

Subject: (U) Quarterly Message to Alumni

Date: 17 November 2023

Sender: DCIA Burns

Audience: CIA Alumni

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you're all having a good fall. It is hard to believe that nearly three years have passed since I took my oath to become Director of CIA. The time has gone by very quickly. And yet, every day I continue to receive fresh reminders of how fortunate I am to lead this Agency. The bravery and skill of our officers are as impressive as ever, as are the vital missions they continue to take on around the world.

Among my favorite moments at Langley during the past few months was the fireside chat on Alumni Day in September. It was terrific to see so many of you back at Headquarters. As we approach the one-year anniversary of our Office of Alumni Relations (OAR), the event was a fine reflection of its excellent work so far.

I also had the privilege of welcoming two other distinguished customers and friends of CIA back to Langley this fall: former Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama. At their respective armchair conversations with the workforce, each regaled us with fond memories of their time in office and working with our Agency.

As always, CIA is continuing to balance the pursuit of long-term priorities with navigating short-term crises—and of the latter, few are more pressing right now than the conflict in the Middle East, where we are facing a very dangerous moment. I recently traveled to Israel and six other countries in the region, where there is palpable concern about a widening conflict. We are doing all we can, supporting policymakers, to prevent such an expansion.

The loss of innocent lives in both Israel and Gaza is absolutely devastating. I must admit that, in nearly 40 years of working in and on the Middle East, I have never seen a crisis with the potential scale and explosiveness of this one.

As we deal with the conflict in the Middle East, we remain focused on the war in Ukraine. I recently returned from my eighth TDY to Kyiv, where President Zelenskyy thanked me again for the support the US and CIA have given Ukrainians since the very start of Putin's invasion—support that will remain crucial in the year ahead.

Meanwhile, CIA continues to sharpen our focus on the threat posed by the People's Republic of China, as well as to harness the potential of the ongoing technological revolution. We are also continuing to make progress towards creating the best possible work environment for our officers, as the results of our Wellbeing program are demonstrating. To cite just two examples, the number of officers using our childcare subsidies has doubled, as has the number of mental health professionals we're deploying in the field. Steps like these are playing a crucial role in keeping our officers focused on mission and "in the fight."

Taking care of our people cuts right to the core of what CIA is all about—because we can't take care of our mission without taking care of one another. I was vividly reminded of this when I participated in a

recent overnight training exercise for our officers at STC (during which I was taken prisoner by a simulated enemy force). Seeing firsthand the trainees' excellent teamwork—as well as their concern at seeing the Director tied to a chair—drove home how right we all are to describe our Agency as a family.

I'll close by again expressing my heartfelt gratitude for the privilege of leading CIA. I am continually reminded of how lucky I am to have this job and to stand on the shoulders of all of you. Thank you, as always, for your enduring commitment to CIA. I wish you and your families a very happy Thanksgiving!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Burns". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bill Burns