

**Din, Susan W**

**From:** Knopf, Payton L (USUN)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 12, 2012 5:42 PM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN); DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Ahmed, Salman (USUN); DeLaurentis, Jeffrey A; Pascal, Alexander J (USUN); Pan, Michael (USUN); Ryu, Rexon Y; Pelofsky, Eric J; Singh, Priya (USUN); Rangarajan, Taara A; Finerty, Tressa R (USUN); Ried, Curtis R (USUN)  
**Cc:** Pelton, Erin; Cooper, Kurtis A; McPhillips, Alex (USUN)  
**Subject:** Toria Nuland backgrounder on Libya

**RELEASED IN  
FULL**

Toria Nuland and DoD spokesman George Little did a background briefing for press a few minutes ago. I thought folks might find some of the details interesting—particularly the tick-tock—even if some of it has come via other channels, so a non-verbatim summary is below.

4pm EST: Compound begins taking fire from Libyan extremists. Two buildings on compound: a main building and an annex.

4:15pm EST: Extremists gain access and began firing into main building, setting it on fire. Libyan guard force and US security personnel respond. Three people inside building at that time: RSO, Stevens, and Smith. The three became separated while trying to evacuate due to the smoke. RSO made it outside and then he and security personnel returned to rescue Stevens and Smith. Found Smith dead and pulled him from building; were unable to locate Stevens before they were drawn from building because of smoke and small arms fire.

4:45pm EST: Security personnel again tried to gain access to main building but had to return to annex because of fire.

530pm EST: Security personnel made another attempt, gained access, and secured the main building. They evacuated rest of personnel into safe haven zones.

7:00pm EST: Annex came under fire for 2 hours; during that time, 2 additional U.S. personnel were killed and 2 wounded.

830pm EST: Libyan security forces were able to assist in regaining control of the compound. At some point (we don't know when), Stevens got out of the building and was taken to the hospital. The body was later returned to U.S. personnel at Benghazi airport.

**Q & A:** **REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer**

--Toria declined to go into details about how Stevens' personal security detail responded because we don't discuss security operations.

--When asked if she could confirm if Stevens was alive when he was left the compound and was taken to the hospital and if the cause of death was smoke inhalation, Toria reiterated that we are not clear on the circumstances between when Stevens was separated from the group inside the building and when we were notified that his body was in a Benghazi hospital. We were not able to see his body until it was returned at the airport. Toria said that we can't comment on the cause of death until an autopsy can be performed.

--Responding to a question about whether it was an organized terror attack, Toria said that she couldn't speak to the identity of the perpetrators but that it was clearly a complex attack. There will be a full investigation with which the FBI is assisting.