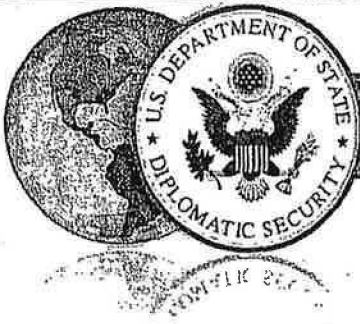


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U.S. Department of State - Bureau of Diplomatic Security

INTELLIGENCE AND THREAT ANALYSIS

(S//NF) Libya: Attack on Consulate Benghazi

September 12, 2012

RELEASE IN PART B1,FOIA B3
NATSECACT1947,B3
NATSECACT1947,1.4(D),B7(C),B6,1.4(C)

(U) Drafted by: [redacted], DS/TIA/ITA, [redacted]

B6
B7(C)

(U) ATTACK TIMELINE

(S//NF) The following chronology is based on a compilation of communications between the Diplomatic Security Command Center (DSCC) and U.S. personnel in Benghazi, Libya. DS/TIA/ITA notes that this is a preliminary overview of the sequence of events that occurred in Benghazi and that the timeline may change as additional information on the incident comes to light. All times are recorded in Eastern Daylight Time.

(S//NF) DS/TIA/ITA also notes that open source media has reported a number of inaccurate facts that have served to cloud the circumstances surrounding the death of the U.S. Ambassador. Most prominently, press reporting has indicated that the Ambassador was killed when a rocket-propelled grenade struck his vehicle; this is wholly inaccurate, as the Ambassador is believed to have died from smoke inhalation while attempting to exit a burning building on the U.S. Consulate compound.

Tuesday, September 11:

- At 1549 hrs, DSCC was notified that U.S. Mission Benghazi was under attack. At 1600 hrs, DSCC was notified by Regional Security Officer (RSO) Benghazi that armed individuals had entered the compound, and at 1614 hrs RSO Benghazi reported that an armed group had set fire to buildings inside the compound. The US Ambassador was visiting post from Tripoli, and as of 1614 hrs it was suspected that one of the buildings that had been set on fire was the building where the Ambassador was sheltering. [redacted] Quick Reaction Force (QRF) responded from their off-compound Annex, but was turned back due to heavy hostile fire.
- As of 1700 hrs, [redacted] QRF and host nation militia (17 February Brigade) have redeployed to the compound. One Assistant RSO (ARSO) suffered injuries from smoke inhalation. This agent was in the Principal Officer's Residence with U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens and Information Program Officer (IPO) Sean P. Smith. All three moved to the safe haven when the attack began, but had to relocate to the roof as the building caught on fire. The agent reached the rooftop but lost contact with the other two. The agent reentered the residence and found the IPO killed in action (KIA), and was unable to locate the Ambassador. The agent had given his cell phone to the Ambassador.
- At 1720 hrs, it is reported to DSCC that all five RSO staff are accounted for and en route to the [redacted] QRF and 17 February Brigade forces are in the compound looking for the Ambassador.

B1
1.4(D)
B3

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Derived from: Multiple Sources

Reason for classification: E.O. 12958 1.4 (b), (c), (d)

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Steve Blodgett,
Senior Reviewer