



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

NOV 12 2013

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of October 30 relating to the response by Annex personnel to the September 11, 2012, attack on the Special Mission Compound (SMC) in Benghazi. We understand that the same letter was sent to certain other federal agencies.

In response to your first question, on whether anyone “ordered Annex personnel to ‘wait’ or otherwise delay their response to the SMC,” this issue was addressed by the independent Benghazi Accountability Review Board, which found that “[t]he departure of the Annex team was not delayed by orders from superiors; the team leader decided on his own to depart the Annex compound once it was apparent, despite a brief delay to permit their continuing efforts, that rapid support from local security elements was not forthcoming.”

In response to your requests for documents and communications, we have reviewed those specific requests and compared them to previous requests that led to the Department’s production to the Committee of over 25,000 pages of documents relating to the Benghazi attacks. We believe that requests two and four are subsumed by previous requests, and that our prior productions include State Department documents responsive to these requests. We therefore refer to you to those earlier productions.

With respect to request three for “[a]ll audio and visual documentation of the Annex response to the attack on the SMC,” we note that all members of the House of Representatives were invited to a session on December 5, 2012, at which they were shown a classified video timeline of the attack compiled by the National Counterterrorism Center, including video footage from various sources across the interagency.

The Honorable  
Edward R. Royce, Chairman,  
Committee on Foreign Affairs,  
House of Representatives.

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We hope this information is useful. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julia Frifield". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'J' and 'F'.

Julia Frifield  
Assistant Secretary  
Legislative Affairs

cc: Eliot L. Engel