

CIA OPA

From: CIA OPA  
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 10:22 PM  
To: FO  
Cc: CIA FO; FO  
Subject: FW: Revised HPSCI taking points

FO - attached below is the latest version of the HPSCI talkers. I will send you another email chain with Ben Rhodes' comment. Cheers, CIA OPA

From: CIA OPA  
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 9:53 PM  
To: OCA; CIA OPA/OCA  
Cc: CIA OCA  
Subject: RE: Revised HPSCI taking points

Nope

From: OCA  
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 9:43 PM  
To: CIA OPA/OCA  
Cc: CIA OCA  
Subject: Re: Revised HPSCI taking points

Thanks CIA OPA  
Fyi FBI says AQ (not AQIM) was involved and they are pursuing that theory.

so we are not ahead of law enforcement now.

So are cleared to send to congress?

From: CIA OPA  
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 09:14 PM  
To: CIA OCA; 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: nulandvi  
Cc: State PA; CIA OPA/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

**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 the Agency notified Embassy Cairo of social media reports calling for a demonstration and encouraging jihadists to break into the Embassy.
- 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.
- 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. 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  
CIA Office of Public Affairs

HPSCI White Paper Talking Points for Use with the Media

14 September 2012

① • 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. <sup>②</sup> This assessment may change as additional information is collected and analyzed and currently available information continues to be evaluated. On 10 September the Agency notified Embassy Cairo of social media reports calling for a demonstration and encouraging jihadists to break into the Embassy.

③ • The investigation is on-going ~~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.~~

- 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. 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.

*and*  
④ • 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.

- NCS
- DI

- Robert Cardillo
- Alaw Piro
- Matt Olsen
- Jake Sullivan
- Mark Giuliano
- Lisa Monaco

*Ben Rhodes*



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From: CIA OTA  
Director, Office of Terrorism Analysis  
[Redacted]  
Subject: Fw: DDCIA tasking - IMMEDIATE - by 1100 today  
Director, Office of Terrorism Analysis(9/15) - coord on TPs for HPSCI  
To: CIA OGC  
Date: 11/21/2012 01:47 PM

This message is digitally signed.

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

CIA OTA  
Director, Office of Terrorism Analysis  
[Redacted]

Just to complete the loop.

--- Forwarded by CIA OTA on 11/21/2012 01:45 PM ---

From: CIA OTA  
To: [Redacted]  
Cc: CIA DI, NE  
Date: 09/15/2012 09:49 AM  
Subject: Re: Fw: DDCIA tasking - IMMEDIATE - by 1100 today (9/15) - coord on TPs for HPSCI

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They are fine with me. But, pretty sure HPSCI won't like them. :-)

CIA OTA  
Director, Office of Terrorism Analysis  
[Redacted]

DI Classification: UNCLASSIFIED 09/15/2012 09:47:46 AM

From: DI  
To: PI  
CIA OTA NE  
Cc: DI  
Date: 09/15/2012 09:47 AM  
Subject: Fw: DDCIA tasking - IMMEDIATE - by 1100 today (9/15) - coord on TPs for HPSCI

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Hi,

Please let us know if you have any comments by 10:30.

Thanks!

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DI  
Executive Assistant to the DI Front Office

[Redacted]

— Forwarded by DI on 09/15/2012 09:46 AM —

From: DDCFA FO  
To: NCS, FO  
Cc: NCS CIA FO  
DI, NCS

Date: 09/15/2012 09:45 AM  
Subject: DDCIA tasking – IMMEDIATE – by 1100 today (9/15) – coord on TPs for HPSCI

DDCIA requests right away internal coordination on the enclosed unclass TPs for HPSCI. Please respond ASAP.

Thanks,  
DDCIA-FO

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**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 as currently available information continues to be evaluated.
- The investigation is on-going, and the US Government is working with Libyan authorities to bring to justice those responsible for the deaths of US citizens.

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From: Matthew G. Olsen      Subject: [AIN] FW: Unclassified Talking Points  
Date: 09/15/2012 11:09 AM      To: MICHAELJM

Please respond to "Matthew G. Olsen"

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History:                      This message has been forwarded.



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CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED



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Michael -- TPs sent to Ruppertsberger from ODNI leg.

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

From:  NCTC/OLA  
Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2012 10:51 AM  
To: Nicholas J Rasmussen; Matthew G. Olsen  
Cc:  NCTC  
Subject: Unclassified Talking Points

Sirs - Here is what we sent Heather Molino (Ruppertsberger).  
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It's very early, less than 72 hours since the attack. So there is a lot we don't know.

As time progresses, we are learning more, but we still don't have a complete picture of what happened. Fortunately we have the FBI leading the investigation of the attack. Regrettably they have all too much experience in these matters.

At this point, we are not aware of any actionable intelligence that this attack was planned or imminent. The intelligence community is combing through reporting from before and after the attack to determine the full extent of who was involved.

Libya is awash in weapons - unconventional weapons were stored in unsecured locations across the country. Following the revolution, there are still many

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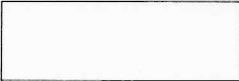
well-armed militia remaining.

Since the revolution, we have some indicators al-Qa'ida and other groups are seeking to establish a presence in Libya. Remember some senior al-Qa'ida members such as Abu Yahya al-Libi came from Libya.

We are very cautious about drawing any firm conclusions at this point with regard to the identification and motivation of the attackers. The IC is working aggressively to this end, and the FBI will continue its investigation.

Unrest in the Middle East creates a permissive environment for terrorists. In the days and weeks ahead, we need to be especially vigilant in protecting our people.

--- NCTC/OLA  
Legislative Liaison  
Office of the Director  
of National Intelligence



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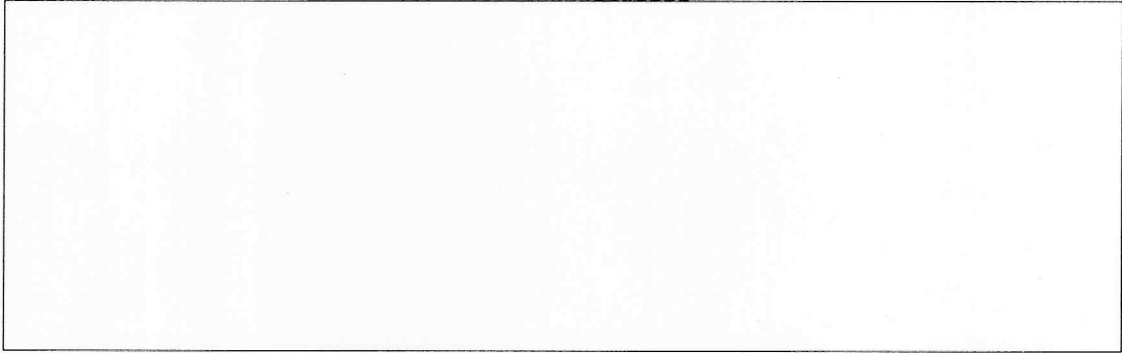
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From: Rhodes, Benjamin J. Subject: [AIN] RE:  
 Date: 09/15/2012 11:12 AM To: 'michaelm [redacted] Robert.Cardillo [redacted]  
 alanrp [redacted] matt.olsen [redacted]  
 sullivanj [redacted] mark.giuliano [redacted]  
 Cc: CIA OCA/OPA  
 FO CIA FO

Please respond to "Rhodes, Benjamin J."

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This is good by me.

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

From: michaelm [redacted] [mailto:michaelm [redacted]]  
 Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2012 11:08 AM  
 To: Robert.Cardillo [redacted] alanrp [redacted] matt.olsen [redacted]  
 sullivanj [redacted]; mark.giuliano [redacted] Rhodes, Benjamin J.;  
 jcincli [redacted] lisa.monaco [redacted]  
 Cc: CIA OCA/OPA CIA FO  
 Subject:

Per the discussion at Deputies, here are the revised TPs for HPSCI. Let me know what you think.

--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. There are indications that extremists participated in the violent demonstrations.

--This assessment may change as additional information is collected and analyzed and as currently available information continues to be evaluated.

--The investigation is on-going, and the US Government is working with Libyan authorities to bring to justice those responsible for the deaths US citizens.

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From: Matthew G. Olsen      Subject: [AIN] RE:  
 Date: 09/15/2012 11:15 AM      To: 'Rhodes, Benjamin J.', MICHAELM, Robert Cardillo, Alan  
    R Pino, sullivanj, mark.giuliano  
    jcingl, lisa.monacc  
 Cc: CIA OCA/OPA, CIA FO

Please respond to "Matthew G. Olsen"

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Michael -- This looks good to me.

-Matt

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These are the points that ONDI leg sent to Ruppertsberger yesterday afternoon based on his request:

It's very early, less than 72 hours since the attack. So there is a lot we don't know.

As time progresses, we are learning more, but we still don't have a complete picture of what happened. Fortunately we have the FBI leading the investigation of the attack. Regrettably they have all too much experience in these matters.

At this point, we are not aware of any actionable intelligence that this attack was planned or imminent. The intelligence community is combing through reporting from before and after the attack to determine the full extent of who was involved.

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