

STATE STAFF ASST.

From: Vietor, Tommy [Thomas_F._Vietor@]
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 8:58 PM
To: Nuland, Victoria J; Sullivan, Jacob J; Rhodes, Benjamin J.; **STATE PA**
Subject: RE: Revised HPSCI Talking Points for Review

We will use these too

-----Original Message-----

From: Nuland, Victoria J [nulandvj@]
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 08:55 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Vietor, Tommy; Sullivan, Jacob J; Rhodes, Benjamin J.; *State PA*
Subject: Re: Revised HPSCI Talking Points for Review

These are points for Congress to use w press. Shdnt they be consistent with our own public lines if we are recommending them?

From: Vietor, Tommy [mailto:Thomas_F._Vietor@]
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 08:43 PM
To: Sullivan, Jacob J; Rhodes, Benjamin J. <Benjamin_J._Rhodes@ >; **STATE PA** ; Nuland, Victoria J
Subject: RE: Revised HPSCI Talking Points for Review

There is massive disinformation out there, in particular with Congress. They all think it was premeditated based on inaccurate assumptions or briefings. So I think this is a response to not only a tasking from the house intel committee but also NSC guidance that we need to brief members/press and correct the record

-----Original Message-----

From: Sullivan, Jacob J [SullivanJJ@]
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 08:40 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Rhodes, Benjamin J.; Vietor, Tommy; **STATE PA** , Nuland, Victoria J
Subject: FW: Revised HPSCI Talking Points for Review

Skinnying list. I do not understand the nature of this exercise. And some of the statements below are new by me. Can we have a conversation before this goes out?

From: Adams, David S
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 8:39 PM
To: Nuland, Victoria J; NSC Deputy Press Secretary; *CIA OPA* ; Shawn.Turner@c ; *CIA OPA*
Rhodes, Benjamin J.; **NSS, WH PRESS** ; **STATE PA** ; Sullivan, Jacob J
Cc: *CIA OCA*
Subject: RE: Revised HPSCI Talking Points for Review

I'm with Toria. The last bullet especially will read to members like we had been repeatedly warned.

From: Nuland, Victoria J
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 7:39 PM
To: Nuland, Victoria J; NSC Deputy Press Secretary; *CIA OPA*; Shawn.Turner@; *CIA OPA*; STATE PA; Sullivan, Jacob J;
Rhodes, Benjamin J.; **NSS, WH PRESS**
Adams, David S
Cc: **CIA OCA**
Subject: RE: Revised HPSCI Talking Points for Review

I just had a convo with *CIA OPA*, and I now understand that these are being prepared to give to Members of Congress to use with the media.

On that basis, I have serious concerns about all the parts highlighted below, and arming members of Congress to start making assertions to the media that we ourselves are not making because we don't want to prejudice the investigation.

In same vein, why do we want Hill to be fingering Ansar al Sharia, when we aren't doing that ourselves until we have investigation results... and the penultimate point could be abused by Members to beat the State Department for not paying attention to Agency warnings so why do we want to feed that either? Concerned...

+Jake Sullivan, Dave Adams here

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Nuland, Victoria J
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 7:16 PM
To: NSC Deputy Press Secretary; *CIA OPA*; Shawn.Turner@; *CIA OPA*; Rhodes, Benjamin J.;
NSS, WH PRESS **STATE PA**
Cc: **CIA OCA**
Subject: RE: Revised HPSCI Talking Points for Review

Are these for open or closed hearing? If open, the line about "knowing" there were extremists among the demonstrators will come back to us at podium – how do we know, who were they, etc... So I'll need answers to those if we deploy that line, tx.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Vietor, Tommy [<mailto:Thomas.F.Vietor@>]
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 6:48 PM
To: *CIA OPA*; Shawn.Turner@; *CIA OPA*; Rhodes, Benjamin J.; **NSS PRESS,**
WH PRESS Nuland, Victoria J; **STATE PA**
Cc: **CIA OCA**
Subject: RE: Revised HPSCI Talking Points for Review

FYI, Brennan will have edits. Im waiting for those.

From: CIA OPA
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 6:43 PM
To: Shawn.Turner@CIA.OPA; Viotor, Tommy; Rhodes, Benjamin J.; NSS PRESS,
WH PRESS; nulandvj@STATE.PA
Cc: CIA OCA
Subject: RE: Revised HPSCI Talking Points for Review

Looping in State. I think that's a good adjustment.

From: Shawn S Turner
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 6:41 PM
To: CIA OPA; Viotor, Tommy; Rhodes, Benjamin J.; NSS, WH PRESS
Cc: CIA OCA
Subject: RE: Revised HPSCI Talking Points for Review

I've been very careful not to say we issued a warning. Any concerns with adjusting the first highlighted line to say:

- On 10 September we notified Embassy Cairo of social media reports calling for a demonstration and encouraging jihadists to break into the Embassy.

From: CIA OPA
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 6:24 PM
To: Viotor, Tommy; Rhodes, Benjamin J.; NSS, WH PRESS
Cc: CIA OPA; Shawn S Turner
Subject: RE: Revised HPSCI Talking Points for Review

Thanks very much for your prompt response, Tommy.

Will send over to STATE.

CIA OPA

From: Viotor, Tommy [mailto:Thomas.F.Viator@CIA.OPA]
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 6:21 PM
To: CIA OPA; Rhodes, Benjamin J.; NSS, WH PRESS
Cc: CIA OPA; Shawn S Turner
Subject: RE: Revised HPSCI Talking Points for Review

CIA OPA, I know you're trying to move these fast so here's an initial round of edits. One small tweak in sentence 3 of bullet 1 for added clarity. Denis would also like to make sure the highlighted portions are full coordinated with the State Department in the event that they get inquiries.

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 Embassy CAIRO and that jihadists were threatening to break into the Embassy. (this is ok as changed above...)

- 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.

From: CIA OPA 1
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 5:09 PM
To: Vietor, Tommy; Rhodes, Benjamin J.; *NSS, WH PRESS*
Cc: *CIA OCA* Shawn.Turner@
Subject: Revised HPSCI Talking Points for Review

Colleagues:

Apologies for the delay.

Please review this revised version:

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- 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
CIA Office of Public Affairs

CIA OPA

From: CIA OPA
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 9:15 PM
To: CIA OCA
Cc: CIA OCA
Subject: FW: Revised HPSCI taking points

Here's where we stand as of this hour.

Everyone has submitted coordination comments.

The State Department had major reservations with much or most of the document. We revised the document with their concerns in mind. The latest version is below, as sent to State.

CIA OPA

From: CIA OPA
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 8:59 PM
To: nulandvic
Cc: CIA OPA, CIA OCA
Subject: Revised HPSCI taking points

Toria:

We further discussed the HPSCI talking points with your comments and concerns in mind.

The FBI did not have major concerns with the points and offered only a couple of minor suggestions.

Here's the latest version of the points. Please let us know your thoughts ASAP.

Thanks,

CIA OPA

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- The investigation is on-going as to who is responsible for the violence, although the crowd almost certainly was a mix of individuals. That being said, there are indications that Islamic extremists participated in the violent demonstrations.

CIA OPA

From: [redacted] FBI PRESS
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 9:19 PM
To: [redacted] CIA OPA 'nulandvj@ [redacted] Thomas F. Vietor [redacted] Shawn S Turner; [redacted] CIA OPA Benjamin J. Rhodes [redacted] NSS PRESS [redacted] NSS PRESS, WH PRESS, STATE PA [redacted] SullivanJJ [redacted] AdamsDS [redacted] FBI PRESS
Cc: [redacted] CIA OPA
Subject: Re: Revised HPSCI Talking Points for Review

Just a question- but separate from the FBI concerns, has DOJ, provided input? They will have to deal with the the prosecution and related legal matters surrounding the federal investigation.

From: [redacted] CIA OPA
To: nulandvj [redacted] <nulandvj@ [redacted] ; Thomas F. Vietor [redacted] Thomas F. Vietor [redacted] Shawn.Turner [redacted] Shawn.Turner [redacted] CIA OPA Benjamin J. Rhodes [redacted] <Benjamin.J.Rhodes [redacted] NSS PRESS [redacted] NSS PRESS, WH PRESS, STATE PA [redacted] SullivanJJ@ [redacted] <SullivanJJ@ [redacted] ; AdamsDS [redacted] <AdamsDS@ [redacted] FBI PRESS [redacted] CIA OCA

Sent: Fri Sep 14 19:52:25 2012
Subject: RE: Revised HPSCI Talking Points for Review

On that very issue, Toria, we are waiting to hear back from the Bureau. CIA OPA

From: Nuland, Victoria J [mailto:nulandvj@ [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 7:39 PM
To: Nuland, Victoria J; NSC Deputy Press Secretary; [redacted] CIA OPA Shawn S Turner [redacted] CIA OPA Rhodes, Benjamin J.; [redacted] NSS PRESS, WH PRESS, STATE PA Sullivan, Jacob J; Adams, David S
Cc: [redacted] CIA OCA
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Jake Sullivan, Dave Adams here

CIA OPA

From: Nuland, Victoria J [nulandvj]
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 9:24 PM
To: CIA OPA
Cc: STATE PA, CIA OPA, CIA OCA
Subject: Re: Revised HPSCI taking points

These don't resolve all my issues or those of my building leadership. They are consulting w NSS.

From: CIA OPA
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Cc: STATE PA, CIA OPA, CIA OCA
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Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 9:24 PM
To: Sullivan, Jacob J
Subject: Fw: Revised HPSCI taking points

Fysa

From: Nuland, Victoria J
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Subject: Re: Revised HPSCI taking points

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CIA DPA
Chief, Media Relations
CIA Office of Public Affairs