

CIA OPA

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

Colleagues:

Apologies for the delay.

Please review this revised version:

**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 the Embassy and that jihadists were threatening to break into the Embassy.
- 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.

Thanks,

CIA
OPA

Chief, Media Relations

CIA OPA

From: Vietor, Tommy [Thomas_F_Vietor [redacted]]
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 5:10 PM
To: CIA OPA Rhodes, Benjamin J.; NSS PRESS
WN PRESS
Cc: CIA OCA Shawn S Turner
Subject: RE: Revised HPSCI Talking Points for Review

Thanks. Will vet here now.

From: CIA OPA [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 5:09 PM
To: Vietor, Tommy; Rhodes, Benjamin J.; NSS PRESS, WN PRESS
Cc: CIA OCA Shawn Turner [redacted]
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From: CIA OPA
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 5:20 PM
To: FBI PRESS
Cc: CIA OPA
Subject: FW: Revised HPSCI Talking Points for Review

Colleagues:

FYI.

These are talking points for HPSCI's use with the media. They asked the DCIA for them today.

White House is reviewing and DNI is aware.

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Chief, Media Relations
CIA Office of Public Affairs

From: CIA OPA
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 5:09 PM
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Cc: CIA OPA Shawn S Turner
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Chief, Media Relations
CIA Office of Public Affairs

CIA OPA

From: CIA OPA
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 6:04 PM
To: CIA OPA, FBI Press
Cc: CIA OCA
Subject: RE: Revised HPSCI Talking Points for Review

Colleagues:

I'm told that Chairman Rogers intends to use these talking points on Sunday.

Kindly respond to this note indicating that you've reviewed these talking points ASAP.

Thanks,

CIA OPA

From: CIA OPA
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 5:20 PM
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Cc: CIA OCA
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CIA Office of Public Affairs

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

Colleagues:

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Please review this revised version:

CIA OPA

From: Viator, Tommy [Thomas_F_Viator [redacted]]
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 6:21 PM
To: CIA OPA Rhodes, Benjamin J.; NSS PRESS
WNA PRESS
Cc: CIA OCA 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.

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To: Viator, Tommy; Rhodes, Benjamin J.; NSS PRESS, WNA PRESS
Cc: CIA OCA Shawn Turner
Subject: Revised HPSCI Talking Points for Review

Colleagues:

CIA OPA

From: CIA OPA
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 6:24 PM
To: Vietor, Tommy; Rhodes, Benjamin J.; NSS 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: Vietor, Tommy [mailto:Thomas_F_Vietor@cia.gov]
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 6:21 PM
To: CIA OPA; Rhodes, Benjamin J.; NSS PRESS, WH PRESS
Cc: CIA OPA; Shawn S Turner
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CIA OPA

From: CIA OPA
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 6:33 PM
To: nulandvj; STATE OCA, STATE PA
Cc: CIA OCA
Subject: HPSCI Talking Points for review

Colleagues:

HPSCI requested these talkers from the DCIA this morning.

The White House has reviewed them and wanted to ensure that you saw them – especially the portions highlighted by the White House.

Kindly indicate that you have reviewed these points. We are planning on transmitting them to the Hill tonight.

Thanks,

CIA OPA

HPSCI White Paper Talking Points for Use with the Media
14 September 2012

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CIA OPA

From: Shawn S Turner
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 6:41 PM
To: CIA OPA; Vietor, Tommy; Rhodes, Benjamin J.; NSS PRESS
Cc: WH PRESS, 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
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To: CIA OPA; Rhodes, Benjamin J.; NSS PRESS, WH PRESS
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From: [CIA OPA]
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 6:43 PM
To: Shawn S Turner; [CIA OPA] Vietor, Tommy; Rhodes, Benjamin J.; [NSS PRESS]
Cc: [WH PRESS]
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] Vietor, Tommy; Rhodes, Benjamin J.; [NSS PRESS, WH PRESS]
Cc: [CIA OPA]
Subject: RE: Revised HPSCI Talking Points for Review

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Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 6:21 PM
To: [CIA OPA] Rhodes, Benjamin J.; [NSS PRESS, WH PRESS]
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