

~~TOP SECRET//NOFORN~~



From: OCA Office of Congressional Affairs Subject: Due-Outs from HPSCI Coffee
 Secure: [redacted] TO: DI OPA
 Open: [redacted] BCC
 Date: 09/14/2012 11:29 AM Cc: NCS
OCA
CIA DIR
OCA

This message is digitally signed.

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//NOFORN~~



For the Committee:

- 1) "White Paper" on press-guidance (OPA, OGC, DI, NE)
 **We've already spoken to OPA who will be coording with the WH as well
- 2) Paper on motivations for Green on Blue violence (OSA)
- 3) Contact State Legl Affairs for questions on document destruction at consulate (OCA)

For DCIA:

- 1) Cable(s) to [redacted] warning of protests linked to the film and response (NE)
- 2) Cable(s) to stations on 9/11 security (DS, NCS)

Please send Committee responses to OCA for 7th floor coord.

Please send DCIA responses to ODCIA.

Thank you!

OCA
 Office of Congressional Affairs
 Secure: [redacted]
 Open: [redacted]

Classification: ~~TOP SECRET//NOFORN~~

~~TOP SECRET//NOFORN~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CIA OTA

Classification: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Classified By: 2...

09/14/2012 03:19:00 PM

From: CIA OTA
 To: NE
 Cc: NCS
 [Redacted]
 [Redacted] CTC
 CIA FO
 CIA FO
 [Redacted] DIR
 OPA OCA Stephen W. Preston/STF/AGENCY@WMA,
 OGC

Date: 09/14/2012 03:19 PM
 Subject: Re: Looping ODNCS - Re: Fw: FLASH coordination - white paper for HPSCI Per DCIA Request

Classification: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



Good point that it could be interpreted this way -- perhaps better stated that we know they participated in the protests. We do not know who was responsible for the deaths.

CIA OTA

Director, Office of Terrorism Analysis

secure: [Redacted]
open: [Redacted]

NE

Classification: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Classified By: 2...

09/14/2012 03:16:33 PM

From: NE
 To: NCS CIA OTA
 Cc: CIA OTA NCS
 [Redacted]
 [Redacted] CTC
 CIA FO [Redacted] DIR CIA
 [Redacted] OCA
 NE OPA Stephen W. Preston/STF/AGENCY@WMA,
 OGC

Date: 09/14/2012 03:16 PM
 Subject: Re: Looping ODNCS - Re: Fw: FLASH coordination - white paper for HPSCI Per DCIA Request

Classification: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

=====

Good question - I'll defer to CIA
OTA cc'd) given the CT angle.

(Added in OGC and OPA as well as FYI).

Second tick says we know extremists with ties to AQ participated in the attack, which implies complicity in the deaths of the American officers. Do we know this?

NCS

Classification: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Classified By: 2...

09/14/2012 02:52:57 PM

From: NCS
To: NE
Cc: CIA OTA
NCS NCS NCS CTC CTC DIA OCA
NCS CIA DI Stephen.W. Preston/STF/AGENCY@WMA

Date: 09/14/2012 02:52 PM
Subject: Re: Looping ODNCS - Re: Fw: FLASH coordination - white paper for HPSCI Per DCIA Request

Classification: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

=====

Second tick says we *know* extremists with ties to AQ *participated* in the attack, which implies complicity in the deaths of the American officers. Do we know this?

NE

Classification: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Classified By: 2...

09/14/2012 02:39:49 PM

From: NE
To: NCS NCS
Cc: NCS CTC CTC CIA OTA NCS DIA OCA
DI Stephen.W. Preston/STF/AGENCY@WMA

Date: 09/14/2012 02:39 PM
Subject: Looping ODNCS - Re: Fw: FLASH coordination - white paper for HPSCI Per DCIA Request

Classification: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CIA OIA NE coords on the below paper, to include the earlier edits.

We have looped in ODNCS and others to ensure everyone has a chance to review given the urgency at which this is being requested.

For ODNCS - at this morning HPSCI coffee with DCIA, HPSCI members eagerly sought some sort of "white paper" they could use to reply to numerous media requests asking for comments on other inflammatory press articles regarding the Benghazi attacks.

HPSCI has asked for unclassified points immediately that they can use in talking to the media. I have been asked to provide a bit on responsibility. NE is pulling together the final product. In addition to other topics, NE will add material about warnings we gave to Cairo prior to the demonstrations, as well as material on warnings we issued prior to 9/11 anniversary. Please take a quick look to see if you believe that this is A) accurate and B) unclass.

For CTC/Legal, **DJ** asked that I send this to you and anybody you think needs to see in OGC to make sure that nothing we are saying here is likely to impact any potential future legal prosecution.

Thanks

CIA OIA

- *We believe based on currently available information that the attacks in Benghazi were spontaneously inspired by the protests at the US Embassy in Cairo and evolved into a direct assault against the US Consulate and subsequently its annex. This assessment may change as additional information is collected and analyzed and currently available information continues to be evaluated.*
- *The crowd almost certainly was a mix of individuals from across many sectors of Libyan society. That being said, we do know that Islamic extremists with ties to al-Qa'ida participated in the attack.*
- *Initial press reporting linked the attack to Ansar al-Sharia. The group has since released a statement that its leadership did not order the attacks, but did not deny that some of its members were involved. Ansar al-Sharia's facebook page aims to spread sharia in Libya and emphasizes the need for jihad to counter what it views as false interpretations of Islam, according to an open source study.*
- *The wide availability of weapons and experienced fighters in Libya almost certainly contributed to the lethality of the attacks.*
- *Since April, there have been at least five other attacks against foreign interests in Benghazi by unidentified assailants, including the June attack against the British Ambassador's convoy. We cannot rule out that individuals had previously surveilled the US facilities, also contributing to the efficacy of the attacks.*
- *We are working with Libyan authorities and intelligence partners in an effort to help bring to justice those responsible for the deaths of US citizens.*

CIA OIA

Classification: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Classified By: 2...

09/14/2012 02:27:18 PM

From:

CIA OIA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

To: [redacted] *NE*
Date: 09/14/2012 02:27 PM
Subject: Fw: FLASH coordination - white paper for HPSCI

Classification: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[redacted]

Sorry, sent to the wrong [redacted]..

CIA OTA
Director, Office of Terrorism Analysis
secure: [redacted]
open: [redacted]

— Forwarded by *CIA OTA* on 09/14/2012 02:27 PM —

From: [redacted] *CIA OTA*
To: [redacted] *NE*
Date: 09/14/2012 12:49 PM
Subject: Fw: FLASH coordination - white paper for HPSCI

Classification: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[redacted]

I didn't ask NE/INT. Just CTC/INT.

Please see the one suggested addition from OGC.

Let me know if you need anything else. Also, please be sure that DI FO gets a copy.

CIA OTA
Director, Office of Terrorism Analysis
secure: [redacted]
open: [redacted]

— Forwarded by *CIA OTA* on 09/14/2012 12:47 PM —

From: [redacted] *OA OGC*
To: [redacted] *CIA OTA*
Cc: [redacted] *CTC, OGC, NE*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

5

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DI, OGC

Date: 09/14/2012 12:23 PM
Subject: Re: FLASH coordination - white paper for HPSCI

Classification: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[Redacted]

hi ^{CIA}_{OTA} - I've consulted with colleagues and the only statement that might have implications for future prosecution is the first bullet. recommend adding the text indicated to add some insulation. please let me know if you have any questions. thanks.

^{CIA}_{OTA} Classification: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Classified By: 2... 09/14/2012 11:15:24 AM

From: ^{CIA}_{OTA}
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted] CTC, OGC, NE, DI

Date: 09/14/2012 11:15 AM
Subject: FLASH coordination - white paper for HPSCI

Classification: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[Redacted]

HPSCI has asked for unclassified points immediately that they can use in talking to the media. I have been asked to provide a bit on responsibility. NE is pulling together the final product. In addition to other topics, NE will add material about warnings we gave to Cairo prior to the demonstrations, as well as material on warnings we issued prior to 9/11 anniversary. Please take a quick look to see if you believe that this is A) accurate and B) unclass.

For CTC/Legal, ^{DI} asked that I send this to you and anybody you think needs to see in OGC to make sure that nothing we are saying here is likely to impact any potential future legal prosecution.

Thanks

^{CIA}_{OTA}

- We believe based on currently available information that the attacks in Benghazi were spontaneously inspired by the protests at the US Embassy in Cairo and evolved into a direct assault against the US Consulate and subsequently its annex. This assessment may change as additional information is collected and analyzed and currently available information continues to be evaluated.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- The crowd almost certainly was a mix of individuals from across many sectors of Libyan society. That being said, we do know that Islamic extremists with ties to al-Qa'ida participated in the attack.
- Initial press reporting linked the attack to Ansar al-Sharia. The group has since released a statement that the its leadership did not order the attacks, but did not deny that some of its members were involved. Ansar al-Sharia's facebook page aims to spread *sharia* in Libya and emphasizes the need for jihad to counter what it views as false interpretations of Islam, according to an open source study.
- The wide availability of weapons and experienced fighters in Libya almost certainly contributed to the lethality of the attacks.
- Since April, there have been at least five other attacks against foreign interests in Benghazi by unidentified assailants, including the June attack against the British Ambassador's convoy. We cannot rule out that individuals had previously surveilled the US facilities, also contributing to the efficacy of the attacks.
- We are working with Libyan authorities and intelligence partners in an effort to help bring to justice those responsible for the deaths of US citizens.

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Director, Office of Terrorism Analysis
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open:

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CIA OPA

From: CIA OPA
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 11:17 AM
To: Vietor, Tommy
Cc: Rhodes, Benjamin J.; NSS PRESS
Subject: Congressional talking points en route this afternoon for coord

Tommy:

Echoing my voicemail to you:

You should be seeing some "White Paper" talking points from us this afternoon for coordination. They are for Congressional use, per their request, re Benghazi issues.

Thanks,

CIA
OPA

Chief, Media Relations
CIA Office of Public Affairs

CIA OPA

From: OPA
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 3:00 PM
To: CIA OPA
Subject: Cleaned HPSCI TPs
Attachments: CleanedHPSCI Talking Points for Use with the Media.doc

HPSCI Talking Points for Use with the Media

14 September 2012

- We believe based on currently available information that the attacks in Benghazi were spontaneously inspired by the protests at the US Embassy in Cairo and evolved into a direct assault against the US Consulate and subsequently its annex. This assessment may change as additional information is collected and analyzed and currently available information continues to be evaluated.
- The crowd almost certainly was a mix of individuals from across many sectors of Libyan society. That being said, we do know that Islamic extremists with ties to al-Qa'ida participated in the attack.
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- The wide availability of weapons and experienced fighters in Libya almost certainly contributed to the lethality of the attacks.
- Since April, there have been at least five other attacks against foreign interests in Benghazi by unidentified assailants, including the June attack against the British Ambassador's convoy. We cannot rule out that individuals had previously surveilled the US facilities, also contributing to the efficacy of the attacks.
- We are working with Libyan authorities and intelligence partners in an effort to help bring to justice those responsible for the deaths of US citizens.

CIA
OPA

From: CIA OPA
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 3:04 PM
To: Vietor, Tommy, Rhodes, Benjamin J.; NSS PRESS
Cc: WH PRESS
CIA OPA
Subject: HPSCI talking points for review.

Colleagues:

HPSCI has requested talking points from the DCIA for use with the media.

Please review the below and respond with your comments ASAP.

Thanks very much,

CIA
OPA

Chief, Media Relations
CIA Office of Public Affairs

HPSCI Talking Points for Use with the Media
14 September 2012

We believe based on currently available information that the attacks in Benghazi were spontaneously inspired by the protests at the US Embassy in Cairo and evolved into a direct assault against the US Consulate and subsequently its annex. This assessment may change as additional information is collected and analyzed and currently available information continues to be evaluated.

- The crowd almost certainly was a mix of individuals from across many sectors of Libyan society. That being said, we do know that Islamic extremists with ties to al-Qa'ida participated in the attack.
- Initial press reporting linked the attack to Ansar al-Sharia. The group has since released a statement that its leadership did not order the attacks, but did not deny that some of its members were involved. Ansar al-Sharia's Facebook page aims to spread sharia in Libya and emphasizes the need for jihad to counter what it views as false interpretations of Islam, according to an open source study.
- The wide availability of weapons and experienced fighters in Libya almost certainly contributed to the lethality of the attacks.
- Since April, there have been at least five other attacks against foreign interests in Benghazi by unidentified assailants, including the June attack against the British Ambassador's convoy. We cannot rule out that individuals had previously surveilled the US facilities, also contributing to the efficacy of the attacks.
- We are working with Libyan authorities and intelligence partners in an effort to help bring to justice those responsible for the deaths of US citizens.

CIA OPA

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 3:27 PM
To: [redacted] Vietor, Tommy; Rhodes, Benjamin J.; [redacted] NSS PRESS
Cc: [redacted] WH PRESS
Subject: RE: HPSCI talking points for review

Colleagues:

We still have a number of components coordinating here on these points and we will have further edits. We are multi-tasking due to the time constraints.

I'll send you an updated version around 1600 today.

Thanks,

CIA OPA

From: CIA OPA
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 3:04 PM
To: Vietor, Tommy; Rhodes, Benjamin J.; [redacted] NSS PRESS, WH PRESS
Cc: CIA OPA
Subject: HPSCI talking points for review

Colleagues:

HPSCI has requested talking points from the DCIA for use with the media.

Please review the below and respond with your comments ASAP.

Thanks very much,

CIA OPA

Chief, Media Relations
CIA Office of Public Affairs

[redacted]

HPSCI Talking Points for Use with the Media
14 September 2012

- We believe based on currently available information that the attacks in Benghazi were spontaneously inspired by the protests at the US Embassy in Cairo and evolved into a direct assault against the US Consulate and subsequently its annex. This assessment may change as additional information is collected and analyzed and currently available information continues to be evaluated.
- The crowd almost certainly was a mix of individuals from across many sectors of Libyan society. That being said, we do know that Islamic extremists with ties to al-Qa'ida participated in the attack.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[Redacted]



From: Stephen W. Preston
General Counsel

[Redacted]

Date: 09/14/2012 04:20 PM

Subject: Re: Looping ODNCS - Re: Fw: FLASH coordination -
white paper for HPSCI Per DCIA Request

To: OGC, CIA FO
Cc: CIA OTA, NE, NCS, NCS, CTR

This message is digitally signed.

Classification: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[Redacted]

Folks, I know there is a hurry to get this out, but we need to hold it long enough to ascertain whether providing it conflicts with express instructions from NSS/DOJ/FBI that, in light of the criminal investigation, we are not to generate statements with assessments as to who did this, etc. - even internally, not to mention for public release. I am copying CIA FO who may be more familiar with those instructions and the tasking arising from the HPSCI coffee.

OGC

Classification: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Classified By: 2...

09/14/2012 03:29:32 PM

From: OGC
To: CIA OTA
Cc: NCS, NCS, ETC, CTR, CIA FO, DIR, DIR, CIA OCA, CIA OPA, Stephen W. Preston/STF/AGENCY@WMA

Date: 09/14/2012 03:29 PM
Subject: Re: Looping ODNCS - Re: Fw: FLASH coordination - white paper for HPSCI Per DCIA Request

Classification: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[Redacted]

OGC coords. on the TPs, including the change to the second tick noted by CIA OPA

All content within this email, including attachments and email threads, carry the controls [Redacted] even when not specified in the classification line unless otherwise noted.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED



From: CIA OPA Subject: **HPSCI White Paper Talking Points for review before White House**
Chief, Media Relations Branch
Office of Public Affairs To: CIA FO
Date: 09/14/2012 04:42 PM Cc: Dir, DDCIA-FO, OPA

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

CIA FO

For review before sending to the White House:

CIA OPA

HPSCI White Paper Talking Points for Use with the Media

14 September 2012

•The currently available information suggests that the demonstrations in Benghazi were spontaneously inspired by the protests at the US Embassy in Cairo and evolved into a direct assault against the US Consulate and subsequently its annex. This assessment may change as additional information is collected and analyzed and currently available information continues to be evaluated. On 10 September we warned of social media reports calling for a demonstration in front of the Embassy and that jihadists were threatening to break into the Embassy.

•The crowd almost certainly was a mix of individuals from across many sectors of Libyan society. The investigation is on-going as to who is responsible. That being said, we do know that Islamic extremists participated in the violent demonstrations.

•Initial press reporting linked the attack to Ansar al-Sharia. The group has since released a statement that its leadership did not order the attacks, but did not deny that some of its members were involved. Ansar al-Sharia's Facebook page aims to spread sharia in Libya and emphasizes the need for jihad to counter what it views as false interpretations of Islam, according to an open source study.

•The wide availability of weapons and experienced fighters in Libya almost certainly contributed to the lethality of the attacks.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

•The Agency has produced numerous pieces on the threat of extremists linked to al-Qaeda in Benghazi and eastern Libya. These noted that, since April, there have been at least five other attacks against foreign interests in Benghazi by unidentified assailants, including the June attack against the British Ambassador's convoy. We cannot rule out that individuals had previously surveilled the US facilities, also contributing to the efficacy of the attacks.

•The US Government is working with Libyan authorities and intelligence partners in an effort to help bring to justice those responsible for the deaths of US citizens.

CIA OPA

Chief, Media Relations Branch, Office of Public Affairs

Secure:

Open:

=====
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

CIA OPA

From: Viator, Tommy, [Thomas_F_Viator@who.eop.gov]
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 4:57 PM

To: CIA OPA Rhodes, Benjamin J.; NSS PRESS

Cc: WH PRESS
CIA OCA

Subject: RE: HPSCI talking points for review

CIA OPA is there an updated version of this I can circulate internally?

From: CIA OPA

Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 3:27 PM

To: CIA OPA Viator, Tommy; Rhodes, Benjamin J.; NSS PRESS, WH PRESS

Cc: CIA OCA

Subject: RE: HPSCI talking points for review

Colleagues:

We still have a number of components coordinating here on these points and we will have further edits. We are multi-tasking due to the time constraints.

I'll send you an updated version around 1600 today.

Thanks,

CIA OPA

From: CIA OPA

Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 3:04 PM

To: Viator, Tommy; Rhodes, Benjamin J.; NSS PRESS, WH PRESS

Cc: CIA OCA

Subject: HPSCI talking points for review

Colleagues:

HPSCI has requested talking points from the DCIA for use with the media.

Please review the below and respond with your comments ASAP.

Thanks very much,

CIA
OPA

Chief, Media Relations
CIA Office of Public Affairs

HPSCI Talking Points for Use with the Media
14 September 2012

CIA OPA

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 5:04 PM
To: Vietor, Tommy; Rhodes, Benjamin J.; [redacted] NSS PRESS
Cc: [redacted] CIA OCA
Subject: RE: HPSCI talking points for review

Tommy:

Very sorry for the delay. We've been steadily working on them and they are now at the final stop before coming to you soon. I'll rush them to you as soon as possible.

CIA OPA

From: Vietor, Tommy [mailto:Thomas.F.Vietor@who.eop.gov]
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 4:57 PM
To: [redacted] CIA OPA Rhodes, Benjamin J.; [redacted] NSS PRESS, WHPRESS
Cc: [redacted] CIA OCA
Subject: RE: HPSCI talking points for review

[redacted] CIA OPA is there an updated version of this I can circulate internally?

From: [redacted] CIA OPA
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 3:27 PM
To: [redacted] CIA OPA Vietor, Tommy; Rhodes, Benjamin J.; [redacted] NSS PRESS, WHPRESS
Cc: [redacted] CIA OCA
Subject: RE: HPSCI talking points for review

Colleagues:

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CIA OPA

From: [redacted] CIA OPA
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 3:04 PM
To: Vietor, Tommy; Rhodes, Benjamin J.; [redacted] NSS PRESS, WHPRESS
Cc: [redacted] CIA OCA
Subject: HPSCI talking points for review

Colleagues:

HPSCI has requested talking points from the DCIA for use with the media.

Please review the below and respond with your comments ASAP.

CIA OPA

From: OPA
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 5:05 PM
To: CIA OPA
Cc: CIA OCA
Subject: RE: HPSCI talking points for review.

Should we include Shawn Turner on the coord for the points?

From: CIA OPA
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 3:27 PM
To: CIA OPA; Vietor, Tommy; Rhodes, Benjamin J.;
Cc: CIA OCA
Subject: RE: HPSCI talking points for review

NSS PRESS, WJH PRESS

Colleagues:

We still have a number of components coordinating here on these points and we will have further edits. We are multi-tasking due to the time constraints.

I'll send you an updated version around 1600 today.

Thanks,

CIA OPA

From: CIA OPA
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 3:04 PM
To: Vietor, Tommy; Rhodes, Benjamin J.;
Cc: CIA OCA
Subject: HPSCI talking points for review.

NSS PRESS, WJH PRESS

Colleagues:

HPSCI has requested talking points from the DCIA for use with the media.

Please review the below and respond with your comments ASAP.

Thanks very much,

CIA
OPA

Chief, Media Relations
CIA Office of Public Affairs

HPSCI Talking Points for Use with the Media
14 September 2012

CIA OPA

From: CIA OPA
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 5:09 PM
To: OA
Cc: CIA OCA
Subject: RE: HPSCI talking points for review

Thanks for the reminder. Yes, I told him we would.

CIA OPA

From: OA
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 5:05 PM
To: CIA OPA
Cc: CIA OCA
Subject: RE: HPSCI talking points for review

Should we include Shawn Turner on the coord for the points?

From: CIA OPA
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 3:27 PM
To: CIA OPA; Vietor, Tommy; Rhodes, Benjamin J.;
Cc: CIA OCA
Subject: RE: HPSCI talking points for review

NSS PRESS, WH PRESS

Colleagues:

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From: CIA OPA
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 3:04 PM
To: Vietor, Tommy; Rhodes, Benjamin J.;
Cc: CIA OCA
Subject: HPSCI talking points for review

NSS PRESS, WH PRESS

Colleagues:

HPSCI has requested talking points from the DCIA for use with the media.

Please review the below and respond with your comments ASAP.

Thanks very much,

CIA OPA

CIA OPA

From: CIA OPA
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 5:09 PM
To: Victor Tommy Rhodes, Benjamin J.; NSS PRESS
Cc: CIA OPA; Shawn S Turner
Subject: Revised HPSCI Talking Points for Review

Colleagues:

Apologies for the delay.

Please review this revised version:

**HPSCI White Paper Talking Points for Use with the Media
14 September 2012**

- The currently available information suggests that the demonstrations in Benghazi were spontaneously inspired by the protests at the US Embassy in Cairo and evolved into a direct assault against the US Consulate and subsequently its annex. This assessment may change as additional information is collected and analyzed and currently available information continues to be evaluated. On 10 September we warned of social media reports calling for a demonstration in front of the Embassy and that jihadists were threatening to break into the Embassy.
- The crowd almost certainly was a mix of individuals from across many sectors of Libyan society. The investigation is on-going as to who is responsible for the violence. That being said, we do know that Islamic extremists participated in the violent demonstrations.
- Initial press reporting linked the attack to Ansar al-Sharia. The group has since released a statement that its leadership did not order the attacks, but did not deny that some of its members were involved. Ansar al-Sharia's Facebook page aims to spread sharia in Libya and emphasizes the need for jihad to counter what it views as false interpretations of Islam, according to an open source study.
- The wide availability of weapons and experienced fighters in Libya almost certainly contributed to the lethality of the attacks.
- The Agency has produced numerous pieces on the threat of extremists linked to al-Qaeda in Benghazi and eastern Libya. These noted that, since April, there have been at least five other attacks against foreign interests in Benghazi by unidentified assailants, including the June attack against the British Ambassador's convoy. We cannot rule out that individuals had previously surveilled the US facilities, also contributing to the efficacy of the attacks.
- The US Government is working with Libyan authorities and intelligence partners in an effort to help bring to justice those responsible for the deaths of US citizens.

Thanks,

CIA
OPA

Chief, Media Relations