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From: [redacted] Subject: FOIA Request Reviews - 2013-1612-DOS
NCTC/DOS/FO To: [redacted]
Chief of Staff
unclassified: [redacted]
classified: [redacted]
Date: 12/05/2013 03:26 PM

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Please see below for NCTC/DOS' inputs to the FOIA Request under Tasking 2013-1612-DOS. If you have any questions, please contact [redacted] as I will be out of the office on Friday returning on Monday, 9 December.

Thanks,

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[redacted]

Chief of Staff
Directorate of Operations Support (DOS)
classified: [redacted]

unclassified: [redacted]

----- Forwarded by [redacted] on 12/05/2013 03:24 PM -----

Regarding second item on Turkish Consul Ali Sait Akin, NCTOC found the follow two articles [redacted] from 8 March 2013 and 26 October 2012:

Media Highlights Friday, 08 March 2013 56. Benghazi cover-up continues, nearly six months later Una...
Media Highlights Friday, 08 March 2013 56. Benghazi cover-up continues, nearly six months later
Unanswered questions linger on 9/11 attacks James A. Lyons, Washington Times, 08 March 2013
One of the hopeful outcomes of the Senate confirmation hearings for John Brennan to be director of the Central Intelligence Agency and Chuck Hagel to be the secretary of Defense was to gain some concrete answers to the Benghazi tragedy. So far, though, no additional useful information has been released. Further, the testimony of former Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey on Feb. 7 before the Senate Armed Services Committee only raised more questions. The cloud of a cover-up continues.
In that sense, much of the focus by the various congressional committees has been on "who made the changes to the talking points" used by our UN Ambassador Susan Rice on her marathon Sunday interviews in September. Though important, this question diverts attention away from the key issues. For example, what activity was actually being conducted at our Benghazi Special Mission Compound (SMC)? Was it involved in transferring arms to Syrian rebels and al Qaeda-affiliated militias fighting Russia's key ally in the Middle East, Bashar al-Assad?
The out-of-control security situation in Eastern Libya including Benghazi was well known. After an assassination attempt on the UK ambassador in June, the Brits closed their Benghazi consulate, as did the International Red Cross. We had a bomb go off at our Benghazi SMC compound on June 6. We know Ambassador Christopher J. Stevens put out a classified message on Aug. 16 stating that the SMC could not be defended and requesting additional security personnel, but he was turned down.
With the deteriorating security situation in Benghazi, why did Stevens find it necessary to be there on the 11th anniversary of Sept. 11 when we know he feared for his safety? Having dinner with the Turkish

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Consul General **Ali Sait Akin** is not a compelling reason. Further, on that day, there were tactical warning signs that something was not right. Even the Blue Mountain Security manager of the February 17 Martyrs Brigade that was contracted to provide security for the SMC sensed that "something" was wrong and put out an alert on both his radios and cell phone. We know one of the local policemen who was assigned to guard the SMC was found taking pictures of the inside of the compound, and a memo later found written by Stevens shows he found this to be "troubling." We know roadblocks were established by the Ansar al-Shariah militia who carried out the assault hours before the attack.

Was Stevens targeted to be killed, or was he supposed to be taken hostage in exchange for the return of the Blind Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman? We know his body was taken to the hospital controlled by the militia that carried out the attack. Why?

The Accountability Review Board appointed by then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton provided few answers. It was like having the mafia investigate a crime scene.

Why there was no military response remains an open question. According to testimony given by then-Secretary Panetta, President Obama ordered the Defense Department to respond to the attack with "all available DOD assets." Implicit within such an order is the authority for cross-border operations (CBO). With that directive, subsequent statements by the secretary of Defense and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff explaining why military forces could not be deployed in time to assist our ambassador and his staff with their cries for help were simply not credible.

It is understood that a "stand down order" was given. General David Petraeus has stated no such order came from the CIA. As Americans, we don't leave our people under duress on the battlefield. The American people need to know if such an order was given and by whom.

The chairman's statement that it would have taken 20 hours to deploy aircraft from Aviano, Italy, to Benghazi is simply not true. We had two squadrons of F-16 fighter aircraft stationed at Aviano. As part of their normal allowed 10 minutes to "hot-refuel," the F-16s could have arrived over Benghazi in 90 minutes. There is no question they would have made a difference. Tanker aircraft could have followed the F-16s, which would have permitted them to remain on station over Benghazi for hours. They may not have been able to save Stevens or Sean Smith, but they certainly could have saved our two Navy SEALs, Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty. They would have carried out attacks on the jihadist that Woods had illuminated with his laser, instead of allowing Woods and Doherty to become the targets.

We also had the Marine fully armed 130-man Force-Recon Team at Sigonella, Italy, which could have been in Benghazi in a few hours. Also, why was no request made to the Turkish and Italian consulates or the UK Benghazi security team to provide assistance?

Clearly, the cover-up on Benghazi continues. Further, no action has been taken to capture or kill those responsible for the attack. Personnel rescued from the SMC and the CIA annex have been held incommunicado. Congress must find the courage to appoint a Special Prosecutor with appropriate staff and subpoena authority to call in all personnel involved, including those rescued, and make them testify under oath. Nothing less is acceptable.

Retired Adm. James A. Lyons was commander in chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet and senior U.S. military representative to the United Nations.

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Media Highlights Friday, 26 October 2012 UNCLASSIFIED Page 53 of 120 24. Was Syrian weapons s...
Media Highlights Friday, 26 October 2012 UNCLASSIFIED Page 53 of 120 24. Was Syrian weapons shipment factor in ambassador's Benghazi visit ? Catherine Herridge, Pamela Browne, FOXNews.com, 25 October 2012

A mysterious Libyan ship -- reportedly carrying weapons and bound for Syrian rebels -- may have some link to the Sept. 11 terror attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Fox News has learned.

Through shipping records, Fox News has confirmed that the Libyan-flagged vessel Al Entisar, which means "The Victory," was received in the Turkish port of Iskenderun -- 35 miles from the Syrian border -- on Sept. 6, just five days before Ambassador Chris Stevens, information management officer Sean Smith and former Navy SEALs Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty were killed during an extended assault by more than 100 Islamist militants.

On the night of Sept. 11, in what would become his last known public meeting, Stevens met with the

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Turkish Consul General **Ali Sait Akin**, and escorted him out of the consulate front gate one hour before the assault began at approximately 9:35 p.m. local time.

Although what was discussed at the meeting is not public, a source told Fox News that Stevens was in Benghazi to negotiate a weapons transfer, an effort to get SA-7 missiles out of the hands of Libya-based extremists. And although the negotiation said to have taken place may have had nothing to do with the attack on the consulate later that night or the Libyan mystery ship, it could explain why Stevens was travelling in such a volatile region on the 11th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

When asked to comment, a State Department spokeswoman dismissed the idea, saying Stevens was there for diplomatic meetings, and to attend the opening of a cultural center.

A congressional source also cautioned against drawing premature conclusions about the consulate attack and the movement of weapons from Libya to Syria via Turkey -- noting they may in fact be two separate and distinct events. But the source acknowledged the timing and the meeting between the Turkish diplomat and Stevens was "unusual."

According to an initial Sept. 14 report by the Times of London, Al Entisar was carrying 400 tons of cargo. Some of it was humanitarian, but also reportedly weapons, described by the report as the largest consignment of weapons headed for Syria's rebels on the frontlines.

"This is the Libyan ship ... which is basically carrying weapons that are found in Libya," said Walid Phares, a Fox News Middle East and terrorism analyst. "So the ship came all the way up to Iskenderun in Turkey. Now from the information that is available, there was aid material, but there were also weapons, a lot of weapons."

The cargo reportedly included surface-to-air anti-aircraft missiles, RPG's and Russian-designed shoulder-launched missiles known as MANPADS.

The ship's Libyan captain told the Times of London that "I can only talk about the medicine and humanitarian aid" for the Syrian rebels. It was reported there was a fight about the weapons and who got what "between the free Syrian Army and the Muslim Brotherhood."

"The point is that both of these weapons systems are extremely accurate and very simple to use," Fox News military analyst Col. David Hunt explained. He said the passage of weapons from Libya to Syria would escalate the conflict. "With a short amount of instruction, you've got somebody capable of taking down any, any aircraft. Anywhere in the world."

The Foundation for Human Rights, and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief (IHH) -- the group accused of moving the weapons -- disputed the claims and in published Turkish reports said it "will take legal action against this article which was written without concrete evidence. It is defamatory, includes false and unfair accusations and violates publishing ethics." Information uncovered in a Fox News investigation raises questions about whether weapons used to arm the Libyan rebels are now surfacing in Syria.

In March 2011, the Reuters news service first reported that President Obama had authorized a "secret order ... (allowing) covert U.S. government support for rebel forces" to push the Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi from office.

At a hearing on March 31, before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, several lawmakers raised concerns about the finding reported by the Reuters news service and whether the Obama administration knew who constituted the rebel forces and whether Islamists were among their ranks.

"What assurances do we have that they will not pose a threat to the United States if they succeed in toppling Qaddafi?" Republican Chairwoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., asked. "There are reports that some opposition figures have links to Al Qaeda and extremist groups that have fought against our forces in Iraq."

While the source of the weapons used to attack the consulate is part of an ongoing investigation, former CIA Director Porter Goss told Fox News there was no question some of the weapons that flooded Libya during the uprising are making their way to Syria -- adding that the U.S. intelligence community must be aware, given their presence in Benghazi.

"Absolutely. I think there's no question that there's a lot of networking going on. And ... of course we know it."

A month after the October 2011 death of Qaddafi, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced in Tripoli that the U.S. was committing \$40 million to help Libya "secure and recover its weapons stockpiles." Earlier this year, Assistant Secretary of State for Political and Military Affairs Andrew Shapiro expressed concerns that the situation on the ground was far from under control.

Speaking to the Stimson Center in Washington D.C., on Feb. 2, Shapiro said: "This raises the question -- how many are still missing? The frank answer is we don't know and probably never will."

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