ***What was the explanation you were given?***

A: ***It was a mistake.***

Q: *It was a mistake?*

A: *Yes.*

Q: *Who told you that?*

A: *John Eisenberg. (p. 54)*

Q: *So, just to be clear, John Eisenberg said to the Executive Secretary --- said that the Executive Secretary made a mistake by putting it on the highly classified system?*

A: *Yes. (p. 55)*

Q: *So describe, generally, the conversation that you had about John Eisenberg about how after he said it was a mistake and whether there was any discussion about moving it out of that system.*

A: *So when we --- if we're still on when we were trying to gain access to it to prepare the President for the planned Warsaw meeting, it was, how did it get on there. **John related that he did not ask for it to be put on there, but that the Executive Secretariat staff misunderstood his recommendation for how to restrict access.** (p. 57)*

Q: *I see. And did --- so I just want to be very clear about this. Mr. Eisenberg told you that it was a --- you looked for the mem-con in the system and you couldn't find it. Is that right?*

A: *Correct.*

Q: *And then you went and asked --- what did you do --- let me ask it this way: What did you do after you couldn't find it?*

A: *I called the NSC Executive Secretariat staff to say, essentially, what gives?*

Q: *And what did they say?*

A: *They said John Eisenberg had directed it be moved to a different server.*

Q: *What did you do next?*

A: *I talked to John.*

Q: *And what did he say to you?*

A: *He said he did not.*

Q: *What did you say back to him?*

A: *I said, well, that you need to talk to Exec Sec because they think you directed it.*

Q: *And then what did he say to you? When did he say it was a mistake?*

A: *After he talked to --- well, I don't recall if it was in that exact same conversation or a separate conversation, but at some point he checked in with the Exec Sec to find out why they thought he directed them to do that. And he came back and said, I agreed with you to restrict access. They took that as a direction to move it to a different server, which was not my --- which was not his instruction nor my recommendation. (p. 121-22)*

5. Mr. Morrison repeatedly testified that he purposefully kept Lt. Col. Vindman out of the loop on this matter because he had concerns about Vindman's judgment, which were also raised to him by Fiona Hill and others.

Q: *Was Colonel Vindman on any calls with you that you did with Ambassador Taylor during this relevant time period?*

A: *Yes. Well, so, please define the relevant time period.*

Q: *From July 15 to September 25.*

A: *About the topic of this inquiry?*

Q: *Yes.*

A: *No.*

Q: *Okay. Did Colonel Vindman express concern to you or complain that he wasn't allowed to be on the call, any of these calls?*

A: *Yes.*

Q: *Okay. And how often did he raise that concern to you?*

A: *Once or twice.*

Q: *And what was your reason for doing the call without Colonel Vindman?*

A: *The nature of the conversation.*

Q: *Okay.*

A: *The subject matter of the conversation.*

Q: *Okay. It had nothing to do with your trust in Colonel Vindman?*

A: *I had two motivations to do my best to protect my personnel from my concerns about this issue, the concerns that I weighed out about the Washington's political environment.*

Q: *Uh-huh.*

A: *And --- **I had concerns about Lieutenant Colonel Vindman's judgment.***

Q: *Judgment with respect to what?*

A: *Among the discussions I had with Dr. Hill in the transition was our team, my team, its strengths and its weaknesses. **And Fiona and others had raised concerns about Alex's judgment.** (p. 81-82)*

Q: *So, I mean --- and I, like you, Mr. Morrison, I appreciate the service Colonel Vindman has given to our country and the sacrifice he has made. But I think in the last --- or since you've been here today, you've talked about Colonel Vindman. There was issues of judgment, that he operated outside his lane. He didn't adhere to the chain of command. Was not*

included, specifically excluded --- I guess, to your use your language, was not included on certain trips. And there was an area of Ukraine that you kept him restricted from being a part of, and you said you couldn't get into that. Did Mr. Vindman --- did he talk too much?

A: ***I had concerns that he did not exercise appropriate judgment as to whom he would say what. (p. 205)***

6. Mr. Morrison testified that, as the final clearing authority for any edits made to the 7/25 call package, he accepted all of Lt. Col. Vindman's proposed edits. (p. 61-62)

Q: *During the course of the editing process of the mem-con, were you in the loop with other individuals who supplied or suggested edits to the package?*

A: *I am effectively the final clearing authority.*

Q: *Okay. Were you aware of Colonel Vindman's suggested edits?*

A: *I saw edits in the package made by Colonel Vindman and others.*

Q: *Okay. Do you remember what Colonel Vindman's edits were?*

A: *As I recall, Colonel Vindman, being a fluent Ukrainian speaker, was concerned at various points, the translation was not true, was not high fidelity. And so he made edits to try to correct what he heard. And in the course of these reviews, based on how these packages are created, it's not uncommon, especially when you're dealing with a foreign language like Ukrainian and foreign language terms, to have to correct things.*

Q: ***Do you remember if all his edits were incorporated?***

A: ***I accepted all of them.***

Q: *Okay. To the extent he believes edits weren't accepted, do you know how that could have occurred?*

A: *I do not.*

Q: *Any other edits from individuals that supplied edits, listened to the call, but were not implemented ---*

A: *Not that I can recall.*

Q: *--- to your knowledge? So is your practice as the final clearing authority to accept the edits if you had a contemporaneous agreement with what occurred?*

A: *Yes.*

7. Mr. Morrison testified that he does not believe Burisma came up on the call or that anyone suggested edits to the mem-con to include the word Burisma. (p. 64)

Q: *Okay. And you were on the call. Do you remember whether the name Burisma came up on the call?*

A: *No, I don't believe it did.*

Q: *Do you remember whether anyone suggested edits adding the word Burisma to the mem-con?*

A: *I do not.*

Q: Okay. But if somebody had suggested that edit, was on the call, and your contemporaneous recollection that the word was mentioned, you would have gone ahead and implemented the edit?

A: Had I recalled or had it in my notes that was mentioned, yes, I would have agreed to the edit.

8. Mr. Morrison testified that Lt. Col. Vindman relayed two concerns to him about the July 25 call: that the call did not get into the subject matter they had hoped, and the fidelity of the translation. (p. 72-73)

Q: Did Colonel Vindman express any concerns to you about what happened on the call?

A: Yes.

Q: What were his concerns?

A: He had two namely. He was concerned, as I was, that the call did not get into the subject matter we had hoped. And he had concerns about the fidelity of the translation.

Q: And that communication occurred during the course of the preparation of the mem-con package?

A: That communication did, yes.

Q: Okay. Did you have any subsequent communications with him?

A: Yes.

Q: And what's the next time that you remember where he raised concerns about the subject of the call --- content of the call?

A: Could you repeat the question?

Q: What's the next time you remember talking to Mr. --- Colonel Vindman, or emailing with Colonel Vindman about any concerns he might have had about what happened on the call?

A: About concerns he had about what happened on the call?

Q: Yes.

A: That was the only time I recall him expressing concerns about the content of the call.

9. Mr. Morrison testified that Lt. Col. Vindman never reported to Morrison any of the "light queries" that he received from Ukrainian officials in August regarding the hold on aid. (p. 93)

Q: My question was, should --- if there were light queries from the Ukrainian government or Ukrainian officials to Colonel Vindman about the withholding of security assistance or military aid in mid-August, is that something he should have reported to you?

A: Yes.

Q: He did not?

A: I have no recollection of him doing so.

Q: And if he did not, would you consider that to be a violation of the chain of command?

A: *I would consider it to be an unfortunate habit he picked up from his prior boss.*

10. Mr. Morrison confirmed that President Trump generally does not like foreign aid generally, and specifically held concerns that corruption in Ukraine may cause U.S. aid to be “misused.”

Q: *Okay. Just generally, what are the President’s views on foreign aid?*

A: *He doesn’t ---*

Q: *Does he have some skepticism about it?*

A: *Yes.*

Q: *Okay. I think I may have been talking over you --- did you say he doesn’t like it?*

A: *Generally, he does not. (p. 78)*

Q: *Returning to page 9 of Ambassador Taylor’s statement. Ambassador Taylor relates that you told --- you told him that the President doesn’t want to provide any assistance at all?*

A: *Yes.*

Q: *And can you help me understand what that meant?*

A: *The President’s general antipathy to foreign aid, as well as his concerns that the Ukrainians are not paying their fair share, as well as his concerns when our aid would be misused, because of the view that Ukraine has a significant corruption problem. (p. 79)*