

House Oversight and Government Reform Committee

Benghazi Testimony of Gregory Hicks, Eric Nordstrom, Mark Thompson

May 8th, 2013

Transcript and timeline from: <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/clip/4450482>

00:00:00	KNOW WHO ALL THEY INTERVIEWED AND WE DON'T KNOW A LOT ABOUT WHAT WENT INTO THAT FINAL REPORT AND YOU CAN'T TELL US WHY CLINTON, THE LINE OFFICER OF DUTY, WASN'T INTERVIEWED BY THEM.
00:00:12	>> LOOK, WE'VE SPOKEN AT LENGTH AT THIS.
00:00:14	I'M NOT SURE THERE'S A QUESTION IN THERE.
00:00:17	>>> THAT BRIEFING FROM EARLIER THIS WEEK AND THE HOUSE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE WILL HOLD ANOTHER HEARING TODAY ABOUT THE DEADLY ASSAULT ON THE U.
00:00:26	S. DIPLOMAT MISSION IN BENGHAZI.
00:00:27	LIVE THIS MORNING AT THE RAY BURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING ON CAPITOL HILL FOR THAT HEARING.
00:00:31	WITNESSES TODAY INCLUDE THE FORMER DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION IN LIBYA AND A FORMER REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER IN THAT COUNTRY.
00:00:38	THE ATTACK ON SEPTEMBER 11 th OF LAST YEAR KILLED AMBASSADOR CHRISTOPHER STEVENS AND THREE OTHER AMERICANS.
00:00:46	TWO OF TODAY'S WITNESSES HAVE ALREADY TESTIFIED IN PRIVATE BEFORE THE COMMITTEE.
00:01:25	AGAIN, WAIT YOU FOR THIS HEARING TO GET UNDER WAY.
00:01:27	EARLIER TODAY WE SPOKE WITH A REPORTER WHO TOLD US WHAT TO EXPECT.
00:01:46	>> WE WILL TALK ABOUT BENGHAZI, THE COMMITTEE WILL HAVE A HEARING TODAY ON ITS INVESTIGATION INTO THE BENGHAZI ATTACKS WITH WHISTLE-BLOWERS FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT.
00:01:56	JULIAN, WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF TODAY'S HEARING?
00:01:58	>> RIGHT.
00:01:59	WELL, TODAY'S HEARING IS GOING TO BE VERY IMPORTANT.
00:02:01	IT COMES ON THE HEELS OF A MONTH AGO DARRELL ISSA'S COMMITTEE LOOKED AT BENGHAZI, WHERE THEY ARE IN THEIR INVESTIGATION.
00:02:13	AND THIS IS GOING TO BE THE SECOND HEARING FOR THEM.
00:02:17	AND SINCE LAST OCTOBER AND SINCE THEN A NUMBER OF WHISTLE-BLOWERS HAVE COME FORWARD FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT WITH NEW ALLEGATIONS AND NOTABLY THAT SPECIAL FORCES WERE TOLD TO STAND DOWN AND ACCUSATIONS THAT HILLARY CLINTON WAS PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN TRYING TO SAY THAT THE ATTACK WASN'T A TERRORIST ATTACK.
00:02:37	>> YEAH, OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DARRELL ISSA HAS SAID NO QUESTION OF A COVER UP OF BENGHAZI EVENTS FROM FORMER SECRETARY CLINTON OR HER CIRCLE.
00:02:48	IS SHE THE FOCUS OF TODAY'S HEARING?
00:02:50	>> THAT'S A VERY GOOD QUESTION.
00:02:51	OBVIOUSLY, THIS IS A WOMAN WHO IS SEEN AS THE DEMOCRATIC FRONT-RUNNER, SHOULD SHE DECIDE TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT IN 2016.
00:02:59	AND, YOU KNOW, SO THERE IS POLITICS INVOLVED IN ALL OF THIS, REPUBLICANS ARE SAYING THAT THEY'RE LOOKING AT THE INFORMATION, WHEREVER IT MAY LEAD.
00:03:08	THE BOTTOM LINE THOUGH IS THAT WHEN MS.
00:03:10	CLINTON TESTIFIED BACK IN JANUARY SHE WAS LARGELY SEEN AS HAVING BASICALLY BEEN ABLE TO OBSOLVE.
00:03:26	SHE SEEMED TO HAVE WEATHERED THE STORM WHEN SHE TESTIFIED IN JANUARY.
00:03:28	NOW NEW ALLEGATIONS FROM SENIOR PEOPLE IN HER OWN STATE DEPARTMENT, THEY WERE IN VERY HIGH POSITIONS OF POWER IN LIBYA AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACK ARE KIND OF BRINGING HER BACK INTO THIS.
00:03:39	SO, YES, IT'S GOING TO BE VERY MUCH FOCUSED ON HILLARY CLINTON, HER TOP LIEUTENANTS AND HER ROLE IN ALL OF THIS.
00:03:48	>> CONGRESSMAN IS A REPUBLICAN OF UTAH WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE SAID THE WITNESSES TODAY, THESE THREE WHISTLE-BLOWERS, ARE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO TESTIFY THAT

	HAVE BEEN SUPPRESSED.
00:04:00	WHO ARE THEY?
00:04:01	WHAT WILL THEY BE SAYING?
00:04:02	>> WELL, THERE'S THREE OF THEM.
00:04:04	THEY'RE ALL FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT.
00:04:05	WE ALSO KNOW OF ANOTHER SO-CALLED WHISTLE-BLOWER FROM THE CIA, BUT THAT PERSON WILL NOT BE TESTIFYING.
00:04:12	ONE OF THE PEOPLE TESTIFYING TODAY ACTUALLY TESTIFIED BACK IN OCTOBER.
00:04:16	THIS IS ERIC NORDSTROM, DIPLOMATIC SECURITY OFFICER.
00:04:20	HE WAS THE TOP SECURITY OFFICER IN THE COUNTRY IN THE MONTHS LEADING UP TO THE ATTACKS.
00:04:25	AND HE MADE A LOT OF HEADLINES BACK DURING THE FIRST HEARINGS BACK IN OCTOBER WHEN HE BASICALLY SAID THAT THE TALIBAN WERE ON THE INSIDE, HIS WORDS, INSIDE OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT, MEANING THAT A LOT OF THE CALL FOR BEEFED UP SECURITY WERE TURNED DOWN BY HIS OWN HIERARCHY.
00:04:42	SO HE WAS PRETTY BITTER ABOUT THAT AND MADE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR WHEN HE TESTIFIED.
00:04:47	TWO OTHER PEOPLE TESTIFYING IS GREGORY HICKS.
00:04:49	THIS IS THE MAN WHO BECAME IN EFFECT THE TOP U.
00:04:54	S. DIPLOMAT IN LIBYA WHEN THE AMBASSADOR CHRISTOPHER STEVEN WAS KILLED ON SEPTEMBER 11th.
00:05:00	OBVIOUSLY A VERY HIGH RANKING MEMBER OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS OVER THERE.
00:05:03	LIKE I SAID, HE BECAME THE TOP PERSON THERE.
00:05:08	AND HE TALKED TO CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS LAST MONTH, THE ISSA COMMITTEE HAS BEEN RELEASING THINGS WHAT HE TOLD THEM AT THE TIME TO MAKE IT A CASE.
00:05:21	AND HE TOLD THEM THAT -- WELL, TWO THINGS.
00:05:27	ONE THAT HE FELT VERY STRONGLY THAT IF THEY HAVE BEEN SCRAMBLED NOT TO ATTACK THE ATTACKERS BUT TO FLY OVER THEM IT COULD HAVE SCARED THEM AWAY AND MAYBE LIVES WOULD HAVE BEEN SAVED.
00:05:37	HE ALSO SAID A SECURITY TEAM IN TRIPOLI WAS ON ITS WAY TO BENGHAZI AND WAS TOLD IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS TO BACK DOWN.
00:05:46	AND THAT'S NEWS.
00:05:47	NOBODY KNEW THAT.
00:05:48	THAT'S VERY IMPORTANT.
00:05:51	NOW, THE PLANE THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN ON ENDED UP LEAVING AFTER THE ATTACKS WERE OVER.
00:05:54	IT'S NOT CLEAR IF ANYBODY WOULD HAVE BEEN SAVED.
00:05:56	BUT STILL, THIS IS THE FIRST ALLEGATION WE'VE HEARD THAT A SECURITY TEAM WAS ASKED TO STAND DOWN DURING THE ATTACK.
00:06:03	AND THE THIRD PERSON IS MARK THOMPSON.
00:06:05	HE WAS THE DEPUTY COORDINATOR FOR OPERATIONS IN THE COUNTER TERRORISM BUREAU.
00:06:11	AND MARK THOMPSON SUPPOSEDLY WILL TESTIFY TODAY THAT HILLARY CLINTON WAS INVOLVED IN TRYING TO DEPICT THE ATTACK OR SOMETHING OTHER THAN TERRORISM.
00:06:21	>> WHAT WILL THE DEMOCRATS RESPONSE IN TODAY'S HEARING?
00:06:26	WHAT WILL WE HEAR FROM THEM?
00:06:27	>> WELL, THE TOP DEMOCRAT ON THE COMMITTEE, CUMMINGS, HAS BEEN VERY -- HE'S BEEN RESERVED IN HIS JUDGMENT IN ALL OF THIS.
00:06:35	WE HE HASN'T TRIED TO ATTACK ANYBODY.
00:06:39	HE'S BASICALLY SAID THAT -- HE SUGGESTED STRONGLY THIS IS POLITICIZED.
00:06:43	AND HIS MAIN COMPLAINT HAS BEEN THAT THE DEMOCRATS HAVEN'T HAD ANY ACCESS TO THESE WITNESSES.
00:06:48	SO THEY'RE SEEING THE ACCUSATION, THE ALLEGATIONS, AT THE SAME TIME AS THE MEDIA IS GETTING THEM.
00:06:54	LIKE I SAID, HE DREW DRAFTS FROM ISSA'S COMMITTEE.
00:06:58	THAT OBVIOUSLY MAKES HIM THINK THAT ISSA IS OUT TO GET CLINTON AND OTHER PEOPLE IN THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION HERE.
00:07:05	>> JULIAN, FOREIGN AFFAIRS REPORTER WITH THE HILL.
00:07:08	THANK YOU, SIR, FOR YOUR TIME.
00:07:11	>> THANK YOU. TAKE CARE.
00:07:12	>> AND COMMITTEE CHAIR GENERAL ISSA ARRIVED FOR THE START OF THE HEARING.
00:07:18	WE DO EXPECT IT TO GET UNDER WAY SHORTLY.
00:07:21	THREE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WILL BE ANSWERING QUESTIONS BEFORE THIS HOUSE

	OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON THE BENGHAZI CONSULATE ATTACK.
00:07:28	TWO HAVE ALREADY TESTIFIED IN PRIVATE BEFORE THE COMMITTEE, TELLING OFFICIALS ON THE GROUND THAT THEY THEY BELIEVED THEY WERE UNDER ATTACK BY TERRORISTS AND REFUSED AIR SUPPORT WHEN REQUESTED.
00:07:39	A THIRD ONE IS EXPECTED TO SAY THE STATE DEPARTMENT COUNTER TERRORISM OFFICIALS WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE RESPONSE EFFORT.
00:07:44	SEPTEMBER 11th ATTACK LAST YEAR KILLED U.
00:07:47	S. AMBASSADOR CHRISTOPHER STEVENS AND THREE OTHER AMERICANS.
00:08:32	>>> THE HEARING WILL COME TO ORDER.
00:08:36	THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE EXISTS TO SECURE TWO FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES.
00:08:41	FIRST, AMERICANS HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW THAT THE MONEY WASHINGTON TAKES FROM THEM IS WELL SPENT.
00:08:48	SECOND, AMERICANS DESERVE AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT THAT WORKS FOR THEM.
00:08:52	OUR DUTY ON THE OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMITTEE IS TO PROTECT THESE RIGHTS.
00:08:56	OUR SOLEMN SPONIBILITY IS TO HOLD GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE TO TAXPAYERS BECAUSE THE TAXPAYERS HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW WHAT THEY GET FROM THEIR GOVERNMENT.
00:09:05	OUR OBLIGATION IS TO WORK TIRELESSLY WITH CITIZEN WATCHDOGS AND WHISTLE-BLOWERS TO DELIVER THE FACTS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND BRING GENUINE REFORM TO THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY.
00:09:25	ON SEPTEMBER 11th, 2012, FOUR AMERICANS WERE MURDERED BY TERRORISTS.
00:09:30	IT WAS THE 11th ANNIVERSARY OF THE 9/11 TERRORIST ATTACKS ON NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON.
00:09:40	RECOGNIZING THAT THE WITNESSES BEFORE US ARE ACTUAL EXPERTS ON WHAT REALLY HAPPENED BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER THE BENGHAZI ATTACKS, I'M NOT GOING TO RECOUNT THOSE EVENTS OR DECISIONS.
00:09:55	THESE WITNESSES DESERVE TO BE HEARD ON THE BENGHAZI ATTACKS, THE FLAWS IN THE ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD'S METHODOLOGY, PROCESS, AND CONCLUSION.
00:10:08	BEFORE I INTRODUCE THESE WITNESSES AND EXPLAIN SOME OF OUR EFFORT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED IN BENGHAZI, COULD WE HAVE THOSE DOORS CLOSED, PLEASE?
00:10:20	I WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO REFLECT ON AND TO RECOGNIZE THE BRAVE AMERICANS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THAT ATTACK THAT DAY.
00:10:32	I ALSO WANT TO NOTE THAT THERE ARE FRIENDS AND IMMEDIATE FAMILY OF THOSE KILLED OR INJURED THAT ARE WITH US HERE TODAY.
00:10:44	JAY CHRISTOPHER STEVENS, U.
00:10:48	S. AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA, SEAN PATRICK SMITH, INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST, TYRONE WOODS, SECURITY SPECIALIST AND FORMER NAVY S.
00:11:02	E.A.L., GLEN DOUGHERTY, SECURITY SPECIALIST AND FORMER NAVY S.
00:11:14	E.A.L. OUR GOAL IN THIS INVESTIGATION IS TO GET ANSWERS BECAUSE THEIR FAMILIES DESERVE ANSWERS.
00:11:22	THEY WERE PROMISED ANSWERS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL WHEN THEIR BODIES CAME HOME, THE PRESIDENT WAS THERE, THE VICE PRESIDENT WAS THERE, THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WAS THERE, THE SECRETARY OF STATE WAS THERE.
00:11:40	WE WANT TO MAKE CERTAIN THOSE PROMISES ARE KEPT ON BEHALF OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS.
00:11:47	WE WANT TO MAKE CERTAIN OUR GOVERNMENT LEARNS LESSONS FROM THIS TRAGEDY SO IT NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN AND SO THAT THE RIGHT PEOPLE ARE HELD ACCOUNTABLE.
00:11:58	I WANT THOSE WATCHING THIS PROCEEDING TO KNOW THAT WE MADE EXTENSIVE EFFORTS TO ENGAGE THE ADMINISTRATION AND TO SEE AND HEAR THEIR FACTS.
00:12:09	THE ADMINISTRATION, HOWEVER, HAS NOT BEEN COOPERATIVE AND UNFORTUNATELY OUR MINORITY HAS MOSTLY SAT SILENT AS WE MADE THESE REQUESTS.
00:12:19	SOME EXAMPLES.
00:12:20	ON FEBRUARY 22nd, THIS COMMITTEE WROTE TO AMBASSADOR PICKERING AND ADMIRAL MULLEN, WHO, AS REQUIRED BY LAW, WERE APPOINTED BY SECRETARY CLINTON AND CO-CHAIR THE ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD INVESTIGATION.
00:12:35	WE ASKED THEM TO TESTIFY ABOUT THEIR INVESTIGATION AND FINDING FINDINGS.
00:12:44	THEY WERE REFUSE AND MINORITY SAID NOTHING.
00:12:45	WHEN WE ASKED AMBASSADOR PICKERING AND ADMIRAL MULLEN TO SPEAK WITH US AND OUR COMMITTEE INFORMALLY, THEY AGAIN REFUSED AND AGAIN THERE WAS SILENCE.
00:12:57	BY THE MINORITY.
00:12:58	WHEN FIVE HOUSE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN WROTE THE WHITE HOUSE AND REQUESTED RELEVANT DOCUMENTS ABOUT THE BENGHAZI ATTACKS, WE WERE REFUSED.

00:13:08	THE COMMITTEE'S MINORITY DID NOT JOIN IN A SIMILAR CALL FOR TRANSPARENCY, AND I WISH THEY HAD.
00:13:16	ON APRIL 29th THIS COMMITTEE ASKED THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE NINE CURRENT AND NORMER OFFICIALS WITH RELEVANT INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR THIS HEARING OR A SEPARATE TRANSCRIBED INTERVIEW.
00:13:27	THE STATE DEPARTMENT DID NOT EVEN RESPOND.
00:13:31	AND TO DATE, THE MINORITY HAS NOT MADE A SIMILAR REQUEST.
00:13:36	MR. CUMMINGS, I WOULD LIKE NOTHING MORE THAN TO HAVE YOU WORK WITH ME ON THIS INVESTIGATION.
00:13:44	BECAUSE WE'VE WORKED ON OTHER AREAS TOGETHER, I STILL HOLD OUT HOPE THAT ONE DAY YOU WILL STAND WITH ME AS THIS STATION DOESN'T COOPERATE WHEN THERE ARE NO MORE INQUIRIES AND WHEN THAT DAY COMES TOGETHER WE WILL BE FAR MORE EFFECTIVE.
00:14:00	AND NOW FOR OUR WITNESSES, OR SHOULD I SAY OUR WHISTLE-BLOWERS.
00:14:06	MR. MARK THOMPSON IS THE ACTING DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT, CASE DEPARTMENT OF BUREAU OF COUNTER TERRORISM.
00:14:15	WELCOME. MR.
00:14:16	GREGORY HICKS IS A 22-YEAR VETERAN, FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, AND THE FORMER DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION FOR THE U.
00:14:26	S. EMBASSY IN LIBYA.
00:14:28	AFTER AMBASSADOR STEVENS WAS MURDERED, MR.
00:14:33	HICKS BECAME THE ACTING CHIEF OF MISSION, OR AS THEY SAY, THE SHAR SHADE AFFAIR.
00:14:39	HE WAS, IN THE, IN LIBYA, ITS HIGHEST RANKING OFFICER, IF YOU WILL, AMERICA'S REPRESENTATIVE IN LIBYA.
00:14:51	ERIC NORDSTROM IS A FORMER -- IS THE FORMER REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER IN LIBYA AND PERHAPS THE FOREMOST AND MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE PERSON ABOUT SECURITY REQUESTS THAT WERE MADE AND DENIED TO THE U.
00:15:05	S. DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN LIBYA AND IN BENGHAZI.
00:15:09	ULTIMATELY IN BENGHAZI.
00:15:11	MR.
00:15:12	CUMMINGS, WE WILL HAVE FROM TIME TO TIME OUR DISAGREEMENTS, BUT I KNOW THAT FOR ALL THE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THESE DISAGREEMENTS MUST BE KEPT ON THIS SIDE OF THE DAIS.
00:15:31	THESE BRAVE WITNESSES DESERVE THIS COMMITTEE'S CALL TO TESTIFY.
00:15:36	THESE BRAVE WHISTLE-BLOWERS ARE, IN FACT, WHAT MAKES THIS COMMITTEE'S WORK WORK.
00:15:43	WE ARE THE COMMITTEE THAT OVERSEES AND THAT LED FOR ANY WHISTLE-BLOWER PROTECTIONS SIGNED BY THIS PRESIDENT.
00:15:50	THE PUBLIC HAS A RIGHT TO HEAR THEIR ACCOUNTS.
00:15:53	AND WE, MORE THAN ANY OTHER COMMITTEE IN THE CONGRESS, MUST RESPECT WHISTLE-BLOWERS AND WORK ON A BIPARTISAN BASIS ALWAYS TO PROTECT THEM.
00:16:03	WITH THAT, I RECOGNIZE THE RANKING MEMBER FOR HIS OPENING STATEMENT.
00:16:06	>> MR. CHAIRMAN, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR CALLING THIS HEARING AND, I WANT TO BE CLEAR, AND I'VE SAID IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN, THERE'S NO MEMBER OF THIS CONGRESS, BE THEY REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT, WHO FAILS TO UPHOLD THIS RIGHT OF WHISTLE-BLOWERS TO COME FORWARD AND I THINK IT'S SAD WHEN AN ACCUSATION IS MADE AGAINST ANY MEMBER OF THIS CONGRESS.
00:16:44	AND SO TO THE HEARING.
00:16:47	I, TOO, AND ALL OF OUR MEMBERS, BOTH REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS, WERE TREMENDOUSLY SADDENED BY THE DEATHS OF CHRISTOPHER STEVENS, SEAN PATRICK SMITH, TYRONE WOODS, AND GLEN DAUGHERTY.
00:17:07	THEY WERE SERVANTS OF THE PUBLIC.
00:17:11	THEY, LIKE OUR WHISTLE-BLOWERS, WERE PEOPLE DEDICATED THEIR LIVES TO MAKING A DIFFERENCE AND THEY SAW THE WORLD AS BIGGER THAN JUST THEM.
00:17:22	THEY WERE THE ONES THAT WERE OFTEN UNSEEN, UNNOTICED, UNAPPRECIATED, AND UNAPPLAUDED.
00:17:31	WE'VE ACTUALLY SEEN SOME OF THAT WITH REGARD TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES IN THIS CONGRESS.
00:17:38	BUT YET AND STILL, DAY AFTER DAY, THEY WENT OUT THERE AND THEY DID THEIR JOBS.
00:17:45	AND ON BEHALF OF THIS CONGRESS AND A GRATEFUL NATION, I SAY THANK YOU.
00:17:51	I AM GLAD THE WHISTLE-BLOWERS ARE HERE.
00:17:54	AND I WILL DO EVERY SINGLE THING IN MY POWER TO PROTECT THE WHISTLE-BLOWERS.
00:17:59	AS A MATTER OF FACT, JUST ON MAY 7th, 2013, I SENT A LETTER TO JOHN KERRY AND I SAID IN THAT

	LETTER THAT, DESPITE THE HIGHLY PARTISAN NATURE OF THE COMMITTEE COMMITTEE'S ACTIONS, IT NEVER THE LESS REMAINS VERY IMPORTANT, AND THIS IS A QUOTE, TO ME PERSONALLY TO MAKE CLEAR TO ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND EMPLOYEES WHO CHOOSE TO COME FORWARD TO CONGRESS THAT THEIR INTEREST WILL BE PROTECTED, FOR THESE REASONS I REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT REMIND ITS EMPLOYEES OF THEIR RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO PROVIDING INFORMATION TO CONGRESS, AS WELL AS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO NOT RETALIATE AGAINST INDIVIDUALS WHO EXERCISE THOSE RIGHTS.
00:18:48	THE DEPARTMENT MAY ALREADY DO THIS AS A MATTER OF COURSE, IN WHICH CASE I ASK THAT YOU PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THOSE EFFORTS.
00:18:59	WHISTLE-BLOWERS ARE IMPORTANT.
00:19:00	THEY ARE VERY IMPORTANT.
00:19:02	ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I HAVE SAID IN THIS MEETING ROOM OVER AND OVER AGAIN IS THAT WE MUST BE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT.
00:19:10	AND ONE OF THE MAJOR ROLES OF THIS COMMITTEE IS TO MAKE SURE THAT GOVERNMENT WORKS PROPERLY.
00:19:18	AND SO TO ALL OF OUR WITNESSES, THANK YOU.
00:19:21	MR. HICKS, I WOULD LIKE TO START BY EXPRESSING MY GRATITUDE FOR YOUR SERVICE AND MY CONDOLENCES FOR YOUR LOSS.
00:19:28	I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT YOU WENT THROUGH ON THE NIGHT OF THE ATTACKS.
00:19:33	IF I HAD BEEN IN YOUR PLACE, HEARING AMBASSADOR STEVENS' VOICE ON THE PHONE AND WANTING TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO HELP HIM, I WOULD HAVE HAD THE SAME QUESTIONS YOU HAD, WHERE'S THE MILITARY, WHERE ARE THE SPECIAL FORCES, WHERE ARE THE FIGHTER JETS TO RESCUE MY COLLEAGUES?
00:19:54	THESE ARE LEGITIMATE QUESTIONS.
00:19:55	AND I WANTED TO KNOW THE ANSWERS MYSELF.
00:19:59	FOR EXAMPLE, LAST WEEK THERE WAS A WIDELY PUBLICIZED NEWS REPORT THAT A TEAM IN EUROPE CALLED THE COMMANDERS IN EXTREMIST FORCE COULD HAVE GOTTEN TO BENGHAZI BEFORE THE SECOND ATTACK.
00:20:14	WHEN I HEARD THIS CLAIM I WROTE TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE IMMEDIATELY, YESTERDAY I RECEIVED AN OFFICIAL RESPONSE.
00:20:21	IT SAYS, THIS PRESS REPORT WAS WRONG.
00:20:24	THE TEAM WAS TOO FAR AWAY.
00:20:29	AND THE REQUIREMENTS WERE TOO GREAT.
00:20:30	OTHERS HAD SUGGESTED THAT F-16s, STATIONS THAT NO AIR BORS BASE IN ITALY COULD HAVE GOTTEN THERE IN TIME.
00:20:39	BUT ACCORDING TO GENERAL MARTIN DEMPSEY, THE CHAIRMAN OF A JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF WHO TESTIFIED BEFORE THE SENATE IN FEBRUARY, HE SAID THEY COULD NOT.
00:20:49	AND THIS IS OUR HIGHEST RANKING MILITARY MEMBER.
00:20:52	THE FACT IS THAT OUR NATION'S TOP MILITARY COMMANDERS HAVE ALREADY TESTIFIED REPEATEDLY THAT THEY DID EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER TO MOBILIZE AND DEPLOI ASSETS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND EVERY INDEPENDENT AND BIPARTISAN REVIEW HAS CONFIRMED THIS FACT.
00:21:08	WE HAVE THE BEST MILITARY IN THE WORLD, BUT EVEN WITH ALL OF THE TECHNICAL, LOGICAL ADVANCES, THEY COULD NOT GET THERE IN TIME.
00:21:18	MR.
00:21:19	HICKS, I KNOW THESE ANSWERS PROVIDE NO COMFORT TO YOU OR THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS, BUT THIS IS THE TESTIMONY CONGRESS HAS RECEIVED.
00:21:26	AND I HAVE SEEN NOTHING TO MAKE ME QUESTION THE TRUTHFULNESS OF OUR NATION'S MILITARY COMMANDERS.
00:21:33	OUR COMMITTEE HAS A FUNDAMENTAL OBLIGATION TO CONDUCT RESPONSIBLE OVERSIGHT.
00:21:39	AND THAT INCLUDES CAREFULLY EXAMINING INFORMATION THAT YOU AND OTHERS PROVIDE.
00:21:44	BUT WE ALSO HAVE A DUTY TO THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATE THESE CLAIMS BEFORE WE MAKE PUBLIC ACCUSATIONS.
00:21:51	IN CONTRAST, WHAT WE HAVE SEEN OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS IS A FULL-SCALE MEDIA CAMPAIGN THAT IS NOT DESIGNED TO INVESTIGATE WHAT HAPPENED IN A RESPONSIBLE AND BIPARTISAN WAY, BUT RATHER A LAUNCH UNFOUNDED OF UNFOUNDED ACCUSATIONS TO SMEAR PUBLIC OFFICIALS.
00:22:09	LET ME BE CLEAR.
00:22:10	I AM NOT QUESTIONING THE MOTIFS OF OUR WITNESSES.
00:22:14	I AM QUESTIONING THE MOTIVES OF THOSE WHO WANT TO USE THEIR STATEMENTS FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES.
00:22:19	CHAIRMAN ISSA HAS ACCUSED THE ADMINISTRATION OF INTENTIONALLY WITHHOLDING MILITARY

	ASSETS WHICH COULD HAVE HELPED SAVE LIVES ON THE NIGHT OF THE ATTACKS.
00:22:30	I SAY FOR POLITICAL REASONS.
00:22:31	OF ALL THE IRRESPONSIBLE ALLEGATIONS LEVELED OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS, THIS IS THE MOST TROUBLING.
00:22:39	AND BASED ON WHAT OUR MILITARY COMMANDERS HAVE TOLD US, THIS ALLEGATION IS SIMPLY UNTRUE.
00:22:46	CHAIRMAN ISSA SUGGESTED THAT FOUR MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE TOLD TO STAY IN TRIPOLI RATHER THAN BOARD A PLANE IN BENGHAZI A PLANE IN BENGHAZI AT 6 A.
00:22:55	M. THE MORNING AFTER THE ATTACKS SUPPOSEDLY BECAUSE OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLITICAL DESIRE NOT TO HAVE A PRESENCE IN BENGHAZI.
00:23:00	THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THIS.
00:23:05	AS HE TOLD THE COMMITTEE, ONE PLANE HAD ALREADY LEFT FOR BENGHAZI AT 1:15 A.
00:23:10	M. THAT NIGHT AND IT INCLUDED A SEVEN-PERSON SECURITY TEAM WITH TWO MILITARY PERSONNEL.
00:23:16	THE DECISION THE NEXT MORNING TO KEEP FOUR MILITARY PERSONNEL IN PLACE AT TRIPOLI WAS NOT MADE BY THE WHITE HOUSE OR THE STATE DEPARTMENT, BUT BY THE MILITARY CHAIN OF COMMAND.
00:23:28	THERE ARE OTHER ALLEGATIONS CHAIRMAN ISSA WENT ON NATIONAL TV AND ACCUSED SECRETARY CLINTON OF LYING TO CONGRESS.
00:23:35	HE SAYS SHE PERSONALLY SIGNED THE STATE DEPARTMENT CABLE AUTHORIZING SECURITY REDUCTIONS.
00:23:39	WE HAVE NOW SEEN THIS CABLE AND SHE DID NOT SIGN IT.
00:23:42	HER NAME IS PRINTED AT THE BOTTOM JUST LIKE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF CABLES SENT EVERY YEAR FROM THE DEPARTMENT.
00:23:49	AS I CLOSE, THE "WASHINGTON POST" FACT CHECKER CALLED THIS ACCUSATION A WHOPPER AND GAVE IT FOUR PINOCCHIOS.
00:24:01	AMBASSADOR SUSAN RICE FOR STATEMENTS SHE MADE ON SUNDAY TALK SHOWS CLAIMING THE ADMINISTRATION, QUOTE, DELIBERATELY MISLED THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.
00:24:10	THE CLAIM HAD BEEN DIRECTLY CONTRADICTED BY OUR NATION'S TOP INTELLIGENCE OFFICIAL GENERAL JAMES CLAPPER.
00:24:15	HE TESTIFIED.
00:24:16	HE HAS ALREADY TESTIFIED BEFORE THE SENATE THESE ACCOUNTS AGAINST MS.
00:24:20	RICE WERE, QUOTE, UNFAIR, END QUOTE, BECAUSE, QUOTE, SHE WAS GOING ON WHAT WE HAD GIVEN HER AND THAT WAS OUR COLLECTIVE BEST JUDGMENT AT THE TIME.
00:24:32	THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN ALLEGATIONS THE ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD LED BY AMBASSADOR THOMAS PICKERING AND ADMIRAL MIKE MULLIN FAILED TO EXAMINE THE ROLE OF PATRICK KENNEDY.
00:24:42	THIS ACCUSATION IS AGAIN INACCURATE ACCORDING TO THE BOARD.
00:24:47	SO, MR. CHAIRMAN, THIS COMMITTEE IS GOING TO SUGGEST THAT GENERAL DEMPSEY, GENERAL CLAPPER, AND ALL INVOLVED IN A CONSPIRACY OF WITHHOLDING MILITARY ASSETS AND THEN COVERING IT UP AND IF THIS COMMITTEE IS GOING TO ACCUSE AMBASSADOR PICKERING AND ADMIRAL MULLEN OF FAILING TO FULLY INVESTIGATE THESE ATTACKS, THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS HAVE THEM INVITED TO THIS HEARING TODAY OR IN THE FUTURE HEARING AND ACCORDING TO OUR CONVERSATION YESTERDAY WITH REGARD TO ADMIRAL PICKERING AND MULLEN, HAVE YOU SAID THAT YOU PLAN TO BRING THEM IN THE FUTURE, AND I APPRECIATE THAT.
00:25:26	LAST BUT NOT LEAST, LET'S MAKE IT -- I WANT TO MAKE IT VERY CLEAR TO OUR WITNESSES.
00:25:32	I RESPECT THE WITNESSES WHO ARE HERE TODAY TO OFFER THEIR TESTIMONY.
00:25:38	AS A LAWYER AND AN OFFICER OF THE COURT, I HAVE TREMENDOUS RESPECT FOR EVIDENCE, BUT TODAY'S HEARING IS NOT THE FULL STORY.
00:25:47	I HOPE WE WILL EVENTUALLY HEAR OUR MILITARY, OUR INTELLIGENCE, AND OUR DIPLOMATIC OFFICIALS.
00:25:54	THEN I HOPE WE CAN TURN TO THE REAL WORK AS THE CHAIRMAN SAID OF THIS COMMITTEE WHICH IS ENSURING THE DEPARTMENT IMPLEMENTS THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THE SECURITY OF OUR DIPLOMATIC OFFICIALS SERVING OVERSEAS.
00:26:09	THOSE WHO ARE SO OFTEN UNSEEN, UNNOTICED, UNAPPRECIATED, AND UNAPPLAUDED.
00:26:16	WITH THAT I YIELD BACK.
00:26:22	>> I THANK THE GENTLEMAN.
00:26:23	FORTUNATELY TODAY I AM NOT THE WITNESS.
00:26:27	I WOULD NOW LIKE TO INVITE OUR WITNESSES FIRST, MR.
00:26:30	MARK THOMPSON, A 20 YEAR CAREER UNITED STATES MARINE WHO TWO YEARS BEFORE HIS

	RETIREMENT FROM THE MARINE CORPS WAS ASSIGNED TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT WHERE HE BROUGHT HIS EXPERIENCE IN SERVING IN ALL FOUR MARINE DIVISIONS AND IN NUMEROUS AMPHIBIOUS FORCES TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT.
00:26:59	FOR 17 YEARS HE HAS USED THAT MILITARY EXPERIENCE AND HIS ACCUMULATED KNOWLEDGE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM WELL.
00:27:07	HE HAS SERVED AND LED TEAMS IN BAGHDAD, IRAQ, IN LATIN AMERICA, IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND IN AFRICA.
00:27:14	WHEN IN 1996 HE JOINED THE STATE DEPARTMENT AS A U.
00:27:18	S. MARINE, HE WAS BROUGHT THERE BECAUSE OF WHAT HE KNEW AND WHAT THEY NEEDED TO KNOW.
00:27:24	IN 1998 WHEN AS HE RETIRED FROM THE MARINE CORPS HE WAS TRANSITIONED AS THEIR REQUEST INTO CIVIL OFFICERS AND WAS THEN ASSIGNED TO THE OFFICE OF THE COORDINATOR OF COUNTERTERRORISM, THE SUCCESSOR HE SERVES AND RUNS TODAY.
00:27:43	IN 2004 HE SERVED WITH THE COALITION PROVISION AUTHORITY, IN OTHER WORDS, WITH OUR FORCES IN BAGHDAD.
00:27:51	IN 2006 HE ASSUMED HIS CURRENT POSITION WHERE HE ADVISES SENIOR LEADERSHIP ON OPERATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM MATTERS AND ENSURES THE UNITED STATES CAN RAPIDLY RESPOND TO GLOBAL TERRORISM CRISIS.
00:28:07	THAT IS HIS JOB.
00:28:08	IN ADDITION TO HIS RESPONSIBILITIES, HE HAS LED THE NFC'S DIRECT FOREIGN EMERGENCY SUPPORT TEAM IN SUPPORT OF U.
00:28:19	S. CHIEF SUBMISSION IN RESPONSE TO TERRORISM EVENTS INCLUDING HIS EXPERTISE WAS USED IN THAT CAPACITY WHEN HE WAS DEPLOYED IN RESPONSE TO THE 1998 EAST AFRICAN BOMBINGS OF OUR TWO EMBASSIES, THE 2000 BOMBING OF THE USS COAL AND HOSTAGE AND RECOVERY EFFORTS IN LATIN AMERICA, SOUTHEAST ASIA, AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.
00:28:49	WELCOME.
00:28:50	MR. GREGORY HICKS, IN MORE THAN 22 YEARS IN FOREIGN SERVICE MR.
00:28:53	HICKS HAS SERVED NOTABLY IN LIBYA, BUT ALSO IN AFGHANISTAN, BAHRAIN WHERE WE FIRST MET, IN YEMEN, IN SYRIA, WHERE WE MET AGAIN, AND IN GAMBIA.
00:29:06	PRIOR TO HIS ASSIGNMENT IN LIBYA, HAND PICKED TO BE THE DEPUTY CHIEF OMISSION BY THE NOW DECEASED AMBASSADOR CHRIS STEVENS HE ALSO SERVED FOUR TOURS HERE IN WASHINGTON.
00:29:18	HE WAS THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF INVESTMENT AFFAIRS, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC ENERGY AND AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS, TRADE POLICY NEGOTIATOR FOR THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE AND COUNTRY OFFICER FOR VIETNAM, AHMAN AND YEMEN.
00:29:42	MR. HICKS PLAYED KEY ROLES IN A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT HISTORIC EVENTS WITH THIS COUNTRY AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT.
00:29:51	VIETNAM'S ASESSION TO THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION, THE U.
00:29:56	S. BAHRAIN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT, THE U.
00:29:59	S. VIETNAM BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT, AND THE RENEGOTIATION OF U.
00:30:04	S. FORCES BASE AHMAN.
00:30:06	MR.
00:30:07	HICKS IS THE RECIPIENT OF FIVE MERITORY INCREASES, THREE INDIVIDUAL SUPERIOR HONOR AWARDS, THREE MIDMERIT HONOR AWARDS AND NUMEROUS GROUP AWARDS FOR HIS SERVICE.
00:30:20	TLAU.
00:30:25	THANK YOU.
00:30:26	MR.
00:30:27	NORDSTROM IN HIS 15 YEARS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT HE HAS SERVED IN WASHINGTON, D.
00:30:33	C., HONDURAS, OOET OPEN A INDIA, AND MOST RECENTLY HE WAS THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER FOR THE U.
00:30:41	S. MISSION TO LIBYA BASED OUT OF TRIPOLI.
00:30:45	IN THAT CAPACITY AS RSO IN TRIPOLI FROM SEPTEMBER 2011 TO JULY OF 2012 HE WAS THE PRINCIPLE SECURITY OFFICER ADVISING BOTH AMBASSADOR KRETS AND AMBASSADOR STEVENS ON SECURITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT MATTERS.
00:31:05	PRIOR TO JOINING THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE MR.
00:31:09	NORDSTROM ALSO SERVED IN FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AT THE DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY.
00:31:15	WELCOME TO ALL THREE OF YOU.
00:31:17	WOULD YOU PLEASE RISE AS IS PURSUANT TO OUR RULES AND TAKE THE OATH.
00:31:25	>> PLEASE RAISE YOUR RIGHT HANDS.
00:31:27	DO YOU SOLEMNLY SWEAR THE TESTIMONY YOU'RE ABOUT TO GIVE WILL NOT TRUTH, THE WHOLE

	TRUTH, AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH?
00:31:33	PLEASE HAVE A SEAT.
00:31:34	LET THE RECORD REFLECT ALL WITNESSES ANSWERED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.
00:31:39	I AM GOING TO NOTE I HAVE READ YOUR OPENING STATEMENTS AND THEY'RE UNUSUALLY SHORT.
00:31:45	I AM NOT WORRIED ABOUT THE FIVE MINUTES.
00:31:47	WE ARE HERE TO HEAR FROM YOU, SO TAKE THE TIME YOU NEED TO, TELL YOUR STORY.
00:31:55	WE WILL LISTEN.
00:31:58	AND THE ORDINARY TIME IS FIVE MINUTES.
00:32:00	TAKE A LITTLE LESS, YOU TAKE A LITTLE MORE, THIS HEARING IS ABOUT HEARING FROM YOU ON YOUR EXPERIENCE.
00:32:10	MR. THOMPSON.
00:32:11	>> MR.
00:32:12	CHAIRMAN, RANKING MEMBER, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.
00:32:15	>> AND PLEASE PULL YOUR MICROPHONE A LITTLE CLOSER.
00:32:19	THANK YOU.
00:32:20	>> THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TELL A STORY.
00:32:26	AS THE CHAIRMAN INDICATED, I CAME TO THE DEPARTMENT 16 AND A HALF YEARS AGO AS A MARINE TRANSITIONED AND HAVE BEEN ON THE ACTIVITIES THAT HE HAS ALREADY DESCRIBED.
00:32:42	THE NIGHT THAT I WAS INVOLVED IN THIS INCIDENT I WAS AT MY DESK AT THE END OF THE DAY WHEN THE FIRST REPORTS CAME IN THAT INDICATED THAT WE HAD AN ATTACK GOING ON AT OUR DIPLOMATIC FACILITY IN BENGHAZI.
00:33:02	IN THAT FACILITY WE KNEW WE HAD OUR AMBASSADOR AND WE HAD HIS SECURITY PERSONNEL.
00:33:10	LATER WHEN I HEARD THAT THE SITUATION HAD EVOLVED TO THEM GOING TO A SAFE HAVEN AND THEN THE FACT THAT WE COULD NOT FIND THE AMBASSADOR, A LETTERED MY LEADERSHIP INDICATING THAT WE NEEDED TO GO FORWARD AND CONSIDER THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE FOREIGN EMERGENCY SUPPORT TEAM.
00:33:33	THAT PARTICULAR TEAM IS AN INTERAGENCY TEAM.
00:33:37	IT HAS BEEN REPRESENTED AS SOMETHING THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT DEPLOYS.
00:33:42	IT DOES NOT.
00:33:43	THE DEPUTIES COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL DEPLOYS THAT ORGANIZATION, BUT I WANTED THAT CONSIDERED.
00:33:55	I NOTIFIED THE WHITE HOUSE OF MY IDEA.
00:33:58	THEY INDICATED THAT MEETINGS HAD ALREADY TAKEN PLACE THAT EVENING, THAT HAD TAKEN FOST OUT OF THE MENU OF OPTIONS.
00:34:07	I CALLED THE OFFICE WITHIN THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT HAD BEEN REPRESENTED THERE ASKING THEM WHY IT HAD BEEN TAKEN OFF THE TABLE AND WAS TOLD THAT IT WAS NOT THE RIGHT TIME AND IT WAS NOT THE TEAM THAT NEEDED TO GO RIGHT THEN.
00:34:23	LET ME EXPLAIN THE TEAM A LITTLE MORE.
00:34:27	IT IS COMPRISED OF THE LEADERSHIP FROM MY OFFICE.
00:34:29	IT IS COMPRISED OF PROFESSIONALS FROM SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND, FROM DIPLOMATIC SECURITY, FROM THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, FROM FBI.
00:34:40	IT IS A HOLISTIC COMPREHENSIVE ORGANIZATION THAT IS DESIGNED TO GO FORWARD TO EMBASSIES JUST AS WE DID AS INDICATED IN 1998 IN EAST AFRICA, AS WE HAVE DONE IN THE OTHER PLACES INDICATED USS COLE AND OTHER HOSTAGE SITUATIONS.
00:34:58	IT IS DESIGNED TO BE THE GLUE AND THE CONNECTIVE TISSUE THAT GETS ALL THE OPTIONS ON THE TABLE FOR THE DECISION MAKERS.
00:35:06	THE DECISION MAKERS IN MY LINE OF WORK ARE THE CHIEF OF MISSION AND THE AUTHORITIES BACK HERE IN WASHINGTON THAT MAKE THE DECISIONS OF WHERE WE SEND PEOPLE INTO HARM'S WAY.
00:35:18	IT DOESN'T MEAN IT HAS A IRREVERSIBLE ITIE TO IT.
00:35:28	THE OTHER THING I POINTED OUT WITH THE TYRANNY OF DISTANCE, AT LEAST EIGHT OR NINE HOURS TO GET TO THE MIDDLE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN WE NEEDED TO ACT NOW AND NOT WAIT.
00:35:43	THERE IS SOMETIMES THE HESITANCY TO NOT DEPLOY BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.
00:35:47	ONE DEFINITION OF A CRISIS IS YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN IN TWO HOURS.
00:35:50	SO YOU NEED TO HELP DEVELOP THAT SITUATION EARLY.
00:35:53	WE HAVE A ROBUST COMSUITE ON THE AIRPLANE THAT WE ARE TRANSPORTED ON.
00:36:00	IT IS ABLY FLOWN BY I MY SO-COM COLLEAGUES.
00:36:04	IT IS ON ALERT TO DO JUST THIS MISSION, AND IT IS DESIGNED TO CARRY A COMPREHENSIVE TEAM TO A CONFLICT OR CRISIS AND TO HELP THE AMBASSADOR AND WORK FOR THE AMBASSADOR AND/OR THE CHIEF OF MISSION TO HANDLE THAT CRISIS AND TO MAKE SURE HE OR SHE HAS THE

	BEST INFORMATION POSSIBLE TO MAKE DECISIONS AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS BACK TO WASHINGTON AND THOSE SAME REPRESENTATIVES MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN BACK TO THEIR PARENT ORGANIZATIONS SO WHEN WE HAVE DEPUTY COMMITTEE MEETING AND PRINCIPLE COMMITTEE MEETINGS AT THE WHITE HOUSE WE HAVE A SITUATION IN WHICH EVERYONE IS USING THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION SO WE CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT WE HAVE TO DO SECURITY WISE, WHAT WE HAVE TO DO INTELLIGENCE WISE, WHAT WE HAVE TO DO WITH THE MILITARY, WHAT WE HAVE TO DO DIPLOMATIC WISE, WHAT WE HAVE TO DO ON THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS FRONT THAT WORKS FOR THE CHIEF OF MISSION, AND I CAN'T EMPHASIZE THAT ENOUGH.
00:37:07	WE'RE NOT THERE TO SUBSUME ANY ACTIVITIES.
00:37:13	THE EXPERTS ON THE TEAM KNOW THAT THE REAL EXPERTS ARE IN THE EMBASSY AND WORK FOR THE CHIEF OF MISSION TO DO THAT.
00:37:21	MY TIME IS DRAWING TO A CLOSE.
00:37:22	I WILL END THERE AND AWAIT YOUR QUESTIONS.
00:37:23	>> THANK YOU.
00:37:26	MR. HICKS.
00:37:27	>> THANK YOU, MR.
00:37:32	CHAIRMAN.
00:37:33	>> YOU'RE PRETTY SOFT SPOKEN.
00:37:35	>> THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN.
00:37:36	THANK YOU, RANKING MEMBER.
00:37:37	THANK YOU, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.
00:37:39	I AM A CAREER PUBLIC SERVANT.
00:37:42	UNTIL THE AFTERMATH OF BENGHAZI I LOVED EVERY DAY OF MY JOB.
00:37:48	IN MY 21 YEARS OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE PRIOR TO TRIPOLI I EARNED A REPUTATION FOR BEING AN INNOVATIVE POLICY MAKER WHO GOT THE JOB DONE.
00:38:01	I WAS PROMOTED QUICKLY AND RECEIVED NUMEROUS AWARDS.
00:38:05	PEOPLE WHO WORKED FOR ME RATED MY LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT SKILLS HIGHLY.
00:38:15	I HAVE TWO MASTERS DEGREES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN IN APPLIED ECONOMICS AND MODERN NORTH AFRICAN STUDIES.
00:38:23	I HAVE SERVED MY COUNTRY EXTENSIVELY IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
00:38:27	BESIDES LIBYA I SERVED IN AFGHANISTAN, BAHRAIN, YEMEN, SYRIA, AND GAMBIA.
00:38:32	I SPEAK FLUENT AIR BIC.
00:38:39	IN BAHRAIN MY SHIA OPPOSITION CONTACTS GAVE ME ADVANCED WARNING ON ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATIONSAL LOUG US TO PREPARE AND AVOID INJURIES TO STAFF.
00:38:49	I LEARNED THAT KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL CONDITIONS AND STRONG CONNECTIONS WITH THE LOCAL LOCAL POPULATION ARE IMPORTANT AS THE STRENGTH AND HEIGHT OF WAULTZ.
00:39:03	ONE REASON I AM HERE IS BECAUSE I HAVE PLEDGED TO THE FOREIGN SERVICE AS PART OF MY CAMPAIGN TO THE STATE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE ASSOCIATION NONE OF US SHOULD EVER AGAIN EXPERIENCE WHAT WE WENT THROUGH IN TRIPOLI AND BENGHAZI ON 9/11 2012.
00:39:20	AFTER I ARRIVED IN TRIPOLI AS DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION ON JULY 31, 2012, I FAST BECAME KNOWN AS THE AMBASSADOR'S BULLDOG BECAUSE OF MY DECISIVE MANAGEMENT STYLE.
00:39:32	IN THE DAYS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BENGHAZI ATTACK THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF STATE PRAISED MY PERFORMANCE OVER THE TELEPHONE.
00:39:44	PRESIDENT OBAMA WROTE LIBYAN PRESIDENT EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE IN MY ABILITIES.
00:39:49	DEPUTY SECRETARY BURNS AND GENERAL HAMM TOLD ME HOW MUCH THEY APPRECIATED HOW I HANDLED THE NIGHT OF THE ASSAULT AND ITS AFTERMATH.
00:39:56	I RECEIVED WRITTEN NOTES OF COME ADDITION FROM UNDER SECRETARY WENDY SHERMAN AND FROM EXECUTIVE SECRETARY STEVEN MUL.
00:40:06	INCOMING CHARGIER LARRY POPE TOLD ME PERSONALLY MY PERFORMANCE WAS NEAR HEROIC.
00:40:13	IN FEBRUARY 1991 I SWORE AN OATH TO UPHOLD AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.
00:40:20	I AM HERE TODAY TO HONOR THAT OATH.
00:40:22	I LOOK FORWARD TO ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS FULLY AND TRUTHFULLY.
00:40:24	THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
00:40:29	>> I UNDERSTAND THAT SOME OF THOSE COMMENDATIONS AND LETTERS ARE IN YOUR OPENING STATEMENT AND FOR ALL THE WITNESSES, ALL EXTRANEIOUS MATERIAL OR OTHER INSERTIONS WILL BE PLACED IN THE RECORD ON YOUR BEHALF.
00:40:44	MR. NORDSTROM.
00:40:45	>> GOOD MORNING, CHAIRMAN.

00:40:47	GOOD MORNING CHAIRMAN ISSA, RANKING MEMBER CUMMINGS AND OTHER DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.
00:40:51	FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS, MY NAME IS ERIC NORDSTROM AND I CURRENTLY SERVE AS THE SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT WITH THE U.
00:40:59	S. DEPARTMENT OF STATES BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY.
00:41:03	SINCE SEPTEMBER 2012 I HAVE BEEN ENROLLED IN LONG-TERM LANGUAGE TRAINING IN TRANSPORTATION FOR MY NEXT ASSIGNMENT.
00:41:14	AS CHAIRMAN ISSA NOTED I HAVE SERVED SINCE JANUARY 1996 AS A CUSTOMS INSPECTOR BEFORE JOINING THE U.
00:41:21	S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
00:41:23	I HAVE SERVED IN DOMESTIC AND OVERSEAS POSTINGS INCLUDING WASHINGTON, D.
00:41:27	C., HONDURAS, ETHIOPIA, INDIA, AND MOST RECENTLY THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER AT THE U.
00:41:33	S. EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI.
00:41:34	ALL OF THOSE ASSIGNMENTS HAVE BEEN ASSIGNMENTS IN WHICH I FACED THE THREAT OF CRIMINAL OR TERRORIST ATTACKS.
00:41:43	I HELD THE LAST POSITION AS RSO FROM SEPTEMBER 21, 2011, UNTIL JULY 26, 2012.
00:41:51	AS THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER OR RSO AT THE U.
00:41:55	S. EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI, I SERVED AS THE PRINCIPLE SECURITY ADVISER TO U.
00:42:01	S. AMBASSADOR EUGENE KRETS AND CHRIS STEVENS ON SECURITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT MATTERS.
00:42:05	I WANT TO THANK THE COMMITTEE AGAIN FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR AND PROVIDE FURTHER TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF YOUR INQUIRY INTO THE TRAGIC EVENTS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2012.
00:42:14	I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE COMMITTEE FOR YOUR CONTINUED EFFORTS IN INVESTIGATING ALL OF THE DETAILS AND ALL THE DECISIONS RELATED TO THE ATTACK ON OUR DIPLOMATIC FACILITY.
00:42:27	SPECIFICALLY, THE COMMITTEE'S EFFORTS TO UNCOVER WHAT HAPPENED PRIOR, DURING, AND AFTER THE ATTACK MATTER.
00:42:32	IT MATTERS TO ME PERSONALLY.
00:42:36	AND IT MATTERS TO MY COLLEAGUES AT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
00:42:48	IT MATTERS TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC FOR WHOM WE SERVE.
00:42:58	MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT MATTERS TO THE FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF MASTER STEVENS, SEAN SMITH, GLEN DOUGHERTY, TYRONE WOODS WHO WERE MURDERED ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2012.
00:43:17	IN ADDITION TO MY TESTIMONY BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE IN OCTOBER 2012, I ALSO MET WITH THE FBI, SENATE HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, THE DEPARTMENT'S ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD AND I HAVE DISCUSSED MY EXPERIENCES IN LIBYA WITH ALL OF THEM.
00:43:31	I AM PROUD OF THE WORK OUR TEAM ACCOMPLISHED IN LIBYA UNDER EXTRAORDINARILY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES, THE PROTECTION OF OUR NATION'S DIPLOMATS, OUR EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES AND THE WORK PRODUCED THERE IS DESERVING OF THE TIME THAT THIS COMMITTEE, OTHER CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND THE ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD AND NO DOUBT FUTURE REVIEW EFFORTS WILL INVEST IN MAKING SURE WE GET THIS PROCESS RIGHT.
00:43:54	THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU TODAY.
00:43:58	I STAND READY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE.
00:44:03	>> THANK YOU.
00:44:04	I WILL NOW RECOGNIZE MYSELF FOR A QUICK ROUND OF QUESTIONING.
00:44:13	MR.
00:44:15	THOMPSON, YOU WENT THROUGH A PROCESS OF THINGS THAT YOU OBSERVED AND HOW YOU TRIED TO ACTIVATE YOUR TEAM.
00:44:26	DID YOU DO SO BECAUSE YOU HAD AN INITIAL VIEW OF WHETHER THIS WAS A TERRORIST ATTACK OR SOMETHING ELSE?
00:44:34	PLEASE BE BRIEF. I WANT TO USE MY TIME.
00:44:40	>> YES. >> OKAY.
00:44:42	THANK YOU. >> HICKS, AS THE PRINCIPLE OFFICER AND ONCE THE AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN MURDERED, THE HIGHEST RANKING OFFICER ON SEPTEMBER 11th FROM THE MOMENT THAT YOU UNEXPECTEDLY BECAME THE CHARGIER, AMERICA HAS HEARD MANY ACCOUNTS OF WHAT HAPPENED.
00:45:03	WE HAVE NEVER HEARD ACCOUNT FROM A SINGLE PERSON WHO WAS IN LIBYA THAT NIGHT.
00:45:08	YOU WILL NOT FIRST PERSON WHO OBSERVED IT.

00:45:14	IN YOUR OWN WORDS TAKE AS MUCH TIME AS YOU WANT.
00:45:18	PLEASE TAKE US THROUGH THE DAY OF SEPTEMBER 11th FROM WHATEVER TIME YOU WANT TO BEGIN THROUGH WHEN YOU FIRST HEARD FROM AMBASSADOR STEVENS AND THROUGH THE HOURS AND DAYS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THAT IF YOU WOULD, SO WE COULD HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING FOR THE FIRST TIME FROM SOMEBODY WHO WAS THERE.
00:45:45	>> THANK YOU, MR.
00:45:46	CHAIRMAN.
00:45:47	AS I REMEMBER SEPTEMBER 11, 2012, IT WAS A ROUTINE DAY AT OUR EMBASSY, AND UNTIL WE SAW THE NEWS ABOUT CAIRO, AND I REMEMBER SENDING A TEXT MESSAGE TO A MASTER STEVENS SAYING, CHRIS, ARE YOU AWARE OF WHAT'S GOING ON IN CAIRO?
00:46:13	HE SAID NO.
00:46:14	I TOLD HIM THAT THE EMBASSY IN ANOTHER TEXT THAT THE EMBASSY HAD BEEN STORMED AND THEY WERE TRYING TO TEAR DOWN OUR FLAG.
00:46:23	HE SAID THANKS VERY MUCH.
00:46:24	THEN I WENT ON WITH BUSINESS.
00:46:34	CLOSED THE DAY, AND I WENT BACK TO MY VILLA AND WAS RELAXING WATCHING A TELEVISION SHOW THAT I PARTICULARLY LIKE, AND AT 9:45 P.
00:46:44	M. AND ALL TIMES WILL BE LIBYAN TIMES, SIX-HOUR TIME DIFFERENCE, THE RSO JOHN MARTINIQUE RAN INTO ANY VILLA YELLING GREG, GREG, THE CONSULATE IS UNDER ATTACK.
00:46:59	I STOOD UP AND REACHED FOR MY PHONE BECAUSE I HAD AN INK LIGHTNING OR THOUGHT PERHAPS THE MADISON SQUARE GARDEN HAD TRY TO CALL ME TO RELAY THE SAME MESSAGE AND I FOUND TWO MISSED CALLS ON THE PHONE, ONE FROM THE AMBASSADOR'S PHONE AND ONE FROM A PHONE NUMBER I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE.
00:47:18	I PUNCHED THE PHONE NUMBER I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE, AND I GOT THE AMBASSADOR ON THE OTHER END.
00:47:25	HE SAID, GREG, WE'RE UNDER ATTACK.
00:47:30	I WAS WALKING OUT OF THE VILLA ON MY WAY TO THE TACTICAL OPERATIONS CENTER BECAUSE I KNEW WE WOULD ALL HAVE TO GATHER THERE TO MOBILIZE OR TRY TO MOBILIZE A RESPONSE, AND IT WAS ALSO A BAD CELL PHONE NIGHT IN TRIPOLI.
00:47:47	CONNECTIONS WERE WEAK.
00:47:48	I SAID, OKAY, AND THE LINE CUT.
00:47:51	AS I WALKED TO THE TACTICAL OPERATIONS CENTER, I TRIED TO REACH BACK ON BOTH OF THE NUMBERS, THE UNKNOWN NUMBER AND THE AMBASSADOR'S PERSONAL NUMBER AND GOT NO RESPONSE.
00:48:06	WHEN I GOT TO THE TACTICAL OPERATIONS CENTER, I TOLD PEOPLE THAT THE AMBASSADOR THAT I HAD JUST TALKED TO THE AMBASSADOR AND WHAT HE SAID, AND AT THE TIME JOHN MARTINIQUE WAS ON THE PHONE WITH ALEC HENDERSON IN BENGHAZI, THE RSO THERE, AND I ASKED ONE OF OUR DS AGENTS WHAT NUMBER DID I REACH AMBASSADOR STEVENS ON AND HE SAID, OH, THAT'S SCOTT WICLAND'S TELEPHONE.
00:48:35	SCOTT WICLAND WAS HIS AGENT IN CHARGE, HIS PERSONAL ESCORT FOR THAT NIGHT, AND WAS WITH HIM IN THE VILLA DURING THE ATTACK.
00:48:46	SO I ASKED -- WHEN JOHN MARTINEK GOT OFF THE TELEPHONE, I ASKED HIM WHAT WAS GOING ON AND HE SAID THAT THE CONSULATE HAD BEEN BREACHED AND THERE WERE AT LEAST 20 HOSTILE INDIVIDUALS ARMED IN THE COMPOUND AT THE TIME, SO I NEXT CALLED THE AN EX CHIEF TO ASK HIM IF HE WAS IN TOUCH WITH THE BENGHAZI ANNEX TO ACTIVATE OUR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN.
00:49:26	>> PLEASE EXPLAIN THE ANNEX CHIEF SO PEOPLE THAT DON'T KNOW AS MUCH WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT.
00:49:31	GO AHEAD, PLEASE.
00:49:32	>> OKAY. THANK YOU.
00:49:36	HE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE ANNEX IN BENGHAZI AND THEY SAID THEY WERE MOBILIZING A RESPONSE TEAM THERE TO GO TO THE -- TO OUR FACILITY AND PROVIDE REINFORCEMENTS AND REPEL THE ATTACK.
00:49:55	WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE I CALLED THE OPERATIONS CENTER AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT APPROXIMATELY 10 P.
00:50:01	M. TO REPORT THE ATTACK AND WHAT WE WERE DOING TO RESPOND TO IT.
00:50:10	THE NEXT THING I DID WAS TO BEGIN CALLING THE SENIOR OFFICIALS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBYA THAT I KNEW AT THE TIME AND SO I DIALED FIRST THE PRESIDENT MAGARIA'S CHIEF OF STAFF AND REPORTED THE ATTACK AND ASKED FOR IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBYA TO ASSIST OUR FOLKS IN BENGHAZI.
00:50:35	I FOLLOWED THAT UP WITH A CALL TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S CHIEF OF STAFF TO MAKE THE SAME

	REQUEST AND THEN TO THE MFA, AMERICA'S DIRECTOR.
00:50:46	MFA IS MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
00:50:52	THE DEFENSE ATTACHE WAS AT THE SAME TIME CALLING THE LEADERSHIP OF LIBYA'S MILITARY WITH THE SAME PURPOSE, TO ASK THEM FOR ASSISTANCE.
00:51:08	ONCE THAT WAS DONE I CALLED AGAIN TO WASHINGTON TO REPORT THAT THESE ACTIONS HAD BEEN COMMENCED.
00:51:23	OVER THE NIGHT -- OVER THAT NIGHT, THAT IS BASICALLY HOW OUR TEAM OPERATED.
00:51:34	I WAS TALKING TO THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBYA, REPORTING TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT THROUGH THE OPERATIONS CENTER, AND ALSO STAYING IN TOUCH WITH THE ANNEX CHIEF ABOUT WHAT WAS GOING ON.
00:51:44	LET ME STEP BACK ONE MINUTE IF I COULD AND SAY THAT I ALSO DISCUSSED WITH THE ANNEX CHIEF ABOUT MOBILIZING A TRIPOLI RESPONSE TEAM AND WE AGREED WE WOULD MOVE FORWARD WITH A CHARTERING A PLANE FROM TRIPOLI TO FLY A RESPONSE TEAM TO BENGHAZI TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL REINFORCEMENTS.
00:52:13	THE DEFENSE ATTACHE WAS ALSO REPORTING THROUGH HIS CHAIN OF COMMAND BACK TO AFRICOM AND THE JOINT STAFF HERE IN WASHINGTON ABOUT WHAT WAS GOING ON IN THE COUNTRY.
00:52:32	DAVID McFARLAND OUR POLITICAL SECTION CHIEF HAD JUST RETURNED FROM BENGHAZI WHERE HE HAD BEEN OUR PRINCIPLE OFFICER FOR THE PREVIOUS TEN DAYS, SO HE JUMPED INTO THIS PICTURE BY REACHING OUT TO HIS CONTACTS IN BENGHAZI AND TRYING TO GET THEM AT THE LOCAL LEVEL TO RESPOND TO THE ATTACK.
00:52:59	HE ALSO WAS IN TOUCH WITH OUR LOCAL EMPLOYEE THERE AS WELL.
00:53:11	: EXCUSE ME IF I CHECK MY NOTES HERE.
00:53:14	IT IS LONG.
00:53:15	THE ATTACK UNFOLDED IN FOUR PHASES OR THE NIGHT UNFOLDED IN FOUR PHASES.
00:53:21	THE FIRST PHASE WAS THE ATTACK ON OUR CONSULATE.
00:53:26	THIS STORY IS WELL KNOWN, I THINK.
00:53:30	THE BENGHAZI RESPONSE -- THE CONSULATE WAS INVADDED, THE VILLA C WHERE THE AMBASSADOR AND SEAN SMITH AND SCOTT WICKLAND WERE HIDING IN THE SAFE AREA WAS SET ON FIRE.
00:53:52	: THE ATTACKERS WENT INTO ANOTHER BUILDING.
00:53:55	THEY WERE UNABLE TO ENTER THE TACTICAL OPERATIONS CENTER IN BENGHAZI BECAUSE OF IMPROVEMENTS TO THAT FACILITY THAT HAD BEEN MADE.
00:54:06	SCOTT ATTEMPTED TO LEAD THE AMBASSADOR AND SEAN SMITH OUT OF THE BURNING BUILDING.
00:54:14	HE MANAGED TO MAKE IT OUT.
00:54:17	HE TRIED REPEATEDLY TO GO BACK IN TO TRY TO RESCUE SHAWN AND THE AMBASSADOR AND HAD TO STOP DUE TO EXPOSURE TO SMOKE.
00:54:29	THE RESPONSE TEAM FROM FROM THE ANNEX IN BENGHAZI, SIX INDIVIDUALS, DROVE THE ATTACKERS OUT OF OUR COMPOUND AND SECURED IT TEMPORARILY.
00:54:42	THERE HAVE BEEN ESTIMATES AS HIGH AS 60 ATTACKERS IN THE COMPOUND AT ONE PARTICULAR TIME.
00:54:47	THERE WERE REPEATED ATTEMPTS BY ALL OF THE RSOs AND BY THE RESPONSE TEAM FROM THE ANNEX TO GO INTO THE BURNING BUILDING AND RECOVER, TRY TO SAVE SHAWN AND THE AMBASSADOR.
00:55:01	THEY FOUND SHAWN'S BODY AND PULLED IT OUT BUT HE WAS NO LONGER RESPONSIVE.
00:55:07	THEY DID NOT FIND THE AMBASSADOR.
00:55:13	I SPOKE WITH A MEDICAL OFFICER, ONE OF OUR MEDICAL OFFICERS AFTER THE ATTACK AND THE HEROISM OF THESE INDIVIDUALS IN REPEATEDLY GOING INTO A PAROLE YOU MEAN BASED FIRE CANNOT BE UNDERSTATED.
00:55:34	PATROL YOU MEAN ACCORDING TO THE REGIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER IT EMITS ENORMOUS AMOUNTS OF CYANIDE GAS.
00:55:43	THEY TOLD ME ONE FULL BREATH OF THAT WOULD INCAPACITATE AND KILL A PERSON IF EXPOSED TO IT.
00:55:54	A SECOND -- IT WAS NOTICED THAT A SECOND WAVE OF ATTACKERS WAS COMING TO ATTACK THE FACILITY.
00:56:07	AND OUR TEAMS EVACUATED, FIVE RSOs AND SEAN SMITH IN ONE VEHICLE THAT SUFFERED HEAVY FIRE, AND THEY MANAGED TO BREAK THROUGH AND GET TO THE ANNEX, AND IN THE ANNEX TEAM ALSO WITHDREW FROM THE FACILITY AND THE SECOND WAVE OF ATTACKERS TOOK IT OVER.
00:56:29	AFTER THE SECOND PHASE OF THE EVENING OCCURS, THE TIMING IS ABOUT 11:30 OR SO.
00:56:37	THE SECOND PHASE COMMENCES AFTER THE TEAMS HAVE RETURNED TO THE ANNEX AND THEY SUFFER FOR ABOUT AN HOUR AND A HALF PROBING ATTACKS FROM TERRORISTS.

00:56:52	THEY ARE ABLE TO RE PULSE THEM AND THEN THEY DESIST AT ABOUT 1:30 IN THE MORNING.
00:57:01	THE TRIPOLI RESPONSE TEAM DEPARTS AT ABOUT MIDNIGHT AND ARRIVES AT ABOUT 1:15 IN BENGHAZI.
00:57:12	IF I MAY STEP BACK AGAIN TO TRIPOLI AND WHAT'S GOING ON THERE AT THIS POINT.
00:57:21	AT ABOUT 10:45 OR 11:00 WE CONFER, AND I ASKED THE DEFENSE ATTACHE WHO HAD BEEN TALKING ABOUT AFRICOM AND THE JOINT STAFF IS ANYTHING COMING?
00:57:39	WILL THEY BE SENDING US ANY HELP?
00:57:42	IS THERE SOMETHING OUT THERE?
00:57:45	HE ANSWERED THAT, THE NEAREST HELP WAS IN AVIANO, WHERE THERE WERE FIGHTER PLANES.
00:57:53	HE SAID THAT IT WOULD TAKE TWO TO THREE HOURS FOR THEM TO GET ONSITE BUT THAT THERE ALSO WERE NO TANKERS AVAILABLE FOR THEM TO REFUEL.
00:58:06	I SAID THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
00:58:17	WE WENT ON WITH OUR WORK.
00:58:18	PHASE III BEGINS WITH NEWS THAT THE AMBASSADOR, THE AMBASSADOR'S BODY HAS BEEN RECOVERED, AND DAVID McFARLAND, IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, IS THE INDIVIDUAL WHO BEGAN TO RECEIVE THAT NEWS FROM HIS CONTACTS IN BENGHAZI.
00:58:37	WE BEGAN TO HEAR ALSO THAT THE AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN TAKEN TO A HOSPITAL.
00:58:45	WE DON'T KNOW INITIALLY WHICH HOSPITAL IT IS, BUT WE THROUGH DAVID'S REPORTS WE LEARNED THAT IT IS IN A HOSPITAL WHICH IS CONTROLLED BY UNSAR SHARIA, THE GROUP THAT TWITTER FEEDS HAD IDENTIFIED AS LEADING THE ATTACK ON THE CONSULATE.
00:59:13	WE'RE GETTING THIS INFORMATION AS THE TRIPOLI RESPONSE TEAM ARRIVES IN BENGHAZI AT THE AIRPORT.
00:59:22	BOTH OUR ANNEX CHIEF AND THE ANNEX CHIEF IN BENGHAZI AND OUR DEFENSE ATTACHE ARE ON THE PHONE DURING THIS PERIOD TRYING TO GET THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT TO SEND VEHICLES AND MILITARY AND/OR SECURITY ASSETS TO THE AIRPORT TO ASSIST OUR RESPONSE TEAM.
00:59:45	AT THIS POINT THIS RESPONSE TEAM LOOKS LIKE IT MAY BE A HOSTAGE RESCUE TEAM, THAT WE'RE GOING TO NEED TO SEND THEM TO TRY TO SAVE THE AMBASSADOR WHO IS IN A HOSPITAL THAT IS AS FAR AS WE KNOW UNDER ENEMY CONTROL.
01:00:06	OUR CONTACTS WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN TRIPOLI ARE TELLING US THAT THE AMBASSADOR IS IN A SAFE PLACE, BUT THEY IMPLY THAT HE IS WITH US IN THE ANNEX IN BENGHAZI, AND WE KEEP TELLING THEM NO, HE IS NOT WITH US.
01:00:26	WE DO NOT HAVE HIS -- WE DO NOT HAVE HIM.
01:00:39	ABOUT 12:30 AT THE SAME TIME THAT WE SEE THE TWITTER FEEDS THAT ARE ASSERTING THAT UNSAR SHARIA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACK, WE ALSO SEE A CALL FOR AN ATTACK ON THE EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI.
01:00:55	SO WE BEGIN TO -- WE HAD ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT WE WERE UNDER THREAT BUT WE NOW HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF OURSELVES AND WE BEGAN PLANNING TO EVACUATE OUR FACILITY.
01:01:12	WHEN I SAY OUR FACILITY, I MEAN THE STATE DEPARTMENT RESIDENTIAL COMPOUND IN TRIPOLI AND TO CONSOLIDATE ALL OF OUR PERSONNEL AT THE ANNEX IN TRIPOLI.
01:01:29	WE HAVE ABOUT 55 DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL IN THE TWO ANNEXES.
01:01:39	ON THAT NIGHT IF I MAY GO BACK, I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT WITH AMBASSADOR STEVENS AND SEAN SMITH IN BENGHAZI THERE ARE FIVE DIPLOMATIC SECURITY AGENTS, ASSISTANT REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICERS.
01:01:57	WITH US AT OUR RESIDENTIAL COMPOUND IN TRIPOLI WE HAVE THE RSO JOHN MARTINEK, THREE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICERS PROTECTING 28 DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL.
01:02:10	IN ADDITION, WE ALSO HAVE FOUR SPECIAL FORCES PERSONNEL WHO ARE PART OF THE TRAINING MISSION.
01:02:29	DURING THE NIGHT I AM IN TOUCH WITH WASHINGTON KEEPING THEM POSTED OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TRIPOLI AND TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE WHAT I AM BEING TOLD IN BENGHAZI.
01:02:48	I THINK AT ABOUT 2 P.
01:02:50	M. THE -- 2 A.
01:02:51	M., SORRY, THE SECRETARY OF STATE CLINTON CALLED ME AND ALONG WITH HER SENIOR STAFF WERE ALL ON THE PHONE, AND SHE ASKED ME WHAT WAS GOING ON, AND I BRIEFED HER ON DEVELOPMENTS.
01:03:08	MOST OF THE CONVERSATION WAS ABOUT THE SEARCH FOR AMBASSADOR STEVENS.
01:03:15	IT WAS ALSO ABOUT WHAT WE WERE GOING TO DO WITH OUR PERSONNEL IN BENGHAZI, AND I TOLD HER THAT WE WOULD NEED TO EVACUATE, AND THAT WAS -- SHE SAID THAT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.
01:03:41	AT ABOUT 3 A.M. I RECEIVED A CALL FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF LIBYA.
01:03:46	I THINK IT IS THE SADDEST PHONE CALL I HAVE EVER HAD IN MY LIFE.

01:03:53	HE TOLD ME THAT AMBASSADOR STEVENS HAD PASSED AWAY.
01:04:03	I IMMEDIATELY TELEPHONED WASHINGTON THAT NEWS AFTERWARDS, AND BEGAN ACCELERATING OUR EFFORT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE COMPOUND AND MOVE TO THE ANNEX.
01:04:44	EXCUSE ME.
01:04:45	OUR TEAM RESPONDED WITH AMAZING DISCIPLINE AND COURAGE IN TRIPOLI IN ORGANIZING WITHDRAWAL.
01:05:01	I HAVE VIVID MEMORIES OF THAT.
01:05:04	I THINK THE MOST TELLING, THOUGH, WAS OF OUR COMMUNICATIONS STAFF DISMANTLING OUR COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT TO TAKE WITH US TO THE ANNEX AND DESTROYING THE CLASSIFIED COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY.
01:05:26	OUR OFFICE MANAGER AMBER PICKENS WAS EVERYWHERE THAT NIGHT JUST THROWING HERSELF INTO SOME TASK THAT HAD TO BE DONE.
01:05:41	FIRST SHE WAS TAKING A LOG OF WHAT WE WERE DOING.
01:05:47	THEN SHE WAS LOADING MAGAZINES, CARRYING AMMUNITION TO THE -- CARRYING OUR AMMUNITION SUPPLY TO OUR VEHICLES AND THEN SHE WAS SMASHING HARD DRIVES WITH AN AXE.
01:06:05	ALLEN GREENFIELD OUR MANAGEMENT OFFICER WAS A WHIRLWIND OF ACTIVITY ORGANIZING THE VEHICLES TO LINING THEM UP, FINDING THE DRIVERS, MAKING SURE EVERYBODY WAS GETTING THE THINGS THAT THEY WOULD NEED FOR THE COMING DAYS.
01:06:23	JOHN MARTINEK WAS A MOUNTAIN OF MORAL SUPPORT, PARTICULARLY TO THE GUYS WHO WERE IN BENGHAZI, JUST ON THE PHONE TALKING THEM THROUGH THE WHOLE ORDEAL.
01:06:36	DAVID McFARLAND ON THE PHONE CONSTANTLY ALL THE TIME TALKING TO HIS CONTACTS IN BENGHAZI URGING THEM TO HELP.
01:06:49	LIEUTENANT COLONEL PHILLIPS AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL ART AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL GIBSON MOUNTAINS OF STRENGTH.
01:06:59	STILL IN AWE OF THEM.
01:07:08	THEY ASKED ME IN ONE OF THE PHONE CALLS WHEN WERE YOU GOING TO MOVE TO THE ANNEX?
01:07:14	I SAID WE'LL MOVE AT DAWN.
01:07:21	BECAUSE NONE OF OUR PEOPLE HAD GREAT EXPERIENCE DRIVING THE ARMORED SUBURBANS THAT WE WERE GOING TO HAVE TO USE.
01:07:30	OUR LOCAL STAFF DROVE FOR US AS PART OF OUR SECURITY PROCEDURES.
01:07:35	THEY OF COURSE WERE NOT THERE THAT NIGHT.
01:07:38	WE WOULD HAVE TO GO THROUGH CHECK POINTS, MILITIA CHECK POINTS ON THE WAY TO THE ANNEX TO GET THERE, AND I DIDN'T WANT OUR PEOPLE TO BE GOING THROUGH THOSE CHECK POINTS BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE MILITIAS.
01:07:58	SO WE MOVED AT DAWN.
01:08:01	WE ARRIVED AT THE ANNEX, AT LEAST MY GROUP I THINK AT ABOUT 4:45 PERHAPS, MAYBE 5 A.
01:08:10	M. A FEW MINUTES LATER CAME THE WORD OF THE MORTAR ATTACK.
01:08:22	IF I COULD RETURN TO BENGHAZI A LITTLE BIT AND TALK THROUGH TRIPOLI.
01:08:25	I AM SORRY IF I BOUNCE BACK AND FORTH.
01:08:33	THE TRIPOLI TEAM WAS BASICALLY HAD TO STAY AT THE BENGHAZI AIRPORT BECAUSE THEY HAD NO TRANSPORT AND NO ESCORT FROM THE LIBYANS.
01:08:50	AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHRIS' PASSING, MILITARY ESCORT VEHICLES ARRIVED AT THE AIRPORT.
01:09:06	THE DECISION WAS MADE FOR THEM TO GO TO THE ANNEX.
01:09:13	ONE OF THE BEFORE I GOT THE CALL FROM THE PRIME MINISTER WE RECEIVED SEVERAL PHONE CALLS ON THE PHONE THAT HAD BEEN WITH THE AMBASSADOR SAYING THAT WE KNOW WHERE THE AMBASSADOR IS, PLEASE, YOU CAN COME GET HIM AND OUR LOCAL STAFF ENGAGED ON THOSE PHONE CALLS ADMIRABLY.
01:09:38	ASKING VERY, VERY GOOD, OUTSTANDING, EVEN OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS ABOUT WHERE WAS HE?
01:09:47	TRYING TO DISCERN WHETHER HE WAS ALIVE, WHETHER THEY EVEN HAD THE AMBASSADOR, WHETHER THAT PERSON WAS WITH THE AMBASSADOR, SEND A PICTURE, COULD WE TALK TO THE AMBASSADOR?
01:10:04	BECAUSE WE KNEW SEPARATELY FROM DAVID THAT THE AMBASSADOR WAS IN A HOSPITAL THAT WE BELIEVE WAS UNDER SHARIA'S CALL, THAT WE SUSPECTED WE WERE BEING BATED INTO A TRAP AND SO WE DID NOT WANT TO GO SEND OUR PEOPLE INTO AN AMBUSH.
01:10:28	WE DIDN'T. WE SENT THEM TO THE ANNEX.
01:10:31	SHORTLY AFTER WE ARRIVED AT THE ANNEX THE FIRST MORTARS CAME IN.
01:10:34	THE FIRST WAS LONG AND LANDED AMONG THE LIBYANS THAT ESCORTED OUR PEOPLE THEY TOOK CASUALTIES FOR US THAT NIGHT.
01:10:46	THE NEXT WAS SHORT, THE NEXT THREE LANDED ON THE ROOF KILLING GLEN AND TARON AND

	SEVERELY WOUNDED DAVID.
01:11:05	THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER ANY MORE MORTARS WERE GOING TO COME IN.
01:11:08	THE ACCURACY WAS TERRIBLY PRECISE.
01:11:12	THE CALL WAS THE NEXT ONE IS COMING THROUGH THE ROOF, MAYBE IF IT HIT TWO OF THE GUY FROM TEAM TRIPOLI CLIMBED UP ON THE ROOF AND CARRIED GLEN'S BODY AND TARAN'S BODY DOWN.
01:11:34	ONE GUY, MARK SOOIS, FULL COMBAT GEAR, CLIMBED UP THERE STRAPPED DAVID ABAN, A LARGE MAN, TO HIS BACK, CARRIED HIM DOWN A LADDER AND SAVED HIM.
01:12:02	IN TRIPOLI WE HAD THE DEFENSE ATTACHE HAD PERSUADED THE LIBYANS TO FLY THEIR C-130 TO BENGHAZI AND WANTED TO AIRLIFT -- SINCE WE HAD CONSOLIDATED AT THE ANNEX AND LIBYAN GOVERNMENT HAD NOW PROVIDED US WITH EXTERNAL SECURITY AROUND OUR FACILITIES, WE WANTED TO SEND FURTHER REINFORCEMENTS TO BENGHAZI.
01:12:40	WE DETERMINED THAT LIEUTENANT GIBSON AND HIS TEAM OF SPECIAL FORCES TROOPS SHOULD GO.
01:12:50	THE PEOPLE IN BENGHAZI HAD BEEN FIGHTING ALL NIGHT.
01:12:53	THEY WERE TIRED.
01:12:54	THEY WERE EXHAUSTED.
01:12:55	WE WANTED TO MAKE SURE THE AIRPORT WAS SECURE FOR THEIR WITHDRAWAL.
01:13:07	AS COLONEL GIBSON AND HIS THREE PERSONNEL WERE GETTING IN THEIR CARS, HE STOPPED AND HE CALLED THEM OFF AND SAID TOLD ME THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED TO GO.
01:13:23	THE VEHICLES HAD TO GO BECAUSE THE FLIGHT NEEDED TO GO TO BENGHAZI.
01:13:29	LIEUTENANT COLONEL GIBSON WAS FURIOUS.
01:13:34	I TOLD HIM TO BRING OUR PEOPLE HOME.
01:13:35	THAT'S WHAT HE WANTED TO DO.
01:13:45	PAID ME A VERY NICE COMPLIMENT AND I WON'T REPEAT IT HERE.
01:13:53	THE PLANE WENT.
01:13:54	I THINK IT LANDED IN BENGHAZI AROUND 7:30.
01:14:06	THE OTHER THING WE DID AND I WANT TO MENTION JACKIE LAVESK'S NAME IN THIS HEARING.
01:14:15	SHE WAS OUR NURSE.
01:14:18	WE INITIALLY THOUGHT THAT WE WOULD -- THAT SHE SHOULD GO TO BENGHAZI, ONE OF THE SPECIAL FORCES WAS LIEUTENANT COLONEL GIBSON'S TEAM WAS OUR LAST MILITARY TRAINED MEDIC AVAILABLE AND A BROKEN FOOT IN A CAST AND I STILL REMEMBER HIM WALKING TO GO AND GET IN THE CAR WITH HIS MACHINE GUN CARRYING A MACHINE GUN ON HIS SHOULDER.
01:14:55	JACKIE, I REFUSED TO ALLOW HER TO GO TO BENGHAZI BECAUSE I KNEW WE HAD WOUNDED COMING BACK.
01:15:01	I KNEW DAVID WAS SEVERELY WOUNDED.
01:15:04	I KNEW OTHERS WERE WOUNDED AS WELL, AND JACKIE HAD JUST MADE TERRIFIC CONTACTS WITH A HOSPITAL IN TOWN, AND SO WE SENT HER -- I SENT HER TO THAT HOSPITAL TO START MOBILIZING THEIR ER TEAMS AND THEIR DOCTORS TO RECEIVE OUR WOUNDED, SO WHEN THE CHARTER FLIGHT ARRIVES IN TRIPOLI, WE HAD AMBULANCES AT THE AIRPORT WAITING.
01:15:37	THEIR DOCTORS WERE READY AND WAITING FOR OUR WOUNDED TO COME IN, TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE OPERATING ROOM AND THEY CERTAINLY SAVED DAVID'S LEG AND MAY VERY WELL HAVE SAVED HIS LIFE.
01:15:55	THEY TREATED OUR OTHER WOUNDED AS WELL AS IF THEY WERE THEIR OWN.
01:16:04	>> MR. HICKS, I KNOW YOU HAVE THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED.
01:16:06	I THINK WE ALL NEED TO DIGEST A LITTLE OF WHAT YOU JUST TOLD US.
01:16:10	IF WE COULD PAUSE THERE AND MR.
01:16:11	CUMMINGS IS RECOGNIZED.
01:16:17	>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH, AGAIN TO ALL OF YOU WE APPRECIATE YOUR BEING HERE AND TO YOU, MR.
01:16:24	HICKS, AS YOU DESCRIBED WHAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT AND JUST REMINDED ME OF THE HIGH COST, THE HIGH COST THAT IS PAID BY SO MANY OF OUR FOLK IN THE DIPLOMATIC WARD AND ALSO REMINDED ME OF THEIR BRAVERY AND THE FACT THAT YOU ALL GO AROUND THE WORLD IN FOREIGN PLACES TRYING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, AND AS I LISTEN TO YOUR TESTIMONY, I COULD NOT HELP BUT THINK ABOUT SOMETHING THAT I SAID VERY RECENTLY TO YEARS AGO NOW IN A EULOGY FOR A RELATIVE.
01:17:20	I SAID THAT DEATH IS A PART OF LIFE BUT SO OFTEN WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO MAKE LIFE A PART OF DEATH, AND I GUESS THE REASON WHY I AM SAYING THAT, I AM GOING TO GO BACK TO SOMETHING MR.
01:17:43	NORDSTROM SAID WHEN HE WAS -- HE SAID THAT HE WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT -- ALL OF YOU SAID IT PRETTY MUCH.

01:17:49	YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE WE LEARN FROM THIS SO THAT YOUR COMRADES AND OUR FOUR MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS WHO SADLY PASSED AWAY, SO THAT THIS NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN, AND I APPRECIATE IT.
01:18:08	I KNOW THIS IS DIFFICULT. I KNOW IT IS.
01:18:13	WE ALL FEEL YOUR PAIN, AND SO I JUST WANT TO GOING BACK TO WHAT MR.
01:18:18	NORDSTROM SAID, TRYING TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE A COMPLETE PICTURE, BECAUSE THERE IS ANOTHER PIECE TO THIS, TOO, AND THAT IS THAT WE HAVE SOME BALANCING HERE TODAY TO DO TODAY.
01:18:32	WE HAVE TO LISTEN TO YOU ALL, AND THIS IS REALLY, REALLY DIFFICULT BECAUSE WE HAVE GOT SOME STATEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE, NOT NECESSARILY BY YOU BUT INTERPRETED.
01:18:50	WHILE WE HAVE TO PROTECT YOU, WE ALSO HAVE TO PROTECT YOUR FELLOW EMPLOYEES.
01:18:57	IN OTHER WORDS, PROTECTION IS MAYBE NOT THE RIGHT WORD BUT MAKE SURE THEY'RE TREATED FAIRLY, A BALANCE, AND I AM TRYING TO MAKE SURE I GET YOUR WORDS, MR.
01:19:07	NORDSTROM, A COMPLETE PICTURE.
01:19:10	THAT'S ALL.
01:19:12	THE INTERVIEW WITH THE COMMITTEE STAFF YOU STATED, AND I QUOTE, IN MY PERSONAL OPINION A FAST MOVER FLYING OVER BENGHAZI AT SOME POINT, YOU KNOW, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE MIGHT VERY WELL HAVE PREVENTED SOME OF THE BAD THINGS THAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT.
01:19:33	IS THAT RIGHT? DID YOU SAY THAT?
01:19:36	>> YES, SIR, I DID.
01:19:38	>> AND YOU FURTHER STATED, AND I QUOTE, I BELIEVE THAT WE HAD BEEN ABLE TO SCRAMBLE A FIGHTER OR AIRCRAFT OR TWO OVER BENGHAZI AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE ATTACK COMMENCED, I BELIEVE THERE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN A MORTAR ATTACK ON THE ANNEX IN THE MORNING BECAUSE I BELIEVE THE LIBYANS WOULD HAVE SPLIT.
01:20:01	IS THAT RIGHT?
01:20:04	>> YES, SIR.
01:20:06	>> AT A HEARING IN FEBRUARY BEFORE THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE GENERAL DEMPSEY, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, WAS ASKED WHETHER WE COULD HAVE DEPLOYED F-16s FROM ABIANO AIR BASE IN ITALY, AND HE EXPLAINED WHY WE COULD NOT, AND THESE ARE HIS WORDS.
01:20:26	WE'RE JUST TRYING TO MAKE SURE WE GET THE COMPLETE PICTURE.
01:20:30	FOR A COUPLE REASONS, AND I QUOTE, FOR A COUPLE REASONS, ONE IS THAT IN ORDER TO DEPLOY THEM IT REQUIRES THIS IS THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT NOW.
01:20:42	THESE ARE NOT AIRCRAFT ON STRIP ALERT.
01:20:46	THERE IS A PART OF OUR COMMITMENT TO NATO AND EUROPE, AND SO AS WE LOOKED AT THE TIMELINE, IT WAS PRETTY CLEAR THAT IT WOULD TAKE UP TO 20 HOURS OR SO TO GET THEM THERE.
01:21:02	MR. HICKS, I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU WANTED PLANES TO GET TO BENGHAZI FASTER.
01:21:07	IF I WERE IN YOUR SHOES, I WOULD HAVE WANTED THEM TO GET THERE YESTERDAY YESTERDAY, AND THAT IS COMPLETELY UNDERSTANDABLE, BUT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF SAID THEY SIMPLY COULD NOT GET THERE QUICKLY.
01:21:25	MR. HICKS, DO YOU HAVE ANY REASON TO QUESTION GENERAL DEMPSEY'S TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE?
01:21:34	>> AGAIN, I WAS SPEAKING FROM MY PERSPECTIVE.
01:21:36	>> I UNDERSTAND.
01:21:37	>> ON THE GROUND IN TRIPOLI, BASED ON WHAT THE DEFENSE ATTACHE TOLD ME.
01:21:44	HE SAID TWO TO THREE HOURS.
01:21:45	>> OKAY. >> THERE WERE NO TANKERS.
01:21:48	>> ALL RIGHT.
01:21:49	>> AND I ALSO WAS SPEAKING WITH REFERENCE TO CONVERSATIONS I HAD HAD WITH VETERAN LIBYAN REVOLUTIONARIES, AND OTHER PERSONNEL WHO HAD EXPERIENCED THE LIBYAN REVOLUTION AND WHO HAD TOLD ME THAT THE LIBYAN PEOPLE WERE VERY WELL AWARE OF -- SORRY, THAT AMERICAN AND NATO AIR POWER HAD BEEN DECISIVE IN THEIR VICTORY AND I WAS ALSO SPEAKING TO THEIR VIEW, AGAIN, THAT LIBYANS WOULD NOT STAND IF THEY WERE AWARE THAT AMERICAN AIRCRAFT WERE IN THE VICINITY.
01:22:44	>> I UNDERSTAND.
01:22:45	SO FORMER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE LEON PANETTA ALSO TESTIFIED IN FEBRUARY, AND HE SAID THIS, AND I QUOTE.
01:22:52	HE SAYS SOON AFTER THE INITIAL, THE PRESIDENT ORDERED ALL AVAILABLE D.
01:22:59	O.D. ASSETS TO RESPOND TO THE ATTACK IN LIBYA AND TO PROTECT U.
01:23:06	S. PERSONNEL AND INTERESTS IN THE REGION.

01:23:09	SOME HAVE ASKED WHY OTHER TYPES OF ARMED AIRCRAFT WERE NOT DISPATCHED TO BENGHAZI.
01:23:16	THE REASON IS BECAUSE ARMED UAVs, AC-130 GUN SHIPS OR FIXED WING FIGHTERS WITH ASSOCIATED TANKING ARM AMENTS, SUPPORT CAPABILITIES WERE NO THE VICINITY OF LIBYA AND BECAUSE OF THE DISTANCE WOULD HAVE TAKEN AT LEAST 9 TO 12 HOUR IF NOT, MORE TO DEPLOY.
01:23:43	THIS WAS PURE AND CIVIL A PROBLEM OF DISTANCE AND TIME, END OF QUOTE.
01:23:48	DO YOU QUESTION HIS TESTIMONY?
01:23:52	>> SIR, AGAIN, THE DEFENSE ATTACHE SAID TO ME FIGHTER AIRCRAFT IN AVIANO MIGHT BE ABLE TO -- WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO OVER BENGHAZI BEFORE TWO TO THREE HOURS.
01:24:09	>> MR. CUMMINGS -- >> WLAM I'MHAT I'M GOING ON, WHAT THE DEFENSE ATTACHE TOLD ME.
01:24:14	>> I ASSURE YOU, IN REGARDS TO YOUR EARLIER STATEMENT, WE WILL BRING IN PEOPLE WHERE WE CAN HAVE THAT DISCUSSION, HOPEFULLY, WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE PEOPLE, CHOSEN FOR -- ON BOTH SIDES COULD THEY OR COULDN'T THEY.
01:24:25	I THINK IT'S A GOOD LINE OF QUESTIONING, PERHAPS NOT FOR THE AMBASSADOR.
01:24:29	>> MR.
01:24:30	CHAIRMAN -- >> YOU CERTAINLY CAN HAVE ANOTHER MINUTE.
01:24:33	>> THANK YOU, MR.
01:24:37	CHAIRMAN.
01:24:38	BUT IT'S EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT I ASK THESE QUESTIONS BECAUSE A LOT HAS BEEN PUT OUT THERE IN THE AIR.
01:24:47	AND ALL OF THESE FOLKS AREN'T HERE FOR NO REASON.
01:24:53	AND THERE -- I KNOW WE WILL GET THOSE QUESTIONS ANSWERED.
01:24:58	BUT ALL WE HAVE IS YOU TODAY.
01:24:59	AND I'M GLAD TO HAVE YOU.
01:25:02	BUT IN OTHER WORDS, I'M JUST TRYING -- AGAIN, REMEMBER WHAT I SAID TO YOU ALL EARLIER, AND EVERYBODY ON THIS COMMITTEE SHOULD KNOW THIS, I -- I TRIED TO DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO PROTECT WITNESSES.
01:25:18	I DON'T CARE IF THEY'RE CALLED BY REPUBLICANS OR DEMOCRATS BECAUSE YOUR INTEGRITY AND REPUTATION'S ALL YOU GOT.
01:25:24	I ALSO HAVE OTHER PEOPLE WHO -- WHOSE REPUTATIONS ARE BEING QUESTIONED.
01:25:31	SO I'VE GOT TO, YOU KNOW, TAKE WHAT YOU SAY AND I ALSO GOT TO CONSIDER THEM, TOO, BECAUSE I HAVE A DUTY TO BOTH OF THEM, DO YOU FOLLOW ME IN ONE LAST THING, MR.
01:25:40	CHAIRMAN, THEN I'LL FINISH UP.
01:25:46	I'LL CLOSE BY NOTING THAT EVEN THE PARTISAN REPORT ISSUED BY OUR FIVE REPUBLICAN CHAIRMAN IN APRIL, INCLUDING OUR GOOD CHAIRMAN ISSA, CLEARED THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SAID THIS, IT SAYS, AND I QUOTE, NO EVIDENCE HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO SUGGEST THAT THESE OFFICIALS REFUSED TO DEPLOY RESOURCES BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT THE SITUATION HAD BEEN SUFFICIENTLY RESOLVED.
01:26:15	I'LL END THERE.
01:26:16	OUT OF COURTESY TO ALL OF OUR COLLEAGUES, AND AGAIN, I DON'T KNOW WHETHER WE'LL GET TO A SECOND ROUND, BUT AGAIN, I PROMISE YOU, I PROMISE, EVERY ONE OF YOU, I WILL DO EVERY SINGLE THING IN MY POWER TO MAKE SURE -- I HOPE THERE'S NO RETALIATION, BUT TO RETECHPROTECT YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE SO, VERY, VERY IMPORTANT.
01:26:41	AND IT IS YOUR BRAVERY THAT HAVE BROUGHT YOU HERE TODAY.
01:26:44	WE REALLY APPRECIATE IT.
01:26:46	THANK YOU.
01:26:47	>> THANK YOU.
01:26:49	WE'LL NOW GO TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM SOUTH CAROLINA, MR.
01:26:52	GAUDY. >> THANK YOU MR.
01:26:53	CHAIRMAN.
01:26:54	TO FAMILY OF THE VICTIMS, IT'S BEEN EIGHT MONTHS AND I KNOW THAT THERE ARE THOSE WHO HAVE SAID, THAT'S A LONG TIME AGO.
01:27:02	BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS, THERE IS NO STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS WHEN IT COMES TO FINDING OUT THE TRUTH, PARTICULARLY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED AND SACRIFICED AND DIED UNDER OUR FLAGS.
01:27:13	SO, MR. HICKS, LET'S FIND OUT THE TRUTH.
01:27:15	THE PRESIDENT OF LIBYA RESPONDED TO THE ATTACK AND LABELED IT AN ATTACK BY ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS POSSIBLY WITH TERROR LINKS, CORRECT?
01:27:24	>> YES, SIR.
01:27:25	>> SO HOURS AFTER OUR AMBASSADOR AND THREE OTHERS ARE KILLED IN BENGHAZI, THE PRESIDENT OF LIBYA SAYS IT WAS AN ATTACK WITH POSSIBLE TERROR LINKS, CORRECT?

01:27:40	>> YES, SIR, THAT'S WHAT I RECALL.
01:27:41	>> DID THE PRESIDENT OF LIBYA MENTION A SPONTANEOUS PROTEST RELATED TO A VIDEO?
01:27:45	>> NO, SIR.
01:27:46	>> WHEN AMBASSADOR STEVENS TALKED TO YOU, PERHAPS MINUTES BEFORE HE DIED, AS A DYING DECLARATION, WHAT PRECISELY DID HE SAY TO YOU?
01:27:57	>> HE SAID, GREG, WE'RE UNDER ATTACK.
01:28:00	>> WOULD A HIGHLY DECK INDICATED CAREER DIPLOMAT HAVE TOLD YOU OR WASHINGTON, HAD THERE BEEN A DEMONSTRATION OUTSIDE HIS FACILITY THAT DAY?
01:28:11	>> YES, SIR, HE WOULD HAVE.
01:28:12	>> DID HE MENTION ONE WORD ABOUT A PROTEST OR A DEMONSTRATION?
01:28:17	>> NEW YORK SIRO, SIR, HE DID NOT THERE FAST FORWARD TO THE SUNDAY TALK SHOWS AND AMBASSADOR SUSAN RICE.
01:28:23	SHE BLAMED THE ATTACK ON A VIDEO.
01:28:25	IN FACT SHE DID IT FIVE DIFFERENT TIMES.
01:28:28	WHAT WAS YOUR REACTION TO THAT?
01:28:31	>> I WAS STUNNED.
01:28:33	MY JAW DROPPED.
01:28:38	AND HE WAS EMBARRASSED.
01:28:40	>> DID SHE TALK TO YOU BEFORE SHE WENT ON THE FIVE SUNDAY TALK SHOWS?
01:28:45	>> NO, SIR.
01:28:46	>> YOU WERE THE HIGHEST RANKING OFFICIAL IN LIBYA AT THE TIME, CORRECT?
01:28:50	>> YES, SIR.
01:28:51	>> AND SHE DID NOT BOTHER TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH YOU BEFORE SHE WENT ON NATIONAL TELEVISION?
01:29:01	>> NO, SIR.
01:29:02	>> SO, AMBASSADOR RICE DIRECTLY CONTRADICTS THE EVIDENCE ON THE GROUND IN LIBYA, SHE DIRECTLY CONTRADICTS THE PRESIDENT OF LIBYA, SHE DIRECTLY CONTRADICTS THE LAST STATEMENT UTTERED BY AMBASSADOR STEVEN ZS.
01:29:19	MR.
01:29:20	HICKS, WHO IS BETH JONES?
01:29:22	>> BETH JONES IS THE ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EASTERN AFFAIRS AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT.
01:29:29	>> I WANT TO READ AN EXCERPT FROM AN E-MAIL SHE SENT AND YOU WERE COPIED -- BY THE WAY, MR.
01:29:36	CHAIRMAN, OUR COLLEAGUES WHO LIKE TO TRUMPET BIPARTISAN, A WONDERFUL TUNE TO DEMONSTRATE IT -- SOME E-MAILS, THOUGH NOT CLASSIFIED HAVE NOT BEEN RELEASED, MR.
01:29:45	CHAIRMAN, INCLUDING ONE I'M GOING TO READ FROM.
01:29:49	SO FOR MY COLLEAGUES WHO TRUMPET BIPARTISANSHIP, THIS WOULD BE A WONDERFUL TIME TO PROVE IT.
01:29:54	THIS IS FROM MISS JONES TO YOU, TO COUNSEL FOR HILLARY CLINTON, VICTORIA NULAND, MR.
01:30:08	KENNEDY, ALMOST EVERYONE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND I'M GOING READ.
01:30:10	I SPOKE TO THE LIBYAN AMBASSADOR AND EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF LIBYAN LEADERS CONTINUING TO MAKE STRONG STATEMENTS.
01:30:15	BY THE WAY, MR. HICKS, THIS E-MAIL SENT SEPTEMBER 12th, THE DAY AFTER BENGHAZI, AND SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE AMBASSADOR RICE'S TELEVISION APPEARANCE.
01:30:27	I'LL CONTINUE. WHEN HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT SUSPECTED THAT FORM.
01:30:30	GADHAFI REGIME ELEMENTS CARRIED OUT THE ATTACKS, I TOLD HIM THAT THE GROUP THAT CONDUCTED THE ATTACKSANCE SAR AL SHARIA IS AFFILIATED WITH ISLAMIC TERRORISTS.
01:30:46	LET ME SAY THAT AGAIN, MR.
01:30:50	HICKS.
01:30:51	SHE TOLD HIM, STATE DEPARTMENT, ON SEPTEMBER 12th, DAYS BEFORE OUR AMBASSADOR WENT ON NATIONAL TELEVISION, IS TELLING THE AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA, THE GROUP THAT CONDUCTED THE ATTACKS ANSAR AL SHARIA IS AFFILIATED WITH ISLAMIC TERRORISTS.
01:31:12	MR. HICKS, I WANT TO KNOW TWO THINGS.
01:31:15	NUMBER ONE, WHY IN THE WORLD WOULD SUSAN RICE GO ON FIVE SUN TALK SHOWS AND PERPETUATE A DEMONSTRABLY FALSE NARRATIVE AND, SECOND DAREYL, WHAT IMPACT DID IT HAVE ON BENGHAZI THE FACT THAT SHE CONTRADICTED THE PRESIDENT OF LIBYA?
01:31:37	>> AS THE FIRST QUESTION, I CANNOT PROVIDE AN ANSWER, BUT PERHAPS YOU SHOULD ASK EMBASSY RICE.
01:31:45	>> I WOULD LOVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO JUST THAT.

01:31:49	>> AS TO THE SECOND QUESTION, THE -- AT THE TIME WE WERE TRYING TO GET THE FBI TO BENGHAZI TO AGAIN ITS INVESTIGATION.
01:32:04	AND THAT TALK SHOW ACTUALLY PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN.
01:32:13	AFTERWARDS, WE ENCOUNTERED BUREAUCRATIC RESISTANCE FOR A LONG PERIOD FROM THE LIBYANS.
01:32:25	THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT, AT THIS TIME, IS NOT VERY DEEP.
01:32:30	PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, MINISTERS, ALL CAPABLE PEOPLE.
01:32:36	SOME VICE MINISTERS AS WELL.
01:32:45	AND IT TOOK US AN ADDITIONAL TWO -- SEE MY MATH'S NOT VERY FAST THESE DAYS -- MAYBE 18 DAYS TO GET THE FBI TEAM TO BENGHAZI.
01:32:54	>> SO THE CRIME SCENE WAS UNSECURED FOR 18 DAYS?
01:32:58	>> YES, SIR.
01:32:59	>> WITNESSES WERE NOT INTERVIEWED?
01:33:01	>> I WOULD -- THE GENTLEMAN PLEASE FINISH UP, WE'LL TRY TO MOVE ALONG.
01:33:04	>> YES, I WILL MOVE ON.
01:33:06	WE WILL FINISH THIS, IF THERE IS A SECOND ROUND.
01:33:09	THANK YOU, MR.
01:33:10	HICKS. >> FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS, TO THE EXTENT THAT OUR WITNESSES CAN STAY ON, WE WILL TRY TO HAVE A SECOND ROUND.
01:33:17	BUT THE RANKING MEMBER AND I BOTH REALIZE THAT WE'RE BEHIND SCHEDULE.
01:33:21	I TAKE BLAME FOR IT, BUT WE'LL TRY TO MOVE WITHIN FIVE MINUTES OF QUESTIONING WHENEVER POSSIBLE.
01:33:28	THE GENTLE LADY FROM NEW YORK.
01:33:29	>> THANK YOU, MR.
01:33:30	CHAIRMAN.
01:33:31	THANK YOU, MR.
01:33:32	CHAIRMAN. IS THIS ON?
01:33:33	I WANT TO THANK ALL OF THE WITNESSES AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR PUBLIC SERVICE AND MY CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES FOR YOUR GREAT LOSS.
01:33:44	AND I WANT TO THANK THE AMERICAN MILITARY.
01:33:48	MY FATHER SERVED IN WORLD WAR II, MY BROTHER IN VIETNAM, MY HUSBAND IN THE NAVY, AND I CAN SAY, AFTER CLOSE OBSERVATION THERE IS NO PLACE OR NO TIME THAT THE AMERICAN MILITARY WOULDN'T BE THERE TO PROTECT AMERICAN LIVES IF THEY POSSIBLY COULD GET THERE.
01:34:07	AND I FIND IT TRULY DISTURBING, AND VERY UNFORTUNATE, THAT WHEN AMERICANS COME UNDER ATTACK THE FIRST THING SOME DID IN THIS COUNTRY WAS ATTACK AMERICANS, ATTACK THE MILITARY, ATTACK THE PRESIDENT, ATTACK THE STATE DEPARTMENT, ATTACK THE FORMER SENATOR FROM THE GREAT STATE OF NEW YORK, FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY CLINTON.
01:34:35	AND I WOULD LIKE TO ASK SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE ATTACKS TO GET AT THE REAL FACTS.
01:34:46	LAST MONTH CHAIRMAN ISSA WENT ON NATIONAL TELEVISION AND ACCUSED FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY CLINTON, ACCUSED HER OF LYING UNDER OATH WHEN SHE TESTIFIED BEFORE CONGRESS THAT SHE DID NOT PERSONALLY APPROVE OF SECURITY REDUCTIONS IN LIBYA.
01:35:07	AS PROOF HE CLAIMED THAT SHE PERSONALLY SIGNED A CABLE DENYING REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL SECURITY.
01:35:17	AND HE STATED, AND I QUOTE, THE SECOND OF STATE WAS JUST WRONG.
01:35:23	SHE SAID SHE DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THIS AND YET ONLY A FEW MONTHS BEFORE THE ATTACK, SHE OUTRIGHT DENIED SECURITY AND HER SIGNATURE AND A CABLE IN APRIL 2012.
01:35:41	THE FACT IS THAT THE SECRETARY DID NOT SIGN THIS CABLE IN 2012.
01:35:46	HER NAME WAS TYPED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE, WHICH IS JUST THE GENERAL PROCEDURE FOR THOUSANDS OF CABLES THAT COME OUT OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT EVERY SINGLE YEAR.
01:35:58	SO I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE PANELISTS AND OUR WITNESSES JUST ONE QUESTION, AND IT CONCERNS THE STATE DEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE MANUAL, WHICH IS POSTED ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE AND THIS MANUAL SAYS, AND I QUOTE, THE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER WILL PLACE THE NAME OF THE SECRETARY ON ALL TELEGRAMS TO POSTS, END QUOTE.
01:36:26	NOW, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE PANELISTS, IN A YES OR NO QUESTION, DO YOU AGREE THAT THIS IS THE PROPER PROCEDURE OR THE PROCEDURE THAT'S FOLLOWED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF CABLES LEAVE THE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS EVERY SINGLE YEAR WITH THE SECRETARY'S NAME AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE OR ON THE PAGE?
01:36:50	AND I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW, MR.
01:36:52	NORDSTROM, YES OR NO, DO YOU AGREE WITH THE MANUAL?
01:36:56	IS THAT THE PROCEDURE OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

01:36:58	>> THAT'S MY UNDERSTANDING.
01:36:59	>> MR.
01:37:00	HICKS, YES OR NO.
01:37:01	>> YES, MA'AM.
01:37:02	>> MR.
01:37:03	THOMPSON, YES OR NO?
01:37:07	IS THAT THE PROCEDURE? >> YES.
01:37:09	>> WELL, TWO DAYS AFTER CHAIRMAN ISSA MADE THESE ACCUSATIONS, "THE WASHINGTON POST" RAN A FACT CHECKER ARTICLE CALLED THE WHOPPER AND I WOULD LIKE TO ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO PLACE THIS IN THE RECORD.
01:37:28	>> WITHOUT OBJECTION, SO ORDERED.
01:37:31	THANK YOU.
01:37:32	WELL, WHAT THE FACT CHECKER SAID WAS THIS, QUOTE, THERE WAS NO BASIS OR EVIDENCE TO SHOW THAT CLINTON HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS CABLE ANY MORE THAN SHE PERSONALLY APPROVED A CABLE ON PROPER E-MAIL ETIQUETTE.
01:37:51	THE ODDS ARE EXTREMELY LONG THAT SECRETARY CLINTON EVER SAW OR APPROVED THIS MEMO, GIVING US CONFIDENCE THAT THESE INFLAMMATORY AND RECKLESS LANGUAGE QUALIFIES AS A WHOPPER AND FOR PINOCCHIOS.
01:38:12	END QUOTE.
01:38:13	ANYONE WHO KNOWS HOW THE STATE DEPARTMENT OPERATES KNOWS THAT SHE WAS SPEAKING THE TRUTH.
01:38:19	SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT THE PROCEDURE THAT WAS IN THE MANUAL.
01:38:24	THERE IS NO WAY IN THE WORLD THAT SHE COULD SIGN EVERY CABLE COMING OUT AND WHEN SHE SAID SHE DIDN'T SIGN IT SHE DID NOT SIGN IT.
01:38:33	>> THE GENTLE LADY'S TIME IS EXPIRED BUT IF ANYONE WANTS TO RESPOND, THEY MAY.
01:38:39	HEARING NONE, WE'LL GO TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM UTAH MR.
01:38:45	CHAFETS.
01:38:46	>> THANK YOU ALL THREE BEING HERE, THANK YOU TO THE FAMILIES' LOVED ONES WHO PASSED AWAY.
01:38:57	FIRST PLANE FROM TRIPOLI, IT WENT FROM TRIPOLI, INCLUDED SEVEN RESCUE TEAM MEMBERS INCLUDING TWO U.
01:39:02	S. MILITARY PERSONNEL.
01:39:05	THAT PLANE THEN RETURNS TO TRIPOLI.
01:39:07	AND THE FIRST RESCUE TEAM THERE IS NOW REALLY ENGAGED IN THE ATTACK.
01:39:12	YOU HAVE NO IDEA, MY UNDERSTANDING WHEN THE ATTACK IS GOING TO END.
01:39:17	SO THE SECOND RESCUE TEAM IS PREPARING TO GO.
01:39:19	AND I WANT -- YOU MENTIONED IN YOUR OPENING STATEMENT, BUT IF YOU COULD PLEASE GO BACK TO WHAT THIS SECOND TEAM, THE SECOND TEAM INCLUDED FOUR U.
01:39:29	S. MILITARY, HIGHLY TRAINED SPECIAL FORCES PERSONNEL, ONE OF WHICH IS A MEDIC AND YET THESE MILITARY PERSONNEL DO NOT OPERATE UNDER YOUR AUTHORITY AND YOUR PERMISSION IS NOT ENOUGH FOR THEM TO GO.
01:39:41	PLAIN TO ME AGAIN EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED HAPPENED.
01:39:49	>> AGAIN, WE DETERMINED THAT WE NEEDED TO SEND A SECOND TEAM FROM TRIPOLI TO SECURE THE AIRPORT FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF OUR PERSONNEL FROM BENGHAZI AFTER THE MORTAR ATTACK.
01:40:00	>> WERE ANY OF THESE U.
01:40:02	S. MILITARY PERSONNEL NOT PERMITTED TO TRAVEL ON A RESCUE MISSION OR RELIEF MISSION TO BENGHAZI?
01:40:07	>> THEY WERE NOT AUTHORIZED TO TRAVEL.
01:40:10	>> WHAT HAPPENED WITH THOSE PERSONNEL?
01:40:13	>> THEY REMAINED IN TRIPOLI WITH US.
01:40:15	THE MEDIC WENT WITH THE NURSE TO THE HOSPITAL TO LEND HIS SKILLS TO THE TREATMENT OF OUR -- AND CARE OF OUR WOUNDED.
01:40:24	>> HOW DID THE PERSONNEL REACT TO BEING TOLD TO STAND DOWN?
01:40:30	>> THEY WERE FURIOUS.
01:40:33	I CAN ONLY SAY, WELL, I WILL QUOTE LIEUTENANT COLONEL GIBSON, HE SAID, THE FIRST TIME IN MY CAREER THAT A DIPLOMAT HAS MORE BALLS THAN SOMEBODY IN THE MILITARY.
01:40:45	>> SO THE MILITARY'S TOLD TO STAND DOWN.
01:40:49	NOT ENGAGE THE FIGHT.
01:40:50	THESE ARE THE KIND OF PEOPLE WILLING TO ENGAGE.

01:40:55	WHAT DID -- WHERE DID THAT MESSAGE COME DOWN?
01:40:58	WHERE DID THE STAND DOWN ORDER COME FROM?
01:41:00	>> I BELIEVE IT CAME FROM EITHER AFRICOM OR SOC AFRICA.
01:41:08	>> GENERAL HAMM WAS NO THE HEADQUARTER BUT WAS IN WASHINGTON, D.
01:41:12	C., CORRECT? >> I DON'T KNOW THE WHERE ABOUT THES OF GENERAL HAMM ON THAT NIGHT.
01:41:18	>> THIS IS SOMETHING WE NEED TO EXPLORE.
01:41:20	I NEED TO MOVE QUICKLY TO MR.
01:41:22	THOMPSON, IF I COULD.
01:41:23	YOU WERE LEADER AT THE FEST WITHIN THE STATE DEPARTMENT ACCORDING TO STATE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE, THE FEST IS THE FOREIGN EMERGENCY SUPPORT TEAM THE U.
01:41:31	S. GOVERNMENT'S ONLY INTERAGENCY ON CALL SHORT NOTICE TEAM POISED TO RESPOND TO TERRORIST ATTACKS WORLDWIDE.
01:41:39	I WANT TO READ AN EXCERPT OF AN E-MAIL SENT BY YOU TO KATHLEEN AUSTIN FERGUSON TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2012, 9:58 P.
01:41:49	M. HELP ME UNDERSTAND WHO IS KATHLEEN AUSTIN FERGUSON?
01:41:53	>> SHE IS UNDERSECRETARY KENNEDY'S DEPUTY.
01:41:55	>> YOU WROTE, QUOTE, I AM TOLD THAT PAT KENNEDY PARTICIPATED IN A SENIOR CONFERENCE CALL WITH THE WHITE HOUSE.
01:42:02	AND DISCOURAGED THE FEST OPTION.
01:42:05	TO REMIND, FEST DEDICATED AIRCRAFT ABLE TO RESPOND IN FOUR HOURS.
01:42:09	IS DEPARTMENT OF STATE-LED AND PROVIDES BELOW SKILLS.
01:42:13	WHEN FBI CONTACTED THEY RESPONDED THIS SITUATION WOULD BE BETTER ADDRESSED VIA A FEST RESPONSE, THUS OTHERS THINKING THE SAME WAY, READY TO DISCUSS FURTHER AS NEEDED.
01:42:23	MARK, TWO QUESTIONS.
01:42:26	>> CAN THE GENTLEMAN SUSPEND FOR A MOMENT?
01:42:28	EARLIER THERE WAS ONE DOCUMENT THAT HAD NOT BEEN PLACED IN THE RECORD BECAUSE IT HADN'T BEEN PROVIDED THROUGH OFFICIAL CHANNELS.
01:42:35	AND I ASK THAT WE GET THAT.
01:42:36	I THINK IT CAME FROM MR.
01:42:39	GOWDY.
01:42:40	AND THEN MR.
01:42:41	CHAFFETZ IF YOU CAN MAKE YOUR DOCUMENT AVAILABLE SO WE CAN MAKE COPIES.
01:42:47	FOR ANY OTHER MEMBERS ON EAR SIDE OF THE DAY IF YOU PLAN TO USE A DOCUMENT CURRENTLY NOT COMMITTEE RECORD -- AND I REALIZE SINCE WE'VE GOTTEN VERY LITTLE THERE'S LITTLE COMMITTEE RECORDS -- PLEASE DO US A FAVOR OF HAVING COPIES TO BE DISTRIBUTED AT OR PRIOR TO THE QUESTIONING.
01:43:04	SORRY TO INTERRUPT.
01:43:05	>> ONE THING.
01:43:07	MR. CHAIRMAN, AS YOU RECALL YESTERDAY I SAID, I REMINDED YOU THAT WE HAD NEVER, WITH REGARD TO MR.
01:43:13	THOMPSON, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE GOTTEN A SYLLABLE FROM HIM.
01:43:18	>> WE HAVE NO TRANSCRIPT EITHER.
01:43:19	>> ONE OF THE THINGS I SAID IN OUR CONVERSATION IS THAT THEY -- IF THERE WERE ANY INDOCUMENTS TO BE USED WE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE HAD THEM YESTERDAY.
01:43:29	BUT WITH REGARD TO THIS DOCUMENT, SOUNDS LIKE IT'S A CRUCIAL DOCUMENT AND IN FAIRNESS TO EVERYBODY, TO ALL OF US, AND TO MR.
01:43:39	NORDSTROM WHO WANTED A COMPLETE HEARING WE'D LIKE HAVE THE DOCUMENT, IF WE SUSPEND -- WE'D LIKE TO SEE THE DOCKMENT THAT HE'S TALKING.
01:43:46	>> IN THE CASE OF THIS DOCUMENT MR.
01:43:50	CHAFFETZ, MY UNDERSTANDING YOU DO HAVE THE DOCUMENT.
01:43:54	SO I'LL LET STAFF WORK ON THAT AND PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TIME, IF NEEDED, IF THAT TURNS OUT TO NOT TO BE TRUE.
01:44:00	FOR OUR WITNESSES, IF YOU HAVE ANY DOCUMENTS YOU'RE GOING TO REFER TO THAT WE DON'T HAVE, IT YOU HAVE COUNSELS ALLOW COPIES TO BE MADE.
01:44:07	AGAIN, I WANT TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE HAS IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
01:44:10	OBVIOUSLY, IF THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD MADE THE DOCUMENTS THEY SHOW A SO-CALLED IN-CAMERA, IF THEY ALLOWED US TO HAVE COPIES WE'D ALL HAVE MORE DOCUMENTS BUT THAT'S A DIFFERENT ARGUMENT.
01:44:22	SORRY, WE'LL GIVE YOU BACK A COUPLE OF SECONDS.
01:44:24	THE GENTLEMAN MAY CONTINUE.

01:44:25	>> MR. THOMPSON, DO YOU RECALL THAT E MAIL?
01:44:27	>> I DO.
01:44:28	>> TWO QUESTIONS.
01:44:29	WERE YOU EVER GIVEN A DETAILED EXPLANATION AS TO WHY THE FEST WAS NOT CONSIDERED FOR DEPLOYMENT?
01:44:35	NUMBER TWO, DID YOU ATTEND OR ATTEMPT TO ATTEND ANY SENIOR MEETINGS TO PLEAD YOUR CASE FOR A FEST DEPLOYMENT?
01:44:41	IF SO, WHAT HAPPENED?
01:44:44	>> THE REASON I WAS GIVEN WAS THAT THIS WAS NOT THE TIME FOR THE FEST.
01:44:49	IT MIGHT BE TOO UNSAFE FOR THE FEST AND I GOT THAT THROUGH MISS AUSTIN FERGUSON.
01:44:58	I -- I READDRESSSED THAT WITH HER.
01:45:01	I READDRESSSED IT WITH HER STAFF TWO DAYS LATER.
01:45:05	>> DID YOU ATTEMPT TO ATTEND ANY MEETINGS?
01:45:08	>> THE NEXT MORNING THERE WERE VTCs.
01:45:10	I PRESUMED I WOULD BE PART OF THAT.
01:45:14	I WAS TOLD NOT TO ATTEND THOSE, ALTHOUGH CT WAS REPRESENTED THERE, THE FEST PORTION AND THE RESPONSE PORTION OF THE COUNTERTERRORISM BUREAU WAS NOT REPRESENTED THERE.
01:45:26	>> SO, WHY WERE YOU NOT CALLED INTO ACTION?
01:45:29	WHAT YOU TRAINED FOR?
01:45:31	WHAT TABLETOPS ARE FOR, WHAT YOU'RE PREPARED TO DO, WHY WAS FEST NOT CALLED INTO ACTION?
01:45:36	>> I DO NOT KNOW.
01:45:37	>> MR.
01:45:38	CHAIRMAN, ONE OF GREAT MYSTERIES.
01:45:40	WE HAVE EXPERTISE WE'VE INVESTED HEAVILY IN IT, THEY TABLETOP IT UNDERSTAND IT, THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT THEY TRAIN FOR, AND THEY WERE NEVER ASKED TO GO INTO ACTION.
01:45:48	WE HAD NO IDEA HOW LONG OR WHEN THIS WAS GOING TO END.
01:45:51	YIELD BACK. >> I THANK THE GENTLEMAN.
01:45:53	THE GENTLEMAN IS CORRECT.
01:45:54	WE NOW RECOGNIZE THE LADY FROM -- THE GENTLE LADY FROM THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, MISS NORTON, FOR FIVE MINUTES.
01:46:00	>> THANK YOU, MR.
01:46:01	CHAIRMAN.
01:46:02	MR. THOMPSON, FIRST, I WANT TO SAY TO THE FAMILIES THAT WE CONTINUE TO FEEL DEEPLY ABOUT YOUR LOSS.
01:46:12	I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS OF MR.
01:46:15	THOMPSON CONCERNING THE ROLE OF THE COUNTERTERRORISM BUREAU.
01:46:19	MR. THOMPSON, YOUR LAWYER SAID YOU WERE UNWILLING TO TALK WITH ANY DEMOCRATIC MEMBER OF THIS COMMITTEE.
01:46:25	SO I'VE HAD TO RELY ON STATEMENTS THAT WERE MADE TO THE PRESS, YOUR OWN STATEMENT IS MOSTLY BIOGRAPHICAL ABOUT THE WORK YOU'VE DONE AND LATIN AMERICA AND THE REST.
01:46:44	NOW, ONE REPORT I FOUND INDICATED THAT YOU BELIEVE THAT SECRETARY CLINTON AND AMBASSADOR PATRICK KENNEDY, AND HEAR I'M QUOTING FROM THIS REPORT, TRIED TO CUT THE COUNTERTERRORISM BUREAU OUT OF THE LOOP AS THEY AND OTHER OBAMA ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS WEIGHED HOW TO RESPOND TO AND CHARACTERIZE THE BENGHAZI ATTACKS.
01:47:13	NOW, THAT'S THE END OF THAT QUOTE.
01:47:15	MR. THOMPSON, I'M ASKING YOU, IS THAT A QUOTE, IS THAT QUOTE ACCURATE THAT YOU BELIEVE THAT THE COUNTERTERRORISM BUREAU WAS INTENTIONALLY KEPT OUT OF THE LOOP FOR POLITICAL REASONS?
01:47:33	>> IS IT NOT.
01:47:35	I INDICATED THAT THE PORTION OF THE COUNTERTERRORISM BUREAU THAT RESPONDS TO CRISES, I.
01:47:43	E. MY PART OF THE OFFICE, WAS PUSHED OUT OF THAT DISCUSSION.
01:47:48	THE COUNTERTERRORISM BUREAU WAS REPRESENTED IN SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS AFTER THE NIGHT OF 9/11.
01:47:54	>> SO BUT -- BUT -- DO YOU BELIEVE YOU WERE KEPT OUT FOR POLITICAL REASONS?
01:48:00	THIS QUOTE MAKES IT -- >> I DO NOT POLITICIZE MY JOB, MADAM.
01:48:04	I HAVE SERVED UNDER THREE PRESIDENTS STARTING WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON UP TO THE PRESENT.
01:48:09	I HAVE SERVED SIX SECRETARIES -- >> I'VE GOT TO CONTINUE.
01:48:12	MR. THOMPSON, I WAS JUST QUOTING THE QUOTE.
01:48:14	THE QUOTE ISN'T ENTIRELY ACCURATE, THEN?

01:48:16	>> CORRECT.
01:48:17	>> ALL RIGHT. THAT'S VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE RECORD.
01:48:20	THAT MR. THOMPSON IS NOT SAYING THAT THEY WERE KEPT OUT OF THE LOOP FOR POLITICAL REASONS.
01:48:27	THIS WEEK THIS QUOTE APPARENTLY CAUSED YOUR FORMER BOSS IN THE COUNTER TERRORISM BUREAU AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, I'M SPEAKING NOW OF EMBASSY DANIEL BENJAMIN, TO ISSUE A PUBLIC STATEMENT, DISAGREEING WITH THIS ALLEGATION IN PARTICULAR, WHICH WAS IN QUOTES.
01:48:44	AND HE SAID, AND I AM NOW QUOTING HIM IT HAS BEEN ALLEGED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S COUNTERTERRORISM BUREAU WAS CUT OUT OF THE DISCUSSION AND DECISION MAKING IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE BENGHAZI ATTACKS.
01:48:58	I RAN THE BUREAU THEN AND I CAN SAY WITH CERTAINTY THAT FORMER -- AS THE FORMER COORDINATOR FOR COUNTER TERRORISM THAT THIS CHARGE IS SIMPLY UNTRUE.
01:49:08	DO YOU AGREE WITH AMBASSADOR BENJAMIN?
01:49:12	>> I AGREE THAT THE COUNTER TERRORISM BUREAU WAS INCLUDED BUT THERE'S A DISTINCTION WITH A DIFFERENCE WITH RESPECT TO THE PORTION OF THE COUNTERTERRORISM BUREAU THAT WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE IN THE AFTERMATH OF AN ATTACK OF THE COMPOUND.
01:49:29	>> ALL OF THIS WAS UNDER BENJAMIN.
01:49:32	HE DIDN'T SAY ONE PORTION OR THE OTHER.
01:49:34	YOU, YOURSELF, ARE SAYING ALTHOUGH THE BUREAU WAS REPRESENTED, SOMEHOW SOME PORTIONS OF THE BUREAU WERE NOT REPRESENTED AND HOW IS THAT?
01:49:48	>> THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED, MA'AM.
01:49:49	>> IT SAYS THE BUREAU, THE BUREAU, HE SAYS, GOING ON.
01:49:54	WAS A CENTRAL PARTICIPANT IN THE INTERAGENCY DISCUSSION ABOUT THE LONGER-TERM RESPONSE TO BENGHAZI AT NO TIME WAS THE BUREAU SIDELINED OR OTHERWISE KEPT FROM CARRYING OUT ITS TASK.
01:50:09	THIS SEEMS TO ME TO DIRECTLY CONTRADICT YOUR TESTIMONY HERE TODAY.
01:50:16	HE SAYS -- >> I RESPECTFULLY DISAGREE.
01:50:19	>> YOU SAY YOU WERE IN BUT SOMEHOW OR THE OTHER SOME PART OF IT WAS NOT IN.
01:50:25	>> NO OTHER PART OF THE COUNTERTERRORISM BUREAU IS RESPONSIBLE FOR RESPONDING TO A CRISIS.
01:50:30	THIS WAS A CRISIS, MY OFFICE WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THOSE SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.
01:50:35	OTHER MEMBERS OF THE OFFICE WERE.
01:50:38	VERY PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE.
01:50:39	I'M SURE THEY DID THEIR BEST AT THOSE MEETINGS.
01:50:41	>> WE CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN, YOU KNOW, WHO DOWN THE CHAIN OF THE LINE GETS CONSULTED.
01:50:49	BUT THE -- BUT THE AMBASSADOR SAYS, AFTER THE ATTACK, THE FIRST QUESTION TO ARISE THAT INVOLVED THE COUNTER TERRORISM BUREAU WAS WHETHER OR NOT THE FOREIGN EMERGENCY SUPPORT TEAM SHOULD BE DEPLOYED.
01:51:04	THE QUESTION OF THE DEPLOYMENT WAS POSED EARLY, AND THE DEPARTMENT DECIDED AGAINST SUCH A DEPLOYMENT IN MY VIEW, IT WAS APPROPRIATE TO POSE THE QUESTION AND THE DECISION WAS A CORRECT ONE.
01:51:22	NOW, WERE YOU AWARE THAT YOUR SUPERIORS WERE CONSULTED ABOUT THE DECISION NOT TO EMPLOY THE FOREIGN EMERGENCY SUPPORT TEAM?
01:51:30	>> YOU CAN GO AHEAD AND ANSWER THAT ALTHOUGH THE GENTLE LADY'S TIME IS EXPIRED.
01:51:35	>> AS EARLIER INDICATED, MA'AM, I WAS TOLD THAT BY THE UNDERSECRETARY OF MANAGEMENT'S OFFICE THE NORMAL PROCESS FOR DEPLOYING THE TEAM IS THAT THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL AT A COUNTERTERRORISM SECURITY GROUP AT THE WHITE HOUSE, THOSE OPTIONS ARE DISCUSSED.
01:51:55	AT THAT CONVENING OF THE CSG, THAT DECISION IS RECOMMENDED OR NOT RECOMMENDED TO THE DEPUTY'S COMMITTEE.
01:52:03	IT IS NOT SOLELY A STATE DEPARTMENT FUNCTION OR AUTHORITY TO LAUNCH THE FOREIGN EMERGENCY SUPPORT TEAM, EVEN THOUGH WE ARE ONE PART OF IT.
01:52:13	>> I THANK THE GENTLEMAN.
01:52:15	WE GO TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA, MR.
01:52:18	LANGFORD. >> THANK YOU, MR.
01:52:19	CHAIRMAN. MR.
01:52:20	HICKS, WHEN YOU ARRIVED IN JULY, DID THE FACILITIES OF BENGHAZI MEET THE INMINIMUM OSPD SET BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

01:52:36	>> ACCORDING TO THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER AT THE TIME IN TRIPOLI, JOHN MARTINEK THEY DID NOT.
01:52:42	>> WHAT ABOUT THE FACILITIES TRIPOLI?
01:52:46	BENGHAZI FACILITY IS DID NOT MEET THE MINIMUM STANDARDS IN TRIPOLI?
01:52:50	>> ACCORDING TO THE SECURITY OFFICER AND JOHN MARTINEK, THEY WERE VERY WEAK, YES, THEY DID NOT MEET.
01:52:56	>> YOU THINK THEY WERE CLOSE TO MEETING STANDARDS?
01:52:58	>> NO, SIR.
01:53:01	>> MR. NORDSTROM, BEFORE YOU LEFT, AS THE RSO, DID THE FACILITIES HAVE THE NUMBER OF SECURITY PERSONNEL THAT YOU HAD ASKED?
01:53:08	>> NO THEY DID NOT.
01:53:11	>> MR. NORDSTROM, THERE ARE A VERY, VERY SMALL NUMBER OF FACILITIES WORLDWIDE THAT ARE CONSIDERED BY GAO CRITICAL OR HIGH THREAT LEVEL FOR PERSONNEL SERVING IN OUR DIFFERENT EMBASSIES AND COLONIES.
01:53:28	TRIPOLI AND BENGHAZI, LISTED AS CRITICAL OR HIGH THREAT LEVEL?
01:53:32	>> THEY WERE.
01:53:34	THAT WAS SOMETHING I PUT IN MY WRITTEN TESTIMONY AS WELL.
01:53:37	>> BY STATUTE, WHO HAS AUTHORITY TO PLACE PERSONNEL IN THE AUTHORITY THAT DOES NOT MEET THE MINIMUM OSPB STANDARDS.
01:53:45	>> AS NOTED IN THERE THE OSPB STANDARDS GO IN TANDEM WITH SECURE EMBASSY CONSTRUCTION, BOTH OF WHICH DERIVES OUT OF THE EAST AFRICA BOMBINGS OR STRENGTHENED AFTER THAT.
01:53:58	IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THAT SINCE WE WERE THE SOLE OCCUPANTS OF BOTH OF THOSE FACILITIES, BENGHAZI AND TRIPOLI, THE ONLY PERSON WHO COULD GRANT WAIVERS OR EXCEPTIONS OF THOSE WAS THE SECRETARY OF STATE.
01:54:13	>> MR.
01:54:14	HICKS, WHY WAS AMBASSADOR STEVENS HEADED TO BENGHAZI?
01:54:18	THERE WERE A LOT OF CONCERNS ABOUT HIM A LOT OF SECURITY ISSUES THAT MR.
01:54:22	NORDSTROM LISTED IN NUMEROUS REPORTS LEADING UP TO HIS TRIP THERE.
01:54:26	WHY WAS THE AMBASSADOR HEADED THERE?
01:54:28	>> ACCORDING TO CHRIS, SECRETARY CLINTON WANTED BENGHAZI CONVERTED INTO A PERM CONSTITUENT POST.
01:54:37	TIMING FOR THIS DECISION WAS IMPORTANT.
01:54:43	CHRIS NEEDED TO REPORT BEFORE SENT 30th, END OF THE FISCAL YEAR, ON THE PHYSICAL -- THE POLITICAL AND SECURITY ENVIRONMENT IN BENGHAZI TO SUPPORT A -- AN ACTION MEMO TO CONVERT BENGHAZI FROM A TEMPORARY FACILITY TO A PERMANENT FACILITY.
01:55:04	IN ADDITION, CHRIS WANTED TO MAKE A SYMBOLIC GESTURE TO THE PEOPLE OF BENGHAZI THAT THE UNITED STATES STOOD BEHIND THEIR DREAM OF ESTABLISHING A NEW DEMOCRACY.
01:55:18	>> WHY WAS THIS TIMING IMPORTANT?
01:55:19	WAS IT SIGNIFICANT THAT HE WENT RIGHT NOW?
01:55:21	WAS THERE SOME HESITATION ABOUT HIM GOING AT THAT MOMENT FOR THAT LENGTH OF TIME?
01:55:25	COULD HE HAVE WAITED A COUPLE MORE MONTHS TO BE ABLE TO GO?
01:55:28	>> HE HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO GO TO BENGHAZI IN OCTOBER.
01:55:33	BUT WE HAD A TWO-WEEK GAP IN THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER POSITION, ERIC GAUDIOSI WAS DEPARTED AUGUST 31 T.
01:55:42	AND THIS REPLACEMENT WAS NOT DUE IN THE COUNTRY UNTIL SEPTEMBER 15th.
01:55:47	WE COVERED THE INITIAL TEN-DAY PERIOD WITH McFARLAND AND THE AMBASSADOR CLOSE TO GO, AND AGAIN HE CHOSE TO GO FOR THOSE REASONS.
01:55:55	>> THE TIME LEAN ON TRYING TO MAKE THIS A PERMITS FACILITY OR ANYTHING PENDING THAT HAD TO BE ACCOMPLISHED BY A CERTAIN DEADLINE?
01:56:03	>> WE HAD FUNDS AVAILABLE THAT WE COULD -- THAT COULD BE TRANSFERRED FROM AN ACCOUNT SET ASIDE FOR IRAQ AND COULD BE DEDICATED TO THIS PURPOSE.
01:56:12	THEY HAD TO BE OBLIGATED BY SEPTEMBER 30th.
01:56:16	>> OKAY.
01:56:17	WHAT DO THOSE INSTRUCTIONS COME FROM?
01:56:19	>> THIS CAME FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE BUREAU OF EASTERN AFFAIRS.
01:56:29	>> TOLD TO CHECK EVERYTHING OUT, GET THE PROCESS GOING BECAUSE WE HAD TO DO IT, DO IT RIGHT NOW, PLANNED TO GO THERE IN OCTOBER AND SAID WE HAD TO GET THERE EARLIER AND THERE WAS AN OPENING AS WELL OF THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER?
01:56:40	>> THAT'S RIGHT.

01:56:41	>> MR. NORDSTROM, ON MARCH 28th, THERE'S A CAME THATBLE THAT YOU SENT TO WASHINGTON REQUESTING TO KEEP THE DIPLOMATIC SECURITY YOU HAD ON THE GROUND, THAT LEVEL OF SECURITY, AND NOT HAVE THAT LEVEL OF SECURITY DECESSED.
01:56:55	DID YOU DRAFT THAT CABLE?
01:56:56	>> I DID.
01:56:57	>> WHO WAS THE INTENDED RECIPIENT OF THE CABLE?
01:57:00	>> GENERALLY, THOSE TYPES OF REQUESTS WOULD GO TO OUR DIPLOMATIC SECURITY PERSONNEL, CERTAINLY CHARLENE LAMM WHO WAS WITH ME AND TESTIFIED AND CERTAINLY TO UNDERSECRETARY OF MANAGEMENT AND NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS WOULD BE THE DISTRIBUTION OF THAT.
01:57:18	>> THANK YOU.
01:57:19	MY TIME'S EXPIRED.
01:57:20	>> I THANK THE GENTLEMAN.
01:57:22	THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS, MR.
01:57:27	TYRANNY, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED THERE YOUR TESTIMONY WAS THE EVENTS OF THAT DAY AND EVENING AND THANKING YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND YOUR ACTIVITY, SHARING WITH US ALL OF THE BRAVE ACTS THAT OCCURRED THAT NIGHT.
01:57:38	I DON'T THINK WE'VE HEARD ENOUGH OF THAT.
01:57:40	I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO KNOW HOW MANY INDIVIDUALS BOTH IN TRIPOLI AND LIBYA RESPONDED VERY WELL AND BRAVELY ON THAT.
01:57:48	THANK YOU FOR SHARING THAT AND FOR YOUR SERVICE AS WELL.
01:57:51	WE HAVE AN IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY HERE, AND THAT IS TO ENSURE THAT WHATEVER HAPPENED THAT NIGHT, WHATEVER WE LEARNED FOR WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN DONE BET, ACTUALLY GETS FIXED.
01:58:00	I THINK THAT'S LEGITIMATE PROCESS FOR THIS COMMITTEE TO DO.
01:58:04	I HOPE WE MOVE ON ON THAT BASIS.
01:58:06	I KNOW WE HAD ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD SET UP IMMEDIATELY IN THE WAKE OF ALL OF THIS AND THEY WERE RATHER HARSH IN THE DETERMINATION OF THAT.
01:58:15	THEY MADE 29 DIFFERENT RECOMMENDATIONS ON THAT.
01:58:18	AND WE SHOULD BE FINDING OUT WHETHER OR NOT THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE DEPARTMENT HAVE IMPLEMENTING THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS AND HOW EXPEDITIOUSLY AND I HOPE SOME POINT WE CAN GET DO THAT, WHICH WOULD BE THE APPROPRIATE ROLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT.
01:58:30	I KNOW THAT TWO OF THE THREE WITNESSES HERE THIS MORNING ACTUALLY SPOKE WITH THE ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD AND THE THIRD KNEW OF HIS RIGHT TO SPEAK AND CHOSE NOT TO CONTACT THEM, FOR WHATEVER REASON ON THAT.
01:58:43	BUT EARLIER THIS WEEK, I THINK DISTURBINGLY, THE CHAIRMAN WENT ON TO NATIONAL TELEVISION, ACTUALLY ACCUSED THE ADMINISTRATION OF DELIBERATELY MISLEADING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ABOUT THE ATTACKS IN BENGHAZI.
01:58:55	FOR SOMEBODY THAT'S EARNED THE TERM BEING A WHOPPER, MAKING A STATEMENT A WHOPPER AND FOUR PINOCCHIOS IT'S SHOCKING TO THINK THAT STATEMENT WOULD BE MADE WITHOUT ANY APPARENT BACKUP.
01:59:07	THE BASIS FOR THE EXTREME CHARGE STATEMENTS MADE BY EMBASSY RICE ON NEWS SHOWS THE SUNDAY AFTER THE ATTACKS.
01:59:16	AND THE COMMENTS WERE ALLEGEDLY, TALKING POINTS PROVIDED BY THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY SUPPOSEDLY MANIPULATED FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES.
01:59:23	WHAT WAS QUOTED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TV SHOW CLEARLY THE AMERICAN PUBLIC WAS DELIBERATELY MISLED, SAID THE WHOPPER, AND IT WAS A POLITICAL DECISION, CLOSE QUOTE.
01:59:34	MR. HICKS, YOU TOLD OUR INVESTIGATORS THAT YOU WEREN'T INVOLVED WITH THE DRAFTING OF THE TALKING POINTS, IS THAT RIGHT?
01:59:40	>> YES, SIR. >> MR.
01:59:41	NORDSTROM, YOU WEREN'T INVOLVED EITHER, CORRECT?
01:59:43	>> NO, I WAS NOT THERE MR.
01:59:45	THOMPSON, YOU ALSO WERE NOT INVOLVED, IS THAT RIGHT?
01:59:47	>> YES, CONGRESSMAN, BUT. HOWEVER, I OFFERED MY SERVICES TO THE ARB AND I DID NOT TRY TO KEEP MYSELF OUT OF THE PROCESS, JUST FOR THE RECORD.
01:59:57	>> THANK YOU.
01:59:58	AND WE KNOW THAT THERE ARE CONFLICTING REPORTS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.
02:00:02	WE INCLUDE A STATEMENT BY LIBYAN OFFICIAL THERE HAD BEEN A DEMONSTRATION IN SOME EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS OF THE PROTEST.

02:00:09	MR.
02:00:10	HICKS WE KNOW YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE THERE WAS A PROTEST.
02:00:12	YOU BELIEVED IT WAS OTHERWISE.
02:00:13	AND WE KNOW THE PRESIDENT OF LIBYA ALSO CONTRADICTED WITH THAT STATEMENT ON THAT.
02:00:19	BUT THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY INSISTS IT RECEIVED INITIAL REPORTING SUGGESTING THERE WAS A DEMONSTRATION.
02:00:24	WE KNOW THAT THE REPORTING WAS WRONG, NOW WE KNOW THAT, BUT THE MENTION OF A DEMONSTRATION WAS PUT INTO TALKING POINTS BY THE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE NOT THE WHITE HOUSE OR THE STATE DEPARTMENT.
02:00:34	I WANT TO PLAY VIDEO HERE OF GENERAL CLAPPER WHERE HE SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSES THE ATTACKS ON AMBASSADOR RICE.
02:00:41	WE HAVE THAT QUEUED UP.
02:00:43	>> WHEN SHE WAS HIGHLY CRITICIZED FOR FOLLOWING THEM WHAT WAS YOUR FEELING INSIDE?
02:00:49	YOUR OWN PERSONAL BELIEF?
02:00:50	DID YOU THINK IT WAS FAIR SHE BE CRITICIZED.
02:00:56	>> I THOUGHT IT WAS UNFAIR BECAUSE THE HITS SHE TOOK, I DIDN'T THINK THAT WAS APPROPRIATE.
02:01:02	AND SHE WAS GO ON WHAT WE HAD GIVEN HER.
02:01:05	THAT WAS OUR COLLECTIVE, BEST JUDGMENT AT THE TIME AS TO WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN SAID.
02:01:09	>> THANK YOU, SIR.
02:01:11	>> SO GENERAL CLAPPER SAYS HE THINKS THE ATTACKS ON AMBASSADOR RICE WERE UNFAIR, SHE WAS USING WHAT THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY GAVE HER.
02:01:20	MR. HICKS, DO YOU HAVE AN ARGUMENT WITH HIS VERACITY WHEN HE MADE THOSE STATEMENTS?
02:01:29	>> THERE WAS NO REPORT FROM THE U.
02:01:34	S. MISSION IN LIBYA OF A DEMONSTRATION ON -- >> A DIFFICULT QUESTION I HAVE FOR YOU, YOU'RE GOOD ENOUGH TO COME FORWARD, DO YOU CONTEST THE GENERAL CLAPPER'S VERACITY, IS HE LYING OR TELLING THE TRUTH OF WHAT INFORMATION HE GAVE AMBASSADOR RICE?
02:01:47	>> I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THOSE TALKING POINTS.
02:01:53	>> SO, LOOK, WE -- WE HAVEN'T INVESTIGATED THIS ISSUE YET.
02:01:57	THE HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE HAS.
02:01:59	THEY GOT ALL OF THE DRAFT TALKING POINTS THEY GOT THE BRIEFINGS AND TESTIMONY FROM THE CIA OFFICIALS.
02:02:06	ACCORDING TO ADAM SHIFT, ONE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES ON AND PART OF THE INVESTIGATION, HE SAID, I QUOTE, GENERAL PETRAEUS, FORMER HEAD OF THE CIA MADE IT CLEAR THE CHANGE WAS MADE TO PROTECT CLASSIFIED SOURCES OF INFORMATION, NOT TO SPIN IT, NOT TO POLITICIZE IT, AND IT WASN'T DONE AT THE DIRECTION OF THE WHITE HOUSE.
02:02:24	WE MIGHT AS AN ASIDE MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN PROTECTING CLASSIFIED INFORMATION BECAUSE WE'VE HAD SITUATIONS WHERE PEOPLE IN THE MAJORITY HAVE GONE TO LIBYA, GONE BACK, HAD A FLARE-UP OF WHAT THEY DISCLOSED ABOUT CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.
02:02:38	ITS AND A BIPARTISAN REPORT BY LIEBERMAN AND COLLINS THAT WAS STATED, I QUOTE, NO CHANGES MADE FOR POLITICAL REASONS AND NO ATTEMPT TO MISLEAD THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED IN BENGHAZI.
02:02:48	SO PEOPLE WHO HAVE SEEN THE DOCUMENTS WHO HAVE ACTUALLY CONDUCTED A REAL INVESTIGATION, COMPLETELY REJECT THE ALLEGATION THAT THEY WERE MADE FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES OR TO DELIBERATE RATELY MISLEAD THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.
02:03:01	I YIELD BACK.
02:03:02	>> THANK YOU.
02:03:03	LET ME YIELD TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM OHIO MR.
02:03:05	JORDAN.
02:03:06	>> IN YOUR 22 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY, YOU'VE ALWAYS RECEIVED GOOD REVIEWS, STRONG EVALUATIONS, IS THAT ACCURATE?
02:03:13	>> YES, SIR.
02:03:14	>> I'M A COUNTRY BOY FROM OHIO.
02:03:16	AS I LOOK AT YOUR RESUME AND BIO, OTHER THAN THE DEGREES FROM MICHIGAN, IT'S IMPRESSIVE.
02:03:23	IT'S AMAZING THE THINGS YOU'VE DONE.
02:03:25	IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ATTACKS, EVERYBODY SAID YOU DID A GREAT JOB.
02:03:31	RIGHT?
02:03:33	YOU LOOK AT THE ADDENDUM HERE, WENDY SHERMAN, OUTSTANDING JOB, BILL BURNS, DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE, GREAT WORK, HEROIC EFFORTS.
02:03:41	ISN'T IT TRUE, YOU CITED IN YOUR OPENING STATEMENT, THE SECRETARY CLINTON GAVE YOU A

	CALL IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ATTACKS AND SAID YOU DID AN OUTSTANDING JOB UNDER THE,S?
02:03:51	>> YES, SIR.
02:03:52	THE FIRST CALL AT 2:00 A.
02:03:53	M. AND THEN AGAIN A VIDEO CONFERENCE WITH OUR STAFF.
02:03:56	>> ISN'T IT ALSO TRUE THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES CALLED YOU UP AND SAID YOU KNOW WHAT, MR.
02:04:00	HICKS, YOU DID AN OUTSTANDING JOB AGAIN UNDER SEVERE CIRCUMSTANCES?
02:04:05	>> HE DID CALL ME, SIR.
02:04:06	>> YOU'RE GETTING ALL OF THE PRAISE AND SUPPORT BUT ALL OF THAT SEEMS TO CHANGE AND IT SEEMS TO CHANGE IN THE PHONE CALL YOU WERE ON THAT MR.
02:04:12	GOWDY REFERENCED IN HIS QUESTIONING THE PHONE CALL HE GOT FROM BETH JONES, IS THAT ACCURATE?
02:04:18	>> A PHONE CALL AFTER THE INTERVIEW, I ASKED -- >> THIS IS AFTER SECRETARY RICE WENT ON TELEVISION AND MISLED THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.
02:04:25	YOU'RE ON A PHONE CALL WITH BETH JONES AND IT SEEMS TO CHANGE THEN BECAUSE YOU ASKED BETH JONES WHAT?
02:04:30	>> I ASKED HER WHY THE AMBASSADOR HASD SAID THERE WAS A DEMONSTRATION WHEN THE EMBASSY REPORTED ONLY AN ATTACK.
02:04:41	>> WHAT RESPONSE DID YOU GET FROM BETH JONES?
02:04:43	>> SHE SAID, I DON'T KNOW.
02:04:44	>> BUT WAS IT LIKE YOU SHOULDN'T BE ASKING THAT QUESTION, YOU SHOULD BE QUIET, WE DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT THAT?
02:04:50	WHAT WAS THE SENSE YOU GOT?
02:04:51	>> THE SENSE I GOT I NEEDED TO TOP THE LINE OF QUESTIONING.
02:04:54	>> AND DID THINGS CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE BETWEEN YOU AND SUPERIORS, AFTER GIVE YOU THIS PRAISE, OUTSTANDING SERVICE RECORD, 22 YEARS SERVING OUR COUNTRY, THINGS BEGIN TO DETERIORATE EVEN MORE.
02:05:05	AS I READ THE TRANSCRIPT, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IT CAME TO A HEAD AND PHONE CALLS YOU WERE ON WITH LAWYERS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRIOR TO CONGRESSMAN CHAFFETZ COMING TO VISIT IN LIBYA, IS THAT ACCURATE?
02:05:21	>> YES, SIR.
02:05:22	>> TELL ME ABOUT THE CONVERSATIONS WHAT LAWYERS INSTRUCTED YOU TO DO ON MR.
02:05:25	MR.
02:05:26	CHAFFETZ VISIT TO LIBYA.
02:05:27	>> I WAS INSTRUCTED NOT TO ALLOW THE RSO, THE ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION AND MYSELF TO BE PERSONALLY INTERVIEWED BY CONGRESSMAN CHAFFETZ.
02:05:38	>> THE PEOPLE AT STATE TOLD YOU DON'T TALK TO THE GUY WHO IS COMING TO INVESTIGATE?
02:05:42	>> YES, SIR.
02:05:44	>> DON'T TALK TO THE CONGRESSMAN?
02:05:45	YOU'VE HAD SEVERAL CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS COME TO VARIOUS PLACES YOU'VE BEEN AROUND THE WORLD.
02:05:49	HAS THAT EVER HAPPENED WHERE LAWYERS GET ON THE PHONE TO YOU PRIOR TO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, COMING TO INVESTIGATE A TIME WHEN WE'VE HAD FOUR AMERICANS LOSE THEIR LIVES, EVER HAD ANYONE TELL YOU, DON'T TALK WITH THE PEOPLE FROM CONGRESS COMING TO FIND OUT WHAT TOOK PLACE?
02:06:04	>> NEVER. >> NEVER.
02:06:05	YOU'VE HAD DOZENS AND DOZENS OF CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS YOU'VE BEEN A PART OF?
02:06:08	>> YES, SIR.
02:06:09	>> FIRST TIME IT'S EVER HAPPENED.
02:06:11	>> YES, SIR. >> TELL ME ABOUT -- AND ALSO, ISN'T IT TRUE THAT ONE OF THOSE LAWYERS ON THE PHONE CALL ACCOMPANIED THE FOLKS FROM THE DELEGATION AND TRIED TO BE IN EVERY SINGLE MEETING YOU HAD WITH MR.
02:06:22	CHAFFETZ AND THE DELEGATION FROM THIS COMMITTEE?
02:06:25	>> YES, SIR, TRUE.
02:06:26	>> TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED WHEN YOU GOT A CLASSIFIED BRIEFING WITH MR.
02:06:30	CHAFFETZ WHAT HAPPENED AND THE PHONE CALL THAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT.
02:06:34	>> THE LAWYER WAS EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING BECAUSE HIS CLEARANCE WAS NOT HIGH ENOUGH AND THE DELEGATION INSISTED THAT THE BRIEFING NOT BE LIMITED BY ANY -- THE LAWYER TRIED TO GET IN THAT BRIEFING?
02:06:48	>> HE TRIED, YES, BUT THEY -- AN EX-CHIEF WOULD NOT ALLOW IT BECAUSE OF THE BRIEFING

	NEEDED TO BE AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF CLEARANCE.
02:06:57	>> YOU HAD A SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION AFTER THIS CLASSIFIED BRIEFING THAT THE LAWYER WAS NOT ALLOWED TO BE IN.
02:07:04	YOU AND MR. CHAFFETZ AND OTHER.
02:07:06	ANOTHER CONVERSATION ON THE PHONE WITH CHERYL MILLS.
02:07:10	WHO IS CHERYL MILLS.
02:07:11	>> COUNSELOR FOR CHIEF OF STATE AND FOR CLINTON.
02:07:16	>> WHEN SHE CALLS, YOU TAKE THE PHONE CALL?
02:07:18	>> IMMEDIATELY.
02:07:19	>> SHE'S THE FIXER FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE EVERYBODY AS CLOSE AS YOU CAN GET TO SECRETARY CLINTON, IS THAT ACCURATE?
02:07:25	>> YES, SIR. >> TELL ME ABOUT NA PHONE CALL YOU HAD WITH CHERYL MILLS.
02:07:29	>> A PHONE CALL FROM THAT SENIOR PERSON IS GENERALLY SPEAKING NOT CONSIDERED TO BE GOOD NEWS.
02:07:35	>> WHAT DID SHE HAVE TO SAY TO YOU?
02:07:39	>> SHE -- SHE DEMANDED A REPORT ON THE VISIT.
02:07:41	>> WAS SHE UPSET BY THE FACT THIS LAWYER -- THIS -- >> SHE WAS UPSET.
02:07:45	>> THIS BABY-SITTER, SPY, WHATEVER YOU CALL HIM, WAS NOT ALLOWED TO BE IN THAT, FIRST TIME IT'S HAPPENED, ALL OF THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS YOU'VE ENTERTAINED.
02:07:56	>> SHE WAS UPSET. >> THE PERSON NEXT TO SECRETARY CLINTON.
02:07:58	>> YES, SIR.
02:07:59	>> MR. CHAIRMAN, HERE'S A GUY WITH 22 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY, 22 YEARS, OUTSTANDING SERVICE, PRAISED BY EVERYBODY WHO COUNTS, THE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARY, EVERYONE ABOVE HIM, AND YET NOW THEY'RE OBSTRUCTING HIM BECAUSE HE WON'T HELP THEM COVER THIS UP, HE'S AN HONORABLE MAN HERE TELLING THE TRUTH.
02:08:21	NOW HE'S GETTING THIS KIND OF TREATMENT FROM THE VERY PEOPLE WHO PRAISED HIM BEFORE.
02:08:25	THIS IS WHY THIS HEARING IS SO IMPORTANT.
02:08:28	I YIELD BACK. >> I THANK THE GENTLEMAN.
02:08:30	PLEASED TO YIELD TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM MISSOURI, MR.
02:08:33	CLAY. >> THANK YOU MR. CHAIRMAN, FOR YIELDING.
02:08:36	I WANT TO THANK THE WITNESSES FOR BEING HERE TODAY.
02:08:40	YOU KNOW, THE ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD MADE A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO BETTER STRENGTHEN OVERSEAS EMBASSIES AND MISSIONS LIKE THE ONE IN BENGHAZI.
02:08:55	MR. NORDSTROM, YOU TOLD OUR STAFF THAT YOU READ THE ARB'S UN UNCLASSIFIED REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION.
02:09:03	DO YOU THINK IMPLEMENTING THESE RECOMMENDATIONS IS IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF OUR FOREIGN SERVICE?
02:09:11	>> ABSOLUTELY.
02:09:12	I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THAT ALONG WITH OTHER TWO COMMITTEE REPORTS.
02:09:15	I THINK TAKEN ALTOGETHER, FAIRLY COMPREHENSIVE AND REASONABLE.
02:09:21	>> AND I GUESSED A DIPLOMAT LIKE YOU PROBABLY FEELS VERY DISHEARTENED WHEN YOU READ IN THE PAPER, SAY YOU'RE OVER SEAS AND CONGRESS CUT THIS BUDGET FOR EMBASSY SECURITY AND CONGRESS HAS BEEN CHEAP ON THE CHEAP OF PROVIDING PROTECTION TO OUR PERSONNEL.
02:09:46	YOU KNOW, IN OR TO MAKE SECURITY POSSIBLE AT OUR MISSIONS AND OUR EMBASSIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, IT'S ONE RECOMMENDATION IN THIS REPORT THAT ATTEMPTS TO GRAPPLE WITH THESE ISSUES AND ERR ON THE SIDE OF INCREASED ATTENTION TO PRIORITIZATION AND THE FULLEST SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE AND FACILITIES ENGAGED IN WORKING AND HIGH-RISK, HIGH-THREAT AREAS.
02:10:19	THE SOLUTION REQUIRES A MORE SERIOUS AND SUSTAINED COMMITMENT FROM CONGRESS TO SUPPORT STATE DEPARTMENT NEEDS, WHICH IN TOTAL CONSTITUTE A SMALL PERCENTAGE, BOTH OF THE FOREIGN NATIONAL BUDGET AND THAT SPENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY.
02:10:38	BUT IT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE IN CONGRESS HAVE FAILED TO DO IN THE PAST.
02:10:44	LET'S LOOK AT OUR RECORD.
02:10:46	HOUSE REPUBLICANS VOTED TO CUT THE ADMINISTRATION'S REQUEST FOR EMBASSY SECURITY FUNDING BY \$128 MILLION AND THAT WAS IN FISCAL YEAR 2011.
02:10:59	IN FISCAL YEAR 2012, THEY CUT THE REQUEST BY EVEN MORE PROVIDING 331 MILLION LESS THAN REQUESTED.
02:11:11	YOU KNOW OUR REPUBLICAN COUNTERPARTS HAVE JUST SAID THESE CUTS ARE BASED ON THEIR PRIORITIES AND CHOICES.
02:11:19	AND WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE VOTED TO CUT DIPLOMATIC SECURITY BY OVER \$300 MILLION, ON

	CNN, REPRESENTATIVE CHAFFETZ RESPONDED, ABSOLUTELY, LOOK, WE HAVE TO MAKE PRIORITIES AND CHOICES IN THIS COUNTRY.
02:11:34	BUT THESE CUTS HAVE IMPACTS, SERIOUS IMPACT.
02:11:38	I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT MY PRIORITIES, INCLUDING FUNDING THESE RECOMMENDATIONS, WHICH WILL SAVE LIVES.
02:11:46	YOU KNOW, THE ARB, MR.
02:11:50	NORDSTROM, JUST TO BE CLEAR, YOU -- YOU PROVIDED INFORMATION TO THE ARB, IS THAT CORRECT IN.
02:11:56	>> THAT'S CORRECT, YES.
02:11:57	>> MR. HICKS, IS IT TRUE THAT YOU ALSO PROVIDED INFORMATION?
02:12:00	>> ARB.
02:12:01	>> ARB.
02:12:02	YOU KNOW IT WAS LED BY AMBASSADOR PICKERING AND ADMIRAL MULLEN, WHO HAPPENS TO BE THE FORMER CHAIRMAN OF JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.
02:12:13	IN ITS INVESTIGATION, THE REVIEW BOARD INTERVIEWED MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE, REVIEWED THOUSANDS OF PAGES OF DOCUMENTS, AND VIEWED HOURS OF VIDEOTAPES.
02:12:26	THE BOARD MADE 29 RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE SECURITY SYSTEM AND PROCEDURES TO PREVENT FUTURE DEADLY ATTACKS.
02:12:36	AND A KEY FINDING MADE BY THE BOARD RELATED TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING.
02:12:42	IT'S SPECIFICALLY FOR TEMPORARY FACILITIES IN HIGH-RISK, HIGH-THREAT ENVIRONMENTS.
02:12:48	AND THE BOARD STATED, THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD DEVELOP MINIMUM SECURITY STANDARDS FOR OCCUPANCY OF TEMPORARY FACILITIES IN HIGH-RISK, HIGH-THREAT ENVIRONMENTS AND SEEK GREATER FLEXIBILITY FOR THE USE OF BUREAU OF OVERSEAS BUILDING OPERATIONS SOURCES OF FUNDING SO THEY CAN BE RAPIDLY MADE AVAILABLE FOR SECURITY UPGRADES AT SUCH FACILITY.
02:13:15	AND IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE FACILITY IN BENGHAZI WAS DESIGNATED AS A TEMPORARY FACILITY.
02:13:22	MR.
02:13:23	NORDSTROM, DO YOU AGREE WITH THE BOARD'S REVIEW?
02:13:26	>> THAT WAS ACTUALLY ONE OF THE SPECIFIC THINGS THAT I TALKED WITH THE BOARD.
02:13:30	MY CONCERN IS THERE IS NO SUCH THING WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE FAM OR THE OSPB STANDARDS FOR THE TEMPORARY FACILITY.
02:13:39	SO, BY THE VERY NATURE -- >> THEY DEVELOPED THE RECOMMENDATION?
02:13:44	>> AFTER THE FACT OF THE ATTACK.
02:13:45	>> MR. HICKS, DO YOU AGREE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION.
02:13:49	>>> I'M NOT A SECURITY EXPERT.
02:13:52	I'M A DIPLOMAT.
02:13:53	I'M AN ECONOMIC OFFICER.
02:13:56	BUT I'M SUPPORT -- I SUPPORT EVERY IMPROVEMENT THAT CAN POSSIBLY BE MADE TO IMPROVE OUR SECURITY OVERSEAS, INCLUDING INCREASING TRAINING OF OUR PERSONNEL THERE THANK YOU.
02:14:05	>> I THANK THE GENTLEMAN.
02:14:06	>> THANK YOU. >> I WOULD ALSO THANK THE GENTLEMAN FROM MISSOURI.
02:14:09	BUT ASK WERE YOU HERE ON OCTOBER 10th WHEN THE PERSON WHO HAD THOSE REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL SECURITY SAID MONEY WAS IN THE A FACTOR, CHARLENE LAMB?
02:14:19	DO YOU REMEMBER HER?
02:14:20	>> I WAS -- I CAN'T REMEMBER IF I WAS AT THIS -- >> MR.
02:14:24	NORDSTROM, YOU WERE ON THE PANEL.
02:14:26	DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT SHE SAID.
02:14:27	>> YES.
02:14:28	SHE SAID RESOURCES WAS NOT AN ISSUE I THINK I WOULD ALSO POINT TO THE ARB REPORT, IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN THEY TALKED TO OUR CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER WHO ALSO SAID RESOURCES WERE NOT AN ISSUE.
02:14:40	>> THE ARB SAYS RESOURCES WERE AN ISSUE.
02:14:44	>> WELL, I GUESS THE QUESTION THAT I HAVE ABOUT THE ARB, AND AGAIN, IT'S NOT WHAT THE ARB HAS, IS WHAT IT DOESN'T HAVE.
02:14:51	AND THAT IT STOPPED SHORT OF THE VERY PEOPLE THAT NEED TO BE ASKED THE QUESTIONS AND THAT'S THE UNDERSECRETARY OF MANAGEMENT AND ABOVE EVERYBODY PERFECT QUESTIONS.
02:15:02	>> AND I'M SURE IF WE IMPLEMENT SOME RECOMMENDATIONS IT WILL HELP US PREVENT A FUTURE ATTACK.
02:15:08	>> I APPRECIATE THAT.
02:15:09	AND WHAT I WOULD SAY IS THAT, IN THE EARLIER HEARING, IN OCTOBER 10th, THE ONE THING WE

	DID DISCOVER IS, YES, THIS FACILITY WAS NOT ABLE TO TAKE THE BLOWS EVEN OF A SMALL BOMB THAT HAD GONE OFF EARLIER, MR.
02:15:24	NORDSTROM TESTIFIED TO THE FACT THAT THIS CONSULATE, TEMPORARY CONSULATE, HAD BEEN ATTACKED TWICE AND THEY BREACHED THE WALL.
02:15:32	SO THERE WAS AN AWFUL LOT OF RECOGNITION THAT IT WAS AN INSUFFICIENT FACILITY.
02:15:36	AND I THINK THAT'S ARB OR NO ARB, SOMETHING ON COMMITTEE'S RECORD BUT I THANK YOU FOR BRINGING IT OUT.
02:15:43	>> THANK YOU. >> THE GENTLEMAN FROM FLORIDA, MR.
02:15:46	MICA.
02:15:47	>> THANK YOU MR.
02:15:48	CHAIRMAN. I HAVE TO, AGAIN, TELL THE FAMILIES THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THIS AND ALL OF THE FACTS NEED TO BE KNOWN ABOUT WHAT TOOK PLACE AND HOLD PEOPLE ACCOUNTABLE.
02:15:59	AND THE NEXT TO THE WITNESSES, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.
02:16:04	THANK YOU FOR YOUR BRAVERY AND ACTUALLY COMING FORWARD AND, AGAIN, SOME OF THE COMMENDABLE ACTS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES YOU DESCRIBED.
02:16:16	AS EVERYBODY MAY KNOW, AND I FOLLOW UP REALLY ON MY COLLEAGUE, MR.
02:16:22	CLAY'S QUESTION, ABOUT THE REPORT THERE, ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD REPORT.
02:16:28	AND I'VE GOT -- THIS IS THE UNCLASSIFIED VERSION.
02:16:31	THERE'S A CLASSIFIED VERSION ALSO.
02:16:34	THIS IS AVAILABLE ONLINE.
02:16:36	AND WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY UNDER LAW TO REVIEW THESE SITUATIONS AND TO GO TO PEOPLE WHO ACTUALLY HAD FIRSTHAND KNOWLEDGE.
02:16:46	NOW, MR.
02:16:47	THOMPSON, YOU HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT POSITION, TITLE IS BUREAU OF COUNTERTERRORISM LEADER FOR EMERGENCY SUPPORT TEAM U.
02:16:56	S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, RIGHT?
02:16:59	>> CORRECT. >> OKAY.
02:17:00	DID YOU PARTICIPATE?
02:17:03	WERE YOU INTERVIEWED BY THE ARB?
02:17:04	>> I WAS NOT.
02:17:08	>> YOU WERE NOT INTERVIEWED, OKAY.
02:17:09	YOU WERE ON THE JOB DURING THIS PERIOD?
02:17:13	>> I WAS AT MY DESK THAT NIGHT UNTIL 2:00 IN THE MORNING.
02:17:17	>> AND YOU WERE NOT ALLOWED TO CONVEY INFORMATION TO THE BOARD.
02:17:21	>> ON THE 17th I CONVEYED MY REQUEST TO BE INTERVIEWED BEFORE THE BOARD.
02:17:27	>> SO THEY -- THEY DID INTERVIEW AFTER THAT?
02:17:29	>> NO. >> YOU HAVE -- HAVE YOU EVER BEEN INTERVIEWED?
02:17:32	>> I HAVE NOT. >> YOU HAVE NOT.
02:17:33	SO YOU'RE ONE OF THE PRIMARY PLAYERS BUT YET THE BOARD FAILED TO INTERVIEW, THAT'S -- WOULD YOU SAY THAT'S CORRECT?
02:17:40	>> THAT IS A CORRECT STATEMENT.
02:17:42	>> MR.
02:17:43	THOMPSON?
02:17:44	IS HE AN IMPORTANT PLAYER?
02:17:46	SORRY MR.
02:17:47	HICKS, IS MR.
02:17:48	THOMPSON AN IMPORTANT PLAYER IN THIS, MR.
02:17:51	NORDSTROM?
02:17:52	>> I WOULD -- I WOULD SAY YES, CERTAINLY IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE ATTACK.
02:17:59	>> LET ME GO TO MR.
02:18:04	HICKS. WERE YOU INTERVIEWED BY THE BOARD?
02:18:06	>> I WAS INTERVIEWED BY THE BOARD.
02:18:07	>> WERE YOU ABLE TO CONVEY ALL OF THE INFORMATION YOU FELT WAS NECESSARY REGARDING THIS INCIDENT TO THE BOARD?
02:18:14	>> THE INTERVIEW TOOK ABOUT TWO HOURS AND IT WAS, IN MY MIND INCOMPLETE INCOMPLETE, AND A FEW DAYS LATER I HAD A SEPARATE MEETING WITH THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY.
02:18:31	>> YOU DID HAVE A FOLLOW-UP MEETING AND EXPRESSED -- >> WITH THE BOARD'S EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO AMPLIFY ON SOME ISSUES AT THE INITIAL INTERVIEW.
02:18:43	>> MR. NORDSTROM, DID YOU PARTICIPATE?

02:18:44	>> I DID, ON TWO OCCASIONS.
02:18:46	I ALSO SHARED WITH THEM -- >> DID YOU SHARE HOW THAT PROCESS WORKED, AS WE HEARD FROM MR.
02:18:52	HICKS IN. >> IT'S SAME, SIMILAR -- >> WAS IT THOROUGH?
02:18:57	>> I THOUGHT THOROUGH AND PROFESSIONAL.
02:19:00	THE REPORT IS FAIRLY THOROUGH AND COMPREHENSIVE.
02:19:02	MY ISSUE IS THAT THEY STOPPED SHORT OF INTERVIEWING PEOPLE THAT I PERSONALLY KNOW WERE INVOLVED IN KEY DECISIONS THAT LED TO HOW THOSE EVENTS UNFOLDED, SPECIFICALLY HOW THOSE BUILDINGS WERE STAFFED AND CONSTRUCTED AND IN VARIANCE WITH EXISTING STANDARDS, ALL CRITICAL.
02:19:23	>> THEY FELL SHORT.
02:19:25	WELL IN THE UNCLASSIFIED VERSION, THEY SAID SECURITY IN BENGHAZI WAS NOT RECOGNIZED AND IMPLEMENTEDS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY BY THE BUREAUS IN WASHINGTON CHARGES WITH SUPPORTING THE POST, RESULTING IN STOVE PIPE DECISIONS ON POLICY AND SECURITY.
02:19:42	NOW THE NEXT PART IS INTERESTING.
02:19:44	THAT BEING SAID, AND EMBASSY TRIPOLI DID NOT DEMONSTRATE STRONG AND SUSTAINED ADVOCACY WITH WASHINGTON FOR INCREASED SECURITY FOR SPECIAL MISSION BENGHAZI.
02:19:56	WOULD YOU BOTH AGREE WITH THAT.
02:19:58	>> IF I COULD SPEAK TO THAT.
02:20:00	I WOULD DISAGREE THAT IT WAS A COLLABORATIVE PROCESS, I'M NOT SURE EXACTLY THE TERM THEY USED.
02:20:09	ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS I TESTIFIED IN OCTOBER, AS WELL.
02:20:12	I RAISED ISSUES, OTHERS RAISED ISSUES, THE AMBASSADOR RAISES ISSUES, DCM RAISED ISSUES, TO THE POINT WHERE REPORTS AND DECISIONS ON BOTH THE TRIPOLI COMPOUND AND THE BENGHAZI COMPOUND WERE DECIDED IN WASHINGTON, AND THOSE DECISIONS WERE NOT EITHER CLEARED WITH US OR SHARED WITH US.
02:20:31	SO THAT DOESN'T SEEM AS A COLLABORATIVE PROCESS.
02:20:34	>> I WANT TO HAVE TIME FOR MR.
02:20:36	HICKS TO TELL US ABOUT HIS -- THANK YOU.
02:20:40	>> YES, SIR.
02:20:41	I MONITORED THE DISCUSSIONS THAT ERIC HAS TESTIFIED ABOUT FROM MY ARABIC LANGUAGE STUDENT STATUS.
02:20:53	WHEN I ARRIVED IN TRIPOLI I HAD THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THESE DECISIONS HAD BEEN SETTLED AND THAT WE WERE NOT TO RELITIGATE THEM IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL AT SECURITY PERSONNEL AT POST.
02:21:09	I BEGAN A PROCESS TO ATTEMPT TO RELITIGATE THEM IN MID-AUGUST AND WE HELD AN EAC MEETING TO DISCUSS THE MATTER AND WE WERE UNFORTUNATELY UNABLE TO RETURN TO THAT ISSUE BEFORE 9/11 OCCURRED.
02:21:26	>> THANK YOU.
02:21:28	WE NOW RECOGNIZE THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS, MR.
02:21:31	LYNCH, FOR FIVE MINUTES THERE THANK YOU, MR.
02:21:33	CHAIRMAN.
02:21:34	I ALSO WANT TO THANK THE WITNESSES FOR THEIR COURAGEOUS SERVICE AND YOUR WILLING TONS COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE HERE TODAY.
02:21:40	I ALSO WANT TO OFFER MY CONDOLENCES, AGAIN, TO THE AMBASSADOR STEVENS AND HIS FAMILY, TYRONE WOODS AND HIS FAMILY, GLENN DOUGHERTY OF MASSACHUSETTS AND HIS FAMILY, AND SHAWN SMITH.
02:21:52	THESE WERE AMERICAN HEROES AND THEY WERE OUR VERY BEST.
02:21:57	I DON'T WANT THAT PART TO BE OVERLOOKED.
02:21:59	THESE INDIVIDUALS WERE REGARDED AS OUR VERY BEST, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR STEVENS.
02:22:06	WITHOUT QUESTION, I THINK HIS OPINION AND THE RESPECT THAT HIS EXPERIENCE AND AUTHORITY IN MATTERS, ALL MATTERS IN LEBANON -- EXCUSE ME, LIBYA, AND NOT ONLY IN TRIPOLI BUT ALSO BENGHAZI WAS UNQUESTIONED, I THINK.
02:22:28	AND IT SHOWED IN THE DEFERENCE THAT OTHERS GAVE HIM TO THOSE DECISIONS.
02:22:32	I THOUGHT THE ARB REPORT ESPECIALLY DID SINGLE OUT SOME AREAS WHERE I THOUGHT THEY WERE TRYING TO IDENTIFY WHERE THE -- WHERE THE DECISIONS THAT WERE MADE MAY HAVE BEEN DEFICIENT.
02:22:48	AND THEY DO IDENTIFY A PAGE 30.
02:22:54	THEY TALK ABOUT THE BUREAU PAGE 30, THE BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY AND NEA, AND AT POST, THERE APPEARED TO BE A REAL CONFUSION OVER WHO ULTIMATELY WAS RESPONSE AND I

	BELIEVE IN POWER TO MAKE DECISIONS BASED ON POLICY AND SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS.
02:23:11	THEY GO ON FURTHER TO SAY THAT THE BUREAU SHOWED A LACK OF PROACTIVE LEADERSHIP WITH RESPECT TO BENGHAZI, FAILING TO ENSURE THAT THE PRIORITIES AND SECURITY NEEDS OF A HIGH RISK, HIGH THREAT POST WERE MET AND AT THE SAME TIME WITH ATTENTION IN LATE 2011 SHIFTING TO A GROWING CRISIS IN EGYPT AND SYRIA, THE NEA BUREAU'S FRONT OFFICE SHOWED A LACK OF OWNERSHIP OF BENGHAZI SECURITY ISSUES, AND TENDS TO RELY TOTALLY ON DIPLOMATIC SECURITY FOR THE LATTER.
02:23:39	THE BOARD ALSO FOUND THAT EMBASSY TRIPOLI LEADERSHIP SADDLES WITH THEIR OWN STAFFING AND SECURITY CHALLENGES DID NOT SINGLE OUT A SPECIAL NEED FOR INCREASED SECURITY FOR BENGHAZI.
02:23:51	WHAT THEY POINT TO IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF PARAGRAPHS IS THEY THOUGHT THE RESULT, EXCUSE ME, THAT THE SPECIAL MISSION BENGHAZI EXTENSION THAT THIS WAS A TEMPORARY RESIDENTIAL FACILITY, NOT OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED TO THE HOST GOVERNMENT, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS ALSO A FULL TIME OFFICE FACILITY, RESULTED IN THE SPECIAL MISSION COMPOUND BEING EXCEPTED FROM OFFICE FACILITY STANDARDS AND ACCOUNTABILITY UNDER SECURE EMBASSY CONSTRUCTION AND COUNTERTERRORISM ACT OF 1999.
02:24:23	MR.
02:24:24	NORDSTROM, YOUR POINT EXACTLY.
02:24:27	THE OVERSEAS SECURITY POLICY BOARD, OSPB, SO WHAT THEY'RE SAYING IS BECAUSE THERE WAS AN EXTENSION MADE, THAT THERE WAS A LOWERING IN EXPECTATION THERE, THAT THE RESOURCES FOR PHYSICAL SECURITY AND ALSO THE PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS NEEDED AT THAT WAS NOT GIVEN AN ADEQUATE PRIORITY.
02:24:48	THAT IT WAS LEFT TO DIPLOMATIC SECURITY IN SOME CASES TO MAKE THOSE REPAIRS.
02:24:53	IS THAT SOMETHING YOU SEE AS BEING A WEAK POINT IN THIS WHOLE PROCESS THAT ALLOWED BENGHAZI TO BE ILL-PREPARED FOR THE ATTACKS ON SEPTEMBER 11th?
02:25:03	>> I DO.
02:25:05	AS I SAID, I THINK THAT WHAT STILL REMAINS UNSEEN IS WHO MADE THAT DECISION TO GO AHEAD AND ASSUME THIS IS GOING TO BE A TEMPORARY FACILITY.
02:25:13	AT ONE POINT, IN FACT, I WAS TOLD BY COLLEAGUES IN OBO AND DS THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WE WANTED TO MAKE, THE UPGRADES, BOTH IN TRIPOLI AND BENGHAZI, WOULD NOT BE MADE.
02:25:26	THEY FORWARDED US THE WAY FORWARD DOCUMENTS WE DISCUSSED IN OCTOBER.
02:25:30	THEY SAID, AND I QUOTE, IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT, M, UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT, AGREED TO THE CURRENT COMPOUNDS BEING SET UP AND OCCUPIED CONDITION AS IS.
02:25:41	THE ARB IN PARTICULAR FOUND IT INTERESTING AT MY REPLY WHICH WAS IN FEBRUARY OF 2013.
02:25:47	I REQUESTED, IS ANYTHING IN WRITING?
02:25:50	IF SO, I WOULD LIKE A COPY FOR POST SO WE HAVE IT HANDY FOR THE ARB.
02:25:54	THAT'S EIGHT MONTHS BEFORE THE ATTACK FBS.
02:25:59	.I GOT NO CONFIRMATION WHO MADE THOSE DECISIONS NOR DID I GET A COPY OF THAT.
02:26:04	>> THE STATUS WAS STILL IN LIMBO AT THAT PARTICULAR TIME POINT.
02:26:07	I WAS THERE WAS DISCUSSIONS WITH MR.
02:26:09	LANGFORD EARLIER, THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA.
02:26:11	>> MY UNDERSTANDING WAS THE FACILITY, AGAIN, THE TYPES OF FACILITIES ARE WHETHER OR NOT YOUR SOLE OCCUPANCY OF THE BUILDING OR PARTIAL OCCUPANCY OF SAY A COMMERCIAL BUILDING OR IF YOU ARE IN A BUILDING WHICH IS OWNED BY THE HOST NATION.
02:26:25	CLEARLY WE WERE THE SOLE OCCUPANT.
02:26:28	THAT'S THE STANDARDS.
02:26:29	IT IS VERY CLEAR.
02:26:30	IT IS BASED ON OUR THREAT AND THOSE STANDARDS.
02:26:33	WE DID NOT MEET ANY OF THOSE STANDARDS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PERHAPS THE HEIGHT OF THE WALL.
02:26:38	>> THANK YOU.
02:26:39	MY TIME IS EXPIRED.
02:26:40	>> I THANK YOU.
02:26:41	JUST ONE THING.
02:26:42	YOU USED THE TERM M FOR THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT.
02:26:46	WHO WAS THAT?
02:26:48	>> AT THE TIME AND THROUGHOUT ALL OF THIS WAS PATRICK KENNEDY, HERE IN OCTOBER AS WELL.

02:26:54	>> THAT'S WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN THE PERSON THAT SAID NO OR THIS IS GOOD ENOUGH PRESUMABLY?
02:26:58	>> PRESUMABLY.
02:26:59	AGAIN, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE DECISIONS -- THE FACTORS WERE IN HIS DECISION.
02:27:02	I AM SURE HE HAD REASONS FOR THOSE DECISIONS.
02:27:04	I AM NOT GOING TO CRITICIZE THOSE.
02:27:07	MY ONLY CONCERN IS THAT NOBODY HAS LOOKED AT THOSE, WHETHER IT NOT ARB OR ANYBODY ELSE.
02:27:13	>> THANK YOU. MR. TURNER.
02:27:14	>> MR.
02:27:15	CHAIRMAN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
02:27:17	GENTLEMEN, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE TODAY.
02:27:19	WITHOUT YOUR STATEMENTS THERE IS A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF INFORMATION THAT WE JUST WOULDN'T KNOW.
02:27:24	CERTAINLY IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU'RE GIVING US THIS INFORMATION AS WE ALL HAVE DEEP CONDOLENCES FOR THE FAMILIES.
02:27:29	AS WE LOOK AT THE INFORMATION THAT WE HAVE GOTTEN TODAY, WE BASICALLY HAVE TWO STAND DOWN DECISIONS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DISCUSS.
02:27:36	ONE, THE FOREIGN EMERGENCY SUPPORT TEAM THAT MR.
02:27:39	THOMPSON TOLD US ABOUT AND MR.
02:27:40	HICKS, YOU TOLD US OF COLONEL GIBSON.
02:27:43	MR. HICKS, I AM A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE AND I AM VERY FASCINATED WITH THE STANDDOWN ORDER TO COLONEL GIBSON.
02:27:51	AS WE PURSUE THAT WE WANT TO KNOW WHO GAVE COLONEL GIBSON THE ORDER AND WHY AND I WOULD LIKE TO REVIEW THAT STAND DOWN ORDER WITH YOU AND WHAT YOU EXPERIENCED THAT NIGHT SINCE YOU WERE WITH HIM AS HE WAS RECEIVING THAT STAND DOWN ORDER.
02:28:03	YOU SAID THERE WAS A C-130 LIBYAN TRANSPORT PROVIDED AND YOU INDICATED TO COLONEL GIBSON HE SHOULD GO TO REINFORCE BENGHAZI AND HELP TO WITHDRAWAL PERSONNEL.
02:28:14	COLONEL GIBSON WAS TOLD TO STAND DOWN AND THAT PLANE LEFT WITHOUT HIM LANDING ABOUT 7:30 IN BEKZ WITHOUT COLONEL GIBSON'S TEAM.
02:28:20	LET'S START FIRST WITH THE REVIEW OF WHAT IS COLONEL GIBSON'S TEAM?
02:28:23	WHAT WERE THE PERSONNEL, COLONEL GIBSON'S TEAM, WHAT WERE THEY DOING IN LIBYA?
02:28:29	>> THEY ARE THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL SECURITY TEAMS GROUP OF SPECIAL -- 16 OR 14 SPECIAL FORCES PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO PROTECT EMBASSY TRIPOLI AFTER THE RETURN AND RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EMBASSY IN SEPTEMBER OF 2011, AND ON THE FIRST OF AUGUST THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SIGNED AN ORDER CHANGING THEIR STATUS FROM BEING A SECURITY TEAM TO A TRAINING TEAM AND TRANSFERRING THE AUTHORITY, THEIR AUTHORITY FROM THE CHIEF OF MISSION, THE AMBASSADOR, TO GENERAL HAMM.
02:29:11	ON AUGUST 6th TWO MEMBERS OF THAT TEAM WERE IN A CARJACKING INCIDENT AS THEY WERE DRIVING EARLY IN THE MORNING OUTSIDE THE COMPOUND, AND THEY HAD TO USE THEIR WEAPONS IN ORDER TO ESCAPE THAT ARMED ATTACK ON THEIR VEHICLE.
02:29:30	IN LIGHT OF THAT INCIDENT GENERAL HAMM DECIDED TO DRAW DOWN THE TEAM FROM 14 PERSONNEL TO FOUR PERSONNEL AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL WOOD AND NINE OTHERS, LIEUTENANT COLONEL WOOD TESTIFIED BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE LAST OCTOBER, LEFT TRIPOLI IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH.
02:29:54	SO LIEUTENANT COLONEL GIBSON AND THE OTHER THREE MEMBERS OF THAT TEAM ARE THE REMAINDER OF THAT GROUP.
02:30:01	>> SO THE COMMAND ENT HAD BEEN CHANGED AND THEY HAD BEEN REDUCED.
02:30:04	AS YOU WERE DESCRIBING THESE ARE HIGHLY TRAINED INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIALIZED SKILLS THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN USEFUL IN THE CERTAIN SITUATION IN BENGHAZI.
02:30:11	>> YES, ABSOLUTELY, AND PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE FACT AGAIN THAT THE PERSONNEL IN BENGHAZI WERE EXHAUSTED FROM A NIGHT OF FIGHTING AGAINST VERY CAPABLE OPPONENTS.
02:30:25	>> NOW, DO YOU KNOW WHY THEY WERE TOLD TO STAND DOWN?
02:30:29	DID COLONEL GIBSON GIVE YOU ANY INFORMATION OR UNDERSTANDING?
02:30:32	>> I ACTUALLY DON'T KNOW WHY.
02:30:34	>> IS THERE ANY REASON TO BELIEVE THE SITUATION IN BENGHAZI WAS OVER?
02:30:37	THERE WERE A NUMBER OF SERIES OF ATTACKS YOU DESCRIBED TO US.
02:30:40	ANY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY DANGER IN BENGHAZI?
02:30:46	>> NO, IT WAS EVERY REASON TO CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT OUR PERSONNEL WERE IN DANGER.
02:30:51	>> MR. HICKS, MR.

02:30:53	CHAFFETZ HAS GIVEN ME AN ARTICLE THAT APPEARED IN "U.
02:30:55	S.A. TODAY" JUST THIS WEEK AND JUST AS EARLY AS LAST MONDAY MAJOR ROBERT FURMAN, PENTAGON SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE MILITARY'S ACCOUNT THAT WAS FIRST ISSUED WEEKS AFTER THE ATTACK HASN'T CHANGED.
02:31:10	THERE WAS NEVER ANY KIND OF STAND DOWN ORDER TO ANYBODY, AND THAT'S A PRETTY BROAD STATEMENT, TO ANYBODY.
02:31:17	WHAT'S YOUR REACTION TO THE QUOTE BY MR.
02:31:20	FURMAN?
02:31:21	>> I CAN ONLY AGAIN REPEAT THAT LIEUTENANT COLONEL GIBSON SAID HE WAS NOT TO PROCEED TO BOARD THE AIRPLANE.
02:31:28	>> SO YOUR FIRSHTHAND EXPERIENCE BEING ON THE SITE AND STANDING NEXT TO COLONEL GIBSON WHO WAS ON HIS WAY ON THAT C-130 TRANSPORT AND BEING TOLD NOT TO GO, CONTRADICTS WHAT MR.
02:31:42	FURMAN IS SAYING ON BEHALF OF THE PENTAGON.
02:31:43	>> YES, SIR.
02:31:46	>> MR. HICKS, DID THE EMBASSY HAVE A DEFENSE ATTACHE ON STAFF WHOSE ROLE IT WAS TO INTERFACE WITH THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT AND DID YOU ASK HIM THAT EVENING, WERE THERE ANY RESOURCES COMING FROM THE U.
02:31:59	S. MILITARY AND WHAT WAS YOUR REACTION TO HIS RESPONSES AS THE EVENING UNFOLDED?
02:32:06	>> MY REACTION WAS THAT, OKAY, WE'RE ON OUR OWN.
02:32:10	WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TRY TO PULL THIS OFF WITH THE RESOURCES THAT WE HAVE AVAILABLE.
02:32:15	>> WERE THE LIBYANS SURPRISED?
02:32:20	>> I DON'T KNOW.
02:32:21	BUT I THINK THEY WERE.
02:32:22	>> THANK YOU, MR.
02:32:23	CHAIRMAN. >> THANK YOU.
02:32:28	PROSECUTE WE BEFORE WITH GO TO MR.
02:32:32	CONNELLY JUST BECAUSE MOST PEOPLE IN THE AUDIENCE INCLUDING A.
02:32:35	M. DAYS DON'T UNDERSTAND CHIEF EMISSION AUTHORITY WOULD YOU AS CHIEF OMISSION WHO WAS UNDER YOUR CHIEF OF MISSION AUTHORITY AND WHO WASN'T?
02:32:43	IN OTHER WORDS WHO DID YOU HAVE COMMAND AND CONTROL OF AND WE'RE TALKING ABOUT MILITARY ASSETS BECAUSE I THINK A LOT OF FOLKS UP HERE ARE HEARING TWO CHAINS OF COMMAND AND IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR YOU TO EXPLAIN IT AS A CAREER STATE DEPARTMENT PERSON QUICKLY.
02:32:55	>> ALL CIVILIAN PERSONNEL IN CIVILIAN U.
02:32:59	S. PERSONNEL IN LIBYA WERE UNDER CHIEF OF MISSION AUTHORITY WHICH WAS -- >> YOURS.
02:33:06	>> UNTIL WE KNEW THAT HE WAS DEAD AND THEN THAT PASSED TO ME.
02:33:10	THE FOUR MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL FORCES TEAM WERE UNDER GENERAL HAMM'S AUTHORITY.
02:33:15	WE HAD TWO OTHER MILITARY SPECIAL FORCES PERSONNEL IN COUNTRY, AND I WAS AT THAT TIME UNCLEAR AS TO WHETHER THEY WERE UNDER MY AUTHORITY OR NOT.
02:33:26	>> SO ANYONE YOU HAD UNDER YOUR AUTHORITY YOU GAVE ORDERS TO, THEY RESPONDED, THEY WENT DOWN RANGE IF YOU ASKED THEM TO.
02:33:33	THE OTHERS WERE NOT ALLOWED TO?
02:33:36	>> YES, SIR.
02:33:37	>> THANK YOU.
02:33:38	MR. CONNELLY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
02:33:40	YOU WILL HAVE YOUR FULL TIME.
02:33:41	>> THANK YOU, MR.
02:33:42	CHAIRMAN, AND THANK YOU FOR THAT CLARIFICATION.
02:33:45	BY THE WAY, DEFEND IN STATEMENTS THAT UNDER SECRETARY KENNEDY WAS NOT INTERVIEWED BY THE ARB BY PICKERING AND ADMIRAL MULLEN.
02:33:53	THAT IS A MISTAKE OF FACT.
02:33:54	HE MOST CERTAINLY WAS.
02:33:56	YOU CAN LOOK IT UP.
02:33:57	IT IS DOCUMENTED.
02:33:58	HE WAS INTERVIEWED.
02:34:02	HE PROVIDED EVIDENCE.
02:34:04	THAT EVIDENCE WAS EVALUATED.
02:34:06	IT IS NOT TRUE THAT UNDER SECRETARY KENNEDY WAS NOT PART OF THAT PROCESS.
02:34:09	HE MOST CERTAINLY WAS, AND I WOULD ASK MR.

02:34:11	CHAIRMAN THAT THE RECORD SO REFLECT.
02:34:13	>> WHO SAID HE WASN'T?
02:34:18	I AM NOT SURE.
02:34:19	>> I THINK WE HEARD IT FROM THE TABLE.
02:34:25	MR. THOMPSON, STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO YOU THAT YOUR BUREAU, THE COUNTERTERRORISM BUREAU WAS ACTUALLY DELIBERATELY KEPT OUT OF POST BENGHAZI DEVELOPMENTS, DECISION MAKING, AND SO FORTH.
02:34:40	ARE THOSE STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO YOU ACCURATE?
02:34:42	>> IT IS TRUE THAT MY PORTION OF THE OFFICE WAS NOT PARTICIPATORY.
02:34:48	>> YOUR PORTION. TO WHOM DID YOU REPORT?
02:34:50	>> I REPORT TO DAN BENJAMIN AT THE TIME.
02:34:52	>> AND DID MR.
02:34:53	BENJAMIN, WAS HE INCLUDED IN -- >> HE WAS OVERSEAS AT THE TIME.
02:34:57	>> HE WAS OVERSEAS.
02:34:58	WAS HE KEPT INFORMED AND INVOLVED?
02:35:00	>> I KEPT HIM INFORMED IN THE EARLY STAGES.
02:35:03	>> WAS HE KEPT INFORMED AND INVOLVED BY THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE?
02:35:06	>> I HAVE NO IDEA.
02:35:08	>> WOULD IT SURPRISE TO YOU LEARN THAT HE HAS STATED EMPHATICALLY HE MOST CERTAINLY WAS?
02:35:12	>> WOULDN'T BE A SURPRISE.
02:35:14	I HAVE READ IT. >> AND WOULD IT SURPRISE YOU THAT HE CONTRADICTS YOUR STATEMENTS OR STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO YOU AND I READ TO YOU, THIS CHARGE THAT WE WERE KEPT OUT OF THE LOOP IN THE AFTERMATH IS SIMPLY UNTRUE, THOUGH I WAS OUT OF THE COUNTRY ON OFFICIAL TRAVEL AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACK, I WAS IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITH THE DEPARTMENT.
02:35:36	AT NO TIME DID I FEEL THE BUREAU WAS IN ANY WAY BEING LEFT OUT OF DELIBERATIONS THAT IS SHOULD HAVE BEEN PART OF, UNQUOTE.
02:35:48	>> I WOULD DISAGREE. HE IS TRUE FACTUALLY.
02:35:50	HIS VIEW OF HOW MUCH HE IS -- >> FOR THE RECORD -- >> IF I MAY, SIR, IF HE THINKS HE WAS ADEQUATELY INFORMED AND GIVEN COUNSEL ON THAT, THEN THAT IS HIS PROFESSIONAL OPINION.
02:36:02	>> HE IS THE HEAD OF THE BUREAU AND HE IS IN FACT OR WAS YOUR SUPERVISOR AND THAT'S HIS TESTIMONY.
02:36:07	IT CONTRADICTS YOURS.
02:36:08	>> I DON'T THINK IT IS HIS TESTIMONY, SIR.
02:36:10	>> I AM ENTERING IT INTO THE RECORD, SO IT IS NOW IN THE EVIDENTIARY RECORD -- >> WOULD THE GENTLEMAN -- >> NO.
02:36:17	I WILL, MR.
02:36:18	CHAIRMAN. >> I HOLD THE TIME.
02:36:21	>> OKAY.
02:36:22	CERTAINLY. >> MR. CUMMINGS, PERHAPS YOU WERE HERE, PERHAPS NOT, HAS SAID AMONG THE AMOUNT OF PEOPLE HE IS NOW AN ANTICIPATED FUTURE WITNESS AND HE CAN GIVE TESTIMONY.
02:36:32	>> THE CHAIRMAN ANTICIPATED EXACTLY THE POINT I WAS GOING TO MAKE.
02:36:36	WE CAN CLEAR THAT UP BY HAVING MR.
02:36:38	BENJAMIN HERE. THANK YOU.
02:36:39	MR. HICKS, I DON'T THINK ANYONE THAT COULD HAVE LISTENED TO YOUR ACCOUNT THE MINUTE BY MINUTE ACT OF WHAT HAPPENED COULD BE ANYTHING BUT MOVED.
02:36:47	THE TRAUMA OF WHAT YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES MUST HAVE GONE THROUGH, ESPECIALLY BEING IN TRIPOLI, NOT BEING ABLE TO PHYSICALLY REACH OUT AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT BENGHAZI, I THINK ALL OF US CAN RELATE TO THAT TERRIBLE.
02:36:59	I WAS IN LIBYA AND TRIPOLI IN MAY OF LAST YEAR BEFORE THE TRAGEDY, AND I DON'T REMEMBER WHETHER WE HAD A CHANCE TO MEET OR NOT.
02:37:09	DAVID DRIVER LED OUR CODEL.
02:37:12	WE WERE NOT ALLOWED TO STAY IN LIBYA OVER NIGHT.
02:37:14	WHAT STRICKD ME WHEN I ARRIVED IN TRIPOLI IS AIRPORT SECURITY WAS PROVIDED BY A MILITIA, AND I TRAVEL A LOT OVER MY YEARS IN FOREIGN POLICY, AND WHAT GOES THROUGH THE MIND IS WHAT CAN GO WRONG WITH THIS?
02:37:29	IT IS A VOLATILE, VIOLENT, UNSTABLE OR WAS SITUATION.
02:37:35	DO YOU WANT TO TALK JUST A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE DOMESTIC SITUATION IN LIBYA AS WE FOUND IT BECAUSE I THINK SOMETIMES THAT GETS BEGOTTEN IN THE RETELLING THAT WE'RE FACING

	INSTABILITY IN LIBYA STILL IN A POST GADHAFI REVOLUTIONARY SITUATION AND LIKEWISE IN BENGHAZI.
02:37:52	COULD YOU JUST SHARE WITH US SOME INSIGHTS INTO WHAT YOU FOUND IN TERMS OF THAT INHERENT INSTABILITY?
02:37:58	>> THANK YOU, MR.
02:38:00	CONNELLY, AND THANK YOU FOR BEING MY REPRESENTATIVE.
02:38:06	FIRST OF ALL, I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT I DON'T RECALL SAYING THAT ANYONE OTHER THAN MYSELF TESTIFIED TO THE ARB OR WAS A WITNESS BEFORE THE ARB.
02:38:18	SO I WANTED TO BE CLEAR ABOUT THAT.
02:38:23	SECOND THING IS THE POLITICAL AND SECURITY CLIMATE IN LIBYA AT THE TIME, IT WAS HIGHLY UNSTABLE ALTHOUGH AFTER THE ELECTIONS WE THOUGHT THE POLITICAL TRAJECTORY, THE ELECTIONS IN JULY, WE THOUGHT THE POLITICAL TRAJECTORY WAS HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.
02:38:45	PRESIDENT MA MAGAZINE RAF WAS SELECTED AND THEY WERE MOVING TOWARDS A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.
02:38:50	THE SECURITY SCENE WAS SHE UNSTABLE AND WELL DOCUMENTED.
02:38:54	YOU HAD ASSASSINATIONS AND CAR BOMBINGS IN BENGHAZI, BUT THE ASSESSMENT WAS THAT THIS WAS LIBYAN ON LIBYAN AND NOT NECESSARILY DIRECTED AT FOREIGNERS.
02:39:05	AT THE SAME TIME THAT WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF BUILDING TOWARDS MAKING OUR POST IN BENGHAZI A PERMANENT POST, THE BRITISH ARE CONTEMPLATING RETURNING THERE TO BENGHAZI.
02:39:19	THEY LEFT AFTER THEIR AMBASSADOR SURVIVED AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT IN JUNE.
02:39:23	IN TRIPOLI WE ALSO HAVE INSTABILITY.
02:39:28	WE HAVE CAR BOMBINGS, CARJACKINGS.
02:39:30	WE HAVE ISLAMIC EXTREMIST MILITIAS THAT BEGIN TO ATTACK SUPHI SHRINES AND A GOVERNMENT STRUGGLING TO MAINTAIN SECURITY AND IMPROVE SECURITY IN THE COUNTRY.
02:39:44	>> THANK YOU. MR.
02:39:45	CHAIRMAN, IF I COULD JUST SAY TO MY CONSTITUENT, WE'RE PROUD OF YOU, AND I WOULD ADD MY VOICE TO THAT OF MR.
02:39:53	CUMMINGS.
02:39:54	I AM A MEMBER OF NOT ONLY THIS COMMITTEE BUT THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND YOU HAVE MY PERSONAL PLEDGE WERE THERE EVER TO BE ANY HINT OF RETALIATION OR LET BUGS FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO COME FORTH AND TELL YOUR VERSION OF WHAT HAPPENED, THIS MEMBER OF CONGRESS WILL INTERVENE ON YOUR BEHALF FORCEFULLY.
02:40:12	>> I THANK THE GENTLEMAN.
02:40:14	THE GENTLEMAN FROM TENNESSEE.
02:40:16	>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR.
02:40:17	CHAIRMAN, AND FIRST OF ALL THANK YOU FOR CALLING THIS HEARING.
02:40:20	THERE IS OBVIOUSLY GREAT INTEREST IN AND CONCERN ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED IN THIS TRAGIC INCIDENT.
02:40:29	MR. NORDSTROM, WE HAVE ALREADY HEARD MR.
02:40:32	THOMPSON SAY THAT HE WAS NEVER INTERVIEWED EVEN THOUGH HE REQUESTED TO BE INTERVIEWED.
02:40:36	DID I UNDERSTAND YOU CORRECTLY TO SAY A FEW MINUTES AGO THAT YOU KNOW OF OTHER WITNESSES THAT HAD FIRSHTHAND KNOWLEDGE WHO WERE NOT INTERVIEWED BY THE BOARD?
02:40:47	>> NO, I DON'T BELIEVE I -- >> I GUESS I MISUNDERSTOOD ABOUT THAT.
02:40:53	I WILL TELL YOU, THOUGH, I WAS A CRIMINAL COURT JUDGE FOR SEVEN AND A HALF YEARS TRYING FELONY CRIMINAL CASES, AND I CAN TELL YOU THAT IT IS SURPRISING THAT ANYBODY WITH FIRSHTHAND KNOWLEDGE WOULDN'T BE INTERVIEWED ABOUT THIS UNLESS SOMEBODY DID NOT WANT TO HAVE A COMPLETE REPORT.
02:41:10	MR.
02:41:11	THOMPSON, WHY WERE YOU -- WHAT WERE YOU TOLD WAS THE REASON YOU WERE NOT INTERVIEWED?
02:41:15	>> I WAS NOT GIVEN A REASON, SIR.
02:41:18	>> YOU WERE NOT GIVEN A REASON.
02:41:23	MR. HICKS, DO YOU FEEL THAT THE REPORT LETS ANY INDIVIDUAL OR BUREAUCRACY OFF THE HOOK?
02:41:31	>> YES, SIR, I THINK THAT IN OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT THE DECISION MAKING AUTHORITY IS AT THE LEVEL OF PRESIDENTIALLY APPOINTED, SENATE CONFIRMED INDIVIDUALS.
02:41:44	THAT'S THE LEVEL OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OR HIGHER.

02:41:51	NOW, THE REPORTING COMING OUT OF EMBASSY TRIPOLI ON CONDITIONS THERE, PARTICULARLY THE FACT THAT WE HAD TO PROVIDE A DAILY REPORT OF WHO WAS IN COUNTRY TO UNDER SECRETARY KENNEDY AND THE FACT THAT HE MADE THE DECISION AS TO WHO CAME TO TRIPOLI AND BENGHAZI OR WHO DIDN'T, THAT BUDGETS CAME TO HIS TABLE, AND THAT SECURITY THREAT ENVIRONMENT REPORTS ALSO CAME TO HIS TABLE WOULD SUGGEST THAT THERE IS SOME RESPONSIBILITY THERE.
02:42:31	>> MR. THOMPSON, LET ME ASK YOU THIS.
02:42:38	ANOTHER THING I FIND SURPRISING IS THAT -- DO THE SECURITY PEOPLE NOT CONSIDER THE DATE OF 9/11 -- WE HAVE ALREADY HEARD SOMEBODY SAY THAT THIS MISSION WAS CONSIDERED TO BE A HIGH THREAT OR A HIGH RISK MISSION.
02:42:55	DO THEY NOT REALIZE THAT 9/11 IS A HIGH SECURITY TYPE DATE AND SHOULD BE PREPARING FOR TERRORIST ACTIVITIES ON THAT DATE IN PARTICULAR?
02:43:07	>> CERTAINLY.
02:43:08	WHEN I HEAR SECURITY, I THINK OF GREG NORDSTROM, SO I WON'T GO DOWN THE SECURITY TRAIL TOO FAR HERE, BUT CERTAINLY ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11 SINCE 9/11/2001, WE HAVE ALL HAD OUR ANTENNA UP SO TO SPEAK AND HAVE BEEN FORWARD LEANING IF NOT PHYSICALLY MENTALLY ON THAT PARTICULAR DAY, YES.
02:43:34	>> THE REPORT BASICALLY PUTS PRIMARY BLAME FOR THIS SITUATION ON THE BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY.
02:43:40	I WOULD LIKE TO ASK IF ANY OF YOU HAVE A COMMENT ABOUT THAT.
02:43:45	DO YOU THINK THAT'S FAIR?
02:43:46	>> IF I COULD.
02:43:47	>> YES, MR.
02:43:49	NORDSTROM. >> AND MAYBE THIS WILL ADDRESS CONGRESSMAN CONNELLY'S QUESTION.
02:43:54	MY CONCERN WITH THE REPORT IS NOT THAT UNDER SECRETARY KENNEDY WAS OR WAS NOT INTERVIEWED.
02:43:59	I DON'T KNOW WHO WAS INTERVIEWED.
02:44:01	AGAIN, THAT'S PART OF THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF IT.
02:44:05	THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF DISCUSSION OF HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE THERE OR NOT SUPPOSED TO BE THERE.
02:44:10	THOSE THINGS ARE NOT DRIVEN BY REGULATIONS IN LAW.
02:44:18	THAT'S A SUBJECTIVE OPINION.
02:44:19	OBVIOUSLY THAT WAS QUITE A BIT OF MY TESTIMONY IN OCTOBER.
02:44:21	I GO BACK TO WHO AUTHORIZED EMBASSY EMPLOYEES, U.
02:44:26	S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, TO GO INTO FACILITIES THAT DID NOT MEET LEGAL REQUIREMENTS.
02:44:33	I DON'T KNOW WHO MADE THAT DECISION.
02:44:35	THE REASON WHY IS BECAUSE AS AMBASSADOR PICKERING SAID HE IS DECIDED TO FIX RESPONSIBILITY ON THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL AND BELOW.
02:44:46	HOW I SEE THAT IS FINE.
02:44:50	IT IS AN ACCOUNTABILITY OF MIDLLEVEL OFFICER REVIEW BOARD AND THE MESSAGE TO MY COLLEAGUES IS IF YOU'RE ABOVE A CERTAIN LEVEL NO MATTER WHAT YOUR DECISION IS NO ONE IS GOING TO QUESTION IT AND THAT'S MY CONCERN WITH THE ARB.
02:45:05	>> MR.
02:45:06	HICKS, DO YOU FIND OTHER SHORTCOMINGS IN THE REPORT?
02:45:11	>> I FOUND SHORTCOMINGS IN THE PROCESS.
02:45:13	>> IN THE PROCESS.
02:45:14	>> ALTHOUGH I WAS INTERVIEWED FOR TWO HOURS, I WAS NEVER ALLOWED TO REVIEW THE RECORDING OF MY TESTIMONY TO THE BOARD.
02:45:24	I WAS NEVER GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO READ THE UNCLASSIFIED REPORT BEFORE IT WAS PUBLISHED TO SEE IF MY TESTIMONY HAD BEEN INCORPORATED OR PROPERLY AT ALL OR PROPERLY, AND I HAVE NEVER BEEN GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO READ THE CLASSIFIED REPORT.
02:45:40	>> ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
02:45:43	>> I THANK YOU.
02:45:44	I MUST ADMIT ONE OF THE RULES OF THIS COMMITTEE IS THAT INTERVIEWS AND DEPOSITIONS, THE WITNESS ACTUALLY GETS A COPY OF AND IS ALLOWED TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN MOST CASES TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY DIDN'T MISSTATE SOMETHING SO THAT IS A LITTLE SURPRISING TO ME.
02:46:02	THE GENERAL LADY FROM CALIFORNIA, MS.
02:46:05	SPEAR.
02:46:06	>> MR.
02:46:07	CHAIRMAN, IT IS IRONIC YOU SAY THAT, MR.

02:46:09	CHAIRMAN, SINCE MR.
02:46:11	THOMPSON WOULD NOT EVEN ENGAGE WITH THE DEMOCRATIC SIDE OF THE AISLE IN TERMS OF ANSWERING ANY SERIES OF QUESTIONS, BUT LET ME FIRST OF ALL SAY TO THE FAMILY MEMBERS, WE LOST EXTRAORDINARY SERVANTS TO THIS COUNTRY.
02:46:29	YOU LOST LOVED ONES, AND THERE IS NOTHING THAT WE CAN SAY THAT WILL EVER HEAL YOUR HUGE LOSS, BUT KNOW THAT WE WILL DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO MAKE SURE THAT OTHER FAMILIES DO NOT GO THROUGH WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH.
02:46:51	TO YOU, MR.
02:46:52	HICKS, THANK YOU FOR YOUR EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE.
02:46:56	YOU KNOW, AS YOU WERE RETELLING THE EVENTS AND THEY WERE HARROWING, IT REMINDED ME OF AN EXPERIENCE THAT I HAD SIMILAR IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY, AMBUSHED, AND A SENSE THAT WE WERE WOEFULLY UNDER PROTECTED.
02:47:18	I THINK AS PART OF WHAT WE'RE GOING TO GLEAN FROM THIS TODAY IS THAT WE HAVE GOT TO DO A MUCH BETTER JOB OF PROVIDING PROTECTION IN HIGH RISK, HIGH THREAT EMBASSIES AND CONSUL OFFICES AROUND THE WORLD.
02:47:42	IT WAS INADEQUATE, AND I AM TROUBLED BY THE FACT THAT GENERAL HAMM WITHDREW ADDITIONAL SUPPORT BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN A CARJACKING.
02:47:55	IF ANYTHING, THAT WOULD HEIGHTEN OUR CONCERN AND WE WOULD CREATE MORE SUPPORT.
02:48:03	LET ME, THOUGH, ASK YOU A QUESTION.
02:48:09	YOU SAID EARLIER TODAY THE LAWYERS AT STATE TOLD YOU NOT TO TALK TO MR.
02:48:14	CHAFFETZ WHEN HE CAME.
02:48:16	THAT'S WHAT I WROTE DOWN.
02:48:19	WOULD YOU JUST VERIFY THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID?
02:48:20	>> WE WERE NOT TO BE PERSONALLY INTERVIEWED BY CONGRESSMAN CHAFFETZ.
02:48:28	>> NOW, IN YOUR INTERVIEW WITH THE COMMITTEE YOU WERE ASKED THE QUESTION DID YOU RECEIVE ANY DIRECTION ABOUT INFORMATION THAT CONGRESSMAN CHAFFETZ SHOULDN'T BE GIVEN FROM WASHINGTON?
02:48:42	YOUR ANSWER WAS, NO, I DID NOT.
02:48:43	IS THAT STILL YOUR TESTIMONY TODAY?
02:48:57	>> I DON'T RECALL THAT PHRASE.
02:48:58	I THOUGHT THAT I SAID, AND I WOULD HAVE TO REVIEW AGAIN, THAT I DID RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS EXACTLY AS I SAID THEM, BUT I DID NOT KNOW WHO GAVE THEM TO ME BECAUSE I DID NOT HAVE AT THAT TIME HAVE ACCESS TO MY E-MAIL FROM MY TIME AS DCF IN TRIPOLI.
02:49:20	>> IF THE GENTLE LADY COULD TELL US WHAT PAGE OF THE TRANSCRIPT THAT IS ON.
02:49:23	>> MAYBE THE STAFF CAN GET IT FROM ME.
02:49:26	I AM READING FROM A SEPARATE DOCUMENT.
02:49:29	>> THANK YOU. >> YOU DID SAY THAT YOU WERE TOLD TO MAKE SURE OTHER STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WERE PRESENT FOR MEETINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVE CHAFFETZ.
02:49:37	AS YOU STATED, THEY TOLD ME NOT TO BE ISOLATED WITH CONGRESSMAN CHAFFETZ.
02:49:42	IS THAT CORRECT? >> YES, THAT'S WHAT I MEAN BY NOT TO HAVE A PERSONAL INTERVIEW WITH CONGRESSMAN CHAFFETZ.
02:49:47	>> SO IT WAS MORE ABOUT NOT BEING IN A SITUATION WHERE YOU DID NOT HAVE OTHER PEOPLE WITH YOU, IS THAT CORRECT?
02:49:57	AS OPPOSED TO NOT BEING INTERVIEWED?
02:50:01	>> AGAIN, THAT'S WHAT I SAID, NOT TO BE PERSONALLY INTERVIEWED BY CONGRESSMAN CHAFFETZ.
02:50:07	>> WELL, YOU SAID THEY TOLD ME NOT TO BE ISOLATED WITH CONGRESSMAN CHAFFETZ.
02:50:14	>> THAT'S THE MEANING OF ISOLATED, NOT TO BE PERSONALLY INTERVIEWED.
02:50:20	>> THERE WAS A CLASSIFIED BRIEFING FOR MR.
02:50:25	CHAFFETZ THAT NO OTHER STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL WAS ABLE TO TEND AND YOU TESTIFIED EARLIER SO AS A RESULT NO OTHER STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS COULD CONFIRM WHAT WAS SAID IF THERE WAS A MISCHARACTERIZATION AFTER THE FACT, SO WHEN REPRESENTATIVE CHAFFETZ RETURNED TO WASHINGTON AND ATTENDED THIS COMMITTEE'S HEARING IN OCTOBER, THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF CONTROVERSY ABOUT HIS DESCRIPTION OF THAT CLASSIFIED BRIEFING.
02:50:49	DID YOU BY CHANCE WATCH THE HEARING?
02:50:53	>> ACTUALLY, I DIDN'T, BUT I DON'T THINK I SAID THAT NO STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL WAS ALLOWED IN THAT ANNEX BRIEFING.
02:51:03	IN FACT, I WAS IN THAT BRIEFING.
02:51:05	DAVID McFARLAND WAS IN THAT BRIEFING AND THE RSO JOHN MARTINEC WAS IN IT.

02:51:09	>> THE ATTORNEY WAS NOT.
02:51:10	>> THE ATTORNEY WAS EXCLUDED BY THE ANNEX CHIEF FOR CLEARANCE PURPOSES.
02:51:17	>> YOU RECEIVED A CALL FROM CHERYL MILLS.
02:51:20	LET ME ASK YOU A DIFFERENT QUESTION.
02:51:22	>> THE GENTLE LADY'S TIME HAS EXPIRED.
02:51:25	GO AHEAD AND ASK YOUR LAST QUESTION QUICKLY.
02:51:27	>> THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN.
02:51:28	I THINK YOU DESERVE TO HAVE A POST IN A LOCATION THAT YOU DESIRE.
02:51:36	SO I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE POSTED.
02:51:44	>> THE COURT OF KING JAMES IS OUT OF THE QUESTION.
02:51:50	>> A COUNTRY I WOULD MOST LIKE TO GO TO, IS THAT THE QUESTION AND BE ASSIGNED TO?
02:51:56	>> YES. >> YOU KNOW, I REALLY WANT TO TALK TO MY DECISION MAKER, CHIEF DECISION MAKER IN MY FAMILY WHO IS SITTING RIGHT OVER HERE, MY WIFE, BECAUSE I THINK HER OPINION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MINE ON THAT POINT.
02:52:08	>> SO JUST TO CONCLUDE, MR.
02:52:10	CHAIRMAN, I BELIEVE -- >> HE REALLY IS A DIPLOMAT.
02:52:14	>> WELL, MOST OF YOU SHOULD BE DIPLOMATS ON ISSUES LIKE THAT.
02:52:20	MISS DIBBLE SAID TO YOU SHE WOULD HELP YOU GET A GOOD ONWARD ASSIGNMENT, AND I THINK THIS COMMITTEE WILL HELP YOU GET A GOOD ONWARD ASSIGNMENT, SO WE AWAIT YOUR RESPONSIBLE PERSON FOR THAT DECISION INFORMING US.
02:52:36	>> I THINK THE GENTLE LADY AND ACTUALLY SHOCKED MR.
02:52:39	CONNELLY DIDN'T MAKE THAT PROMISE TO A CONSTITUENT WHO COULD VOTE.
02:52:44	WITH THAT WE GO TO THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM NORTH CAROLINA, MR.
02:52:48	McHENRY. >> NOT TO BRING THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS HEARING BACK TO THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS HEARING, BUT I AM SORRY, MR.
02:52:57	HICKS, THE SENATE IS IN CHARGE OF THOSE TYPES OF MOVEMENTS OF OUR AMBASSADORS IN THE CONFIRMATION PROCESS, BUT I HEAR THERE IS A WIDE VARIETY OF ISLANDS JUST TO THE SOUTH OF FLORIDA THAT ARE LOVELY.
02:53:15	THE SUBJECT MATTER OF TODAY'S HEARING IS TO GET AT THE ROOT CAUSE AND THE ROOT FACTS OF AN AWFUL TRAGEDY THAT OCCURRED, THE MISMANAGEMENT, THE POLITICAL COVERUP THAT RESULTED FROM THAT MISMANAGEMENT AND A RUSH TO JUDGMENT BY SOME VERY AMBITIOUS POLITICAL OPERATIVES WITHIN WASHINGTON.
02:53:39	AT LEAST THAT'S NEAREST WHAT I CAN TELL HAVING GOTTEN INTO THE FACTS AS WE HAVE TODAY AND KNOWING WHAT WE KNOW TODAY.
02:53:53	I WANT TO THANK ALL THREE OF YOU GENTLEMAN FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND TO OUR GOVERNMENT, AND I WANT TO SAY TO YOU THAT THE TOUGH TREATMENT YOU HAVE GOTTEN NOT ONLY AS A RESULT OF THAT DAY IN SEPTEMBER BUT SINCE THEN IS A HORRIBLE TRAGEDY.
02:54:12	I WANT TO GO BACK TO MR.
02:54:14	GOUTY'S LINE OF QUESTIONS HERE.
02:54:17	MR. HICKS, WAS THERE A PROTOCOL WITHIN THE CONSULATE IN THE EVENT OF A PROTEST?
02:54:22	>> YES, THERE WAS.
02:54:25	>> WAS THERE ANY EVIDENCE WHEN YOU WERE THERE IN LIBYA ON THAT DAY THAT THIS WAS A PROTEST?
02:54:34	>> NO, THERE WAS NONE, AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT AMBASSADOR STEVENS WOULD HAVE REPORTED A PROTEST IMMEDIATELY IF ONE APPEARED ON HIS DOOR.
02:54:42	THE PROTOCOL OF COURSE WAS FOR US TO EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY FROM THE CONSULATE AND MOVE TO THE ANNEX.
02:54:51	>> OKAY.
02:54:52	WAS THERE ANYTHING IN CONNECTION TO A YOUTUBE VIDEO, WAS THERE ANY AWARENESS THAT IT WAS THE EVENTS OCCURRED BECAUSE OF A YOUTUBE VIDEO?
02:55:03	>> THE YOUTUBE VIDEO WAS A NON-EVENT IN LIBYA.
02:55:07	>> OKAY. AND DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT WITHIN A COUPLE DAYS OR THE DAY OF?
02:55:13	>> YES.
02:55:14	>> AND SO DID YOU REPORT TO ANYONE IN WASHINGTON WITHIN THE FIRST COUPLE OF DAYS THAT THERE WAS ANYTHING IN CONNECTION, A PROTEST IN CONNECTION TO A YOUTUBE VIDEO?
02:55:25	>> NO.
02:55:26	THE ONLY REPORT THAT OUR MISSION MADE THROUGH EVERY CHANNEL WAS THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN ATTACK ON A CONSULATE.
02:55:33	>> NOT A PROTEST.

02:55:35	>> NO PROTEST.
02:55:36	>> YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR MICROPHONE OFF.
02:55:39	I WILL COME BACK TO YOU A FEW TIMES.
02:55:41	MR. GOUDY MENTIONED THIS EARLIER.
02:55:42	ON SEPTEMBER 16th AMBASSADOR SUSAN RICE WENT ON THE SUNDAY SHOWS AND RECITED A WHOLE GROUP OF TALKING POINTS.
02:55:49	WERE YOU A PART OF THOSE TALKING POINTS?
02:55:51	>> NO, I HAD NO ROLE IN THAT PREPARATION.
02:55:53	>> ONE MONTH LATER WE HAD AN UNDER SECRETARY KENNEDY, LET'S PLAY HIS STATEMENT.
02:56:04	>> ALWAYS MADE CLEAR FROM THE VERY BEGINNING WE ARE GIVING OUT THE BEST INFORMATION WE HAVE AT THE TIME WE ARE GIVING IT OUT.
02:56:12	THAT INFORMATION HAS EVOLVED OVER TIME.
02:56:17	FOR EXAMPLE, IF ANY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL INCLUDING ANY CAREER OFFICIAL HAD BEEN ON TELEVISION ON SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 16th, WE WOULD HAVE SAID THE SAME THING THAT AMBASSADOR RICE WOULD HAVE SAID.
02:56:29	SHE HAD INFORMATION AT THAT POINT FROM THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY AND THAT IS SAME INFORMATION I HAD AND THIS I WOULD HAVE MADE EXACTLY THE SAME POINTS.
02:56:38	CLEARLY WE KNOW MORE TODAY, BUT WE KNEW WHAT WE KNEW WHEN WE KNEW IT.
02:56:44	>> BY SEPTEMBER 16th DID YOU KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW WHICH IS APPARENTLY WHAT SUSAN RICE SAID?
02:56:52	LET ME REPHRASE THAT ACTUALLY.
02:56:54	LET ME ACTUALLY MAKE THAT A QUESTION IF YOU WILL.
02:56:59	AMBASSADOR RICE RECITED A SET OF FACTS.
02:57:02	A MONTH LATER THE STATE DEPARTMENT DEFENDS THAT.
02:57:06	YOU'RE A CAREER STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL.
02:57:09	WOULD YOU HAVE SAID THE THINGS THAT AMBASSADOR RICE SAID?
02:57:15	>> NOT AFTER HEARING WHAT PRESIDENT MAGARIAF SAID ESPECIALLY THAT HE HAD GONE TO BENGHAZI HIMSELF AT GREAT PERJURY PERSONAL AND POLITICAL RISK AND FOR HIM TO APPEAR ON WORLD TELEVISION AND SAY THIS WAS A PLANNED ATTACK IS BY -- BY TERRORISTS IS PHENOMENAL.
02:57:38	I WAS JUMPING UP AND DOWN WHEN HE SAID THAT.
02:57:42	IT WAS A GIFT FOR US FROM A POLICY PERSPECTIVE, FROM MY PERSPECTIVE, SITTING IN TRIPOLI.
02:57:48	>> AND DID THAT OCCUR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 16th?
02:57:52	>> HE SAID THAT ON THE TALK SHOWS WITH AMBASSADOR RICE.
02:57:55	>> FACE THE NATION.
02:57:58	>> AND DID YOU REPORT THAT?
02:57:59	WAS THERE KNOWLEDGE HE WAS GOING TO SAY THAT?
02:58:01	>> NO, THERE WAS NOT.
02:58:02	>> MR. CHAIRMAN, I KNOW WE HAVE A LOT MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS INCLUDING WHAT THAT DID IN COUNTRY.
02:58:12	AMBASSADOR RICE'S RHETORIC, WHAT DID DID AND THE IMPACT IT HAD IN COUNTRY FOR THE WORK THAT YOU WERE DOING AND THE DELAY THAT RESULTED BECAUSE OF THAT OF THE FBI INVESTIGATION ON THE GROUND.
02:58:21	IF YOU COULD SPEAK TO THAT, AND, MR.
02:58:24	CHAIRMAN F WILL YOU INDULGE ME BRIEFLY AND LET HIM ANSWER, PLEASE.
02:58:29	>> THANK YOU.
02:58:31	>> GO AHEAD.
02:58:32	>> SORRY.
02:58:33	AGAIN, IT TOOK 17, 18 DAYS FOR US FROM THAT INTERVIEW TO GET THE FBI TO BENGHAZI, AND WE DEALT WITH PEOPLE AT A LOW LEVEL AND WE GOT THEM TO BENGHAZI BY STRINGING TOGETHER A SERIES OF BASICALLY LOW LEVEL COMMITMENTS TO HELP US GET THEM TO BENGHAZI.
02:58:53	>> THANK YOU.
02:58:54	GENTLEMAN FROM WISCONSIN. >> THANK YOU, MR.
02:58:56	CHAIRMAN. TO THE FAMILIES, AGAIN, OF THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN BENGHAZI, YOU HAVE OUR CONDOLENCES AND I THINK THAT BEST TRIBUTE WE CAN GIVE TO THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IS TO MAKE SURE WE MAKE SURE THIS DIDN'T HAPPEN AGAIN, AND I THINK THAT'S REALLY THE GOAL OF THE COMMITTEE.
02:59:12	GENTLEMEN, THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE TODAY.
02:59:13	MR.
02:59:14	HICKS, ESPECIALLY, THANK YOU FOR YOUR EXTENSIVE CONVERSATION ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED

	DURING THE CONFUSION OF THOSE FIRST HOURS, WHETHER THE AMBASSADOR WAS AT THE HOSPITAL OR THE ANNEX AND ALL THAT HAPPENED.
02:59:24	I CAN TELL YOU ABOUT 16 YEARS AGO I WAS BACKPACKING THROUGH THE DARE AN GAP IN COLUMBIA AND WOKE UP TO MACHINE GUN FIRE AND HAND GRENADES.
02:59:33	AT THE TIME WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.
02:59:35	WE HAD PARA MILITARY ON THE RIVER AND GUERILLAS BEHIND US AND WE WERE CAUGHT IN BETWEEN.
02:59:40	I CAN FULLY UNDERSTAND THE FULL CONFUSION THAT HAPPENED AT THAT TIME AND YOUR RE CANTING OF THAT AND I THINK WE SAW THAT IN THE REPORT.
02:59:47	WHAT I CAN TELL YOU, MR.
02:59:49	CHAIRMAN, I DON'T THINK THERE IS A SMOKING GUN TODAY.
02:59:53	I DON'T EVEN THINK THERE IS A LUKEWARM SLING SHOT WHAT WE HAVE IS SOME STRONG OPINIONS FROM PEOPLE WHO ALL AT LEAST I KNOW BOTH PARTICIPATED IN THE STUDY AND MR.
03:00:04	THOMPSON WHILE HE DIDN'T, NO ONE STOPPED HIM AND NO ONE SAID HE SHOULDN'T GO IN THE STUDY.
03:00:08	WE HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO TAKE A LOOK AT THIS AND WHAT'S REALLY IMPERATIVE IS WE MAKE SURE THESE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE DONE, THAT SOMETHING CONCRETE COMES OUT OF THIS SO THAT NO ONE ELSE IS IN THE SITUATION, AND I THINK ONE OF THE REAL THINGS THAT WE CAN DO AS A COMMITTEE, AS INDIVIDUALS ON THIS COMMITTEE, IS TO MAKE SURE THAT WE PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR SECURITY AND TRAINING TO ALL OF OUR EMBASSIES, AND I THINK I LOOK AT -- I AM ONE OF THE NEW FOLKS AROUND HERE, AND WHEN I LOOK AT SOME OF THE PAST BUDGETS WHERE WE HAVE BEEN ASKED FOR LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS THAT HAVEN'T BEEN APPROVED IN A POST 9/11 WORLD, I LOOK AT THAT AS RATHER RISKY, AND BOTH MR.
03:00:47	NORDSTROM AND MR.
03:00:49	HICKS, YOU BOTH HAD EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE AROUND THE WORLD AND VARIOUS PLACES YOU HAVE BEEN SO LOOKING AT THIS PROACTIVELY, I THINK THIS IS PROBABLY LIKE NINTH OR SO HEARING THE HOUSE HAS HAD ON THIS ISSUE SO MAYBE IT IS TIME WE START LOOKING AT HOW WE MAKE SURE WE PROTECT OUR EMBASSIES THE VERY BEST WAY WE CAN RATHER THAN GOING THROUGH AND REHASHING SOME OF THE SAME OLD STORIES.
03:01:07	MY QUESTION SPECIFICALLY FOR MR.
03:01:09	HICKS AND MR.
03:01:10	NORDSTROM ARE WHEN IT COMES TO EXTRA TRAINING OR EXTRA SECURITY, DO YOU FEEL THAT WE NEED MORE IN SOME OF THE EMBASSIES ACROSS THE WORLD SO THAT MAKE SURE THAT THOSE WHO ARE WORKING IN THERE INDEED HAVE THE VERY BEST PROTECTIONS BECAUSE WE HAVE THAT RESPONSIBILITY TO THEM AS THEY SERVE THE COUNTRY?
03:01:28	MR. HICKS?
03:01:32	>> THANK YOU.
03:01:33	I THINK THERE ARE TWO THINGS AND I APPRECIATE THE QUESTION.
03:01:37	WE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT NEED MORE TRAINING FOR OUR PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO THESE CRITICAL THREAT POSTS NOT ONLY FOR OUR DIPLOMATIC SECURITY AGENTS BUT ALSO FOR OUR EVERY DAY DIPLOMATS.
03:01:48	WE NEED TO BE ABLE AND IN MY OPENING STATEMENT I TALKED ABOUT MY EXPERIENCE IN BAHRAIN, TO DEVELOPING CONTACTS WHO HELPED US GET THROUGH SOME VERY DIFFICULT TIMES IN 2002 WHEN OUR EMBASSY WAS ATTACKED TWICE AND WE WERE EXPERIENCING VERY SEVERE ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATIONS.
03:02:08	WE HAVE TO BE ABLE TO ENGAGE.
03:02:10	OUR DIPLOMATS HAVE TO BE OUT ON THE STREET.
03:02:14	ONE OF THE REASONS WHY WE WERE PERHAPS CAUGHT OFF GUARD IN BENGHAZI IS BECAUSE FOR SECURITY PURPOSES BECAUSE WE HAD SO FEW PERSONNEL THERE, THE CONSULATE WAS BASICALLY ON LOCKDOWN, AND SO IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT FOR OUR PRINCIPLE OFFICER TO GET OUT AND MINGLE WITH THE PEOPLE AND LEARN WHAT WAS GOING ON.
03:02:35	THIS WAS MAGNIFIED WHEN I TALKED WITH A CORRESPONDENT AFTER THE EVENT WHO HAD BEEN IN BENGHAZI AFTER 9/11, AND THE CORRESPONDENT TOLD ME THAT THE PEOPLE OF BENGHAZI WERE TERRIFIED BY THESE ISLAMIC EXTREMIST MILITIAS.
03:02:51	WE DIDN'T HAVE THAT SENSE PRIOR TO 9/11.
03:02:55	THE ONLY WAY WE CAN HAVE THAT SENSE IS IF WE'RE OUT ON THE STREET.
03:03:00	I THINK UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLIC DID I DIPLOMA SHINE SAID IT BEAUTIFULLY AT THE TRIBUTE FOR ANN SPETINGHOFF LAST WEEK WHEN WE QUOTED CORRESPONDENT EDWARD R.
03:03:18	MURROW GOING THE LAST THREE FEET.
03:03:19	THAT'S WHAT WE AS DIPLOMATS DO.
03:03:21	IF WE'RE GOING OUTSIDE THE EMBASSY TO MEET WITH PEOPLE AND LEARN WHAT'S GOING ON, WE

	HAVE TO HAVE THE TRAINING TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND RAPIDLY AND EFFECTIVELY TO A DESPERATE SITUATION.
03:03:31	SO THAT'S ONE THING.
03:03:33	THE OTHER THING I BELIEVE THAT WE NEED TO DO, AND I PUT THIS FORTH AS PART OF MY PLATFORM IN RUNNING FOR OFFICE IN MY SPEECH TO THE FOREIGN SERVICE, WE NEED TO DEVELOP A ROBUST PARADIGM FOR ANALYZING AND MITIGATING RISK, AND ONE THAT IS COMPREHENSIBLE TO EVERY MEMBER OF THE EMERGENCY ACTION COMMITTEE AND THIS WOULD BE A POWERFUL TOOL FOR OUR REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICERS TO BE ABLE TO DEVELOP THE KINDS OF PROGRAMS AND THE KINDS OF ACTIVITIES THAT WE NEED TO MITIGATE RISKS THAT THEY IDENTIFY THROUGH THE USE OF THIS PARADIGM.
03:04:11	>> THANK YOU.
03:04:13	WE NOW GO TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM MICHIGAN, MR.
03:04:17	WAHLBERG.
03:04:18	>> THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. THANK YOU FOR HOLDING THIS HEARING AND I, TOO, AGREE WITH BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE.
03:04:23	THIS OUGHT TO CONTINUE WITH OTHER HEARINGS.
03:04:28	IT WAS SHOCKING TO JUST HEAR A STATEMENT ABOUT THIS IS REHASHING SAME OLD STORIES.
03:04:34	THESE AREN'T OLD STORIES.
03:04:37	THESE AREN'T SAME OLD STORIES.
03:04:40	THIS IS A SITUATION THAT IS ATROCIOUS IN THAT IT HAPPENED, AND IT IS ABOUT TIME WE HEARD THE STORIES FOR THE FIRST TIME WE'RE HEARING TODAY AND I THANK THE WITNESSES FOR BEING HERE TO DO THAT FOR US.
03:04:55	APPRECIATE YOUR VALOR AND THE FAMILIES AND YOUR SACRIFICE.
03:04:59	MR.
03:05:00	THOMPSON, ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS ALREADY IT HAS BEEN INSINUATED NOT ONLY DID YOU NOT ASK TO BE INTERVIEWED BY ARB, BUT THAT YOU REFUSED.
03:05:07	YOU INDICATED ON A COUPLE OF OCCASIONS, NO, YOU ASKED TO BE INVOLVED.
03:05:12	LET ME GIVE YOU FURTHER OPPORTUNITY AND ASK YOU WHY WERE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT THE ARB'S FAILURE TO INTERVIEW YOU AND DID YOU RAISE ANY CONCERNS WITH THE DEPARTMENT ABOUT THE REVIEW BOARD'S UNWILLINGNESS TO INTERVIEW YOU?
03:05:26	>> THE REASON I WAS CONCERNED ABOUT IT WAS THAT IT WAS A TERRORIST EVENT AND WE DID NOT RESPOND TO A TERRORIST EVENT WITH THE TEAM OR WE WEREN'T CONSIDERED TO, AND THERE WASN'T A NORMAL PROCESS BY WHICH THAT GOES THROUGH.
03:05:42	THAT PROCESS THAT I HAVE ALREADY STATED IS NOT ONE THAT IS BUREAUCRATIC.
03:05:50	IT CAN GO FROM A COLD START TO WHEELS UP SO TO SPEAK WITHIN HOURS.
03:05:56	>> ON THE GROUND EXPERIENCE, UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU WERE TASKED TO DO.
03:05:59	>> YES, YES, WITH RESPECT TO PLACES LIKE NAIROBI, KENYA, ON AUGUST 7, 1998, IN WHICH WE HAD 12 MURDERED AMERICANS, 240 MURDERED KENYANS AND THOUSANDS INJURED, VERY UN -- A VERY AMBIGUOUS SITUATION AND A SITUATION IN WHICH WE RESPONDED TO AND COLLABORATED WITH OUR DOD AND OUR FBI COLLEAGUES EVEN OFTA WAS THERE BECAUSE WE HAD TO GET OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE, WE HAD TO GET THEM IN THERE TO HELP WITH THE MEDICAL RESUPPLY BECAUSE THE HOSPITALS WERE OVERRUN BY THIS EVENT.
03:06:45	WE HAD TO SET UP A NEW EMBASSY BECAUSE WEDS HAD ONE THAT WAS DESTROYED.
03:06:49	WE HAD TO SET UP ALL THE COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE AMBASSADOR.
03:06:52	IT WAS A FAIRLY COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE.
03:06:54	SUCH WAS NOT THE CASE IN TRIPOLI WITH MR.
03:06:57	HICKS.
03:06:58	HOWEVER, WE DID HAVE A NEED TO GET PEOPLE PUSHED FORWARD EARLY AND EVEN IF THEY DID NOT END UP IN TRIPOLI, THEY WOULD BE CLOSER AGAIN GOING BACK TO THE TYRANNY OF DISTANCE, WHETHER WE WOULD HAVE LANDED IN FRANKFURT OR SIG NEL LA OR CRETE OR SOMEWHERE IN THE AREA, THOSE ARE THE THINGS I WOULD HAVE BROUGHT OUT TO THE BOARD HAD I BEEN INTERVIEWED.
03:07:26	>> ANY OF THOSE FINDINGS INCLUDED IN THE ARB REPORT?
03:07:28	>> NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE BUT I ALSO HAVE NOT SEEN A CLASSIFIED VERSION.
03:07:35	THEY MAY BE IN THERE.
03:07:36	>> MR.
03:07:37	HICKS, IN LITTLE DEFERENCE TO MY COLLEAGUE FROM OHIO, I WOULD SAY ON TOP OF ALL OF YOUR DISTINGUISHED RECORDS OF ACHIEVEMENT AND ACCOLADES YOU'RE 200 DEGREES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN ARE THE BEST, AND I APPRECIATE THAT.
03:07:50	LET ME ASK YOU THIS.

03:07:52	DO YOU KNOW IF ANYONE INTERVIEWED BY THE ARB WAS PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO READ THE FULL CLASSIFIED REPORT?
03:08:01	>> I TALKED TO SEVERAL WITNESSES WHO WERE INTERVIEWED BY THE ARB, AND NONE OF THEM HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO READ THE CLASSIFIED REPORT.
03:08:09	>> SO FAR AS YOU KNOW NONE THAT WERE INTERVIEWED HAVE READ THE CLASSIFIED REPORT?
03:08:13	>> SO FAR AS I KNOW.
03:08:14	>> YOU MENTIONED THAT THERE WAS A 2 A.
03:08:18	M. PHONE CALL WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE.
03:08:21	DURING THAT SHORT PHONE CALL, CONVERSATION YOU REHEARSED FOR US, WAS THERE ANY MENTION OF A DEMONSTRATION DURING THAT CONVERSATION?
03:08:32	>> NO.
03:08:33	>> IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO KNOW IF THAT WAS INCLUDED IN THE REPORT.
03:08:36	BUT YOU HAVE NOT READ IT.
03:08:42	IN FACT, IT WASN'T.
03:08:45	DO YOU THINK THE ARB REPORT LETS ANY INDIVIDUAL OR BUREAUCRACY OFF THE HOOK?
03:08:51	>> AGAIN, AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, GIVEN THE DECISION MAKING UNDER SECRETARY PATH KENNEDY WAS MAKING WITH RESPECT TO EMBASSY TRIPOLI AND CONSULATE BENGHAZI OPERATIONS, HE HAS TO BEAR SOME RESPONSIBILITY.
03:09:07	>> WHAT IN YOUR VIEW WERE THE SHORTCOMINGS OF THE ARB PROCESS BESIDES NOT INTERVIEWING SOME PEOPLE AND ALLOWING CLASSIFIED REPORT TO BE READ?
03:09:20	>> WELL, AGAIN, THERE WAS NO STENOGRAPHER IN THE ROOM WHEN WE WERE INTERVIEWED.
03:09:27	>> NO STENOGRAPHER.
03:09:29	>> NO, SIR. >> SO WE'RE TALKING ABOUT EDITORIAL COMMENTARY POTENTIAL AS OPPOSED TO CLEAR TRUTH, ACCURACY?
03:09:39	>> THAT'S CORRECT.
03:09:40	THERE WERE NOTE TAKERS.
03:09:42	I HAD COUNSEL IN THE ROOM WITH ME TAKING NOTES, BUT OTHER WITNESSES DID NOT HAVE COUNSEL OR MAY NOT HAVE HAD COUNSEL.
03:09:52	>> THANK YOU.
03:09:53	MR. CHAIRMAN, I DON'T HAVE THAT BENEFIT ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL TO NOT HAVE ACCURATE REPORTING.
03:10:00	>> THANK YOU.
03:10:01	CONGRESS CREATED THE ARB IN 1986, SO WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO PROFESSIONAL EYES IT BY CONGRESSIONAL ACTION.
03:10:10	PERHAPS THAT'S SOMETHING WE'LL RECOMMEND.
03:10:12	WE GO TO THE GENTLE LADY FROM ILLINOIS.
03:10:15	>> THANK YOU, MR.
03:10:16	CHAIRMAN.
03:10:17	GENTLEMEN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR BRAVERY AND BEING HERE TODAY AND FOR YOUR SERVICE TO OUR NATION.
03:10:21	I REALLY BELIEVE THAT THE BEST WAY TO HONOR THE SACRIFICE OF AMBASSADOR STEVENS AND THE THREE OTHER AMERICAN THAT IS GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE LINE OF DUTY AND A FINAL ACT OF DEVOTION TO THIS NOTION, THE BEST THING WE CAN DO IS TO PUT ASIDE POLITICS AND TAKE A HARD LOOK AT THE FACTS OF WHAT WENT WRONG AND WHAT WE NEED TO DO AS WE MOVE FORWARD TO MAKE SURE THIS NEVER, EVER HAPPENS AGAIN.
03:10:43	I SHARE THE FRUSTRATION MANY OF MY COLLEAGUES HAVE EXPRESSED ABOUT THE FACT WE DID NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROPERLY PREPARE FOR YOUR TESTIMONY TODAY OR TO PARTICIPATE IN A BIPARTISAN INVESTIGATION.
03:10:55	I WANT TO TAKE A LOOK PARTICULARLY AT WHAT WE CAN DO TO STRENGTHEN OUR MISSIONS, PARTICULARLY IN PARTS OF THE WORLD WHERE WE CANNOT RELY ON HOST GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SECURITY.
03:11:06	WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO TO STRENGTHEN OUR ABILITY TO PROTECT OUT POSTS?
03:11:12	AS YOU MENTIONED ALREADY, THIS INCLUDES BETTER SECURITY MEASURES AND MORE U.
03:11:16	S. SECURITY PERSONNEL.
03:11:20	MR. HICKS, YOU HAVE SAID THAT REGARDING THE ARB'S RECOMMENDATIONS YOU THOUGHT IT WAS INCOMPLETE, THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE UNBALANCED IN FAVOR I THINK YOU SAID OF BUILDING HIGHER WALLS, POURING MORE CONCRETE, AND THAT IT WAS INSUFFICIENTLY STRONG IN RECOMMENDING THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT NEEDED TO HAVE MORE AND BETTER TRAINING WHICH IS WHAT YOU STARTED TO RESPOND TO MY COLLEAGUE FROM WISCONSIN.
03:11:40	CAN YOU ELABORATE FURTHER ON WHAT YOU BELIEVE NEEDS TO BE DONE WITH IMPROVEMENTS IN

	TRAINING?
03:11:51	>> AGAIN, THE POINT I MADE IS THAT THOSE OF US WHOSE JOB IS TO ENGAGE THE LOCAL POPULATION TO REPRESENT AMERICA TO LOCAL POPULATIONS, WE HAVE TO BE ABLE TO GO OUTSIDE.
03:12:05	WE HAVE TO BE ABLE TO MEET THEM IN THEIR OWN PLACES, ESPECIALLY IN A PART OF THE WORLD WHERE HOSPITALITY IS A MAJOR PART OF THE CULTURE AND WHERE ALSO THE DEMONSTRATION OF PERSONAL COURAGE IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE CULTURE.
03:12:27	THAT MEANS AS INDIVIDUALS, THOSE OF US WHO GO OUTSIDE, HAVE TO BE ABLE TO BE COGNIZANT OF THE SITUATIONS WE'RE GOING INTO.
03:12:37	WE HAVE TO BE SITUATIONALLY AWARE, I THINK, AS ERIC WOULD SAY IN ORDER TO RECOGNIZE IN ADVANCE THAT WE MAY BE GETTING INTO A DIFFICULT SITUATION AND WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND APPROPRIATELY AND IF WE ARE PUT IN A SITUATION OF EM THEM IS, WE ALSO HAVE TO HAVE THE ABILITY TO BE ABLE TO PROTECT OURSELVES IN THAT SITUATION.
03:13:02	>> MR.
03:13:03	NORDSTROM, I KNOW THAT YOU DID NOT HAVE A CHANCE TO ANSWER OR ELABORATE ON MY COLLEAGUE'S QUESTION.
03:13:10	HOW DO YOU -- WHAT IS YOUR OPINION?
03:13:11	I REALLY TO WANT MAKE SURE WE GET THE LESSONS LEARNED FROM THIS.
03:13:16	IS THERE A BALANCE THAT COULD BE STRUCK BETWEEN FOCUSING ON IMPROVEMENTS TO PHYSICAL SECURITY AND ALSO FOCUSING ON IMPROVEMENTS TO TRAINING AS MR.
03:13:24	HICKS SUGGESTED OR MAYBE DYNAMIC COMMUNICATIONS?
03:13:27	DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS?
03:13:34	>> PERFECT ONE.
03:13:35	MY CONCERN IS THAT IN THE WAKE OF AN ATTACK WE'RE GOING TO GO THROUGH THE SAME CYCLE WE HAVE GONE THROUGH ALL THE TIME, MORE MONEY IS NOT ALWAYS THE SOLUTION.
03:13:44	MORE IS NOT ALWAYS THE SOLUTION.
03:13:45	BETTER IS THE SOLUTION.
03:13:50	DURING THE PROCESS I HAD SOMEBODY ASK ME AS PART OF THE ARB WHETHER OR NOT WHY HAD I NOT REQUESTED MACHINE GUNS, 50 CALIBER MACHINE GUNS FOR THE CONSULATE IN BENGHAZI?
03:14:03	I WAS AWE STRUCK.
03:14:04	I SAID IF WE ARE TO THE POINT WHERE WE HAVE TO HAVE MACHINE GUN NESTS AT A DIPLOMATIC INSTITUTION, ISN'T THERE A LARGER QUESTION, WHAT ARE WE DOING?
03:14:18	WHY DO WE HAVE STAFF THERE?
03:14:21	ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS I LOOKED AT IS AGAIN, IT IS DECISION MAKING PROCESSES.
03:14:27	THAT DOESN'T COST MONEY.
03:14:28	ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE SAW AGAIN IS WHAT IS THE ROLE OF DS?
03:14:34	IS IT DS, DIPLOMATIC SECURITY, ELEVATED HIGH ENOUGH WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE WHERE BY RECOMMENDATIONS THAT ARE WITHIN THAT ORGANIZATION ARE HEARD BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE?
03:14:51	I THINK SHE HAS A VERY REASONABLE ASSERTION SOME OF THESE ISSUES WEREN'T BROUGHT TO HER ATTENTION.
03:14:55	HOW DO WE FIX THAT SO THEY ARE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE?
03:14:59	IT IS NOT LOST ON ME THAT AS THE UNHEEDED MESSENGER THIS TIME AROUND I LOOK AT WHERE THOSE MESSAGES SEEM TO STOP, THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT.
03:15:09	I LOOK BACK AND I SEE THE LAST TIME WE HAD A MAJOR ATTACK WAS EAST AFRICA.
03:15:15	MR. THOMPSON TALKED ABOUT IT.
03:15:16	WHO WAS IN THAT SAME POSITION WHEN THE UNHEEDED MESSENGERS OF THE AMBASSADOR IN NAIROBI AND THE RSO IN NAIROBI WERE RAISING THOSE CONCERNS?
03:15:28	IT JUST SO HAPPENS IT IS THE SAME PERSON, THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT WAS IN THAT SAME ROLE BEFORE, SO IF ANYBODY SHOULD UNDERSTAND THIS, I WOULD HOPE HE WOULD.
03:15:39	THAT'S WHY I AM GOING TO THE POINT THERE IS SOMETHING APPARENTLY WRONG WITH THE PROCESS OF HOW THOSE SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS ARE RAISED TO THE SECRETARY.
03:15:45	>> I THINK THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN US A GREAT WAY FORWARD.
03:15:49	THANK YOU, MR.
03:15:50	CHAIRMAN. >> THANK YOU.
03:15:52	I THANK THE GENTLE LADY.
03:15:53	NOW TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM MICHIGAN.
03:15:56	>> THANK YOU, MR.
03:15:57	CHAIRMAN, AND THANK YOU TO THE WITNESSES TESTIFYING TODAY.
03:16:00	THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.

03:16:01	MR. HICKS FROM MICHIGAN A ALUMINUM, GO BLUE.
03:16:07	MR. HICKS, YOU TESTIFIED YOU HAVEN'T READ THE FINAL CLASSIFIED ARB REPORT, IS THAT CORRECT.
03:16:16	>> THAT'S CORRECT. >> IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ALLOWED TO READ THE REPORT, HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOUR TESTIMONY WAS USED APPROPRIATELY?
03:16:20	>> I HAVE NO IDEA.
03:16:24	>> HAVE THE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES SINGLED OUT FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION, WERE THEY ALLOWED TO READ THE FINAL CLASSIFIED ARB REPORT TO FIND OUT WHAT -- TO EXAMINE THE EVIDENCE USED AGAINST THEM?
03:16:39	>> TWO OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS HAVE TOLD ME THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO READ THE CLASSIFIED REPORT.
03:16:43	>> DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE ARB REPORT DOES ENOUGH TO ENSURE THAT A SIMILAR TRAGEDY DOESN'T TAKE PLACE IN THE FUTURE?
03:16:52	>> AGAIN, I HAVEN'T READ THE COMPLETE REPORT, SO I CAN'T MAKE A JUDGMENT AT THIS POINT IN TIME.
03:16:58	>> DID YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE INPUT WITH RESPECT TO THE REPORT?
03:17:03	>> YES, I HAD A TWO-HOUR CONVERSATION WITH THE BOARD.
03:17:07	>> I AM GOING TO YIELD SOME TIME TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM UTAH PLRKS CHAFFETZ.
03:17:12	>> THANK YOU.
03:17:13	MR.
03:17:14	HICKS, WE TYPICALLY NEED PERMISSION OF A HOST NATION GOVERNMENT TO FLY MILITARY AIRCRAFT OVER THEIR TERRITORY?
03:17:19	>> YES, WE DO.
03:17:21	>> AND TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE DID WE EVER ASK THE LIBYANS FOR PERMISSION TO FLY OVER THEIR COUNTRY?
03:17:28	>> FREQUENTLY.
03:17:29	>> DID WE THE NIGHT OF THE ATTACK?
03:17:33	>> THE NIGHT OF THE ATTACK?
03:17:35	>> THE NIGHT -- ONCE THIS INCIDENT STARTED, DID WE SEEK PERMISSION FROM THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT TO DO FLYOVER?
03:17:44	>> I THINK IN THE RECORD THERE IS A UAV WAS FLYING OVER LIBYA THAT NIGHT AND IT HAD PERMISSION TO BE THERE.
03:17:51	>> DID WE EVER ASK FOR PERMISSION TO FLY ANYTHING OTHER THAN AN UNARMED DRONE OVER LIBYA DURING THE ATTACK?
03:18:00	>> NO. >> WOULD YOU HAVE KNOWN THAT?
03:18:04	>> YES.
03:18:05	>> BASED ON YOUR EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE AS A DIPLOMAT IN DEALING WITH THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT, DO YOU BELIEVE THE LIBYANS WOULD HAVE GRANT THE OVER FLIGHT RIGHTS IF WE HAD REQUESTED IT?
03:18:14	>> I BELIEVE THEY WOULD HAVE.
03:18:15	>> MR.
03:18:16	NORDSTROM, DO YOU BELIEVE THAT WOULD ALSO BE TRUE?
03:18:18	>> I THINK CERTAINLY IN THIS SITUATION.
03:18:23	THEY WERE FAIRLY, YEAH.
03:18:26	>> I THINK ONE OF THE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS HERE IS IF IT IS A POSSIBILITY, IF THERE IS ANY CHANCE THAT WE CAN GET MILITARY OVER FLIGHT, IF WE CAN GET A MILITARY FLIGHT THERE, THEN WE WOULD ASK PERMISSION IN ADVANCE.
03:18:40	MY CONCERN IS THERE WAS NEVER AN INTENTION, THERE WAS NEVER AN ATTEMPT TO ACTUALLY GET THESE MILITARY AIRCRAFT OVER THERE.
03:18:47	I THINK ONE OF THE HARD QUESTIONS WE HAVE TO ASK IS NOT ONLY ABOUT THE TANKERS BUT WHAT WAS THE NATO RESPONSE?
03:18:54	WE FLEW FOR MONTHS OVER LIBYA, MONTHS WE CONDUCTED AN AIR CAMPAIGN, AND WE HAVE ASSETS.
03:19:00	WE HAVE NATO PARTNERS.
03:19:02	WE WORKED FOR INSTANCE WITH THE ITALIANS.
03:19:04	IT IS STUNNING THAT OUR GOVERNMENT, THE POWER OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, COULDN'T GET A TANKER IN THE AIR?
03:19:12	MR. HICKS, WHEN DID YOU THINK THAT THIS WAS ACTUALLY OVER?
03:19:14	IT WAS DONE, WE WERE SAFE?
03:19:20	>> NOT UNTIL OUR PERSONNEL LANDED IN TRIPOLI.

03:19:24	ON THE C-130.
03:19:26	>> AND THEN EVEN THEN AL SHARIA POSTED THAT, THERE IS A REASON WHY YOU HAD TO LEAVE THE FACILITY IN TRIPOLI.
03:19:33	>> THAT'S CORRECT.
03:19:34	>> WHEN DID YOU ACTUALLY RETURN TO THE EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI?
03:19:38	>> WE RETURNED I BELIEVE ON THE 14th.
03:19:41	>> WHEN DID THE FEST TEAM ARRIVE TO HELP SECURE THE EMBASSY.
03:19:45	>> THEY ARRIVED ON THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 12th ABOUT 8 OR SO.
03:19:48	>> AND THERE STILL WAS A POTENTIAL FLY OVER AND THE GOVERNMENT NEVER ASKED FOR PERMISSION.
03:19:56	THIS IS ONE OF THE DEEP CONCERNS.
03:19:58	IN THE LAST MINUTE HERE I WANT TO ASK MR.
03:20:06	THOMPSON HERE, I WANT TO READ AN AN E-MAIL SENT BY YOU TO TIMOTHY WALSH AND JAMES WEBSTER ON SENSE SEPTEMBER 12th, 1112 IN THE MORNING.
03:20:18	DOEK TO DB. WHO IS DB.
03:20:19	>> DANIEL BEN MINIMUM.
03:20:20	>> HE UNDERSTANDS MY FEST POINTS.
03:20:23	CONCURS. EXPRESSED HIS PESSIMISM REGARDING OUR DEPLOYMENT AND BY EXTENSION DOES NOT INTEND TO LOBBY FOR OUR INCLUSION, END QUOTE.
03:20:31	TO REMIND EVERYBODY HERE, DIDN'T DANIEL BENJAMIN RECENTLY STATE THAT ANY CLAIM THAT KEY ELEMENTS OF THE COUNTERTERRORISM BUREAU SUCH AS FEST WERE CUT OUT OF THE CORRESPONDING WAS SIMPLY, QUOTE, UNTRUE.
03:20:46	IS THAT YOUR UNDERSTANDING?
03:20:47	>> CORRECT.
03:20:48	>> HOW DO YOU REACT TO THAT?
03:20:49	HE GOES OUT AND PUBLICLY SAYS IT IS NOT TRUE AND BASED ON THE E-MAIL SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAD A DISCUSSION WITH HIM.
03:20:55	WHAT HAPPENED IN THAT DISCUSSION?
03:20:58	>> HE WAS ON THE PHONE FROM GERMANY.
03:21:01	ANOTHER MEMBER OF OUR FRONT OFFICE HAD BEEN TALKING TO HIM.
03:21:04	SHE ASKED IF HE WANTED TO TALK TO ME.
03:21:08	I GAVE HIM A QUICK RUNDOWN OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED THE NIGHT BEFORE.
03:21:13	I KEPT HIM INFORMED VIA BLACKBERRY ON AMQUEST LEVEL AND WHEN WE UNDERSTAND HOW MANY PEOPLE HAD BEEN MURDERED THAT NIGHT HE WAS SHOCKED AND APPALLED AND WANTED TO KNOW ANYTHING HE COULD DO, AND I TOLD HIM ABOUT THE DISMISSAL AND HOW IT WAS DISMISSED IN TERMS OF GETTING OUR PEOPLE OUT, GETTING OUR PEOPLE OUT OF TOWN, AND I WOULD JUST ADD THAT IT IS MORE THAN PROCESS AND IT IS MORE THAN SOME OF THE OTHER THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN STATED.
03:21:54	MY BIOGRAPHY IS IN THE RECORD.
03:21:58	WE LIVE BY A CODE.
03:21:59	THAT CODE SAYS YOU GO AFTER PEOPLE WHEN THEY'RE IN PERIL, WHEN THEY'RE IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY.
03:22:04	WE DID NOT HAVE THE BENEFIT OF HINDSIGHT IN THE EARLY HOURS AND THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE IN PERIL IN THE FUTURE NEED TO KNOW THAT WE WILL GO GET THEM AND WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO GET THEM OUT OF HARM'S WAY.
03:22:22	THAT NIGHT UNFOLDED IN WAYS THAT NO ONE COULD HAVE PREDICTED WHEN IT FIRST STARTED, AND IT IS MY STRONG BELIEF THEN AS IT IS NOW THAT WE NEEDED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT RESOLVE EVEN IF WE STILL HAD THE SAME OUTCOME.
03:22:38	>> MR.
03:22:40	CHAIRMAN. >> I THANK THE GENTLEMAN.
03:22:42	>> I JUST WANTED TO REITERATE, MR.
03:22:44	I REMEMBER WHICH, YOUR POINT TO ME THAT RATHER THAN SPECULATE WHAT MR.
03:22:47	BENJAMIN AND MR.
03:22:48	KENNEDY AND OTHERS MAY THINK OR MAY HAVE SAID, WE'LL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY -- >> WE LOOK FORWARD TO IT.
03:22:55	>> ACTUALLY, ALL TIME HAS EXPIRE EXPIRED.
03:22:57	WE NOW GO TO THE GENTLE LADY FROM ILLINOIS WHO HAS BEEN PATIENTLY WAITING, MISS KELLY.
03:23:02	>> THANK YOU, MR.
03:23:03	CHAIRMAN. I TOOL WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE AND ENDURANCE SITTING HERE ALMOST THREE HOURS.

03:23:13	MR. HICKS, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU ABOUT YOUR CEREMONY INVOLVING IS THE FLIGHT FROM TRIPOLI TO BENGHAZI.
03:23:19	FIRST YOU EXPLAINED THAT THE FIRST PLANE FROM TRIPOLI TO BENGHAZI LEFT ON THE NIGHT OF THE ATTACK AROUND 1:15 A.
03:23:27	M., IS THAT CORRECT?
03:23:28	>> NO IT ARRIVED AT ABOUT 1:15.
03:23:33	>> THE ARB REPORT SAYS THAT THE FIRST PLANE HAD A SEVEN-PERSON SECURITY TEAM, WHICH INCLUDED TWO MILITARY PERSONNEL.
03:23:41	IS THAT CORRECT?
03:23:42	>> YES, IT DID.
03:23:43	>> NOW YOU ALSO TOLD THE COMMITTEE THAT A SECOND FLIGHT LEFT TRIPOLI THE NEXT MORNING, SEPTEMBER 12th, BETWEEN 6:00 AND 6:30 A.
03:23:51	M. IS THAT CORRECT?
03:23:52	>> I THINK THE FLIGHT ACTUALLY LEFT A LITTLE LATER.
03:23:57	BUT AGAIN THE TIMELINES ARE STILL NOT HAVE MERGED TO A GREAT EXTENT GIVEN TIME.
03:24:02	>> OKAY.
03:24:03	YOU SAID THAT FOUR MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE TOLD NOT TO THE BOARD THAT PLANE AND THAT THIS CALL CAME FROM SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND AFRICA.
03:24:10	IS THAT RIGHT?
03:24:11	>> THAT'S WHAT I UNDERSTAND.
03:24:13	>> OKAY. DURING THE INTERVIEW, YOU WERE ASKED IF YOU KNEW WHAT WAS THE RATIONALE THAT YOU WERE GIVEN THAT THEY COULDN'T GO ULTIMATELY.
03:24:20	AND YOU, PLAINED I GUESS I JUST DIDN'T HAVE THE RIGHT AUTHORITY FROM THE RIGHT LEVEL.
03:24:25	IS THAT CORRECT?
03:24:26	>> I THINK THAT'S CORRECT.
03:24:27	>> OKAY.
03:24:28	SO YOU BASICALLY DON'T KNOW WHY THEY WERE TOLD NOT TO GET ON THE PLANE, RIGHT?
03:24:33	>> I HAVE NO IDEA WHY THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO GO GET ON THAT AIRPLANE.
03:24:37	>> THANK YOU.
03:24:38	JUST THIS MORNING, THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RELEASED A PRESS RELEASE, IF I CAN READ IT.
03:24:43	THE TEAM LEADER CALLED SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND AFRICA TO UPDATE THEM THAT THE MOVEMENT OF U.
03:24:49	S. PERSONNEL TO THE TRIPOLI ANNEX WAS COMPLETE.
03:24:52	HE THEN REPORTED HIS INTENTION TO MOVE HIS TEAM TO BENGHAZI BOARD THE LIBYAN C-130 AS THE MISSION IN BENGHAZI AT THAT POINT HAD SHIFTED TO EVACUATION, THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND AFRICA OPERATIONS CENTER DIRECTED HIM TO CONTINUE PROVIDING SUPPORT TO THE EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI.
03:25:11	WE CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THAT THERE WAS NOTHING THIS GROUP COULD HAVE DONE HAD THEY ARRIVED IN BENGHAZI AND THEY PERFORMED SUPERBLY IN TRIPOLI.
03:25:19	IN FACT, WHEN THE FIRST AIRCRAFT ARRIVED BACK IN TRIPOLI, THESE FOUR PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN RECEIVING, TREATING AND MOVING THE WOUNDED.
03:25:27	I'D LIKE TO YIELD THE REST OF MY TIME TO MR.
03:25:29	CONLEY.
03:25:31	>> I THANK MY COLLEAGUE.
03:25:32	>> DOES THE GENT LADY WANT THAT IN THE RECORD.
03:25:35	>> YES, PLEASE. >> WITHOUT OBJECTION, IT WILL BE PLACED IN THE RECORD.
03:25:37	>> MR.
03:25:38	HICKS, YOU QUOTED -- YOU SAID RATHER EMPHATICALLY THAT THE VIDEO HAD NO MATERIAL IMPACT IN LIBYA.
03:25:47	>> THAT'S CORRECT.
03:25:48	>> AND YOU TALKED SEVERAL TIMES ABOUT CONVERSATIONS, PHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER WHO REFERRED TO IT AS A TERRORIST ACT, NOT AS A PROTEST, IS THAT CORRECT?
03:25:59	>> THE PRESIDENT.
03:26:00	>> BUT WE DON'T WANT TO LEAVE A MISIMPRESSION HERE.
03:26:05	THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT IS SOMEWHAT IN OH INDICATE AT THIS TIME.
03:26:09	>> THAT'S CORRECT. >> FOR EXAMPLE, YOU WERE BUSY ON THE DAY BUT ON SEPTEMBER 12th, YOU PUBLISHED A STORY QUOTING LIBYA'S DEPUTY INTERIOR MINISTER.
03:26:17	ONE IS AL SHARIF WHO SAID THAT HIS INITIAL INSTINCT WAS TO AVOID A FLAMING SITUATION BY RISKING A CONFRONTATION WITH PEOPLE ANGRY ABOUT THE VIDEO IN LIBYA.
03:26:29	HE SAID HE ALSO CRITICIZED THE AMERICANS AT THE MISSION FOR FAILING TO HEED WHAT HE SAID

	WAS THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT'S ADVICE TO PULL ITS PERSONNEL OR BEEF UP ITS SECURITY ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF RECENT VIOLENCE IN THE CITY AND THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE VIDEO WOULD PROVOKE PROTESTS.
03:26:47	THAT SAME ARTICLE INTERVIEWED PEOPLE ENGAGED IN THE ASSAULT ON BENGHAZI WHO CITED, ACCORDING TO "THE NEW YORK TIMES," THE 14-MINUTE VIDEO THAT THIS WAS DUE THAT THEIR ANGER.
03:26:56	NOW, MY ONLY POINT IS, THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT DIDN'T SPEAK WITH JUST ONE VOICE.
03:27:02	THERE WERE DISPARATE VOICES.
03:27:03	SOME DID SEE THE VIDEO APPARENTLY AT THE TIME AS AN INFLUENCE AND IT'S A LITTLE -- I DON'T WANT TO MISLEAD THE PUBLIC THAT THERE WAS ONE UNIFIED PERSPECTIVE AND THAT NARRATIVE IS ENTIRELY FALSE AND WAS AT THE TIME.
03:27:15	WOULD YOU CARE TO COMMENT?
03:27:17	>> SURE.
03:27:18	OUR ASSESSMENT IN THE EMBASSY WAS THAT -- SORRY, THE VIDEO WAS NOT AN INSTIGATOR OF ANYTHING THAT WAS GOING ON IN LIBYA.
03:27:30	I UNDERSTAND THAT THESE PEOPLE WERE VOTED.
03:27:34	IN FACT, ON SEPTEMBER 20th, PRIMARY AL KEEB RAISED THE VIDEO IN FRONT OF THE PRESS WHEN DEPUTY SECRETARY BURPS WAS THERE BUT WE SAW NO DEMONSTRATIONS RELATED TO THE VIDEO ANYWHERE IN LIBYA.
03:27:51	THE ONLY EVENT THAT TRANSPIRED WAS THE ATTACK ON OUR CON SUE LATE ON THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 11th.
03:27:57	>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
03:27:59	I THANK MY COLLEAGUE.
03:28:00	MR. CHAIRMAN, IF THERE'S NO OBJECTION, I'D LIKE TO ENTER INTO THE RECORD THE FULL "NEW YORK TIMES" ARTICLE DATED SEPTEMBER 12th, LIBYA ATTACK BRINGS CHALLENGE FOR U.
03:28:10	S. >> I THINK UNDERSTAND THE CIRCUMSTANCE.
03:28:14	IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO PUT IN THE RECORD THAT IT WAS AN UNREASONABLE RISK TO HAVE A CONSULATE IN BENGHAZI AND THAT IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN CLOSED DOWN IN LIGHT OF THE DANGER AND IN FACT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A VIDEO REACTION.
03:28:30	>> I THANK THE CHAIRMAN FOR THAT UNANIMOUS CONSENT COMMENT.
03:28:35	>> WITH THAT, WE GO TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM ARIZONA, MR.
03:28:38	ZO SAR.
03:28:39	>> THANK YOU FOR THE HEROISM.
03:28:43	THAT YOUR SONS XWIBTED.
03:28:44	THE THREE OF YOU AT THE STAND, THANK YOU FOR YOUR BRAVERY PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF HOW WE TREAT WHISTLEBLOWERS TODAY AND IN THE PAST.
03:28:53	MR. HICKS, DID YOU EVER QUESTION OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON ABOUT WHAT WILL SECRETARY RICE SAID ON SUNDAY, THE SUNDAY TALK SHOWS?
03:29:03	>> YES, AGAIN, WHEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY JONES CALLED ME AFTER THE TALK SHOW EVENT, I ASKED HER WHY SHE HAD SAID THERE WAS A DEM MONVATION WHEN WE HAD REPORTED THAT THERE WAS AN ATTACK.
03:29:19	>> WAS SHE THE ONLY ONE?
03:29:20	THAT YOU TALKED ABOUT TALKED TO?
03:29:21	>> YES. >> AND HER REACTION WAS?
03:29:22	>> HER REACTION AGAIN WAS I DON'T KNOW.
03:29:25	AND IT WAS VERY CLEAR THAT FROM THE TONE THAT I SHOULD NOT PROCEED WITH ANY FURTHER.
03:29:31	>> SO SHE WAS VERY KURT.
03:29:35	>> YES. >> OKAY.
03:29:36	DID YOU RECEIVE ANY NEGATIVE FEEDBACK BASED ON THIS CONVERSATION?
03:29:39	>> OVER THE NEXT MONTH, I BEGAN TO WOULD GO KILL AMERICANS?
03:30:21	WHAT DIFFERENCE AT THIS POINT DOES IT MAKE?
03:30:22	IT IS OUR JOB TO FIGURE OUT WHAT HAPPENED AND DO EVERYTHING WE CANNING TO PREVENT IT FROM EVER HAPPENING AGAIN.
03:30:29	>> WELL, I'M REALLY MAD, BUT MR.
03:30:33	HICKS, WOULD YOU -- COULD I GIVE YOU THE CONSTITUENT TO THE RESPOND TO THAT QUESTION.
03:30:38	WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?
03:30:41	>> I THINK THE QUESTION IS WHAT DIFFERENCE DID IT MAKE.
03:30:47	>> YEP.
03:30:49	>> PRESIDENT -- WAS INSULTED IN FRONT OF HIS OWN PEOPLE IN FRONT OF THE WORLD, HIS CREDIBILITY WAS REDUCED.

03:30:57	HIS ABILITY TO LEAD HIS OWN COUNTRY WAS DAMAGED.
03:31:00	HE WAS ANGRY.
03:31:01	A FRIEND OF MINE HOP ATE DINNER WITH HIM IN NEW YORK DURING THE U.
03:31:09	N. SEASON TOLD ME THAT HE WAS STILL STEAMED ABOUT THE TALK SHOWS TWO WEEKS LATER.
03:31:16	AND I DEFINITELY BELIEVE THAT IT NEGATIVELY AFFECTED OUR ABILITY TO GET THE FBI TEAM QUICKLY TO BENGHAZI.
03:31:24	>> SO THAT DEFINITELY IMPACTED GETTING THE FBI TO LOOK AT THE CRIME SCENE, DID IT NOT?
03:31:32	>> ABSOLUTELY.
03:31:33	>> SO WHEN YOU TALKED TO LIBYAN GOVERNMENT, WERE THEY RESPONSIVE WHEN YOU ASKED ABOUT ACCESS FOR THE FBI?
03:31:43	>> IT WAS A LONG SLOG OF 17 DAYS TO GET THE FBI TEAM TOE BENGHAZI.
03:31:51	WORKING WITH VAR MINISTRIES TO GET ULTIMATELY AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT THAT VISIT TO GET THEM TO BENGHAZI, BUT WE ACCOMPLISHED THAT MISSION, BUT AGAIN, AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE GOVERNMENT, THERE WAS NEVER REALLY A POSITIVE APPROVAL.
03:32:17	>> SO THIS FALSE THING WAS TO A SPONTANEOUS REACTION TO A VIDEO.
03:32:21	WAS A DIRECT CONTRAVENTION OF THE EXPLANATION OFFERED BY THIS PRESIDENT, PRESIDENT OF LIBYA, AND THE FACTS ON THE GROUND IMPACT OUR ABILITY TO INVESTIGATE THE CRIME SCENE AFTERWARD.
03:32:30	HOW LONG WAS IT, AS YOU SAID, BEFORE THE FBI WAS ALLOWED ACCESS INTO BENGHAZI TO EXAMINE THAT CRIME SCENE?
03:32:39	>> 17 DAYS.
03:32:40	>> 17 DAYS. >> WAS THE CRIME SCENE SECURED DURING THAT TIME?
03:32:42	>> NO, IT WAS NOT.
03:32:43	WE REPEATEDLY ASKED THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBYA TO SECURE THE CRIME SCENE AND PREVENT INTERLOPERS BUT THEY WERE UNABLE TO DO SO.
03:32:50	>> LET ME GET THE TIMELINE FINALIZED HERE.
03:32:53	SO THE FBI IS SITTING IN TRIPOLI FOR WEEKS WAITING FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT TO TRAVEL TO BENGHAZI.
03:33:02	IS THAT APPROPRIATE?
03:33:03	>> THEY WERE ATTEMPTING TO DO THEIR JOB EVERYBODY TRIPOLI AS BEST THEY COULD.
03:33:08	>> BUT THEY WERE DENIED ACCESS INTO BENGHAZI, RIGHT?
03:33:11	>> CORRECT.
03:33:12	>> WHAT WERE THEY DOING WITH THEIR TIME?
03:33:15	>> THEY WERE INTERVIEWING WITNESSES THAT THEY COULD FIND IN TRIPOLI AND COULD MEET WITH IN TRIPOLI AND THEY WERE ALSO ENGAGED WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO DEVELOP A COOPERATIVE INVESTIGATION WITH THE LIBYANS WHO HAD SENT AN INVESTIGATOR TO BENGHAZI.
03:33:33	>> WERE YOU INTERVIEWED BY THE FBI?
03:33:37	>> NO, I WAS NEVER INTERVIEWED BY THE FBI.
03:33:40	>> NEVER?
03:33:41	NICE STORY. I YIELD BACK MY TIME INTO I THANK THE GENTLEMAN.
03:33:46	MR. HORSFORD.
03:33:47	>>. THANK YOU, MR.
03:33:48	CHAIRMAN.
03:33:49	THANK YOU TO OUR WITNESSES FOR BEING HERE AND YOU KNOW, IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THAT WE'VE HAD NINE OVERSIGHT HEARINGS ON BENGHAZI SINCE THE HORRIFIC ATTACKS ON OUR CONSULATE ON SEPTEMBER 11th, 2012, AND LIKE MANY OF MY COLLEAGUES HAVE EXPRESSED TO THE FAMILY, I BELIEVE THAT WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO DO EVERYTHING WITHIN OUR POWER AS CONGRESS TO GET TO THE SOLUTIONS AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WILL PREVENT THEM -- PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING AGAIN.
03:34:22	I THINK IN ADDITION TO OUR CONDOLENCES, THE THINGS THAT WE NEED TO DO MOST IS OUR JOB TO COME UP WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT THIS.
03:34:34	ONE OF THE OVERALL CONCLUSIONS OF THE ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD WAS JUST THAT, "THAT CONGRESS MUST DO ITS PART TO MEET THIS CHALLENGE AND PROVIDE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO ADDRESS SECURITY RISKS AND MEET MISSION IMPERATIVES.
03:34:54	THAT WAS A DIRECT STATEMENT OUT OF THE REVIEW BOARD RECOMMENDATION.
03:34:58	AND I THINK EACH OF YOU AGREE THAT CONGRESS MUST DO ITS PART.
03:35:04	AM I CORRECT?
03:35:09	>> YES OR NO, REAL QUICK.
03:35:13	>> YES.

03:35:14	>> SO YOU KNOW, MR.
03:35:15	CHAIRMAN, I JUST WOULD HOPE THAT AFTER THIS HEARING, AFTER NINE OVERSIGHT HEARINGS, THAT WE WILL BEGIN TO WORK ON SOME SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WE CAN BRING FORWARD AND THAT ALL OF US USWORKING TOGETHER CAN DO OUR JOB TO PROTECT OUR EMBASSIES.
03:35:34	I THINK THAT'S WHAT THE PUBLIC WANTS.
03:35:36	I BELIEVE AND HOPE THAT THAT'S WHAT THE FAMILIES WANT IN THE MEMORY AND LEGACY OF THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES, AND I WOULD SAY THAT IT DOES COST MONEY.
03:35:48	MR.
03:35:49	NORDSTROM, I KNOW YOU SAY IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT MONEY, BUT IT IS ALSO ABOUT PROPERLY PRIORITIZING BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS, AND YOU KNOW, IN THE PAST, MY COLLEAGUES ON THE OTHER SIDE HAVE NOT BEEN WILLING TO MAKE THE KINDS OF SERIOUS AND SUSTAINED COMMITMENTS TO FUNDING THAT ARE NECESSARY FOR LARGE SCALE AND LONG-TERM SECURITY PROJECTS LIKE BUILDING FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS FOR EXAMPLE.
03:36:17	>> WOULD THE GENTLEMAN YIELD BRIEFLY?
03:36:19	>> MAY I.
03:36:20	>> OF COURSE, THANK YOU.
03:36:21	>> AND SO IN BOTH THE 2011 AND 2012 BUDGET CYCLES, THE BUDGETS GAVE THE STATE DEPARTMENT HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS LESS THAN WHAT WAS REQUESTED.
03:36:35	THE FISCAL YEAR 2013 BUDGET AS PROPOSED BY THE OTHER SIDE PROPOSED EVEN MORE CUTS.
03:36:43	THEY WANT TO REDUCE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BUDGET BY MORE THAN \$5 BILLION LESS THAN IT WAS IN FISCAL YEAR 12.
03:36:54	THAT IS A 9.
03:36:55	8% CUT TO DIPLOMATIC SECURITY WHEN EXTRAPOLATED ACROSS ACCOUNT WHOLE FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUDGET.
03:37:01	BY THE FISCAL YEAR 2016, THE PROPOSED BUDGET BY THE OTHER SIDE FURTHER CUTS FUNDING TO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BY ANOTHER \$5 BILLION.
03:37:14	THIS REPRESENTS A 20% CUT TO DIPLOMATIC SECURITY WHEN EXTRAPOLATED OVER THE ENTIRE FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUDGET.
03:37:25	SO THESE ARE SERIOUS AND SIGNIFICANT CUTS.
03:37:28	AND WE CANNOT PRETEND THAT THEY DON'T HAVE CONSEQUENCES.
03:37:32	AND SO I KNOW THAT MY COLLEAGUES HAVE TALKED SEVERAL TIMES ABOUT HOLDING PEOPLE ACCOUNTABLE.
03:37:39	WELL, I HOPE THAT ONE OF THOSE GROUPS THAT WE WILL HOLD ACCOUNTABLE ARE OURSELVES AS MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO DO OUR JOB TO PROPERLY FUND THE SAFETY OF OUR EMBASSIES SO THAT THIS NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN.
03:37:54	I URGE MY REPUBLICAN COUNTERPARTS TO WORK WITH US IN A BIPARTISAN EFFORT TO ACTUALLY - - TO ACTUALLY FUND THESE IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR EMBASSY SECURITY AND TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON THE 29 ARB RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE AND THOSE THAT WE BELIEVE SHOULD ALSO BE SUPPORTED FROM THIS HEARING.
03:38:17	THANK YOU, MR.
03:38:18	CHAIRMAN.
03:38:19	>> WE NOW GO TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM PENNSYLVANIA, MR.
03:38:22	MEEHAN. >> THANK YOU, MR.
03:38:23	CHAIRMAN.
03:38:24	I KNOW THE FOR THE RECORD THAT CHOR LEAN LAMB WHO TESTIFIED BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE AT A PREVIOUS TIME WAS ASKED SPECIFICALLY THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT FUNDING ISSUES IMPACTED THE ACTIONS THAT TOOK PLACE AND SHE SAID NO.
03:38:38	BUT I'M INTRIGUED AT THIS POINT IN TIME BY SOME OF THE COMMENTARY BECAUSE ONE OF THE THINGS I'D LIKE TO FOLLOW UP ON THE QUESTIONING, MR.
03:38:46	NORDSTROM, THAT CAME TO YOU FROM MR.
03:38:50	LANGFORD WITH REGARD TO SOME OF THE DECISIONS THAT WERE MADE BECAUSE BEING IN BENGHAZI BECAUSE I'M GOING TO TELL YOU, I'M STRUGGLING TO FIND OUT HOW WE HAD THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR IN A MARGINALLY SAFE AMERICAN COMPOUND IN AN INCREASINGLY HOSTILE AREA ON AN ICONIC DAY LIKE SEPTEMBER 11th WITH LIMITED SECURITY.
03:39:12	AND I THINK THAT THERE ARE SOME ISSUES THAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT FIRST ADDITION DECISIONS, THAT WERE MADE ABOUT ALLOWING OCCUPANCY IN THE FIRST PLACE.
03:39:23	COULD YOU TELL ME QUICKLY ABOUT HOW THAT WAS ENABLED TO BE APPROVED?
03:39:29	>> THAT'S THE SAME QUESTION I STILL HAVE TO THIS DAY.
03:39:31	>> YOU DO NOT NOTE.

03:39:32	BUT YOU DO KNOW ACCORDING TO THE LAW, IT APPEARS THAT IT MUST BE SIGNED OFF BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THERE IS NO DELEGATION?
03:39:41	>> CERTAINLY FOR PARTS OF IT, YES, FOR THE SECOND PORTION OF IT.
03:39:45	>> FOLLOWING UP ON JULY 31st, IT'S A FACT THAT THERE I GO BACK ON THE RECORD, THERE WERE 16 SSTs, SPECIAL FORCES IN LIBYA, 14 DEPARTMENT OF STATE SECURITY PERSONNEL.
03:39:59	ON AUGUST 31st JUST SHORTLY BEFORE THAT HAD BEEN REDUCED TO SIX REGULATION INDIVIDUALS IN TRIPOLI, THREE IN BENGHAZI.
03:40:12	WHY THE CUTBACK ON SECURITY?
03:40:14	>> AGAIN, THAT'S ONE OF THE QUESTIONS THAT I HAD.
03:40:17	I'VE NEVER SEEN IT ADDRESSED IN THE ARB OR ANYTHING ELSE IS WHY WERE THESE DECISIONS THAT WE MADE TURNED DOWN?
03:40:25	WHY WERE, IN FACT, THERE WAS A PROPOSAL THAT WENT BACK ALL THE WAY TO A MONTH AFTER WE HAD ARRIVED ASKING FOR \$2.
03:40:32	1 MILLION FOR STAFFING TO HAVE 19 D SUBPOENA AGENTS MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THAT TIME PERIOD.
03:40:39	I STILL DON'T HAVE ANY UNDERSTANDING AS WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT PROPOSAL.
03:40:43	THAT WENT TO THE UNDERSECRETARY OF MANAGEMENT.
03:40:45	>> DID YOU HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY OF THE LOCALS IN THE COUNTRY WHO WERE PURPORTED SIDELINED TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR YOU?
03:40:56	>> I THINK TO PUT IT SUCCINCTLY, IT WAS THE BEST BAD PLAN.
03:41:00	IT WAS THE ONLY THING WE HAD.
03:41:01	>> IT WAS THE ONLY THING -- DID YOU HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THAT?
03:41:06	>> NO.
03:41:07	>> DID YOU REPORT THAT AT ANY POINT IN TIME TO OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON, D.
03:41:11	C.? >> WE DID.
03:41:12	WE DID NOTE THE TRAINING DEFICIENCIES IN PARTICULAR.
03:41:15	THAT WAS SOMETHING THAT WAS ALWAYS THERE.
03:41:17	CERTAINLY WE HAD ALSO RAISED THE ISSUE OF DOING SOME SORT OF COUNTER INTELLIGENCE VETTING OF THE PEOPLE THAT WORKED FOR US.
03:41:25	ULTIMATELY, THAT WAS TURNED DOWN EVEN THOUGH WE WANTED IT BECAUSE THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WANTED POST TO PAY THE FUNDS FOR IT, WHICH WE DIDN'T HAVE.
03:41:35	IT HAD ALWAYS BEEN OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT WAS GOING TO BE PAID FOR BY WASHINGTON.
03:41:38	>> MR.
03:41:39	THOMPSON, I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE BACKGROUND IN COUNTER-TERRORISM.
03:41:42	I'M GOING BACK ON -- THIS IS TESTIMONY THAT WAS PROVIDED BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL WOOD WHO WAS AN SST PERSON DOING SERVICE IN TRIPOLI AND ULTIMATELY WANTED TO BE IN BENGHAZI.
03:41:57	HE TALKED ABOUT FACEBOOK THREATS THAT WERE MADE ABOUT WESTERN INFLUENCES IN BENGHAZI.
03:42:03	I ALSO NOTE THEN A SERIES OF ISSUES, AN RPG ATTACK ON THE RED CROSS IN EARLY MAY, A RED CROSS SECOND ATTACK IN JUNE, AN IED ATTACK AGAINST THE U.
03:42:16	N. MISSION IN APRIL 6th.
03:42:18	AN IED ATTACK AGAINST A U.
03:42:20	N. CONVOY ON APRIL 10th, AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN JUNE 11th WITH RPGs, AN ATTEMPTED CARJACKING ON AUGUST 6th OF TWO SST OFFICERS OF THE UNITED STATES.
03:42:36	IN YOUR MIND, DOES THIS IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL OPINION, WOULD THIS SUGGEST TO YOU THAT THE FACILITY IN BENGHAZI BY A REASONABLE PERSON WITH YOUR EXPERIENCE OR A REASONABLE PERSON IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERED A POSSIBLE OR EVEN LIKELY TARGET OF A TERRORIST INCIDENT?
03:42:58	>> IT CERTAINLY HAD ALL THE INDICATORS OF THAT BASED ON THAT HISTORY.
03:43:03	YES, CONGRESSMAN.
03:43:04	>> AND IN LIGHT OF THAT AND IN LIGHT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE THAT MR.
03:43:08	NORDSTROM'S TESTIMONY, WOULD YOU HAVE BEEN HAPPY WITH THE IDEA THAT IT WAS ALLOWED TO BE MAINTAINED UNDER LESS THAN THE STAFFING THAT HAD EXISTED ONLY A MONTH BEFORE OR TWO MONTHS BEFORE AND UNDER STANDARDS WHICH WERE ONLY TWO IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY ACCORDING TO THE TESTIMONY OF MR.
03:43:27	NORDSTROM THAT WERE NOT MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS, THE MINIMAL REQUIREMENTS OF SAFETY?
03:43:32	>> NO, SIR, IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

03:43:34	>> MR.
03:43:35	NORDSTROM OR MR. HICKS, WHAT IS NORMALIZATION AND WHY WERE WE DOING THIS?
03:43:41	>> THAT'S BEEN A QUESTION EVEN THAT THE IRB RAISED AND OTHERS HAVE RAISED.
03:43:47	I'M NOT SURE.
03:43:48	I MEAN, SARCASTICALLY, WE SAW IT AS DO MORE WITH LESS, BUT I FIRST SAW THAT TERM NORMALIZATION IN THAT BUDGET PROPOSAL, RESOURCE PROPOSAL A MONTH AFTER WE HAD ARRIVED.
03:44:02	THERE WAS ALREADY TALK ABOUT NORMALIZING OUR FOOTPRINT.
03:44:06	IT WAS THEN PICKED UP AGAIN.
03:44:10	FEBRUARY WHEN GREG'S PREDECESSOR HAD MET WITH DAS LAMB.
03:44:14	SAME THING.
03:44:15	IT STRUCK ME AS BEING PART OF SOME SORT OF SCRIPT, JUST LIKE THE ROPE WE DIDN'T CLOSE THE FACILITY IN THE BENGHAZI DESPITE THE RISKS.
03:44:23	THERE WAS ALSO A POLITICAL DECISION THAT SAID WE WERE GOING TO KEEP THAT OPEN.
03:44:27	THAT'S FINE BUT NO ONE'S EVER COME OUT AND SAID THAT THAT WE MADE THAT RISK AND WE MADE THAT DECISION AND THEN TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT.
03:44:37	>> I THANK THE GENTLEMAN.
03:44:38	>> MY TIME'S -- EXPIRED.
03:44:41	BUT MR. HICKS, DID YOU HAVE A RESPONSE TO THAT, AS WELL?
03:44:45	>> NORMALIZATION TO US WAS MOVING TOWARDS BEING LIKE A NORMAL EMBASSY INSTEAD OF HAVING BEING IN A SENSE, UNDER SIEGE OR IN A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT WHERE WE'RE SURROUNDED BY POTENTIAL THREATS.
03:45:03	AND WE WANTED TO MOVE TOWARDS NORMAL HIGH OF AND IT ALSO MEANT REMOVING OR WITHDRAWAL OF EXTRA DS PERSONNEL AND THEN THE MOVEMENT TOWARDS OUR DIPLOMATIC SECURITY PERSONNEL MANAGING MORE OF A PROGRAM THAT INCLUDED THE RECRUITMENT OF LIBYANS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL -- THE SECURITY THAT WE NEEDED.
03:45:29	>> THANK YOU.
03:45:31	MR. HICKS, YOU MENTIONED EARLIER YOUR WIFE BEING SUCH AN IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR DECISION PROCESS.
03:45:37	WERE YOU PLANNING ON BRINGING HER TO LIBYA SINCE IT WAS NORMALIZED?
03:45:43	>> JUST MR.
03:45:44	CHAIRMAN, THANKS.
03:45:46	JUST TO CORRECT, I WAS ACTUALLY SELECTED TO BE DCM BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AFFAIRS JEFF FELTMAN IN TRIPOLI.
03:45:54	>> JEFF AND I SPENT A LOT OF TIME IN THE 2006 WAR IN LEBANON TOGETHER.
03:45:59	HE'S A GOOD MAN BUT AS TO FAMILY RETURNING TO LIBYA, I MEAN, NORMALIZATION MEANS YOU BRING BACK DEPENDENTS AND SOY ON.
03:46:07	WAS THAT PART OF WHAT WAS GOING ON?
03:46:10	>> THAT'S WHAT WE WERE POINTING TOWARDS, IN FACT.
03:46:12	CHRIS AND I HAD A LONG TALK ON THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 9th BEFORE HE LEFT FOR BENGHAZI, AND WE TALKED ABOUT THIS, THAT WE FELT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE TRAJECTORY.
03:46:22	EVEN THOUGH ALL OF THESE SECURITY PROBLEMS WERE GOING ON, WE FELT THAT THE LIBYANS WERE GETTING THEIR POLITICAL ACT TOGETHER.
03:46:28	WE WERE GOING TO PULL TOGETHER A GOVERNMENT.
03:46:30	THEY WERE GOING TO GET A CONSTITUTION, THEIR ECONOMY WAS GOING TO PICK UP.
03:46:33	THEY WERE GOING TO STABILIZE, AND MY NEXT PROJECT WAS, IN CAN THE FA, ARE TO REACH OUT TO THE BOARD MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN SCHOOL AND START WORKING WITH THEM ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF OPENING THE SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER.
03:46:47	AND THAT WOULD, OF COURSE, ALLOWED ME TO BRING MY FAMILY TO JOIN ME IN TRIPOLI.
03:46:53	AND THAT WAS ACTUALLY A CONDITION THAT MY WIFE MADE FOR MY GOING TO MY SECOND UNACCOMPANIED ASSIGNMENT IN -- SO.
03:47:04	>> I'M SURE SHE'S GLAD TO HAVE YOU HOME NOW THOUGH.
03:47:07	>> VERY GLAD.
03:47:08	>> WITH THAT, WE GO TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM NEW MEXICO.
03:47:11	HE'S BEEN PATIENTLY WAITING.
03:47:13	I'M SORRY, MR.
03:47:14	CARDENAS NEXT.
03:47:15	>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR.
03:47:18	CHAIRMAN.
03:47:19	MY CONDOLENCES TO ALL THE FAMILIES AND EVERYBODY WHO SUFFERED FROM THIS TRAGEDY,

	AND ALSO, I HOPE THAT YOU PRAY FOR US THAT WE DO THE RIGHT THING AS POLICYMAKERS AND NOT AS POLITICIANS.
03:47:34	MR. NORDSTROM, YOU'VE STATED HERE THAT YOU FELT THE SECURITY SITUATION IN BENGHAZI WAS UNSAFE.
03:47:41	AS A MATTER OF FACT, YOU'VE BEEN VERY CLEAR ON PLACING BLAME WITH A NUMBER OF PEOPLE.
03:47:45	SO GIVEN EVERYTHING THAT WAS GOING ON AT THE TIME AND EVERYTHING YOU HAVE SAID TODAY AND WHAT YOU SAID ON OCTOBER 10th, AT ANY POINT, DID YOU SUGGESTING TO AMBASSADOR STEVENS THAT HE SHOULD NOT TRAVEL TO BENGHAZI ON SEPTEMBER 11th ANNIVERSARY AND THAT THE SITUATION WAS VOLATILE AND THAT THE FACILITY, PER YOUR OWN ASSESSMENT, WAS NOT SECURE?
03:48:10	>> I HAD DESTARTED THE POST ON THE 26th OF JULY.
03:48:13	SO I DIDN'T HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO THAT.
03:48:16	I WOULD DEFER THAT TO THE RSO THAT WAS MR.
03:48:19	AT THE TIME.
03:48:21	JOHN MARTINEK.
03:48:22	IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING HE ALSO HAS RAISED SOME CONCERNS AND DISCUSSED THAT.
03:48:26	>> SO YOU HAVE YOUR OPINIONS TODAY BUT YOU DID NOT HAVE THOSE SAME OPINIONS BACK THEN?
03:48:31	>> I WASN'T AT POST.
03:48:33	FOR SEPTEMBER 11th.
03:48:34	I DEPARTED SIX WEEKS PRIOR SO -- INTO IF THE GENTLEMAN WOULD INDULGE, I THINK HE'S ASKING, WHAT WAS YOUR OPINION ON THE DAY YOU LEFT RELATIVE TO SFWHEENGZ OH, OKAY.
03:48:48	I UNDERSTAND. I HAD ACTUALLY MET WITH THE AMBASSADOR PRIOR TO THAT AS PART AFTER OUTBRIEFING.
03:48:54	AND HE AND I TALKED ABOUT KIND OF THE WAY FORWARD.
03:48:58	AND THE THREATS IN THE EAST WERE SOMETHING THAT WE TALKED ABOUT.
03:49:02	I HAD MENTIONED THAT IN OCTOBER, AS WELL.
03:49:06	IT WAS VERY CONCERNING TO US.
03:49:07	THE INCREASING IN THE TARGETING.
03:49:09	IT WAS SOMETHING THAT I HAD MENTIONED BACK TO OUR HEADQUARTERS IN REPORTING.
03:49:14	IT WAS SOMETHING THAT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR BROUGHT UP WHEN THE AMBASSADOR WENT AND MET WITH THE MINISTER IN JULY TO TALK ABOUT REQUESTING STATIC SECURITY, THEY HIGHLIGHTED NUMBER ONE, GROWING EXTREMISM IN THE EAST, PARTICULARLY IN BENGHAZI, IN DE ERNA AND SIRTE.
03:49:36	ABSOLUTELY THAT WAS SOMETHING WE DISCUSSED AND WE WERE CONCERNED IN PARTICULAR THAT WE WERE NOT GETTING IS THE RESOURCES.
03:49:43	>> SO YOU STRESSED THAT YOU DID STRESS CONCERNS BUT NOT TO THE POINT WHERE YOU SAID, I WOULDN'T GO IF I WERE YOU OR SHOULDN'T GO?
03:49:52	>> WE NEVER HAD THAT DISCUSSION.
03:49:54	IN PART BECAUSE THE AMBASSADOR HAD NOT INDICATED ANY SORT OF DESIRE TO TRAVEL TO BENGHAZI.
03:50:01	MY HOPE WOULD HAVE BEEN THAT THEY WOULD HAVE HAD RESOURCES THERE TO AUGMENT ANY SUCH TRAVEL.
03:50:08	>> OKAY.
03:50:09	AND RESOURCES REQUIRE OTHER KINDS OF RESOURCES?
03:50:12	I MEAN IF YOU HAVE RESOURCES ON THE GROUND, THEY REQUIRE ACTUAL FUNDING, ET CETERA.
03:50:16	THERE'S A BALANCE TO CREATING THE KIND YOU HAVE ATMOSPHERE AND SECURITY THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO MEET ANY CONCERNS, CORRECT?
03:50:23	>> SURE.
03:50:24	AND WHAT WE WERE LOOKING AT IS THAT YOU WERE GOING TO HAVE A DOWNSIZING OF PERSONNEL IN TRIPOLI.
03:50:30	SO ANYTIME THE BAM BASS DOOR WOULD HAVE TRAVELED THAT WOULD HAVE IMPACTED SECURITY IN BOTH LOCATIONS BECAUSE YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN SPLITTING UP RESOURCES WHICH IS WHAT I THINK ULTIMATELY HAPPENED.
03:50:42	>> MR. HICKS, CAN YOU SHED SOME LIGHT ON THIS DISCUSSION THAT WE'RE HAVING?
03:50:47	>> IN THE TWO PLANNING MEETINGS THAT WE HAD FOR AMBASSADOR STEVENS' TRIP TO BENGHAZI, ORIGINALLY SECURITY OFFICER JOHN MARTINEK RAISED SERIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT HIS TRAVEL.
03:50:59	BECAUSE OF THOSE CONCERNS, THE AMBASSADOR ADJUSTED HIS PLANS FOR THAT TRIP.
03:51:05	FIRST, HE AGREED THAT HE WOULD GO IN A LOW PROFILE WAY.
03:51:09	HIS TRIP WOULD NOT BE FLOUNCED IN ADVANCE.

03:51:11	WE WOULD NOT DO ANY PLANNING OF MEETINGS UNTIL RIGHT BEFORE HE WENT, AND SECOND, HE EVENTUALLY DECIDED ALSO TO SHORTEN HIS TRIP.
03:51:23	HE INITIALLY HAD PLANNED TO GO ON THE 8th.
03:51:25	HE WENT ON THE 10th INSTEAD TO NARROW THE TIME FRAME THAT HE WOULD BE.
03:51:31	TRIPOLI. THE THIRD STEP THAT HE TOOK WAS THE ONE PUBLIC EVENT THAT HE PLANNED WOULD TAKE PLACE AT THE VERY END OF HIS TRIP JUST BEFORE HE LEFT.
03:51:41	>> SO BASICALLY, YOU'RE DESCRIBING WHAT I FEEL TO BE CONSISTENT WHAT I'VE KNOWN OF THE AMBASSADOR IS THAT HE WAS VERY, VERY COMMITTED.
03:51:52	DID HE LISTEN TO ADVICE -- BUT HE WAS VERY DETERMINED AND HE CONTINUED TO DO HIS JOB?
03:51:55	>> EXACTLY.
03:51:56	HE WENT THERE TO DO HIS JOB.
03:51:57	HE FELT THAT HE HAD A POLITICAL IMPERATIVE TO GO TO BENGHAZI AND REPRESENT THE UNITED STATES THERE IN ORDER TO MOVE THE PROJECT FORWARD TO MAKE THE BENGHAZI CONSULATE A PERMANENT CONSTITUENT POST.
03:52:12	>> I'M SO PROUD OF HIS COMMITMENT, AND THAT IS VERY CONSISTENT WITH EVERYBODY WHO'S COME ACROSS HIM.
03:52:18	I JUST HOPE THAT WE CAN HAVE THAT COMMITMENT UP HERE AS ELECTED OFFICIALS TO DO THE RIGHT THING SO THIS NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN.
03:52:24	THANK YOU SO MUCH. >> THANK YOU.
03:52:25	WE NOW GO TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM THE TENNESSEE, MR.
03:52:31	DY GILLETTE. >> TODAY'S HEARING IS ABOUT ONE SIMPLE THING.
03:52:33	IT'S FINDING THE TRUTH AND I KNOW THESE FAMILIES HERE WANT THE TRUTH AND I KNOW THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT THE TRUTH, BUT YET, I LISTENED TO THIS QUESTIONING TODAY AND THERE SEEMS TO BE A REAL PARTISAN.
03:52:45	FEEL TO FINDING THE TRUTH.
03:52:47	I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT.
03:52:48	IF YOU LISTEN TO THE OTHER SIDE, YOU'D THINK IT'S TIME TO MOVE ON FROM THIS, THEY WOULD AGREE WITH SECRETARY CLINTON AND SAY, WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?
03:52:57	SOME OF THE FAMILY MEMBERS I TALKED TO BEFORE THIS HEARING, I GUARANTEE THEY HEARING MAKES A DIFFERENCE TODAY.
03:53:03	WE WANT TO KNOW WHO MADE SOME OF THESE DECISIONS AND WHY THEY MADE SOME OF THESE DECISIONS THE ONLY ENCOURAGING PART I HEARD FROM THE OTHER SIDE IS THEY FEEL YOU ALL SHOULD BE PROTECTED, YOUR ABILITY AND DESIRE TO TESTIFY SHOULD BE PROTECTED.
03:53:16	THAT'S GOOD. I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU ALL BEING HERE.
03:53:18	IT DOES MATTER.
03:53:19	IT MATTERS TO A LOT OF PEOPLE.
03:53:24	MR. HICKS, AFTER YOUR VISIT WITH CONGRESSMAN CHAI VITZ' VISIT, DID YOU FEEL ANY KIND OF SHIFT IN THE WAY YOU WERE TREATED IN.
03:53:36	>> YES, AGAIN, I DID.
03:53:39	WHEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY JONES VISITED SHORTLY AFTER, WHEN PRIOR TO THE VISIT RIFT, ASSISTANT SECRETARY JONES HAD VISITED AND SHE PULLED ME ASIDE AND AGAIN, SAID I NEEDED TO IMPROVE MY MANAGEMENT STYLE AND INDICATED THAT PEOPLE WERE UPSET.
03:54:00	I HAD HAD NO INDICATION THAT MY STAFF WAS UPSET AT ALL OTHER THAN WITH THE CONDITIONS THAT WE WERE FACING.
03:54:08	FOLLOWING MY RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES, I ATTENDED CHRIS'S FUNERAL IN SAN FRANCISCO AND THEN I CAME BACK TO WASHINGTON.
03:54:18	ASSISTANT SECRETARY JONES SUMMONED ME TO HER OFFICE AND SHE DELIVERED A BLISTERING CRITIQUE OF MY MANAGEMENT STYLE, AND SHE EVEN SAID, I EXCLAIMED I DON'T KNOW WHY LARRY POPE WOULD WANT YOU TO COME BACK AND DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY ANYONE AT TRIPOLI WOULD WANT ME TO COME BACK.
03:54:42	>> BEFORE THE ATTACK, YOU HAD ALL KINDS YOU HAVE PRAISE FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP.
03:54:47	YOU GOT A CALL FROM SECRETARY CLINTON AND FROM THE PRESIDENT PRAISING YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND HOW YOU HANDLED THINGS.
03:54:52	WAS THERE A SEMINAL MOMENT IN YOUR MIND TO WHEN ALL THIS PRAISE AND APPRECIATION TURNED INTO SOMETHING ELSE?
03:54:58	>> IN HINDSIGHT, I THINK IT BEGAN AFTER I ASKED THE QUESTION ABOUT AMBASSADOR RICE'S STATEMENT ON THE TV SHOWS.
03:55:06	>> AND YOU KNOW, ANYONE LISTENING TO THIS HEARING TODAY, IF THEY DON'T HAVE QUESTIONS, THERE WAS SOME COMMENT MADE ABOUT, WELL THERE WAS A FEW PEOPLE IN LIBYA THAT HAD A PROBLEM WITH THIS YOUTUBE VIDEO BUT THE OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE IS THAT THIS WAS A

	TERRORIST ATTACK.
03:55:19	EVERYBODY KNEW IT, BUT YET, SOMEONE HIGHER UP DECIDED TO RUN WITH THIS STORY THIS FACADE AND KEPT IT FOR A LONG TIME.
03:55:26	I WOULD THINK EVERYONE SITTING HERE WANTS TO KNOW THE ANSWER WHY THAT WAS DONE.
03:55:31	SO WHAT OTHER IMPEDIMENTS HAVE YOU HAD OR HOW HAVE YOU FELT SINCE DECIDING TO COME FORWARD?
03:55:37	DO YOU FEEL LIKE THEY'VE TREATED YOU ANY DIFFERENTLY FROM THAT POINT ON?
03:55:42	>> WELL, AFTER I WAS ANGRY WITH THE WAY I HAD BEEN CRITICIZED.
03:55:46	I THOUGHT IT WAS UNFOUNDED.
03:55:48	I FELT LIKE I'D BEEN TRIED AND CONVICTED IN ABSENTIA.
03:55:52	BUT I DECIDED I WAS GOING TO GO BACK AND TRY TO REDEEM MYSELF.
03:55:59	>> WHAT IS YOUR JOB RIGHT NOW?
03:56:01	>> WHAT IS MY JOB?
03:56:03	I AM A FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICER IN THE OFFICE OF GLOBAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS.
03:56:09	>> A FAR CRY FROM WHERE YOU WERE IN YOUR LEVEL OF CAPABILITIES?
03:56:12	>> YES, SIR.
03:56:14	>> SO WHEN YOU CAME BACK TO THE UNITED STATES, WERE YOU PLANNING ON GOING BACK TO LIBYA?
03:56:18	>> I WAS.
03:56:19	I FULLY INTENDED TO DO SO.
03:56:22	>> WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENED?
03:56:23	>> BASED ON CRITICISM THAT I RECEIVED, I FELT THAT IF I WENT BACK, I WOULD NEVER BE COMFORTABLE WORKING THERE, AND IN ADDITION, MY FAMILY REALLY DIDN'T WANT ME TO GO BACK.
03:56:36	WE HAD ENDURED A YEAR OF SEPARATION WHEN I WAS IN AFGHANISTAN IN 2006 AND 2007.
03:56:41	THAT WAS THE OVERRIDING FACTOR.
03:56:43	SO I VOLUNTARILY CURTAILED.
03:56:46	I VERY MUCH ADD OFFER OF WHAT'S CALLED A NO FAULT CURTAILMENT.
03:56:49	THAT MEANS THAT THERE'S -- THERE WOULD BE NO CRITICISM OF MY DEPARTURE OF POST, NO NEGATIVE REPERCUSSIONS.
03:56:58	IN FAK, AMBASSADOR POPE WHEN HE MADE THE OFFER TO EVERYONE IN TRIPOLI WHEN HE ARRIVED, HE INDICATED THAT PEOPLE COULD EXPECT THAT THEY WOULD GET A COULD GOOD ONWARD AN SIPSSIGNMENT OUT OF THAT.
03:57:14	>> I WOULD CLOSE WITH THE FACT THAT WE HAVE A PRESIDENT THAT'S MADE IT HIS POLICY SINCE HE TOOK OFFICE NOT TO KNEE JERK OR JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS.
03:57:23	BUT YET, WHY WAS HE QUICK TO JUMP TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THERE WAS A PROTEST DUE TO A YOUTUBE VIDEO?
03:57:29	I THINK WE ALL KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE AND I THINK WE ALL NEED TO FIND THE ANSWER TO THAT.
03:57:33	>> THANK YOU.
03:57:34	>> COULD I JUST CLARIFY?
03:57:36	THE JOB THAT I HAVE RIGHT NOW THE BETWEEN MY CURTAILMENT AND MY FINDING OF THIS JOB THAT I HAVE NOW, I HAD NO MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT.
03:57:46	I WAS IN A STATUS CALLED NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS OVERCOMPLEMENT.
03:57:52	AND THE JOB NOW IS A SIGNIFICANT -- IT'S A DEMOTION.
03:57:57	FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICER IS A DESIGNATION THAT IS GIVEN TO OUR SVL SERVICE COLLEAGUES WHO ARE DESK OFFICERS.
03:58:05	SO I'VE BEEN EFFECTIVELY DEMOTED FROM DEPUTY CHIEF OF INITION TO DESK OFFICER.
03:58:12	>>> LET ME JUST INTERJECT ONE THING AT THIS TIME.
03:58:17	IN YOUR OPENING STATEMENT, I KNOW THE -- AND IT'S ALREADY IN THE RECORD BUT I WANT TO MAKE SURE IT'S SEPARATELY PLACED IN AT THIS MOMENT -- YOU INCLUDED AN UNCLASSIFIED DOCUMENT PURPORTED TO BE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE PRESIDENT OF LIBYA.
03:58:33	IS THAT CORRECT?
03:58:34	>> YES.
03:58:35	>> I WANT TO BE VERY CAREFUL.
03:58:37	IT DOESN'T HAVE A SIGNATURE.
03:58:39	IT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMITTED.
03:58:42	>> IT'S A CABLE.
03:58:43	THIS CABLE, WAS IT AS FAR AS YOU KNOW FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES DIRECTLY?
03:58:48	>> YES. >> AND WAS IT DELIVERED TO THE PRESIDENT OF LIBYA DIRECTLY?

03:58:52	>> IT WAS.
03:58:53	>> AND DOES IT IS MENTION TERRORIST ATTACK ANYWHERE ELSE?
03:58:57	AND I KNOW THE THAT THIS IS SEPTEMBER 17th, WHICH WOULD BE THAT MONDAY AFTERWARDS.
03:59:02	DO YOU -- DOES THIS IN YOUR OPINION IN ANY WAY, SHAPE, OR FORM, DESCRIBE THE UNFORTUNATE CIRCUMSTANCES AS TERRORISM TO THE PRESIDENT OF LIBYA?
03:59:12	>> I BELIEVE IT DOES.
03:59:13	>> MR.
03:59:16	CHAIRMAN?
03:59:17	>> YES.
03:59:18	>> IT'S IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT.
03:59:21	IT WAS DELIVERED TO EVERYBODY.
03:59:22	>> OKAY. >> THESE ARE INCLUSIONS.
03:59:24	BUT IT SAYS THANK YOU FOR RESPONDING QUICKLY TO THE TRAGIC ATTACK IN BENGHAZI.
03:59:29	AND I'M READING THROUGH THIS THING.
03:59:35	YOU KNOW, AND WELL, IT'S IN THE RECORD BUT AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, IT SPEAKS OF IT AS A TRAGIC ATTACK.
03:59:42	IT DOESN'T SPEAK TO IT EVEN AFTER AMBASSADOR RICE SPOKE.
03:59:47	IT DOESN'T SPEAK TO IT AS A TERRORIST ATTACK OR OUR WAR ON TERROR OR FIGHTING TERRORISM.
03:59:52	IS THAT CORRECT?
03:59:53	>> YEAH, I DON'T HAVE IT BEFORE ME AT THIS MOMENT.
03:59:56	>> OKAY. WE'LL DELIVER IT BACK TO YOU IN A MOMENT JUST TO MAKE SURE.
03:59:59	YOUR COUNSEL HAS IT FOR YOU.
04:00:01	>> YEAH, IT SAYS OUTRAGEOUS ATTACK.
04:00:04	>> BUT IT DOESN'T TALK ABOUT US WORKING TOGETHER TO FIGHT TERRORISM, DOES IT.
04:00:08	>> NO. >> THANK YOU FOR INCLUDING THAT IN THE RECORD.
04:00:12	WE NOW GO TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM TEXAS.
04:00:15	>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
04:00:16	I'D LIKE TO ALSO JOIP MY COLLEAGUES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE IN EXPRESSING OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF AMBASSADOR STEVENS, SHAUN SMITH, TYRONE WOOD AND GLEN DOHERTY AND ALL OF THOSE OTHERS INJURED.
04:00:29	I WANT TO CLEAR UP A COUPLE OF LOOSE ENDS FROM EARLIER TESTIMONY AND THEN I WANT TO ASK YOU A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FEBRUARY 17th MARTYR BRIGADE.
04:00:40	FIRST OFF, MR.
04:00:41	HICKS, YOU TESTIFIED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS YOU NEVER GOT A CHANCE TO READ THE CLASSIFIED ARB REPORT.
04:00:46	YOU DO HAVE SECURITY CLEARANCE THAT YOU SAT IN WITH THE MEETING WITH MR.
04:00:52	CHAI VITZ THAT YOUR MINDER COULDN'T ATTEND.
04:00:54	SO DO YOU HAVE SECURITY CLEARANCE?
04:00:55	>> YES, SIR.
04:00:56	>> ALL RIGHT. AND THEN MR.
04:00:57	THOMPSON, YOU TESTIFIED IN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION AS TO WHY THE FESSED ANTHEM THAT YOUR RESPONSE TEAM WAS NOT DEPLOYED, THAT ONE OF THE THINGS YOU HEARD WAS IT MIGHT NOT BE TO A SAFE LOCATION.
04:01:12	DO YOU GUYS TRAIN TO DEPLOY TO CANADA OR THE CARIBBEAN ISLANDS OR OTHER SAFE LOCATIONS OR ARE YOU TRAINED TO RESPOND TO HOT SPOTS?
04:01:21	>> HOT SPOTS.
04:01:22	>> AND WOULD THERE HAVE BEEN ANY RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF YOU OR ANY OF THE MEN OR WOMEN IN YOUR ORGANIZATION TO GO TO LIBYA OR ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD THAT YOU WERE NEEDED TO PROTECT AMERICANS?
04:01:35	>> I HANG OUT WITH A VERY NOBLE AND BRAVE CROWD.
04:01:38	THE ANSWER IS NO.
04:01:39	>> I DIDN'T THINK SO.
04:01:41	AND THEN MR. HICKS, I WANT TO TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT WHAT WAS GOING ON IN LIBYA AT THE TIME THERE.
04:01:48	JUST BEEN A REVOLUTION.
04:01:49	WE HAD A NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT, DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED.
04:01:55	WE WERE INVOLVED THROUGH OUR NATO PARTNERS IN THAT.
04:02:00	THIS WAS PROBABLY A WIN FOR THE UNITED STATES.
04:02:02	WE HAD A FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT RELATIVELY FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT GOING IN AND THEN WE ALL BUT MAKE THE NEW PRESIDENT OUT TO -- WE THROW HIM UNDER THE BUS ON THE SUNDAY

	SHOWS.
04:02:13	AND YOU TESTIFIED THAT THAT MAY HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE REASONS THE FBI WAS SLOW GETTING IN.
04:02:19	DO YOU THINK IT OVERALL DAMAGED OUR RELATIONSHIP BEYOND THAT WITH LIBYA?
04:02:27	>> IT COMPLICATED THINGS FOR THAT PERIOD OF TIME.
04:02:30	I THINK PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO THE FBI MISSION.
04:02:34	BUT THE LIBYAN PEOPLE AS A POLL RELEASED BY GALLUP RIGHT BEFORE 9/11 ATTESTS, VALUED OUR RELATIONSHIP HIGHLY.
04:02:43	IN FACT, HIGHER THAN ALMOST ANY OTHER ARAB COUNTRY.
04:02:47	IT WAS OVER 50% OF THE POPULATION.
04:02:48	>> ISN'T THAT UP WITH OF THE REASONS ENAMBASSADOR STEVENS WENT TOE BENGHAZI ON THAT FATEFUL DAY IS TO CONTINUE TO SHOW OUR SUPPORT FOR WHAT WAS GOING ON.
04:02:59	LIBYA AT THE TIME?
04:03:00	>> ABSOLUTELY.
04:03:01	ESPECIALLY TO THE PEOPLE OF BENGHAZI.
04:03:02	>> ALL RIGHT.
04:03:03	NOW I WANT TO GO ON, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME REPORTS FLOATING AROUND.
04:03:07	CAN YOU, MR. NORDSTROM, CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT THE ROLE OF THE FEBRUARY 17th MARTYRS BRIGADE WAS IN PROTECTING THE CONSULATE IN BENGHAZI?
04:03:18	>> CERTAINLY, THAT WAS THE UNIT FOR LACK OF A BETTER TERM, THAT WAS PROVIDED TO US BY THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT.
04:03:24	>> NOW, WERE YOU AWARE OF ANY TIES OF THAT MILITIA TO ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS?
04:03:30	>> ABSOLUTELY. YEAH, WE HE HAD THAT DISCUSSION ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS.
04:03:34	THE LAST OF WHICH WAS WHEN THERE WAS A FACEBOOK POSTING OF A THREAT THAT NAMED AMBASSADOR STEVENS AND SENATOR McCAIN WHO WAS COMING OUT FOR THE ELECTIONS THAT WAS IN THE JULY TIME FRAME.
04:03:47	I HAD MET WITH SOME OF MY AGENTS AND THEN ALSO WITH SOME ANNEX PERSONNEL.
04:03:52	WE AN DISCUSSED THAT.
04:03:54	>> AND MR.
04:03:56	HICKS, YOU'RE IN LIBYA ON THE NIGHT OF THE ATTACK.
04:04:00	DO YOU BELIEVE THE FEBRUARY 17th MILITIA PLAYED A ROLE IN THOSE STAKE ATTACKS?
04:04:10	>> CERTAINLY ELEMENTS OF THAT MILITIA WERE COMPLICIT IN THE ATTACKS.
04:04:13	THE ATTACKERS HAD TO MAKE A LONG APPROACH MARCH THROUGH MULTIPLE CHECKPOINTS MANNED BY MILITIA.
04:04:21	>> MR. HICKS AND MR.
04:04:23	NORDSTROM, I'M STUNNED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAS RELYING ON A MILITIA WITH EXTREMIST TIES TO PROTECT AMERICAN DIPLOMATS.
04:04:31	THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.
04:04:33	HOW DOES THAT HAPPEN?
04:04:34	>> YOU MEAN LIKE IN AFGHANISTAN WHERE AFGHANEES WORKING WITH OUR MILITARY THAT ARE EMBEDDED AND TURN ON THEM AND SHOOT THEM OR YEMEN OR OUR EMBASSY WAS ATTACKED IN 2008 BY ATTACKERS WEARING POLICE UNIFORMS?
04:04:50	OR IN SAUDI ARABIA IN JET TA, WE HAD AN ATTACK IN 2004, THE SAUDI NATIONAL GUARD THAT WAS PROTECTING OUR FACILITY REPORTEDLY RAN FROM THE SCENE AND THEN IT TOOK 90 MINUTES BEFORE WE COULD GET HELP.
04:05:01	>> PRETTY HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE UNITED STATES.
04:05:03	I WOULD IMAGINE THERE'S SOME PEOPLE THAT WOULD BE WILLING -- AMERICANS THAT WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE JOBS OVERSEAS.
04:05:09	>> WE COULDN'T AGREE WITH YOU MORE.
04:05:11	UNFORTUNATELY, ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE RAN INTO, THAT WAS THE BEST BAD PLAN.
04:05:16	THAT WAS THE UNIT THAT THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT HAD INITIALLY DESIGNATED FOR VIP PROTECTION.
04:05:22	>> I CERTAINLY HOPE.
04:05:23	>> VERY DIFFICULT TO EXTRACT OURSELVES FROM THAT.
04:05:25	>> I CERTAINLY HOPE THESE HEARINGS WILL RESULT IN US NOT HAVING TO RELY ON THE BEST OF BAD PLANS AND WE CAN USE FOLKS LIKE MR.
04:05:33	THOMPSON AND HIS GROUP FOR WHAT THEY WERE INTENDED AND SECURE OUR YOUR PERSONNEL.
04:05:40	I KNEE I'M OUT OF TIME, MR.
04:05:42	CHAIRMAN. >> ONLY BY A LITTLE.
04:05:44	THE DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN FROM THE GREAT STATE OF WASHINGTON, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE

	RESOURCES COMMITTEE, MR.
04:05:48	HASTINGS. >> THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR.
04:05:50	CHAIRMAN.
04:05:51	LET ME ADD MY VOICE TO ALL OF MY COLLEAGUES THAT THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND I THINK WHILE WE ALL SAY IT, IT PROBABLY SHOULD GO WITHOUT SAYING NEVERTHELESS, WE DO APPRECIATE THAT.
04:06:04	MR. HICKS, I WANT TO FOLLOW UP UP.
04:06:07	YOU MAY HAVE ANSWERED THIS.
04:06:08	SO I JUST WANT TO GET A CLARIFICATION BECAUSE MR.
04:06:13	JORDAN WAS ENTERING INTO QUESTIONS REGARDING THE LAWYER THAT CAME IF AND WAS NOT ALLOWED TO GO TO THE MEETING BECAUSE OF -- IT WASN'T QUALIFIED TO GO TO THAT MEETING.
04:06:22	MY QUESTION SPECIFICALLY IS TO BACK UP.
04:06:24	THE STATE DEPARTMENT SENT THIS LAWYER.
04:06:27	WERE YOU TOLD WHY THE LAWYER WAS SENT?
04:06:31	>> HE WAS SENT TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL THE MEETINGS AND ALL EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH CONGRESSMAN CHAI VITZ VISIT.
04:06:40	>> DID YOU FIND THAT UNUSUAL?
04:06:41	>> I NEVER HAD OCCURRED BEFORE IN MY CAREER.
04:06:44	>> OKAY BUT THE STATE DEPARTMENT DID SAY THAT THIS LAWYER WAS GOING TO COME AND PARTICIPATE IN ALL OF THE MEETINGS?
04:06:52	>> YES. >> YOU WERE TOLD THAT?
04:06:55	AND THEN, OF COURSE, THEY COULDN'T BECAUSE OF THE PROTOCOLS.
04:06:58	YOU MENTIONED THAT THE TONE OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS CHANGED AFTER -- PROBABLY AFTER THE RICE INTERVIEW.
04:07:07	>> IT BEGAN TO CHANGE, YES.
04:07:09	>> EXPLAIN, JUST GIVE US SOME EXAMPLES OF HOW THINGS CHANGED.
04:07:14	>> AGAIN, I BEGAN TO HAVE MY MANAGEMENT STYLE COUNSELED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY JONES WHEN SHE VISITED, SHE AGAIN COUNSELED ME ON MY MANAGEMENT STYLE AND SAID STAFF WAS UPSET.
04:07:29	I HAD HAD NO INDICATION OF STAFF BEING UPSET.
04:07:34	AND THEN AGAIN, WHEN I RETURNED TO WASHINGTON, SHE DELIVERED A VERY BLISTERING CRITIQUE OF MY STYLE AND AGAIN EXCLAIMED I DON'T KNOW WHY LARRY POPE WOULD WANT YOU BACK.
04:07:48	>> THAT LEADS TO A VERY OBVIOUS QUESTION THEN.
04:07:52	PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 10th, 2012, HAD YOU RECEIVED ANY NEGATIVE FEEDBACK FROM YOUR SUPERIORS?
04:08:00	>> NO, CHRIS AND I HAD DEVELOPED A VERY POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP.
04:08:06	HE TRUSTED ME. I TRUSTED HIM.
04:08:08	AND WE WERE WORKING TOGETHER VERY, VERY WELL.
04:08:10	AND THE PEOPLE MORALE WAS HIGH.
04:08:12	>> WELL, I SUPPOSE IN A CAREER AS LONG AS YOURS, YOU MIGHT HAVE SOME DISAGREEMENT WITH YOUR SUPERIORS.
04:08:18	WAS IT TO THE EXTENT THAT YOU HAVE FELT THAT YOU WERE TREATED AFTER THIS EVENT LAST SEPTEMBER COMPARED TO PRIOR MAYBE DISAGREEMENTS YOU MAY HAVE WITH YOUR SUPERIORS?
04:08:33	>> ON A SCALE OF 1 TO 10, 10 BEING THE WORST AND YOU WERE -- >> 10.
04:08:39	>> AFTER, OKAY.
04:08:41	THAT'S I GUESS THAT'S WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO -- WANTED TO FOLLOW UP ON.
04:08:48	YOU MENTIONED THAT YOU FEEL IN THE JOB YOU HAVE, IT'S REALLY A DEMOTION FROM THE QUALIFICATION INDICATIONS THAT YOU HAVE HAD IN YOUR CAREER IN THE -- HAVE YOU TALKED TO ANY OF YOUR COLLEAGUES OR ANY SENIOR LEADERS WITHIN THE STATE DEPARTMENT REGARDING THIS?
04:09:04	AND IF SO, WHAT WAS THOSE EVERYTHING CANS ALL ABOUT?
04:09:10	>> I SPOKE WITH -- WELL, AFTER A COUPLE OF FRIENDS OUTSIDE THE DEPARTMENT WHO INTERVENED WITH SSH OFFICIALS ABOUT MY SITUATION, THE OF DEPUTY SECRETARY BURNS AND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL SAID THAT I WOULD BE TAKEN CARE OF.
04:09:26	SAME THING THAT LARRY POPE HAD HATED.
04:09:29	AND SO I MET WITH THE PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HUMAN RESOURCES, HANS CLEM AND I TALKED TO HIM ABOUT WHAT WILL OPTIONS MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO ME.
04:09:42	AND BASICALLY, THE ANSWER WAS I WOULD HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE FORMAL NORMAL BIDDING PROCESS FOR ASSIGNMENTS AND PERSUADE SOMEONE THAT I SHOULD BE HIRED.

04:09:55	AND THEN THE CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY BURNS WAS CENTERED AROUND DISCUSSIONS I HAD WITH THE LEADER CHICH OF OUR EMBASSIES IN MEXICO CITY ABOUT THE HEAD OF THE POLITICAL SECTION JOB THERE WHICH WOULD BE A VERY GOOD JOB.
04:10:10	AND HE SAID THAT HE WOULD SUPPORT THAT, BUT I HAD TO GO THROUGH THE PROCESS.
04:10:16	AND IT'S A VERY LONG PROCESS SINCE AN POSITION IS AT A HIGHER GRADE.
04:10:20	>> LET ME ASK YOU THIS.
04:10:22	GOING THROUGH THE PROCESS, AND I UNDERSTAND THERE'S PROTOCOLS.
04:10:25	BUT WOULD THAT STRIKE YOU AS UNUSUAL AS SOMEBODY WITH YOUR BACKGROUND AND THE POSITION THAT YOU HAD IN LIBYA AND OTHER AREAS?
04:10:34	>> I WAS SURPRISED THAT I WAS HAVING TO GO THROUGH PROCESS, THE NORMAL PROCESS ESPECIALLY WHEN THE AMBASSADOR IN MEXICO CITY HAD TALKED TO DEPUTY SECRETARY BURNS ABOUT BRINGING ME ON HIS POLITICAL COUNSELLOR.
04:10:48	>> I HEARD MY COLLEAGUES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE SAY IF THERE'S ANY RETRIBUTION, THAT'S MY WORDS, ON IN THAT YOU WOULD HAVE FULL SUPPORT OF YOUR COLLEAGUES.
04:11:00	LET ME LEND MY SUPPORT AND I THINK THE SUPPORT OF EVERYBODY HERE.
04:11:05	I THINK A BIPARTISAN SUPPORT ON SOMEBODY THAT COMES FORTH THAT HAS A DIFFERENCE OF AGREEMENT ON A POLICY ISSUE OR A DECISION THAT KILLED FOUR AMERICANS DESERVED TO HAVE WHATEVER WE CAN GIVE TO YOU.
04:11:16	SO THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND I SEE MY TIME HAS EXPIRED.
04:11:19	>> WELL, AND THE TIME THAT WE CAN ASK WITNESSES TO STAY SEATED WITHOUT A BREAK HAS ALSO EXPIRED.
04:11:26	SO FOR THOSE OF US WHO ARE ABLE TO GET UP AND COME BACK AND FORTH, WE'RE GOING TO TAKE ABOUT TEN MINUTES.
04:11:32	I WOULD ASK THE WITNESSES, YOU CAN EITHER GO THROUGH THAT DOOR OR THIS DOOR TO USE FACILITIES THAT ARE STLABL WITHOUT GOING OUT INTO THE PUBLIC.
04:11:41	AND THEN WE'LL RECONVENE IN ABOUT TEN MINUTES.
04:11:42	THANK YOU.
04:12:46	CHAIRMAN. >>> DARRELL ISSA, THE CHERYL OF THE HOUSE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE IS SAYING THAT THE COMMITTEE IS TAKING ABOUT A TEN-MINUTE BREAK.
04:12:54	THEY'VE BEEN AT IT FOR JUST OVER FOUR HOURS, A HEARING ON THE U.
04:12:58	S. ATTACKS IN CONSULATE IN BENGZ, LIBYA, ON SEPTEMBER 11th, 2012.
04:13:03	WE'LL STAY HERE LIVE AND OPEN UP OUR PHONE LINES TO HEAR FROM YOU OVER WHAT YOU'VE SEEN.
04:13:08	THE NUMBERS TO USE TO CALL INING ARE FOR DEMOCRATS 202-585-3885, FOR REPUBLICANS, 202-585-3886.
04:13:18	FOR INDEPENDENTS AND OTHERS, THAT'S 202-585-3887.
04:13:26	WE WILL ALSO CHECK OUR FACEBOOK PAGE.
04:13:27	WE POSTED A QUESTION EARLIER TODAY ABOUT YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE BENGHAZI INVESTIGATION.
04:13:32	AND IN PARTICULAR, WHAT YOU'RE HEARING TODAY FROM THE THREE WITNESSES, GREGORY HICKS, ERIC NORDSTROM AND MARK THOMPSON.
04:13:40	SO THAT'S FACEBOOK.
04:13:43	COM/C-SPAN. FOR THOSE OF YOU ON TWITTER OUR #TODAY IS BENGHAZI.
04:13:49	LOTS OF TWEETS.
04:13:50	WE'LL GET TO A COUPLE OF THEM AS WE WILL GET TO YOUR PHONE CALLS, AS WELL.
04:13:53	AGAIN, IT SHOULD BE ABOUT 10, 15 MINUTES FOR THIS BREAK IN THE HOUSE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.
04:13:58	A COUPLE OTHER NOTES TOO OF THE FIVE OR MORE HOURS WE EXPECT OF HEARINGS TODAY, WE'RE GOING TO PLAY BACK SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS THIS EVENING ON C-SPAN BEGINNING AT ABOUT 9:00 EASTERN.
04:14:09	WE'LL ALSO HAVE THAT FOR YOU SUNDAY, 10:30 A.
04:14:13	M. EASTERN HIGHLIGHTS FROM TODAY'S HEARING.
04:14:16	AGAIN, IT'S GONE FOUR HOURS ALREADY.
04:14:18	THE WORD FROM THE COMMITTEE IS IT COULD GO SEVERAL HOURS MORE.
04:14:21	SO LOTS TO SEE, LOTS TO TALK ABOUT.
04:14:24	RICH IS IN WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK ON OUR REPUBLICAN LINE.
04:14:27	HI, RICH. >> HOW YOU DOING.
04:14:29	>> DOING FINE, THANKS.
04:14:32	>> I THINK IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS THAT THERE'S A I DON'T HAVE COVER-UP BY THE TESTIMONY GIVEN TODAY IN CONGRESS.

04:14:38	PEOPLE WHO WERE THERE ARE SAYING THAT THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO PROTESTS.
04:14:46	THAT THIS WAS A -- AN ATTACK.
04:14:51	THERE WAS NO DEMONSTRATION.
04:14:53	AND THE ADMINISTRATION HAS TO EXPLAIN THEMSELVES AS TO HOW THEY CAME ABOUT WITH THE FALSE NARRATIVE PUT FORWARD BY SUSAN RICE.
04:15:05	>> ALFRED MAINE IS NEXT UP IS, REPUBLICAN LINE.
04:15:08	THERE'S DILLON.
04:15:10	GO AHEAD. >>. >> I GOT A COMMENT FOR THE DEMOCRATS.
04:15:12	THEY NEED TO CLEAN IT UP AND GET THEIR ACT TOGETHER HERE.
04:15:15	YOU KNOW, WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOME REAL CLEAN ANSWERS AND SHOULDN'T BE THAT DIFFICULT.
04:15:22	THE TRUTH IS, THE TRUTHING IS BEEN FOOLED ONCE.
04:15:26	IT NEEDS TO BE BLACK AND WHITE WITH THE DEMOCRATS FOLKS ON YOU KNOW, ON THE SIDE.
04:15:31	AND YOU KNOW, THERE NEEDS TO BE NO ROOM FOR ERROR HERE.
04:15:36	WE'RE A STRONG COUNTRY.
04:15:38	BENGHAZI WAS A HORRIBLE ATTACK AND WE'RE READY TO MOVE FORWARD, PERIOD.
04:15:41	>> NEXT UP WE GO TO THE INDEPENDENT LINE, JOE IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA.
04:15:45	YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING.
04:15:46	WHAT HAVE YOU SEEN OR HEARD SO FAR IN THE HEARING?
04:15:49	>> I'VE WATCHED ALL.
04:15:50	I'M SURPRISED I DIDN'T TAKE A LUNCH BREAK BUT I WATCHED.
04:15:54	I FIND IT SCANDALOUS THAT NOT ONE DEMOCRAT HAS ASKED ONE QUESTION ABOUT ANYTHING THAT HAPPENED.
04:16:00	IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THEY'RE INTERESTED AT ALL.
04:16:03	YOU KNOW, BEING AN INDEPENDENT, I WATCHED AMBASSADOR RICE.
04:16:06	IT DOESN'T PASS THE SMELL TEST.
04:16:09	HILLARY CLINTON, BARACK OBAMA AND RICE ALL TALKED ABOUT THIS VIDEO AND THEY KNEW IT WASN'T TRUE.
04:16:14	THERE'S NO WAY ANYONE CAN THINK THAT THOUGHT THAT STORY WAS TRUE.
04:16:18	AND IT'S SCANDALOUS THAT NOBODY ON THE DEMOCRATIC SIDE SEEMS TO BE INTERESTED IN THAT.
04:16:23	>> OF COURSE, HEARINGS WERE HELD IN THE 112th OVERSIGHTET COMMITTEE IN THE HOUSE.
04:16:30	THIS IS THEIR FIRST HEARING ON THE ISSUE IN THE 113th CONGRESS.
04:16:35	HEARING FROM THREE STATE DEPARTMENT WITNESSES.
04:16:36	THEY'RE IN A BREAK HERE.
04:16:37	WE CONTINUE WITH YOUR PHONE CALLS.
04:16:39	STERLING, VIRGINIA, PAUL'S NEXT, REPUBLICAN LINE.
04:16:42	HI, PAUL.
04:16:43	>> I JUST WANTED TO COMMENT ON THE DEMOCRATS VERY LOCK STEP SORT OF AGENDA HERE TRYING TO BLAME EVERYTHING ON THE FUNDING EVEN THOUGH ALL THE WOULD IS HAVE VERY COHERENTLY AND VERY EXPLICITLY STATED THAT THE MAJOR ISSUE HAS BEEN THE DECISIONS MADE BY FAMILY HIGHER UP IN THE ORGANIZATION, THE SECRETARY OR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.
04:17:08	AND I JUST DON'T SEE ANY ROOM FOR BLAMING IT ON THE FUNDING THAT WAS DECIDED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EARLIER IN THE YEAR.
04:17:18	>> HE LET'S SEE WHAT FOLKS ON TWITTER ARE SAYING AS WE WAIT FOR THE COMMITTEE TO GAVEL BACK IN.
04:17:24	THE HASHL IS BENGHAZI.
04:17:26	HERE'S ONE FROM TV CAPITALISM WHO WRITES IF THE MEDIA WAS WONDERING WHY THE MAJORITY OF AMERICANS HAVE LOST FAITH IN THEM, THEY SHOULD LOOK AT THEIR OWN BENGHAZI CONCH.
04:17:34	FROM RICHARD, JERSEY CITY, DARRELL ISSA, INSAFED OF SPENDING TAX DOLLARS ON BENGHAZI, WHAT ABOUT NO WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION?
04:17:43	>> HERE'S ONE FROM LILLIANA WHO SAYS WATERGATE THIS TWEET THAT SAYS I REMEMBER AS A KID IRAN CON TRAP ON EVERY CHANNEL.
04:17:53	TODAY, BENGHAZI, BENGHAZI COVER-UP NOT A PEEP ON ABC, NBC OR CBS.
04:17:58	JOEL'S IN WOODLAND HILLSIS, CALIFORNIA, ON OUR DEMOCRATS LINE.
04:18:02	GO AHEAD. >> YES, I JUST FIND THIS, YOU KNOW, AS A DEMOCRAT, I FIND THIS TO BEEN JUST RIDICULOUS AND EMBARRASSING FOR ME AS A DEMOCRAT.
04:18:12	TO HEAR THESE DEMOCRATS YOU KNOW, LOOK AT THE TRUTH AND NEGATIVITY BACK THE TRUTH.
04:18:19	AND I JUST THINK THAT THIS WHOLE GROUP FROM OBAMA TO HILLARY CLINTON SHOULD BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT THEY DID.
04:18:28	AND IT'S QUITE OBVIOUS WHAT THEY DID.

04:18:30	NOT ONLY THE COVER-UP BUT THEY DIDN'T PROTECT THOSE PEOPLE.
04:18:33	>> ON THE CENTER OF YOUR SCREEN, THERE IS REPRESENTATIVE MICHELE BACHMANN OF MINNESOTA.
04:18:37	SHE'S NOT A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE.
04:18:39	SHE HAS BEEN SITTING IN THE HEARING SINCE THE START.
04:18:41	ALSO, YOU MAY HAVE BEEN WATCHING EARLIER, YOU MAY HAVE SEEN FORMER CONGRESSMAN PETE HOEKSTRA FROM MICHIGAN WHO WAS ONCE THE RANKING REPUBLICAN ON THE SELECT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE.
04:18:53	HE SAT THROUGH A GOOD BIT OF THE HEARING TODAY.
04:18:55	THEY'RE IN A BREAK.
04:18:56	BACK IN A FEW MINUTES.
04:18:58	LIVE COVERAGE CONTINUING HERE ON C-SPAN, ON C-SPAN RADIO.
04:19:02	WE WELCOME OUR C-SPAN RADIO LISTENERS TO THE CONVERSATION WHICH BY THE WAY, IF YOU'RE TRAVELING AROUND IS ON XM CHANNEL 119.
04:19:10	EAST LAKE, OHIO, JACKIE, WELCOME TO OUR CONVERSATION.
04:19:16	GO AHEAD. >> HI.
04:19:17	I LOVE THE WAY IT'S SCRIPTED BY THE REPUBLICANS.
04:19:21	THEY APPARENTLY GOT TOGETHER WITH THE THREE PEOPLE AHEAD OF TIME AND THEY WERE VERY WELL -- VERY WELL VERSED ON THE SUBJECT.
04:19:37	THE QUESTIONS WERE SO NICELY ANSWERED AND SO WELL SCRIPTED.
04:19:42	I MUST GIVE THE REPUBLICANS THEIR DUE.
04:19:45	THEY DID THE JOB.
04:19:48	THEY'RE DOING THEIR BEST TO BRING DOWN A PRESIDENT AND TO MAKE SURE THAT MRS.
04:19:54	CLINTON HAS SOMETHING BAD ON HER RECORD FOR 2016.
04:19:58	THANK YOU. >> SOME OF THE TESTIMONY OF GREGORY HICKS WAS REESED EARLY BY THE COMMITTEE EARLIER THIS WEEK AND MADE MAYBE SOME OF WHAT YOU'RE REFERRING TO, AS WELL.
04:20:09	IN SPRANG DALE, ARKANSAS, IS PATTY.
04:20:11	SHE'S ON OUR REPUBLICAN LINE.
04:20:13	GO AHEAD, PATTY. >> YEAH, HI.
04:20:14	>> HI THERE, YEAH, THIS IS REALLY INTERESTING.
04:20:18	I'M A DISABLED VETERAN, THE LONGEST-RUNNING CONTINUOUS DISABILITY CLAIM IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 20 YEARS.
04:20:24	PUT THAT ASIDE.
04:20:27	YEAH, I CANNOT BELIEVE THIS.
04:20:28	YOU KNOW, THESE GENTLEMEN ARE TELLING IT THE TRUTH AND THEN THE DEMOCRATS, I DON'T THINK THEY HAVE AN HONEST STRAIGHT QUESTION.
04:20:37	THEY KEEP GOING TO THE BUDGET, THE MONEY AND EVERYTHING.
04:20:39	WELL, YOU KNOW, THAT'S PARTIALLY PROBABLY TRUE BUT THAT DOESN'T ACCOUNT FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM ON SEPTEMBER 11th.
04:20:45	NO ONE'S BRINGING UP THE FACT SEPTEMBER 11th.
04:20:48	YOU KNOW, 9/11.
04:20:50	YOU KNOW, JUST AMAZES ME.
04:20:52	I'LL TELL YOU WHAT, IF I WAS A DEMOCRAT, I WOULDN'T BE ANYMORE.
04:20:55	>> PATTY, THANKS FOR THE CALL.
04:20:57	HERE'S WHAT LOTS OF COMMENTS ON FACEBOOK, SOME OF THEM HERE.
04:21:01	THIS IS FROM KILO, SIERRA, WHO WRITES THERE NEVER WAS ATTEMPT TO GET MILITARY OVERFLIGHT'S PERMISSION THAT DAY IN LIBYA.
04:21:10	THAT'S A QUESTION.
04:21:11	MEANWHILE, SOME OF THE DEXS IN IN HEARING ARE INJECTING MEDIA MATTERS TALKING POINTS AND DIVERSIONS.
04:21:16	TRACY SAYS I AM WATCHING.
04:21:17	WHAT PROOF, WHERE?
04:21:19	JON BARRY SAYS WE ARE THE MOST POWERFUL NATION ON EARTH, PLUS WE HAD JUST HELPED MILITARILY IN TAKING DOWN THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT.
04:21:28	EVEN HAD A COUPLE OF OUR PLANES SHOT DOWN.
04:21:31	WE DIDN'T GET PERMISSION TO DO IT.
04:21:33	WHAT ARE THE LIBYANS GOING TO DO?
04:21:35	INVADE US?
04:21:36	ELIZABETH JANE SAYING THEY'RE JUST BLOWING WIND IN THE WIND.

04:21:40	IT'S A WITCH HUNT.
04:21:42	TOM'S IN WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND, CALLING ON THE INDEPENDENTS LINE, GO AHEAD.
04:21:46	>> COMMENT IS VERY QUICK.
04:21:49	I WANTED TO SAY I THINK IT'S VERY MUCH A SHAME THAT WE'LL PROBABLY NEVER GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS DUE TO THE FACT THAT IT'S SO TRANSPARENTLY CLEAR THAT THE PARTIES ARE STICKING TO PARTY LOYALTY.
04:22:03	>> TAKE THE TESTIMONY TODAY.
04:22:05	DOES THE TESTIMONY TODAY GET US ANY CLOSER TO THAT CLAIRITY YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?
04:22:10	>> WELL, I THINK THE REPUBLICANS ARE DOING A BETTER JOB AT FERRETING OUT THE FACTS.
04:22:18	IT SEEMS THE DEMOCRATS ARE DOING A BETTER JOB AT PARTY PROTECTION.
04:22:24	>> TOM, THANKS FOR THE CALL.
04:22:26	HERE IN WASHINGTON, MIKE'S ON OUR DEMOCRATS LINE.
04:22:28	>> HI, THANKS FOR TAKING MY CALL.
04:22:32	TWO REAL QUICK COMMENTS.
04:22:33	THERE'S AT SOME POINT, THEY MADE SUSAN RICE'S TALK SHOW APPEARANCE THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT.
04:22:38	NEVER WAS.
04:22:39	OBAMA SAID THE DAY AFTER, THIS WAS AN ACT OF TERROR.
04:22:42	SO RIGHT THERE, WE'RE LOOKING AT A SITUATION WHERE THEY'RE TRYING TO BASICALLY FRAME A SPECIFIC NARRATIVE SPECIFICALLY WITH YOU KNOW EXACTLY AT WHAT POINT DID THEY NARRATIVE.
04:22:54	SECOND THING, THE REPUBLICANS ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO NAIL THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND OR THE NATIONAL SECURITY TEAM BUT NOT POINT FINGERS AT THE GENERALS THAT MADE THE DECISIONS IN THE FIRST PLACE.
04:23:10	THIS TESTIMONY POINTS OUT THAT NO ONE IS ABLE TO GO FURTHER AND SAY WAIT A MINUTE SHOULD WE BE POINTING FINGERS AT THE MILITARY OFFICIALS?
04:23:27	>> THANK YOU FOR YOUR CALL.
04:23:28	THE VIDEO FROM EARLIER OF THE CHAIRMAN THEY ARE GATHERING BACK IN THE ROOM.
04:23:34	WE WILL BE GOING BACK THERE SHORTLY HERE ON C-SPAN3.
04:23:40	REMINDER ON OUR PROGRAMMING.
04:23:41	IF YOU MISSED ANYTHING TODAY.
04:23:43	WE WILL HAVE THE HIGHLIGHTS TONIGHT 9:00 EASTERN HERE ON C-SPAN3.
04:23:50	THE SAME ON SATURDAY.
04:23:51	GETS GO TO STEVE WHO IS IN MONTROSE, ALABAMA.
04:23:59	REPUBLICAN? >> YES, SIR, THANK YOU FOR TAKING MY CALL.
04:24:01	IN THE SITUATION THAT FOUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN MURDERED.
04:24:05	-- STEVE SORRY.
04:24:07	THANK YOU FOR WAITING.
04:24:12	THE HEARING HAS GAFFE ELVELED BACK IN.
04:24:15	>> LET ME ASSURE YOU THE END IS IN SIGHT.
04:24:19	WITH THAT WE GO TO THE GENTLELADY IN WYOMING.
04:24:25	>> THANK YOU MR.
04:24:26	CHAIRMAN.
04:24:27	I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THIS LONG DAY AND FOR THE FAMILIES, I OFFER MY MOST SINCERE CONDOLENCES THEY THINK ABOUT YOU ALL THE TIME.
04:24:38	FIRST QUESTION MR.
04:24:40	NORDSTROM DO YOU UNDERSTAND YOU HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY IN LIBYA WHILE YOU WERE THERE?
04:24:50	>> THAT IS CORRECT.
04:24:52	>> AND THEN YOU LEFT IN JULY?
04:24:55	>> IS THAT CORRECT?
04:24:56	>> THAT IS CORRECT.
04:24:57	>> BEFORE YOU LEFT, DID YOU MAKE SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS TO WASHINGTON D.
04:25:04	C.? >> WELL, WE DO AN OUT -- REPORT BUT THAT IS NOT REALLY A PLACE WHERE WE PUT REMCOMMENDATIONS IT IS MORE LAYING OUT THE SITUATION, THE CRIME, THE POLITICAL SITUATION AND A LOT OF THAT REPORTING I HAD DONE PREVIOUSLY WITH WASHINGTON.
04:25:23	>> SO THEY HAD RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOU?
04:25:26	OR NOT?
04:25:28	>> IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING YES, THEY HAD WANTED A TRANSITION PLAN ON HOW WE WERE GOING TO TRANSITION FROM THE SST AND THE DS AGENTS WHICH WAS SUBMITTED TO THEM ON FEBRUARY

	15th.
04:25:42	>> DO YOU KNOW WHERE THOSE -- WAS THAT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN ACCEPTED WAS IT IMPLEA MEANTED?
04:25:51	>> I NEVER GOT ANY FEEDBACK FROM WASHINGTON.
04:25:54	THAT WAS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT SURPRISED ME WHEN I LEFT POST.
04:26:01	I WAS NEVER CONTACTED FROM THE TIME I LEFT TO THIS DATE.
04:26:04	THE ONLY TIME I HAD INTERACTION WAS PREPARING BEFORE THE OCTOBER HEARINGS BUT THEY NEVER CONTACTED ME TO ASK ME ON THOUGHTS ABOUT LIBYA, SUGGESTIONS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
04:26:18	>> MR.
04:26:19	HICKS DO YOU KNOW WHETHER SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS WERE IMPLEMENTED?
04:26:25	WERE THERE SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WERE IMPLEMENT IMPLEMENTED?
04:26:32	>> JOHN MARTINEK, THE RSO CAME ONBOARD AND WAS FOLLOWING UP ON THE THINGS THAT ERIC WAS WORKING ON.
04:26:40	AFTER THE ATTACK, -- ATTACKS, JOHN AND I WORKED ON A LIST OF PHYSICAL SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS THAT HAD TO BE MADE IN TRIPOLI IN ORDER FOR US TO REMAIN THERE.
04:26:53	AND I CABLED THAT IN -- THAT LIST INTO THE DEPARTMENT AFTER THE CONGRESSMAN'S VISIT.
04:27:01	AND I LEARNED LATER THAT CABLE WAS NOT WELL RECEIVED BY WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP.
04:27:08	TO THE AIB'S CREDIT, WHEN THEY SAW THAT CABLE THEY SENT IT TO SECRETARY KENNEDY AND SAW THAT EVERY ISSUE IN THAT BE IMPLEMENTED.
04:27:25	>> MR. HICKS ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY EFFORTS OF DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS TO LIMIT DEPARTMENT WITNESS'S ACCESS TO INFORMATION ABOUT THE ATTACK PRIOR TO THEIR TESTIMONY BEFORE CONGRESS?
04:27:39	>> I HAVE NEVER SEEN THE CLASSIFIED ARB REPORT.
04:27:44	SO THE ANSWER IS IN MY RESPECT YES.
04:27:51	>> MR.
04:27:54	NORDSTROM, DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONSCIOUSLY SOUGHT TO LIMIT YOUR AWARENESS OF CERTAIN INFORMATION PRIOR TO YOUR TESTIMONY BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE?
04:28:03	>> I'M NOT AWARE OF THAT.
04:28:06	>> LET ME ASK YOU THIS, MR.
04:28:14	NORDSTROM, I WANT TO READ YOU AN EXCERPT FROM AN E-MAIL SENT TO YOU ON JULY 12, 2012.
04:28:28	TO REQUEST AN EXTENSION OF SECURITY PERSONNEL FOR THE EMBASSY.
04:28:35	THE AMBASSADOR WROTE.
04:28:37	I HAVE TAKEN A CLOS LOOK AT THE CABLE AND EDITED IT DOWN MY INTENSION WAS TO LET THE DEPARTMENT FIGURE OUT HOW TO STAFF OUR NEEDS.
04:28:51	IF IT LOOKS OKAY, PLEASE RUN IT BY DS AND SEE IF THEY WANT IT FRONT CHANNEL.
04:28:58	THEN MR.
04:28:59	NORDSTROM CAN YOU BRIEFLY EXCHAIN WHAT AMBASSADOR STEPHENS MEANT WHEN HE ASKED YOU TO RUN ARE IT BY DS AND SEE IF THEY WANTED IT FRONT CHANNEL.
04:29:11	>> WHAT HE IS REFERRING TO IS THE PROCESS BY WHICH WE HAD SENT AN OFFICIAL DEPARTMENT CABLE.
04:29:20	I HAD DONE THAT IN PRIOR REQUESTS.
04:29:24	I WREB THATREMEMBER THAT DIALOGUE THAT WE DO IN FACT SEND THAT FRONT CHANNEL.
04:29:33	THAT IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE OFFICIAL RECORD.
04:29:36	IF I DISCUSS IT BY E-MAIL OR TELEPHONE IT IS STILL VALUABLE BUT UNLESS IT IS ON THAT CABLE IT IS NOT OFFICIAL.
04:29:44	MY EXPERIENCE IN THE PAST, AS SOON AS WE PUT THAT ONTO AN OFFICIAL CABLE, SOMEHOW WE WERE SEEN AS EMBARRASSING THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE BECAUSE WE ARE REQUIRING THEM TO LIVE UP TO THEIR END OF THE BARGAIN.
04:30:03	>> I THANK THE GENTLELADY.
04:30:06	>> THANK YOU MR.
04:30:07	CHAIRMAN I WILL ADD MY THANKS TO THE GENTLEMEN ON THE PANEL.
04:30:12	I KNOW YOU HAVE HEARD THAT OVER AND OVER AGAIN FROM THE MEMBERS ON THE PANEL HERE.
04:30:17	BUT BECAUSE FOLKS HERE BELIEVE IT.
04:30:19	BUT FOR YOUR DECADE AND UPON DECADE OF SERVICE.
04:30:24	MR.
04:30:25	THOMPSON I'M CONFIDENT THAT FOLKS AT U.
04:30:30	S. POSTS ACROSS THE WORLD ARE COMFORTED THAT YOU WORK BY THE COMMITMENT THAT YOU HAVE.

04:30:40	>> THANK YOU.
04:30:41	>> MR.
04:30:42	NORDSTROM MY QUESTIONS ARE FOLLOWED UP ON MY COLLEAGUE FROM WYOMING THINKING BACK TO EARLY JULY 2012.
04:30:52	DO YOU RECALL YOUR BACK AND FORTH WITH CHARLENE LAMB?
04:30:58	>> VIVIDLY.
04:30:59	>> WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THAT DECISION MAKING PROCESS.
04:31:02	WERE THOSE DECISIONS THAT MS.
04:31:06	LAMB WAS MAKING OR WERE THOSE BEING KICKED UP TO A HIGHER LEVEL?
04:31:10	>> IT WAS UNCLEAR.
04:31:13	LARGELY BY LAMB BUT ONE THING THAT STRUCK ME THE ENTIRE TIME I WAS IN LIBYA WAS A STRANGE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.
04:31:26	SPECIFICALLY THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT WAS DEALING DIRECTLY WITH LAMB.
04:31:33	AS HER SUPERVISORS TWO LEVELS AHEAD HE IS WELL WITHIN HIS RIGHT.
04:31:39	BUT IT WAS STRANGE THAT IT WAS THAT DIRECT RELATIONSHIP AND I NEVER REALLY SAW INTERACTION BY THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OR OUR DIRECTOR.
04:31:53	IT WAS CLEARER IN OCTOBER WHEN WE WERE SITTING UP HERE THERE WERE TWO LEVELS THAT WERE NOT REFLECTED.
04:32:01	AND IT WAS QUITE A JUMP.
04:32:05	CERTAINLY I FELT THAT ANYTHING THAT DAS LAMB WAS DECIDES HAD BEEN UNDER RUN BY SECRETARY SEN DI.
04:32:15	>> GIVEN THE CONVERSATION DID YOU RECEIVE AN EXPLANATION FOR WHY THAT REQUEST WAS DENIED THAT SAID ED SATISFIED YOU?
04:32:29	>> I DIDN'T.
04:32:30	I PERCEIVED THAT IT WOULD BE SOMEHOW EMBARRASSING OR DIFFICULT FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO CONTINUE TO RELY ON DOD AND THERE WAS AN ELEMENT OF THAT.
04:32:42	THAT WAS NEVER FULLY VERBALIZED BUT THAT WAS THE FEELING THAT I GOT GO AGO WAY FROM THOSE CONVERSATIONS.
04:32:49	>> AND THEN FOLLOWING UP ON MOVING THESE DISCUSSIONS FROM BACK CHANNEL TO FRONT CHANNEL.
04:32:56	WHAT WAS THE NATURE OF YOUR CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR THAT THIS WAS SUCH A SERIOUS ISSUE THAT RATHER THAN LEAVING IT WITH A KNOW THAT HE WANTED TO ELEVATE THAT?
04:33:08	>> THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT IT IS.
04:33:11	I RECALL BACK TO OUR FIRST MEETING WITH THE CONGRESSMAN AND THE CHAIRMAN, THAT WAS THE QUESTION THAT I THINK THEY POSED TO ME.
04:33:18	IF YOU KNEW SHE WAS GOING TO KEEP SAYING NO WHY DID YOU KEEP ASKING?
04:33:24	BECAUSE IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO AND THE RESOURCES NEEDED.
04:33:29	IF PEOPLE FELT THAT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, THEY COULD AT LEAST HAVE THE COURTESY TO PUT THAT IN THE OFFICIAL RECORD.
04:33:36	>> DID YOU RECEIVE FEEDBACK FROM WASHINGTON TO THE FACT THAT YOU ELEVATED IT TO THIS FRONT CHANNEL PROCESS?
04:33:45	>> BY THE TIME THAT WE SENT THE ONE IN JULY, NO, I DID NOT RECEIVE A RESPONSE.
04:33:50	IN FACT THAT CABLE WAS NEVER RESPONDED TO WHICH IS SOMETHING UNHEARD OF IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT.
04:33:58	WHEN YOU SEND A REQUEST CABLE FOR ANYTHING, THEY GET BACK TO YOU.
04:34:03	PRIOR DISCUSSIONS BACK CHANNEL ONE'S YES, I HAD A NUMBER OF CONVERSATIONS WITH MY REGIONAL DIRECTOR AND DAS LAMB WHERE IT WAS DISCOURAGING TO PUT IT MILDLY THAT WHY DO YOU KEEP RAISING THESE ISSUES AND KEEP PUTTING THIS FORWARD?
04:34:24	>> IF YOU CAN CHARACTERIZE IT BETWEEN A NON RESPONSE OR A DISAGREEMENT WHEN IT COME TO THESE ISSUES OF SECURITY FOR AMERICAN PERSONNEL ON THE GROUND IN LIBYA WERE YOU RECEIVING A NON RESPONSE FROM WASHINGTON OR WAS THERE A DISAGREEMENT WITH YOUR ASSESSMENT OF LEVELS OF NEED ON THE GROUND?
04:34:46	>> I WOULD GET A NON RESPONSE.
04:34:49	THE RESPONSES THAT I WOULD GET IS YOU DON'T HAVE SPECIFIC TARGETING AND YOU ARE NOT DEALING WITH SUICIDE BOMBERS, INCOMING ARTILLERY AND VEHICLE BOMBS LIKE THEY ARE IN AFGHANISTAN SO BASICALLY STOP COMPLAINING.
04:35:12	>> YOUR TIME HAS EXPIRED.
04:35:16	THANK YOU.
04:35:17	WE NOW GO TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM ILLINOIS, MR.

04:35:23	DAVIS. >> THANK YOU MR.
04:35:24	CHAIRMAN.
04:35:25	I KNOW IT HAS BEEN A LONG DAY.
04:35:27	AND LOTS OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS HAVE BEEN SHARED.
04:35:31	LAST WEEK AN UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUAL WHO WAS DESCRIBED AS A MILITARY SPECIAL OPS MEMBER APPEARED ON NATIONAL TELEVISION APPEARED BEHIND A BLACK SCREEN IN ORDER TO CONCEAL HIS A DENITY.
04:35:51	HE SUGGESTED THAT MILITARY ASSETS IN EUROPE COULD HAVE PREVENTED THE SECOND ATTACK IN BENGHAZI.
04:36:01	HE SAID I KNOW FOR A FACT THE C-110 EUROPEAN COMMAND FORCE WAS DOING A TRAINING EXERCISE NOT IN THE REGION OF NORTH AFRICA, BUT IN EUROPE.
04:36:13	AND THEY HAD THE ABILITY TO REACT AND RESPOND.
04:36:19	HE FURTHER STATED WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO LOAD OUT, GET ON BIRDS THAT IS AIRCRAFT AND FLY THEIR IN A MINIMUM STAGE.
04:36:33	C-110 HAD THE ABILITY TO BE THERE IN MY OPINION IN FOUR TO SIX HOURS.
04:36:37	HE THEN WENT ONTO SAY THAT THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN THERE BEFORE THE SECOND ATTACK.
04:36:43	LET ME ASK YOU IF ANY OF YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH THIS CLAIM?
04:36:48	>> YEAH, I'VE SEEN IT.
04:36:50	>> I SAW IT ON TELEVISION.
04:36:53	>> YES.
04:36:54	>> ALL RIGHT AND IN ORDER TO INVESTIGATE THE CLAIM, LAST WEEK RANKING MEMBER COMINGS WROTE A LETTER TO SELECTCRETARY HAGEL ASKING FOR A RESPONSE AND I WOULD LIKE TO ENTER THAT INTO THE RECORD MR.
04:37:16	CHAIRMAN. >> WHEN WE HAVE IT WE'LL TAKE IT UNDER ADVICEMENT I HAVEN'T SEEN IT YET.
04:37:22	>> IN REGARDS TO THE ALLEGATIONS THAT THE CIF COULD HAVE ARRIVED IN BENGHAZI PRIOR TO INITIATION OF THE SECOND ATTACK THE TIME NEEDED FROM ALERTING THE CIF TO LANDING AT THE BENGHAZI AIRPORT IS GREATER THAN THE SEVEN AND A HALF HOURS BETWEEN THE INITIATION OF THE FIRST ATTACK AND THAT OF THE SECOND ONE.
04:37:44	THE LETTER ALSO SAYS THIS, THE TIME REQUIREMENTS FOR NOTIFICATION LOAD AND TRANSIT ALONE PREVENTED THE CIF FROM BEING AT THE ANNEX FROM TIME ENOUGH TO CHANGE EVENTS.
04:38:01	DOES ANYONE DISAGREE WITH THAT STATEMENT?
04:38:04	>> I THINK THE ONLY THING THAT I WOULD ADD TO THAT NOT BEING PRIVY TO THE DECISIONS ON THE GROUND THAT DAY, WHAT IS VALUABLE IS NEWSPAPER OFONE OF US INCLUDING THE COMMITTEE, HAD THOSE DETAILS BUT FOR THAT PERSON COMING FORWARD AND MAKE THAT GO ALLEGATION.
04:38:27	MR. COMINGS MADE IS THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO GET THESE QUESTIONS RAISED IN THIS FORMAT OTHERWISE WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEE THOSE SAME KINDS OF ALLEGATIONS.
04:38:41	PEOPLE DO NOT FEMALE THAT THEEL THAT THE ANSWERS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED OR BEEN DONE IN A CREDIBLE WAY.
04:38:50	>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
04:38:51	THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT'S LETTER APPEARS TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE REPORT WHICH SAYS THIS AND I QUOTE, THE BOARD FOUND TO EVIDENCE OF ANY UNVIEWED DELAYS IN DECISION MAKING OR DENIAL OR SUPPORT FROM WASHINGTON OR FROM THE MILITARY COMBATANT COMMANDERS.
04:39:11	QUITE THE CONTRARY, PERSONNEL 12 HOURS AFTER THE INITIAL ATTACK AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO REMSTEIN AIR FORCE BASE WAS THE RESULT OF EXCEPTION AL KOORDCOORDINATION AND MILITARY RESPONSE AND HELPED SAVE THE LIVES OF TWO SEVERELY WOUNDED AMERICANS.
04:39:37	I DON'T KNOW WHO THAT UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUAL WAS ON FOX NEWS BUT ACCORDING TO THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HIS CLAIM IS IN COREDIANA INCORRECT.
04:39:57	>> WOULD THE GENTLEMAN YIELD?
04:39:59	>> YES.
04:40:00	>> THANK YOU.
04:40:01	>> TO MISS MALONEY.
04:40:04	>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
04:40:07	BY ALL ACCOUNTS AMBASSADOR STEPHENS WAS A REMARKABLE MAN.
04:40:13	I WONDER WAS HE AWARE OF HOW DANGEROUS IT WAS IN BENGHAZI AND MR.
04:40:19	HICKS WERE YOU AWARE OF HOW DANGEROUS IT WAS?
04:40:23	>> THE TIME IS EXPIRED YOU MAY ANSWER.
04:40:27	>> YES, THE AMBASSADOR WAS VERY WELL AWARE OF THE SITUATION IN BENGHAZI.
04:40:33	BEFORE HE WENT, WE HAD THE CHANCE TO OUTBRIEF THE DEPARTING PRINCIPLE OFFICER.

04:40:41	>> WE NOW GO TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM KENTUCKY.
04:40:47	>> THANK YOU FOR HOLDING THESE HEARINGS.
04:40:50	I SUBMIT TO YOU WE HAVE THREE VERY GOOD MEN HERE WHO ARE GOING BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY TO COME HERE AND TESTIFY TODAY.
04:41:01	THEY HAVE MY COMMITMENT TO PROTECT THEM FROM RETRIBUTION THAT MAY COME TODAY.
04:41:10	AND I WOULD ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO COME FORWARD AS WELL.
04:41:15	WE GOT A LOT OF GOOD ANSWERS TODAY THANKS TO THESE WITNESSES.
04:41:20	I WOULD LIKE TO START WITH MR.
04:41:26	SON JOHNSON.
04:41:27	I'M STRUCK BY YOUR LONG CAREER.
04:41:29	CAN YOU REMIND US WHERE YOU WERE WHEN THESE EVENTS BEGAN TO UNFOLD?
04:41:34	>> AT MY DESK IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT DEPARTMENT.
04:41:40	>> AND YOU ASKED TO MARSHAL THE RESOURCES AND THE TEAM TO HELP WITH THE RESCUE DEFENSE EFFORT DID YOU NOT?
04:41:48	>> YES, MY FIRST HE CALL WAS TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, OUR CT CONTACTED THERE.
04:41:55	>> YOU WERE TOLD THIS WAS NOT THE RIGHT TIME IS THAT CORRECT?
04:42:01	>> WHEN I REFERRED THAT QUESTION TO THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT'S OFFICE, YES.
04:42:06	>> IF THIS WASN'T THE RIGHT TIME WHEN WOULD BE THE RIGHT TIME?
04:42:13	THIS IS THE SOURCE OF FRUS TRAEGS TRATION THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE AND I HAVE.
04:42:20	WE ARE THE GREATEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD AND WE LEFT PEOPLE THERE TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES.
04:42:28	WHEN WOULD BE THE RIGHT TIME IF THIS WAS NOT THE RIGHT TIME?
04:42:33	>> THERE IS NO ANSWER FOR THAT, SIR.
04:42:38	>> STAYING ON THAT TIME.
04:42:42	WOULD IT BE REASONABLE TO ASSEMBLE THAT TEAM AND GO AHEAD AND PUT THEM ON A PLANE THAT YOU COULD HAVE PULLED BACK A MISSION THAT WAS READY TO DEPLOY?
04:42:53	>> WE UM, WE PRACTICED THIS AT LEAST TWICE A YEAR AS IN A COMPLETE DEPLOYMENT TO AN OVERSEAS LOCATION TO WORK WITH OUR AGENCY PARTNERS AND THE TEAM AGAIN IS STAFFED WITH INTERAGENCY CT PROFESSIONALS.
04:43:12	THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION IS YES, THAT PLANE WHICH IS FUNDED BY DOD HAS A ROBUST COMMUNICATION COMMUNICATIONS SUITE AND THE COMMUNICATOR WORKS FOR ME AND HE IS VERY COMPETENT AT HIS JOB.
04:43:29	>> ARE YOU CONVINCED.
04:43:31	I KNOW YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO REVIEW THE REPORT, BUT ARE YOU CONVINCED THAT THE CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE SO THAT THIS WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN FOR ANOTHER EMBASSY?
04:43:43	>> NO. >> OKAY THAT IS TROUBLING TO ME.
04:43:45	AND I APPRECIATE YOUR CANDOR.
04:43:52	MR.
04:43:53	MICK YOUHICKS YOU MENTIONED AT 2:00 AM YOU SPOKE TO SECRETARY CLINTON.
04:44:03	AT ANY TIME DID YOU ASK ABOUT THE RESOURCES THAT YOU MIGHT USE OR NEED?
04:44:09	>> YES, SHE DID.
04:44:12	I SPOKE ABOUT MOVING OUR WOUNDED OUT OF THE COUNTRY TO A MEDICAL FACILITY.
04:44:18	>> WAS THERE INDICATION THAT YOU WOULD RECEIVE AIR SUPPORT.
04:44:24	>> SHE SAID THAT THE MARINE WAS BEING DEPLOYED AND THAT A C-17 WOULD BE COMING DOWN TO TAKE PEOPLE BACK.
04:44:35	>> BUT NO MEDIATE MILITARY RESPONSE?
04:44:40	>> THE MARINES WERE ON THEIR WAY AND WOULD BE ARRIVING LATER ON THE 12th.
04:44:45	>> DID YOU TELL THE REVIEW BOARD ABOUT SECRETARY CLINTON'S INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT PRESENTATION INCE IN BENGHAZI?
04:44:59	>> YES, I DID TELL THE ACCOUNT ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD THAT SECRETARY CLINTON WANTED THE POST MADE PERMANENT AND EMBAZ DER PICKERING LOOKED SURPRISED AND SAID DOES THE 7th FLOOR KNOW ABOUT THIS?
04:45:20	AND ANOTHER FACTOR WAS THAT SECRETARY CLINTON INTENDED TO VISIT TRIPOLI IN DECEMBER.
04:45:30	>> SO SECRETARY PICKERING WAS SURPRISED?
04:45:35	>> YES.
04:45:36	>> THAT IS YOUR IMPRESSION?
04:45:38	>> YES. >> I THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.
04:45:42	>> WOULD THE GENTLEMAN YIELD?
04:45:43	>> YES.
04:45:45	>> I WOULD LIKE YOU TO SAY IT WITHOUT A FLAW, ONE MORE TIME.

04:45:50	THE REASON THE AMBASSADOR WAS IN BENGHAZI AT LEAST ONE OF THE REASONS WAS X -- >> AT LEAST ONE OF THE REASONS HE WAS IN BENGHAZI WAS TO FURTHER THE SECRETARY'S WISH THAT THAT POST BECOME A PERMANENT CONSTITUENT POST AND ALSO THERE BECAUSE WE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE SECRETARY INTENDED TO VISIT TRIPOLI LATER IN THE YEAR AND WE HOPED THAT SHE WOULD BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE TO THE LIBYAN PEOPLE OUR ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT CONSTITUENT POST IN BENGHAZI AT THAT TIME.
04:46:29	>> THANK YOU.
04:46:30	>> WE NOW GO TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM GEORGIA.
04:46:36	>> THANK YOU MR.
04:46:37	CHAIRMAN. I APPRECIATE IT.
04:46:39	IT HAS BEEN A LONG DAY AND I THINK THERE HAS BEEN INTERESTING THINGS SAID.
04:46:43	ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WAS SAID THAT CONCERNS ME IS THAT THESE HEARINGS HAVE NOT FOUND THE SMOKING GUN OR A WORK SLINGSHOT.
04:46:56	THEY ARE LOOKING FOR THE TRUTH, THEY ARE LOOKING FOR WHAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT.
04:47:01	THE ONE THING WE HAVE FOUND.
04:47:03	IT MAY NOT BE A SMOKING GUN BUT WE HAVE FOUR DEAD AMERICANS AND THAT IS WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.
04:47:12	I APPRECIATE YOUR WILLINGNESS TO BE HERE.
04:47:15	THE TRUTH IS IMPORTANT.
04:47:17	EVEN IN THIS STYLE IT IS IMPORTANT.
04:47:21	MR.
04:47:22	NORDSTROM I WANT TO FOLLOW UP ON A EARLIER QUESTION REGARDING A MARCH 28th CABLE ASKING FOR MORE SECURITY.
04:47:31	DID YOU EXPECT SECRETARY CLINTON EITHER HAVE READ OR BE BRIEFED ABOUT THAT CABLE?
04:47:37	>> ABSOLUTELY.
04:47:38	I CERTAINLY EXPECTED GIVEN THE FACT THAT SHE HAD AN INVOLVEMENT IN THE SECURITY POSROCESS.
04:47:47	IF I COULD TAKE A STEP BACK.
04:47:51	BY VIRTUE OF HAVING THE SST TEAMS THERE, THE PROCESS FOR THAT IS SOMETHING CALLED AN EXEC-SEC.
04:48:02	IT IS A REQUEST FROM ONE CABINET HEAD TO ANOTHER.
04:48:06	THAT REQUEST MUST BE SIGNED BY THE CABINET HEAD.
04:48:10	SECRETARY CLINTON.
04:48:11	SHE WOULD HAVE DONE THAT THE INITIAL DEPLOYMENT REQUEST, PLUS AN EXTENSION IN THE FALL, AND A SECOND EXTENSION IN FEBRUARY.
04:48:21	SHE ALSO CAME OUT TO POST.
04:48:24	TOURED OUR FACILITIES AND TOURED THE FACILITIES AND SAW THE LACK OF SECURITY THERE THAT WAS SOMETHING THAT HER COUNTRY TEAM SHE WAS BRIEFED BY THE COUNTRY TEAM AS SHE VISITED THE SITE.
04:48:40	LATER THERE WAS THE ATTACKS AGAINST THE FACILITY.
04:48:43	THERE WAS A REASONABLE EXPEC EXPECTATION THAT THEY WOULD HAVE BRIEFED HER.
04:48:53	>> CAN YOU GIVE A REAL SHORT ANSWER THERE?
04:48:56	>> THAT IS THE WAY I TOOK IT.
04:48:59	>> THANK YOU.
04:49:00	UM, MR.
04:49:01	HICKS I HAVE A QUESTION.
04:49:03	IT HAS BEEN ASKED BEFORE, IN DISCUSSION ABOUT A PERMANENT PRESENCE IN BENGHAZI GIVE ME A QUICK FLAVOR ABOUT THAT.
04:49:16	HOW WAS THAT GOING OUT?
04:49:17	>> CHRIS TOLD ME IN HIS EXIT INTERVIEW WITH THE SECRETARY AFTER HE WAS SWORN IN, THE SECRETARY SAID WE NEED TO MAKE BENGHAZI A PERMANENT POST AND CHRIS SAID I'LL MAKE IT HAPPEN.
04:49:30	>> OKAY. WAS WASHINGTON INFORMED OF THE AMBASSADOR'S PLAN TO TRAVEL TO BENGHAZI?
04:49:39	>> YES.
04:49:40	AND WE ADVISED THEM AUGUST 22ND OR THERE ABOUTS.
04:49:45	>> WERE THERE CONCERNS?
04:49:48	>> NO.
04:49:49	>> GIVEN THE TIMEING?
04:49:52	SDWROO >> NO.
04:49:53	>> DO YOU BELIEVE THAT FOREIGN SERVICE MEMBERS REMAIN A THREAT IN LIBYA?

04:50:04	>> I BELIEVE FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER S OFFICERS SERVICE BUT THE RISK THEY ARE TAKING IS VERY HIGH.
04:50:16	>> SORRY.
04:50:17	THANK YOU.
04:50:18	>> FROM A LESSONS LEARNED STANDPOINT, THE SECURITY WE NEED TO BE INCREASING OUR SECURITY STRENGTH AND PRACTICES AND TRAINING AND SO, AGAIN I MAY NOT BE QUITE UNDERSTANDING THE QUESTION.
04:50:36	>> WHAT IF YOU HAD THAT SITUATION.
04:50:38	WHAT WOULD YOU NEED TO BE DONE TO PREVENT SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENING AGAIN.
04:50:43	IS THERE STILL SORT OF A DENIAL PROCESS GOING ON HERE?
04:50:47	>> I THINK THAT WE HAVE MORE TO DO.
04:50:50	AND THEN WHAT HAS BEEN PUT FORTH BY THE ARB IN IT'S RECOMMENDATIONS.
04:50:57	>> AS WE MOVE ALONG AND I WANT TO ASK YOU THIS QUESTION, FROM SOMETHING I THINK THAT WE CAN FLESH OUT OVER TIME THAT DOD INFLUENCE, FROM THE WANTING TO BE PERMANENT IN THE AREA, WAS THAT EMBARSMENT DID YOU GET THE SENSE WE ARE TRYING TO DO THIS ON OUR OWN?
04:51:27	>> I DIDN'T HAVE THAT.
04:51:28	>> AGAIN, THAT WAS CONVEYED BY THE GAS LAMP TO ME AND THE PRIOR DCM.
04:51:37	>> ANYTHING TO ADD THERE?
04:51:38	>> NOTHING IN THE CONTEXT OF THAT.
04:51:41	>> AGAIN, LIKE I SAID, THIS IS IN THE INTEREST OF TRUTH AND YOU HAVE BEEN PROVIDING THAT.
04:51:49	>> I YIELD BACK.
04:51:50	>> WOULD YOU MIND GIVING ME TEN SECONDS BACK.
04:51:54	>> THANK YOU I'LL BE VERY BRIEF.
04:51:56	>> MR.
04:51:57	HICKS, COLONEL WOOD IN A PREVIOUS HEARING WITH MR.
04:52:03	NORDSTROM TESTIFIED ABOUT TRIPS BACK AND FORTH ABOUT THE MILITARY PEOPLE LIKE THE FOUR THAT WERE TOLD NOT TO GET ON THE PLANE HIMSELF INCLUDED.
04:52:16	DURING YOUR TIME, DID THOSE FOUR MEN IN TRAINING EVER GO TO BENGHAZI?
04:52:22	>> NO. >> THANK YOU.
04:52:24	>> THANK YOU MR.
04:52:25	CHAIRMAN AND THANK EACH OF YOU FOR BEING HERE ALL DAY TODAY AND CERTAINLY AS MR.
04:52:33	NORDSTROM STARTED OUT THIS, THIS IS NOT ABOUT POLITICS IT IS ABOUT PEOPLE AND TO THE FAMILIES, I WANT TO LET YOU KNOW THAT THE PEOPLE BACK HOME ARE STAND WG STANDING WITH YOU.
04:52:50	WE HAD UNBELIEVABLE QUESTIONS IN TERMS OF ASK INGING TO GET TO THE TRUTH OF THIS AND THEY WILL NOT SIT DOWN UNTIL THOSE ARE ANSWERS.
04:53:05	AND I THANK THE CHAIRMAN FOR THIS INFORMATIVE HEARING.
04:53:11	MR.
04:53:12	THOMPSON, YOU TALKED ABOUT THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE TEAM.
04:53:17	AND YOU TALKED ABOUT YOU THOUGHT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO DO THAT.
04:53:22	WERE THERE OTHER AGENCIES THAT THOUGHT THAT WAS IMPORTANT?
04:53:26	>> YES, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND DOD.
04:53:29	>> SO YOU ARE SAYING IT WASN'T JUST YOU.
04:53:33	OH OUTSIDE THE STATE DEPARTMENT THE DOD AND THE FBI FELT LIKE THAT WAS THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO MAKE SURE WE PROVIDE THAT KIND OF FORCE.
04:53:45	>> PEOPLE WHO ARE A NORMAL PART OF THAT TEAM WERE SHOCKED AND AMAZED THAT THEY WERE NOT BEING CALLED ON THEIR CELL PHONES BEEPERS ET CETERA TO GO WHETHER OR NOT THAT VIEW WAS SHARED BY SENIOR PEOPLE IN THOSE INSTITUTIONS I DO NOT KNOW.
04:54:04	>> BUT THE DOD AND FBI HAD A CONTRADICTORY RESPONSE TO WHAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S ULTIMATEDITION WAS TO DEPLOY?
04:54:17	>> AGAIN, THE STATEMENT DOES NOT MAKE THAT DECISION.
04:54:21	I THINK WHAT TRANSPIRED WAS A STRONG ENOUGH CONVERSATION FROM OUR -- OUR DEPARTMENT REPS THAT THEY WERE ONCONVINCED THAT WAS NOT THE THING TO DO.
04:54:39	EVERYBODY TALKED ABOUT HOW WONDS WONSFUL THIS PROCESS WAS.
04:54:47	I DON'T WANT TO PUT WORDS IN YOUR MOUTH BUT EARLIER YOU TALKED ABOUT THE ARB FIXED BLAME ON MID LEVEL.
04:54:57	THOSE CAREER EMPLOYEE NOT THOSE ON A SENIOR LEVEL US THAT CORRECT?
04:55:01	>> THAT IS CORRECT.
04:55:02	>> DID YOU NOT SAY THAT IS WHERE THE DECISIONS ARE MADE AT THAT SENIOR LEVEL?

04:55:07	>> THAT IS CORRECT.
04:55:12	AND AMBASSADOR SAID THAT.
04:55:18	>> YOU PERSONALLY BELIEVE THAT THE DECISIONS ARE MADE ON A HIGHER LEVEL.
04:55:22	AND YOU ARE NODDING YOUR HEAD YES, IS THAT CORRECT?
04:55:26	>> YES, I BELIEVE SO.
04:55:27	>> SO IN LOOKING TO PLACE BLAME ON THOSE CAREER EMPLOYEES IGNORED A WHOLE LOT OF THE DECISIONMAKERS IN TERMS OF ASSIGNING BLAME IS THAT CORRECT?
04:55:41	>> ABSOLUTELY.
04:55:42	SO BOTH OF YOU AGREE WITH THAT.
04:55:44	LET ME GO FURTHER ONE LAST QUESTION AND THEN I'M GOING TO YIELD TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM UTAH.
04:55:56	IS IT FAIR THAT THE BLAME GOT ASSIGNED TO THE COMPONENT?
04:56:04	>> THAT IS CORRECT.
04:56:06	I DON'T BELIEVE IT IS FAIR.
04:56:09	CERTAINLY THOSE RESOURCE DETERMINATIONS ARE MADE BY THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT.
04:56:16	>> WHEN WE START ASSIGNING BLAME THE ARB WAS INCOMPLETE IN THEIR ANALYSIS IN TERMS OF WHO WAS TO BLAME WITH REGARDS TO AN AGENCY.
04:56:28	>> YOU FIX BLAME WITH THE PEOPLE UNDERNEATH BUT NOTHING TO HIM.
04:56:33	SO THAT EITHER MEANS HE DIDN'T KNOW OR HE DID AND DIDN'T CARE.
04:56:38	>> ALL RIGHT AND THERE ARE CRITICAL QUESTIONS.
04:56:41	>> WILL THE GENTLEMAN YIELD TO THE JENDLEMAN FROM SOUTH CAROLINA?
04:56:49	>> I THANK THE GENTLEMAN.
04:56:54	BUT MR.
04:56:56	HICKS, I WANT TO SET THE TABLE FOR THE NEXT ROUND.
04:57:01	DID YOU RECEIVE AN E-MAIL FROM BETH JONES THAT COPIED OTHERS YOU ARE ON THE DISTRIBUTION LIST.
04:57:12	DO YOU RECALL RECEIVING THAT E-MAIL?
04:57:14	>> SORRY WHICH E-MAIL?
04:57:15	>> I WAS RECEIVING A COUPLE HUNDRED A DAY.
04:57:21	>> THIS ONE WHEN HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT SUSPECTED THAT FORMER REGIME ELEMENTS CARRIED OUT THE ATTACKS I TOLD HIM THAT THE GROUP THAT CONDUCTED THE ATTACKS IS AFFILIATED WITH ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS.
04:57:41	>> DO YOU RECALL THAT E-MAIL?
04:57:43	>> I DO RECALL THAT E-MAIL.
04:57:48	>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
04:57:50	MR. CHAIRMAN. AS A VETERAN OF VIETNAM AND IRAQ, I UNDERSTAND THAT THE BOOTS ON THE GROUND ARE CLOSER TO THE TRUTH.
04:58:01	YOU KNOW MORE THAN ANY POLITICIAN CAN.
04:58:03	THE FOG IN BATTLE IS EASY BLAMED WHEN MISTAKES ARE MADE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL.
04:58:11	IN DOING WHAT IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT OUR CITIZENS ABROAD IS DIFFICULT.
04:58:18	I UNDERSTAND THE RISKS YOU HAVE TAKEN BY SHOWING UP HERE TODAY AS WELL.
04:58:23	THANK YOU. WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU TO REVEAL THE TRUTHS ABOUT THE FAILURES OF THIS GOVERNMENT AND HOW WE CAN DO A BETTER JOB IN THE FUTURE.
04:58:36	MR.
04:58:37	THOMPSON, YOU MENTIONED THAT YOU HANG OUT WITH A BRAVE AND HONORABLE GROUP.
04:58:43	>> ALL OF THE ABOVE.
04:58:45	>> AND YOU TELL ME.
04:58:47	>> I MIGHT ADD SIR, FROM OTHER AGENCIES OF GOVERNMENT TOO, THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.
04:58:57	INTELLIGENCE. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.
04:58:59	>> PART OF YOUR SPECIAL FORCE?
04:59:01	>> NO, THIS IS THE INTERAGENCY COMPONENT OF THE FOREIGN EMERGENCY SUPPORT TEAM.
04:59:09	>> ARE THEY ALL HIGHLY TRAINED?
04:59:12	>> S.
04:59:13	W.A.T.? >> WE ARE THE PEOPLE THAT BRING THE OPERATION AND COORDINATE ALL ASPECTS OF THE RESPONSE.
04:59:24	WE ARE NOT DOOR KICKERS.
04:59:27	>> BUT YOU SHARE A COMMON ETHOS.
04:59:32	>> ABSOLUTELY.

04:59:33	>> NEVER LEAVE ANYONE BEHIND ALWAYS WATCH YOUR BUDDY'S 6:00 AND LEAD BY EXAMPLE WOULD THAT BE CORRECT?
04:59:45	>> THAT WOULD BE A GOOD SUMMARY.
04:59:50	>> THE STAFF WAS AVAILABLE IN TRIPOLI BUT WERE NOT DISPATCHED WHY WERE THESE PERSONNEL NOT DEPLOYED TO RESCUE THE AMERICANS IN BENGHAZI?
05:00:02	>> I CANNOT ANSWER THAT I WAS NOT ON THE GROUND.
05:00:07	>> I'M NOT SURE THAT NUMBER IS ACCURATE ACCURATE.
05:00:11	WE DID DEPLOY PEOPLE TO BENGHAZI.
05:00:15	THE FIRST TEAM WENT WITH SEVEN MEMBERS AT MIDNIGHT.
05:00:21	THE SECOND TEAM LEFT AT ABOUT 6:30 OR 7:00 AM THAT MORNING.
05:00:27	WE COULD NOT DEPLOY ALL OF OUR SECURITY PERSONNEL BECAUSE WE STILL HAD ABOUT 55 DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL IN PRTRIPOLI THAT WERE UNDER THE THREAT OF ATTACK.
05:00:45	>> THANK YOU.
05:00:47	>> I THANK THE GENTLEMAN.
05:00:48	MR.
05:00:49	HICKS GOING BACK TO THAT E-MAIL.
05:00:52	NOTHING WOULD THRILL ME MORE THAN TO RELEASE THIS E-MAIL AND IT IS CERTAINLY NOT CLASSIFIED.
05:00:58	WE ALL HAD ACCESS TO IT.
05:00:59	ALL YOU HAD TO DO IS GO DOWN STAIRS IN THE BASEMENT AND LOOK THROUGH IT.
05:01:06	I HOPE THAT MY COLLEAGUES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE I'LLAISLE WILL BE AS FULL THROATED TO RELEASE THIS EVIDENCE.
05:01:17	THIS E-MAIL WAS SENT ON SEPTEMBER THE 12th AND I WANT TO READ YOU A LITTLE QUOTE.
05:01:25	IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THERE IS AN FBI INVESTIGATION THAT HAS BEGUN.
05:01:32	IT HAS NOT BEEN GUN IN BENGHAZI HAS IT?
05:01:35	>> NO, IT HAS NOT.
05:01:36	>> AND IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO BECOME PLEATED.
05:01:41	>> I WAS AN AVERAGE PROSECUTOR BUT I DID IT FOR A LONG TIME.
05:01:46	LET ME ASK YOU THIS, ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY CRIME SCENE THAT HAS IMPROVED WITH TIME?
05:01:53	>> I'M NOT A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR BUT -- >> TRUST ME THEY DO NOT GET BETTER WITH TIME.
05:02:01	THEY ARE UNSECURED.
05:02:02	THEY CAN COMPROMISE THE EVIDENCE WOULD YOU AGREE WITH ME THAT YOU WOULD WANT TO TALK TO WITNESSES AS CLOSE TO THE EVENT AS YOU CAN.
05:02:13	>> SEEMS REASONABLE.
05:02:14	>> RIGHT AND YOU WOULD WANT TO SEARCH INCIDENTS AS CLOSE TO THE TIME AS YOU CAN.
05:02:19	>> RIGHT.
05:02:22	>> SO AMBASSADOR RICE IS TELLING THE MEDIA THAT THE FBI INVESTIGATION IS BEGUN AND THE REALITY IS, IT WAS A DIRECT RESULT OF WHAT SHE SAID THAT THE BUREAU DID NOT GET TO BENGHAZI IN A TIMELY FASHION IS THAT TRUE OR IS THAT NOT TRUE?
05:02:43	>> THAT IS MY BELIEF.
05:02:45	>> YOU USE THE WORD, IMMEASURABLE, THAT WHAT SHE SAID WAS IMMEASURABLE IN IT'S DAMAGE.
05:02:57	TRY TO MEASURE IT AND TELL ME WHAT YOU MEANT BY THAT.
05:03:00	>> THE FBI TEAM WAS DELAYED, THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT COULD NOT SECURE THE COMPOUND, THE -- IT WAS VISITED BY NUMEROUS PEOPLE, ONE OF THE ITEMS THAT WAS TAKEN FROM THE COMPOUND WAS CHRIS'S DIARY WHICH THROUGH THE EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS OF DAVID McFARcFARLAND WE WERE ABLE TO RETRIEVE AND OTHER THINGS THAT WE WERE ABLE TO ACQUIRE WHEN VISITING THE COMPOUND.
05:03:44	SO IT MADE THE OBJECTIVE OF GETTING THE FBI TO BENGHAZI VERY, VERY DIFFICULT AND THE ABILITY OF THEM TO ACHIEVE THEIR MISSION VERY DIFFICULT.
05:03:54	>> I THANK THE GENTLEMAN.
05:03:57	WE NOW GO TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM FLORIDA MR.
05:04:03	DESANTIS.
05:04:04	>> THANK YOU.
05:04:05	IT HELPS ME TO KNOW THAT WE DID EVERYTHING WE COULD TO AID OUR BRETHEREN THAT ARE IN HARM'S WAY.
05:04:15	MR. HICKS TO GO BACK.
05:04:17	EVEN THOUGH YOU BELIEVED HELP WAS NEEDED THERE WAS A SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNIT ABLE TO STAND DOWN CORRECT?
05:04:31	>> NO AIR SUPPORT WAS SENT.

05:04:35	>> NO.
05:04:36	>> AC 130 GUN SHIPS WERE NEVER MENTIONED TO ME.
05:04:42	>> THERE WAS NO REQUEST FOR AIR SPACE OTHER THAN THE UAV REQUEST.
05:04:48	>> YES AND THAT PRECEDED THE ATTACK.
05:04:51	>> SO WHEN THE ORDER TO STAND DOWN WAS GIVEN WHO ISSUED THAT ORDER?
05:05:00	WERE YOU TOLD WHO WAS ULTIMATELY RESPONSEIBLE FOR ISSUING THAT ORDER?
05:05:05	>> HE DID NOT IDENTIFY THE PERSON.
05:05:07	>> YOU DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT WAS THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE OR THE PRESIDENT?
05:05:14	>> I HAVE NO IDEA.
05:05:16	>> HAVE YOU BEEN ENLIGHTENED SINCE?
05:05:21	>> I THINK THE RIGHT PERSON TO POSE THAT QUESTION TO IS LIEUTENANT COLONEL GIBSON.
05:05:29	>> WHEN YOU SPOKE TO SECRETARY CLINTON AT 2:00 AM DID SHE SAY THAT SHE WOULD REQUEST SUPPORT FROM THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE OR THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES?
05:05:44	>> WE DIDN'T DISCUSS THAT ISSUE.
05:05:47	AT THE TIME WE WERE TRYING TO FIND AND HOPEFULLY RESCUE AMBASSADOR STEPHENS.
05:05:54	THE SECONDARY PURPOSE WAS TO TALK ABOUT WHAT WE WERE GOING TO DO IN TRIPOLI TO ENHANCE OUR SECURITY THERE.
05:06:05	>> AS PART OF THAT DISCUSSION YOU INFORMED HER THAT YOU GUYS IN BENGHAZI WERE UNDER ATTACK?
05:06:13	>> THE FIRST TWO ATTACKS HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND THERE WAS A LULL IN BENGHAZI AT THE TIME.
05:06:23	SO, AND AGAIN THE FOCUS WAS ON FINDING AMBASSADOR STEPHENS AND WHAT THE TR ARE RXTTRIPOLI RESPONSE TEAM WAS GOING TO DO.
05:06:34	WE HAD AT THAT TIME NO EXPECTATION THAT THERE WOULD BE SUBSEQUENT ATTACKS.
05:06:41	>> SO YOU VIEWED IT AS SECURED AT THAT POINT?
05:06:48	>> NO, WE KNEW THE SITUATION WAS IN FLUX.
05:06:51	>> WHEN YOU SPOKE TO THE PRESIDENT AFTER THE ATTACK ON THE PHONE, DID HE SAY ANYTHING ABOUT DEPLOYING ASSETS?
05:06:59	>> I BELIEVE I SPOKE TO HIM ON SEPTEMBER 17th OR 18th.
05:07:04	>> DID HE SAY ANYTHING OR WAS IT JUST TO COMMEND YOU ABOUT YOUR SERVICE.
05:07:10	>> JUST A CALL FOR MY SERVICE AND PRAISE THE WHOLE TEAM.
05:07:14	>> I APPRECIATE THAT.
05:07:17	I THINK THERE ARE QUESTIONS REMAINING AND I THINK WE NEED TO KNOW WHO ACTUALLY GAVE THE ORDER TO STAND DOWN.
05:07:25	I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHY YOU HAVE BEEN DEMOTED AND I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHY THE SECRETARY'S CHIEF OF STAFF CALLED YOU AND SPOKE TO YOU THE WAY SHE DID.
05:07:37	>> COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, ALWAYS THE RIGHT ANSWER, THANK YOU.
05:07:41	MR.
05:07:42	HICKS 2:00 IN THE MORNING SECRETARY OF STATE CALLS YOU PERSONALLY NOT A COMMON CALL.
05:07:47	>> NO, SIR.
05:07:48	>> DID SHE ASK YOU ABOUT THE CAUSE OF THE ATTACK?
05:07:53	DID SHE ASK ABOUT VIDEOS, ANYTHING AT ALL THAT WOULD HAVE ALLOWED YOU TO ANSWER THE QUESTION OF HOW BENGHAZI CAME TO BE ATTACKED AS FAR AS YOU KNOW?
05:08:05	>> I DON'T RECALL THAT BEING PART OF THE CONVERSATION.
05:08:07	>> SO SHE WASN'T TALKING ABOUT THE CAUSE OF THE ATTACK AND -- >> YES, THAT WAS THE ONLY TIME WHEN I COULD HAVE, AGAIN I HAD ALREADY REPORTED THAT THE ATTACK HAD COMMENCED AND TWITTER FEEDS WERE ASSERTING THAT ANSAR SHARIA WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACK.
05:08:42	>> YOU DIDN'T TELL HER THAT?
05:08:44	>> YES.
05:08:45	>> THANK YOU, I THANKS GENTLEMAN.
05:08:49	>> OKAY.
05:08:50	THE GENTLEMAN -- DOES THE GENTLEMAN YIELD BACK?
05:08:56	>> WE NOW PROBABLY GO TO A SECOND ROUND STARTING WITH MR.
05:09:00	JORDON.
05:09:01	IN MY FIRST ROUND I ASKED YOU ABOUT CHERYL MILLS AND YOU INDICATED THAT THIS IS A CALL THAT YOU ALWAYS TAKE BUT FRANKLY DON'T WANT TO GET.
05:09:15	SHE IS CHIEF OF STAFF TO HILLARY CLINTON AND IS IT A COMMON -- IS IT COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT IF ANYONE OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT WHEN THE CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE SECRETARY CALLS, THAT IS THE PERCEPTION THAT SHE IS SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY HERSELF?
05:09:36	>> NO.

05:09:37	NOT NECESSARILY.
05:09:38	>> BUT IS THE PERCEPTION THAT IT IS PRETTY DARN IMPORTANT BASED ON YOUR RESPONSE EARLIER?
05:09:47	>> ABSHUTSLY.
05:09:48	>> SO YU GOT THIS CALL, I WANT TO GO BACK TO THE CONGRESSMAN'S VISIT THERE.
05:09:56	YOU INSTRUCTED THAT THERE WOULD BE AN ATTORNEY THERE AND THIS ATTORNEY WAS TO BE NEXT TO YOU AT ALL TIMES.
05:10:07	HERE IS WHAT I'M TRYING TO GET AT.
05:10:11	THE SECRETARY SAID NOBODY IS MORE INTENT ON GETTING IT RIGHT.
05:10:16	THEN WHY THIS EFFORT TO SHIELD THE INTERACTION OF CONGRESSMAN CHAFFITS FROM YOU?
05:10:27	SHOUD YOU SHOULDN'T YOU BE ABLE TO HAVE A DIALOGUE AND CONVERSATION WITHOUT A LAWYER THERE MONITORING TAKING NOTES AND CALLING BACK LIKE THIS INDIVIDUAL DID ON THIS CONGRESSIONAL VISIT?
05:10:43	>> I SHOULD BE ABLE TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH THE CONGRESSMAN.
05:10:47	>> DIDN'T YOU SAY, MR.
05:10:48	HICKS IN MY FIRST ROUND THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST AND ONLY TIME THAT THIS HAD OVER HAPPENED WHERE SOMEONE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT ACCOMAANY ED ACCOMAAANIED YOU AND YOU WERE IN STRUCTED DO NOT TALK TO ANYONE THERE WITHOUT THIS LAYER BEWYER BEING PRESENT?
05:11:16	>> THAT IS CORRECT. >> AND THE ONE TIME THAT THE LAWYER WAS NOT PRESENT YOU GOT A PHONE CALL FROM CHERYL MILLS?
05:11:22	>> THAT IS CORRECT.
05:11:23	>> AND ON THAT PHONE CALL WHAT DID SHE SAY?
05:11:26	>> SHE ASKED FOR A REPORT ON THE VISIT, WHICH I PROVIDED, THE TONE OF THE REPORT THE TONE OF HER VOICE WAS UNHAPPY.
05:11:41	AS I RECALL IT.
05:11:43	BUT I FAITHFULLY REPORTED EXACTLY HOW THE VISIT TRANSPIRED AND I DESCRIBED THE CONTENT OF THE BRIEFING THAT -- >> CAN I INTERRUPT YOU RIGHT THERE MR.
05:11:59	HICKS WERE YOU IN A CLASSIFIEDY EDIEDY EDIED BRIEFING AT THE TIME AND YOU WERE PULLED OUT?
05:12:07	>> I RECALL THE CALL AFTERWARDS.
05:12:10	I WAS PULLED OUT OF THE BRIEFING BUT I DON'T RECALL THAT WAS THE REASON I WAS PULLED OUT.
05:12:18	>> WHAT WERE YOU PULLED OUT FOR?
05:12:21	>> I ACTUALLY CAN'T REMEMBER.
05:12:23	>> BUT THE ONE TIME YOU WERE APART FROM THE MINDER FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT YOU RECEIVED A CALL FROM MISS MILLS?
05:12:33	>> YES.
05:12:34	I GUESS MR.
05:12:35	CHAIRMAN I WANT TO STRESS THIS IS THE EQUIVALENT OF ROB EMANUEL WHEN HE IS CHIEF OF STAFF, WHEN HE CALLS, YOU TAKE THE CALL.
05:12:48	YOU UNDERSTAND THAT IS IMPORTANT AND HE IS REPRESENTING THE WHITE HOUSE.
05:12:53	WHEN CHERYL MILLS CALLS YOU UNDERSTAND AND THIS IS THE PERSON RIGHT NEXT TO SECRETARY CLINTON.
05:13:01	AND THE FACT THAT WE HAD FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MR.
05:13:08	HICK'S 22 YEAR SERVICE OF THIS COUNTRY AFTER THE LOSS OF FOUR AMERICAN LIVES AND THERE CAN'T BE INTERACTION IS COMPLETELY UNPRECEDENTED.
05:13:26	>> WOULD THE GENTLEMAN YIELD?
05:13:30	>> I YIELD TO THE CHAIRMAN.
05:13:34	>> MR.
05:13:35	HICKS IN ALL OF MY YEARS OF TRAVELING IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
05:13:41	ANYTIME I WAS HEAD OF A COMMITTEE, I HAD A ONE-ON-ONE.
05:13:51	OVER THE YEARS HAVE YOU EVER FAILED TO SEE THE HEAD OF A DELEGATION COMING GET A ONE-ON-ONE.
05:13:59	ISN'T THAT PART OF THE CEREMONY OF THAT RELATIONSHIP AND HOW YOU TREAT THE HEAD OF THE DELEGATION ISN'T IT ALWAYS A ONE-ON-ONE MEETING?
05:14:10	>> IN EVERY CO DELL THAT I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THAT HAS BEEN STANDARD.
05:14:17	THEY WERE TELLING YOU A NON SENATE CONFIRMED RIGHT-HAND PERSON WAS TELLING YOU TO BREACH PROTOCOL.
05:14:29	>> THE TWO LAYERS SLAWYERS DID.

05:14:33	THE CONVERSATION WITH COUNSELOR MILLS OCCURRED AFTER.
05:14:37	>> SO THEY TOLD YOU TO NOT PROVIDE ANYTHING EVEN IF REQUESTED BY MY ADVERSARY.
05:14:52	TOLD YOU NOT TO ASK?
05:14:55	>> THAT IS CORRECT.
05:14:56	>> WE NOW GO TO THE RANKING MEMBER, MR.
05:15:02	CUMMINGS.
05:15:03	>> MR. HICKS I WAS LISTENING TO YOUR TESTIMONY.
05:15:06	DURING YOUR INTERVIEW WITH YOUR COMMITTEE AND YOU WERE ASKED POINT BLANK AND IT WAS CLOSER TO THE TIME THAT THIS HAPPENED WHETHER ANYONE IN CONSTRUCTED YOU TO WITHHOLD INFORMATION AND YOU WERE ASKED AND I QUOTE DID YOU RECEIVE ANY DIRECTION THAT THE CONGRESSMAN SHOULDN'T BE GIVEN FROM WASHINGTON AND YOU REPLIED NO, I DID NOT.
05:15:34	IS THAT STILL YOUR TESTIMONY.
05:15:36	THIS IS YOUR SWORN TESTIMONY.
05:15:39	I'M LOOKING AT THE TESTIMONY.
05:15:40	>> YOU DON'T REMEMBER THAT?
05:15:42	>> I RECALL SAYING THAT I WAS INSTRUCTED NOT TO ALLOW PERSONAL INTERVIEWS WITH THE -- >> I'M NOT TRYING TO TWIST YOU UP.
05:15:58	>> I UNDERSTAND BUT I RECALL ALSO STATING THAT I WAS NOT TO ALLOW PERSONAL INTERVIEWS BETWEEN CONGRESSMAN CHAFFITS, THE OTHERS AND ME.
05:16:18	>> THAT IS CORRECT.
05:16:19	>> PRESENT FOR THE MEETINGS AND -- >> THAT IS CORRECT.
05:16:23	>> THEY TOLD ME NOT TO BE ISOLATED WITH CONGRESSMAN CHAFFITS.
05:16:28	>> THEY DIDN'T TELL YOU NOT TO SAY ANYTHING.
05:16:33	THEY SAID NOT TO HAVE A PERSONAL INTERVIEW WITH HIM.
05:16:38	>> BY YOURSELF.
05:16:39	I'M TRYING TO BE CLEAR THAT IS ALL.
05:16:42	>> I UNDERSTAND.
05:16:43	>> OKAY NOW, MR.
05:16:47	HICKS YOU SAID THAT FOUR MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE TOLD NOT TO BOARD THAT PLANE AND THAT THIS CALL YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE IT CAME FROM YOU SAID THAT A FEW MINUTES AGO.
05:16:59	AND SO, SO YOU DID NOT KNOW THAT IT CAME FROM SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND AFRICA.
05:17:10	>> I DIDN'T KNOW WHO -- >> I GOT YOU.
05:17:13	>> I WANTED TO CLEAR THAT UP.
05:17:15	BECAUSE IT WASN'T CLEAR.
05:17:17	>> THAT'S OKAY THANK YOU.
05:17:20	>> ON OCTOBER 1, 2012 THE SECTION TRI OF SECRETARY OF STATE LED A REVIEW BOARD TO INVESTIGATE THE ATTACKS IN BENGHAZI.
05:17:37	AFTER REVIEWING THOUSANDS OF PAGES OF DOCUMENTS AND VIDEOTAPE IT ISSUED A REPORT IN 2012.
05:17:53	DID YOU MEET WITH THE CONGRESSMAN AS PART OF THE INVESTIGATION?
05:18:00	>> I MEET WITH THEM FOR PROEX MATELY TWO HOUR.
05:18:04	>> IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT A CABLE WENT OUT TO EVERY EMPLOYEE AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN FORMING THEM HOW TO CONTACT THE ARB IF THEY WANTED TO BRING INFORMATION FORWARD?
05:18:16	>> MR.
05:18:17	THOMPSON DID YOU RECEIVE THAT NOTICE?
05:18:19	>> I DID.
05:18:20	>> AND DID YOU CONTACT THEM AND MEET WITH THEM ?
05:18:29	>> I DID. >> DID YOU END UP MEETING WITH THEM?
05:18:31	>> I DID NOT.
05:18:32	>> DID ANYONE TRY TO STOP YOU FROM MEETING WITH THEM.
05:18:40	JO NO JO .
05:18:41	>> NO. >> THE ARB MET WITH SECRETARY CLINTON NEAR THE END OF THEIR INVESTIGATION AND DURING THAT TIME, THEY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE REPORT WITH HER AND COULDN'T ASK HER ANY QUESTIONS THEY WANTED.
05:18:58	AMBASSADOR PICKERING AND ADMIRAL MULLEN HAVE PUT OUT A JOINT STATEMENT.
05:19:06	>> I WAS SAYING THEY DIDN'T INTERVIEW THEY JUST TALKED ABOUT THE REPORT.
05:19:11	>> THAT IS WHY WE NEED -- I'M NOT TRYING TO MAKE ANY CASE I'M TRYING TO GET OUT THE FACTS.
05:19:21	I'M GLAD YOU HAVE AGREED TO DO THAT.

05:19:24	I WANT TO STAY WITHIN THE TIME LIMITS.
05:19:27	THEY HAVE PUT OUT A JOINT STATEMENT THAT BASED ON THEIR THOROUGH INVESTIGATION BASED ON WHERE THEY THOUGHT THE RESPONSIBILITY LAY.
05:19:35	AND THAT WAS NOT ON SECRETARY CLINTON AND THIS IS WHAT THEY SAID.
05:19:39	AND I QUOTE FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE ARB PROCESS, WE HAD UNFETTERED ACCESS TO EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING INCLUDING ALL OF THE DOCUMENTATION THAT WE NEEDED.
05:19:52	OUR MARCHING ORDERS WERE TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF WHAT HAPPENED AND THAT IS WHAT WE DID.
05:19:58	END OF QUOTE.
05:19:59	WE WILL, AS YOU SAID.
05:20:01	WE WANT TO GET A COMPLETE PICTURE AND WE'LL HOPEFULLY GETTING THAT COMPLETE PICTURE VERY SOON SO THAT WE CAN GET TO THE POINT THAT WE WANT TO AND THAT IS TO REFORM SO THESE KINDS OF THINGS ARE PREVENTED FROM HAPPENING AGAIN.
05:20:24	>> I THANK GENTLEMAN.
05:20:28	>> I TOTALLY CONCUR WITH YOU.
05:20:32	WE TOO SHOULD HAVE UNFETTERED ACCESS TO ALL OF THE INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS.
05:20:39	WE SHOULD STAND UP AND SAY WE SHOULD HAVE ACCESS.
05:20:44	>> WILL YOU YIELD FOR FIVE SECONDS?
05:20:47	>> I AGREE.
05:20:48	>> I YIELD BACK.
05:20:50	>> THANK YOU.
05:20:53	>> WHAT?
05:20:54	>> MR.
05:20:55	NORDSTROM, IT IS PRETTY CLEAR TO ME FROM THE OCTOBER HEARING THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS THAT YOU WANTED TO SEE DONE ON THE GROUND.
05:21:06	AT ANY TIME DURING YOUR SERVICE THERE, DID YOU EVER GET EVERYTHING THAT YOU WANTED?
05:21:13	WERE THE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT YOU WERE MAKING WERE YOU ABLE TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS?
05:21:21	>> VERY FEW OF THEM.
05:21:23	>> MR.
05:21:24	HICKS, IS IT FAIR TO SAY THAT THE PEOPLE ON THE GROUND WERE NOT ABLE TO GET THE RESOURCES DIDN'T HAVE THE PERSONNEL THAT THEY REQUESTED?
05:21:34	IS THAT FAIR TO SAY?
05:21:36	>> YES, IT IS FAIR TO SAY.
05:21:40	WHEN I SAW SECRETARY CLINTON FOUR AND A HALF MONTHS AFTER THE ATTACK IN BENGHAZI TESTIFY BEFORE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS THAT SHE DIDN'T MAKE THE SECURITY DECISIONS YOU MADE THE SECURITY DECISIONS MR.
05:21:57	NORDSTROM, YOU ARE THE ONES THAT MADE THE SECURITY DECISIONS TRUE OR FALSE?
05:22:02	>> THE RESPONSE I GOT FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR WHEN I GOT THE REVIEWS WAS THAT MY QUOTE TONE WAS NOT HELPFUL.
05:22:13	>> SO TRUE OR FALSE, THE SECURITY DECISIONS ON THE GROUND IN LIBYA WERE MADE BY YOU?
05:22:19	>> I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE THOUGHT.
05:22:22	BUT APPARENTLY NO.
05:22:24	>> MR. HICKS, WHEN YOU HEARD AND SAW THAT, DID YOU HAVE A REACTION TO IT?
05:22:30	>> WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL OPINION?
05:22:35	>> WHEN I WAS THERE I WAS VERY FRUSTRATED BY THE SITUATION AT TIMES EVEN FRIGHTENED BY THE THREAT SCENARIO THAT WE WERE LOOKING AT RELATIVE TO THE RESOURCES THAT WE HAD TO TRY TO MITIGATE THAT AND TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THIS COMMITTEE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE, I FIND IT STUNNING THAT FOUR AND A HALF MONTHS AFTER THE ATTACK SECRETARY CLINTON STILL HAS THE GALL TO SAY IT WASN'T US, IT WAS THEM.
05:23:10	I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY BUT I'M NOT GOING TO HOLD ANYBODY ACCOUNTABLE BUT IT WAS THEM THAT MADE THE DECISIONS.
05:23:17	THAT WAS NOT THE CASE.
05:23:18	YIELD TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM OHIO.
05:23:19	>> I THANK THE GENTLEMAN.
05:23:22	MR. NORDSTROM, YOU TESTIFIED IN OCTOBER, THERE WERE 200-SOME SECURITY INCIDENTS PRIOR TO THE ATTACK.
05:23:28	IS THAT CORRECT?
05:23:29	>> THAT'S CORRECT.
05:23:30	>> REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO BREACH THE FACILITY THERE.

05:23:35	YOU ASK FOR SECURITY PERSONNEL AND IT WAS DENIED IS THAT CORRECT?
05:23:38	>> THAT'S CORRECT.
05:23:40	>> AND DECLINED.
05:23:41	>> THAT'S CORRECT.
05:23:42	>> THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAYS YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SECURITY SITUATION IN LIBYA?
05:23:49	THAT'S WHAT WE HAVE.
05:23:50	THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT WE HAVE.
05:23:51	YOU REPEATEDLY ASKED, SEND US SOME MORE OF THE GOOD GUYS.
05:23:55	THEY SAID WE CAN'T DO IT.
05:23:56	IN FACT, WE'LL TAKE SOME AWAY.
05:23:59	YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.
05:24:01	THEY MADE THAT DECISION IN WASHINGTON.
05:24:02	IN FACT, THE HEARING ENDED IN OCTOBER.
05:24:04	THE ONLY HEARING WE HAD LAST FALL BEFORE AN ELECTION.
05:24:08	HEARING ENDED WITH YOU REFERRING TO THE FOLKS IN WASHINGTON, YOUR SUPERIORS WHO WOULDN'T GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEEDED AS THE TALIBAN.
05:24:19	DO YOU REMEMBER THAT. >> YES.
05:24:20	>> DO YOU REMEMBER THAT STATEMENT YOU MADE?
05:24:21	>> YES.
05:24:22	I HAVE HAD A LOT OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THAT METAPHOR.
05:24:24	>> UNDERSTAND.
05:24:25	BUT FOR THEM TO SAY NOW YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SECURITY SITUATION, FLIES IN THE FACE OF FACT.
05:24:31	I YIELD BACK TO THE GENTLEMAN.
05:24:32	>> I THANK THE GENTLEMAN.
05:24:34	MR. CHAIRMAN, ONE OF THE THINGS I SEE IN THE ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD PAGE 37 THAT I JUST FIND FIRST OF ALL I WANT TO HIGHLIGHT, QUOTE, EMBASSY TRIPOLI STAFF SHOWED ABSOLUTE DEDICATION AND TEAM WORK IN MOBILIZING TO REACT TO THE CRISIS AND GOES ON NAMING YOU SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUR HEROISM AND YOUR WORK.
05:24:58	I COULD SEE IT IN YOUR EYES AND THE OTHERS.
05:24:59	GOD BLESS YOU FOR THE WORK YOU D.
05:25:01	BUT THE NEXT PARAGRAPH, MR. CHAIRMAN, I HAVE A REAL PROBLEM WITH.
05:25:03	IT SAYS THE THIRD SENTENCE, THE BOARD FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF ANY UNDUE DELAYS OF DECISION OR DELAY OF SUPPORT.
05:25:13	THAT IS NOT TRUE.
05:25:15	IN THE NEXT SENTENCE THE MOST TROUBLING.
05:25:18	QUITE THE CONTRARY.
05:25:19	THE SAFE EVACUATION OF ALL U.
05:25:22	S. GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL FROM BENGHAZI, 12 HOURS AFTER THE INITIAL ATTACK.
05:25:27	THAT'S NOT TRUE.
05:25:30	THERE ARE FOUR PEOPLE THAT WERE NOT SAFELY EVACUATED.
05:25:36	AND AT THE VERY BEGINNING OF THE ARP IT SAYS, QUOTE, THOSE WHO CANNOT REMEMBER THE PAST ARE CONDEMNED TO REPEAT IT.
05:25:45	I THINK THAT'S TRUE.
05:25:47	WE ALWAYS HAVE TO REMEMBER THEM AND WE CAN'T ALLOW THIS ARB TO SAY EVERYBODY WAS SAFELY EVACUATED BECAUSE THEY WEREN'T.
05:25:56	THERE WAS A LOT OF HEROISM.
05:25:57	>> I THANK THE GENTLEMAN.
05:25:59	THAT'S SO TRUE.
05:26:00	QUESTION GO TO THE GENTLE LADY OF NEW YORK.
05:26:03	>> THANK YOU.
05:26:04	I AGREE COMPLETELY THERE SHOULD BE EQUAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION.
05:26:08	THAT WE SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO ALL INFORMATION.
05:26:11	BUT THE DEMOCRATIC MINORITY WAS DENIED ACCESS TO A WITNESS.
05:26:16	THE ONLY WAY WE KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT MR.
05:26:19	THOMPSON WAS GOING TO SAY WAS WHAT WE READ IN THE PRESS.
05:26:22	NOW, THERE SHOULD BE EQUAL ACCESS TO WITNESSES AND THERE SHOULD BE EQUAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION.
05:26:28	>> WOULD THE GENTLE LADY YIELD?

05:26:29	>> ON YOUR TIME.
05:26:31	>> HOLD THE CLOCK.
05:26:32	BECAUSE YOU MADE AN ALLEGATION.
05:26:35	I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WE DIDN'T HAVE A TRANSCRIBED INTERVIEW WITH TWO OUT OF THE THREE WITNESSES.
05:26:41	MR. THOMPSON WAS NOT MADE AVAILABLE TO EITHER.
05:26:45	MR. NORDSTROM WAS, IN FACT, A PREVIOUS WITNESS AND FELT THERE WAS SUFFICIENT INFORMATION OF WHAT HE FELT AND MR.
05:26:50	HICKS, I THINK HE WENT THROUGH FIVE HOURS ON A BIPARTISAN BASIS.
05:26:55	WE FORWARDED THEIR STATEMENTS, NOT OURS, THEIR STATEMENTS.
05:26:59	WE PARTICIPATED NOT AT ALL IN PREPARATION.
05:27:01	WE FORWARDED THEM TO THE MINORITY AS WE GOT THEM.
05:27:04	PERIOD.
05:27:05	SO I'M A LITTLE BIT CONCERNED ONLY IN THAT IT -- THERE'S NOTHING FAIR ABOUT PARTISAN POLITICS BUT I BELIEVE WE'VE FULLY COMPLIED DELIBERATELY WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE RULES ALL ALONG.
05:27:17	SO I WOULD HOPE THE GENTLE LADY WHEN BETTER INFORMED WOULD APPRECIATE THAT, THAT WE -- WE TRIED TO BE VERY FORTHCOMING.
05:27:25	>> BUT MR.
05:27:26	CHAIRMAN, I'M ALL FOR EQUALITY AND WE DID GET COPIES OF MR.
05:27:31	HICKS' STATEMENTS AND MR.
05:27:34	NORDSTROM. BUT YOUR STAFF MET WITH MR.
05:27:36	THOMPSON.
05:27:37	OUR STAFF WAS NOT ALLOWED TO MEET WITH MR.
05:27:40	THOMPSON.
05:27:41	IT'S JUST NOT TRUE.
05:27:42	YOU DIDN'T MEET WITH HIM?
05:27:44	>> IT'S TRUE THAT WE HAVE HAD SOME MEETINGS WITH HIM.
05:27:48	WE HAVEN'T PROHIBITED -- HE IS NOT OUR WITNESS.
05:27:50	>> WOULD THE GENTLE LADY YIELD?
05:27:54	>> HE IS THE WHISTLE-BLOWER.
05:27:56	>> YOU ARE STOPPING THE CLOCK?
05:27:57	WE NEED TO CLEAR THIS UP.
05:27:59	>> I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING TO CLEAR UP.
05:28:00	>> NO.
05:28:02	>> WHISTLE-BLOWERS.
05:28:03	>> AND WE WANT TO PROTECT WHISTLE-BLOWERS.
05:28:06	THAT'S VERY, VERY IMPORTANT TO US.
05:28:09	THE FIRST THING -- WE HAVE NOT GOTTEN A SYLLABLE FROM -- YOU HAVE HAD CONVERSATIONS WITH MR.
05:28:15	THOMPSON. WE HAVE NEVER HAD A CONVERSATION WITH MR.
05:28:17	THOMPSON. I SEE YOU LOOKING OVER HERE.
05:28:19	YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT FAIR.
05:28:21	AND SO, WHAT -- ALL I'M SAYING TO YOU IS IT'S -- WE HAVE A WITNESS HERE TODAY THAT YOU HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO INTERVIEW.
05:28:29	>> I APPRECIATE THAT.
05:28:32	>> AND WE NEVER HAD THAT OPPORTUNITY.
05:28:33	>> YOU KNOW WHAT?
05:28:34	STOP THE CLOCK FOR ONE SECOND.
05:28:36	ONE QUICK QUESTION.
05:28:37	I'M ASKING THE WITNESSES.
05:28:39	MR. THOMPSON, IS IT YOUR DECISION WHO YOU TALK TO AND DID ANY OF MY PEOPLE EVER TELL YOU NOT TO TALK TO THE DEMOCRATIC MINORITY?
05:28:48	>> I'M NOT ACCUSING YOU OF THAT.
05:28:50	>> NO.
05:28:51	>> MR. HICKS, HAVE WE EVER SUGGESTED YOU NOT TALK TO THE MINORITY, ANY OF THEIR PEOPLE?
05:28:57	>> NO. >> MR.
05:28:58	NORDSTROM, HAS ANYONE ASKED YOU NOT TO SPEAK WITH THEM?
05:29:01	>> I SPOKE WITH BOTH SIDES.
05:29:02	>> THANK YOU.

05:29:03	THAT'S RESOLVED.
05:29:04	GENTLE LADY MAY CONTINUE.
05:29:06	>> WE DID REQUEST TO MEET WITH MR.
05:29:10	THOMPSON AND THROUGH HIS LAWYER HE DID SAY NO AND HE DID SPEAK TO THE REPUBLICAN STAFF.
05:29:14	I'D LIKE TO GO BACK TO MY MR.
05:29:16	CHAVEZ OR OTHER PEOPLE'S QUESTIONING ABOUT SHERYL MILLS' PHONE CALL AND READING THE TRANSCRIPTS OF IT, MR.
05:29:24	HICKS, YOU TOLD YOU ARE INVESTIGATORS THAT SHE DID NOT SEEM HAPPY WHEN SHE HEARD THAT NO OTHER STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL WAS IN THE CLASSIFIED BRIEFING.
05:29:33	IS THAT TRUE?
05:29:37	>> SHE WAS UNHAPPY THAT HER MINDER, HER -- THE LAWYER THAT CAME WITH CONGRESSMAN CHAVEZ WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THAT MEETING.
05:29:44	>> WAS SHE UNHAPPY THAT NO OTHER STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL WAS INCLUDED?
05:29:49	THAT -- JUST THAT STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL?
05:29:52	>> THAT STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL.
05:29:53	>> YOU ALSO SAID SHE NEVER CRITICIZED YOU AND ACCORDING TO YOUR INTERVIEW, TRANSCRIPT, YOU SAID SHE NEVER GAVE YOU ANY DIRECT CRITICISM.
05:30:02	DO YOU STAND BY THAT STATEMENT TODAY?
05:30:04	>> THE STATEMENT WAS CLEARLY NO DIRECT CRITICISM BUT THE TONE OF THE CONVERSATION, AND AGAIN, THIS IS PART OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE CULTURE, THE FACT SHE CALLED ME AND THE TONE OF HER VOICE AND WE'RE TRAINED TO GAUGE TONE AND NUANCE IN LANGUAGE INDICATED TO ME VERY STRONGLY SHE WAS UNHAPPY AND I JUST -- IF I MAY.
05:30:26	>> MY TIME IS LIMITED.
05:30:27	GOING TO THE DIPLOMATIC POST IN BENGHAZI, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR'S CON VI ATTACKED, A GENTLEMAN KILLED AND THEY DECIDED TO PULL OUT OF BENGHAZI.
05:30:41	IS THAT CORRECT?
05:30:43	>> I DON'T BELIEVE ANYONE WAS KILLED.
05:30:44	I BELIEVE WE SAVED THE LIFE OF ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE.
05:30:49	>> HE WAS SHOT.
05:30:50	>> I'D LIKE TO REFER TO ERIC.
05:30:52	>> MY QUESTION IS, DID THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR CLOSE THE POST IN BENGHAZI AND LEAVE?
05:30:58	>> HE DID.
05:30:59	>> HE DID?
05:31:00	DO YOU THINK IT WAS WISE -- >> ABOUT THAT, THOUGH -- >> EXCUSE ME.
05:31:04	CLAIMING MY TIME.
05:31:05	I WILL YIELD IF SOMEBODY WANTS ME TO YIELD BUT I WANTED TO ASK, WHEN WE CONTINUED TO STAY THERE, DO YOU THINK THAT WAS A WISE DECISION FOR US TO CONTINUE TO STAY IN BENGHAZI AFTER THE ENGLISH HAD CLOSED THEIR POST AND LEFT?
05:31:23	>> ABSOLUTELY. >> WHY WAS IT IMPORTANT FOR US TO STAY IN BENGHAZI?
05:31:30	>> THE PEOPLE THAT WE SAVED FROM GADHAFI IN THE REVOLUTION.
05:31:40	AS WE KNOW, RIGHT BEFORE THE NATO BOMBING COMMENCED AND AS A GESTURE, AGAIN, AS I SAID BEFORE, CHRIS WENT THERE AS A SYMBOLIC GESTURE TO SUPPORT THE DREAM OF THE PEOPLE OF BENGHAZI TO HAVE A DEMOCRACY.
05:31:56	>> SO HE SHARED YOUR POSITION THAT STAYING THERE WAS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT.
05:32:00	>> AND HE ALSO UNDERSTOOD FROM THE SECRETARY HERSELF THAT BENGHAZI WAS IMPORTANT TO US AND THAT WE NEEDED TO MAKE IT TO BE A PERMANENT CONSTITUENT POST.
05:32:10	>> I AGREE WITH MY GOOD FRIEND ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE, TREY, IT WAS A LONG TIME BEFORE THE FBI GOT ON THE GROUND AND AS I UNDERSTAND IT FROM A REPORT THAT THEY GAVE US, THEY GOT THE VISAS RIGHT AWAY.
05:32:26	THE DAY OF THE AMBASSADOR RICE'S APPEARANCE ON THE SUNDAY SHOWS, SEPTEMBER 16th, THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT GRANTED THE FBI THE VISAS SO THE TEAM COULD TRAVEL TO LIBYA.
05:32:38	THE FLIGHT WAS CLEARED AND THE FBI ARRIVED IN TRIPOLI SEPTEMBER 18th.
05:32:44	AND ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, THE TEAM COULD NOT TRAVEL TO BENGHAZI FOR SOMETIME DUE TO THE SECURITY SITUATION ON THE GROUND.
05:32:53	IS THAT TRUE? WERE ALL OF OUR PEOPLE OUT OF BENGHAZI AND WERE WE NOT LETTING ANYONE IN BENGHAZI?
05:32:59	WHAT EXACTLY WAS HAPPENING THIS EN, MR.
05:33:01	HICKS? >> YES.
05:33:02	THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT DID NOT WANT ANY OF OUR PERSONNEL TO GO TO BENGHAZI BECAUSE

	OF THE SECURITY SITUATION THERE.
05:33:10	>> SO, WHEN THE FBI WENT TO BENGHAZI, IT WAS WHEN THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT FELT THAT IT WAS SECURE ENOUGH FOR THEM TO GO THERE.
05:33:19	IS THAT A FAIR STATEMENT?
05:33:20	>> WE STRUNG TOGETHER A SERIES OF APPROVALS AT THE MID TO UPPER LEVELS FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND ORGANIZED A MILITARY ESCORT TO GO WITH THE FBI AND SPECIAL FORCES TROOPS THAT ESCORTED THEM, AS WELL.
05:33:38	>> THANK YOU. THE GENTLE LADY'S TIME IS EXPIRED.
05:33:41	WE GO TO HER FRIEND, MR.
05:33:44	GAUDY.
05:33:45	>> THANK YOU, CHAIRMAN.
05:33:46	I'M TRYING TO RECONCILE HOW BENGHAZI WAS NOT SAFE ENOUGH FOR THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION TO GO BUT IT WAS SAFE ENOUGH TO LEAVE A BELOW SPEC FACILITY FOR THE DIPLOMATS TO STAY IN.
05:34:00	I'M TRYING TO RECONCILE THOSE TWO POINTS.
05:34:02	IT IS TOO DANGEROUS FOR THE BUREAU TRAINED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS BUT IT'S JUST FINE FOR DIPLOMATS.
05:34:12	AT SOME POINT I'LL RECONCILE THAT.
05:34:14	I'M GOING TO DUST OFF SOMETHING CALLED THE BEST EVIDENCE RULE.
05:34:17	THE BEST EVIDENCE OF WHAT YOU SAID WHEN YOU WERE ASKED ABOUT MR.
05:34:22	CHAVEZ'S VISIT IS ACTUALLY WHAT YOU SAID.
05:34:24	SO HERE IT IS.
05:34:25	THOSE INSTRUCTIONS WERE TO ARRANGE THE VISIT IN SUCH A WAY THAT REPRESENTATIVE CHAVEZ AND HIS STAFF WOULD NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERVIEW MYSELF, JOHN MARTINEZ AND DAVID McFARLAND ALONE.
05:34:39	THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID.
05:34:40	IN A DEPOSITION.
05:34:43	SO THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY AMBIGUITY OF WHO SAID WHAT WHEN.
05:34:46	THAT'S YOUR TESTIMONY.
05:34:48	NOW, I'D LIKE TO TRY TO WEAVE THIS TAPESTRY TOGETHER BECAUSE THIS WILL BE THE LAST OPPORTUNITY I HAVE CERTAINLY TODAY TO TALK TO YOU.
05:34:56	IF I UNDERSTAND YOUR TESTIMONY CORRECTLY, MR.
05:34:58	HICKS, I WANT TO BE FAIR ABOUT IT, YOU NEED TO CORRECT ME.
05:35:01	IF I UNDERSTAND YOUR TESTIMONY, IN PART, THE AMBASSADOR WAS INTERESTED IN GOING TO BENGHAZI BECAUSE OF INTERESTS THAT SECRETARY CLINTON HAD IN BENGHAZI.
05:35:11	IS THAT FAIR?
05:35:13	>> THAT'S FAIR. >> ALL RIGHT.
05:35:14	NOW MR. NORDSTROM, SAME THING TO YOU.
05:35:17	IF I'M UNFAIR, YOU NEED TO CORRECT ME.
05:35:21	I THOUGHT YOUR TESTIMONY WAS THAT SECRETARY CLINTON ALONE ABLE TO APPROVE FACILITIES BELOW SPEC.
05:35:28	>> THAT'S CORRECT.
05:35:29	PART OF THE SPECS.
05:35:30	CERTAIN -- THERE'S TWO CATEGORIES.
05:35:34	SHE CAN -- THE ONLY ONE TO AUTHORIZE WAIVERS FOR SECA.
05:35:39	BOTH APPLY IN THIS CASE BECAUSE WE DIDN'T MEET EITHER.
05:35:42	>> SO WE'RE ABLE TO SHOW THAT IN PART HE WENT TO BENGHAZI BECAUSE OF SECRETARY CLINTON AND PART BENGHAZI STILL OPEN DESPITE THE FACT IT'S BELOW SPECS BECAUSE OF SECRETARY CLINTON AND NOW TO MY THIRD POINT, TO COMPLETE THE CIRCLE, WHO'S SHERYL MILLS?
05:36:03	>> COUNSELOR AND CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE SECRETARY.
05:36:05	>> AND SHE WAS COPIED ON THAT E-MAIL THAT I KNOW MY COLLEAGUES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE ARE GOING TO HAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE ON AS SOON AS WE GET OUT OF HERE CALLING ON THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO RELEASE THIS E-MAIL.
05:36:16	I KNOW IT.
05:36:18	BECAUSE I HAVE HEARD ALL AFTERNOON ABOUT DENYING ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS AND THEY DO NOT WANT TO DENY THE PUBLIC OR THE MEDIA ACCESS TO THIS DOCUMENT SO I KNOW THEY'RE GOING TO CALL ON THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO RELEASE THIS NONCLASSIFIED E-MAIL WHICH SHERYL MILLS WAS COPIED ON WHICH UNDERCUTS SUSAN RICE'S TALKING POINTS AND SHERYL MILLS WAS COPIED ON THAT E-MAIL.
05:36:44	>> MR. GOUDY, SHE WAS ALSO THE PERSON THAT LED OUR PREPARATION FOR OUR OCTOBER

	TESTIMONY.
05:36:50	I'D NEVER MET HER BEFORE BUT THAT WAS COMPLAINED TO ME WHO SHE WAS AFTERWARDS.
05:36:55	>> AND APPARENTLY SHE WAS ALSO LESS THAN PLEASED WITH MR.
05:36:59	CHAVEZ'S VISIT TO LIBYA IF I UNDERSTOOD THAT TESTIMONY CORRECTLY.
05:37:03	WHICH I FIND STUNNING.
05:37:04	HE IS A SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ON OVERSIGHT.
05:37:09	I'VE NEVER KNOWN HIM TO ASPIRE THAT STRONG OF EMOTION IN ANYONE OTHER THAN MISS MILLS.
05:37:16	LET ME SAY THIS TO YOU, AMBASSADOR, IN CONCLUSION.
05:37:21	YOU HAVE MADE A COMPELLING CASE TODAY FOR WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO TELL OTHER COUNTRIES THE TRUTH.
05:37:29	YOU MADE A COMPELLING CASE.
05:37:31	THE DECISION NOT TO TELL THE TRUTH ON SUNDAY MORNING TALK SHOWS ADVERSELY IMPACTED OUR ABILITY TO GET TO BENGHAZI.
05:37:39	YOU MADE A COMPELLING CASE.
05:37:41	ALL THREE OF YOU HAVE MADE A COMPELLING CASE TODAY ON WHY IT IS IMPORTANT FOR GOVERNMENT TO TELL THE TRUTH TO ITS OWN CITIZENS.
05:37:52	SO YOU MADE THE CASE WHILE WE HAVE TO TELL THE TRUTH TO OTHER COUNTRIES AND YOU MADE THE CASE ON WHY YOU HAVE TO TELL THE TRUTH TO YOUR OWN CITIZENS.
05:38:01	SO IF ANYONE WANTS TO KNOW WHAT DIFFERENCE IT MAKES, ANYONE WANTS TO ASK WHAT DIFFERENCE IT MAKES, IT ALWAYS MATTERS WHETHER OR NOT YOU CAN TRUST YOUR GOVERNMENT.
05:38:13	AND TO THE FAMILIES, WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED IN BENGHAZI AND I DON'T GIVE A DAMN WHOSE CAREER IS IMPACTED.
05:38:20	WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED AND WITH THAT I WOULD YIELD BACK.
05:38:23	>> WOULD THE GENTLEMAN YIELD?
05:38:26	>> I WOULD BE HAPPY TO.
05:38:28	>> I WANT TO ASK EACH OF YOU.
05:38:30	YOU'RE WHISTLE-BLOWERS.
05:38:31	YOU ARE THE KIND OF PEOPLE THAT GIVE US INFORMATION WE WOULDN'T OTHERWISE HAVE.
05:38:37	DO YOU BELIEVE WHAT YOU'RE DOING TODAY IS WHAT WE NEED TO KEEP DOING?
05:38:41	IN OTHER WORDS, DO WE NEED OTHER WHISTLE-BLOWERS TO COME FORWARD?
05:38:45	OTHER FACT WITNESSES WHO KNOW WHAT WE DON'T CURRENTLY KNOW AND I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO ASK IF THIS IS A GREAT PROCESS OR ENJOYED IT, BUT WAS IT WORTHWHILE IN YOUR OPINION AS PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOW GONE THROUGH THIS PROCESS?
05:39:00	MR. THOMPSON?
05:39:01	>> YES, MR.
05:39:02	CHAIRMAN. >> MR.
05:39:03	HICKS? >> YES, I DO.
05:39:05	>> MR.
05:39:06	NORDSTROM.
05:39:07	>> ABSOLUTELY.
05:39:08	>> I HOPE YOU CONTINUE TO FEEL THAT WAY.
05:39:11	MR. LANGFORD?
05:39:12	>> MR. NORDSTROM, I NEED TO FOLLOW UP ON A CONVERSATION WE HAD EARLIER WITH THE CABLE YOU SAID MARCH 28th, 2012.
05:39:18	YOU MENTIONED YOU DRAFTED THAT CABLE REQUESTING ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL FOR BOTH THE EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI AND IN BENGHAZI BECAUSE YOU'RE VERY MUCH SHORT AND AS TIME WAS EXPIRING AND THAT'S SST TEAM LEAVING YOU WOULD NOT HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE.
05:39:33	YOU DRAFTED THE CABLE.
05:39:34	YOUR INTENTION WAS AND YOUR ASENKS WAS THE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP AND THE UNDERSECRETARY TO THE SECRETARY WOULD SEE THAT CABLE OR AT LEAST BE BRIEFED ON THAT CABLE AND THE REQUEST FOR THAT SECURITY.
05:39:43	THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF DISCUSSION ABOUT THE OFFICIAL RESPONSE THAT CAME BACK.
05:39:51	ON APRIL THE 19th.
05:39:52	WHO DO YOU THINK SAW OR THE INTENTION OR AT LEAST REFLECTED THE OPINION OF WHEN THAT CABLE CAME BACK TO YOU, WHEN THAT RESPONSE CAME BACK TO YOU, WHO WAS THE ASSUMPTION THAT WAS RESPONDING TO YOU?
05:40:03	>> NORMALLY SOMEONE WOULD TELL ME EXACTLY WHO IT IS OR INDICATE WHO THE POINT OF CONTRACT WAS.
05:40:09	IF I RECALL CORRECTLY THAT'S STILL UNKNOWN TO ME.

05:40:11	I ASSUMED THAT IT'S COMING FROM DS BUT AS I TESTIFIED TO BEFORE, SO MANY OF THESE DECISIONS SEEMED TO BE AT AMBASSADOR KENNEDY'S LEVEL OR HIGHER.
05:40:22	CLEARLY, THAT WAS CLEARED BY SOME OF THOSE OTHER OFFICIALS.
05:40:26	>> YOU'RE ASSUMING UNDERSECRETARY OR SOME ON UP.
05:40:30	>> CERTAINLY SAW IT AHEAD OF TIME.
05:40:32	>> IT IS AN ESTABLISHED FACT THERE'S VIDEO OF CLEAR OF THE ATTACKERS THE NIGHT.
05:40:39	THE FBI DID EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION.
05:40:41	WERE ANY OF YOU AWARE OF ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN HELD TO ACCOUNT?
05:40:46	FOR THE MURDERS THAT HAPPENED IN LIBYA.
05:40:48	ANYONE DETAINED, ANYONE ARRESTED, ANYONE CAPTURED?
05:40:51	ARE YOU AWARE OF ANYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED TO ANY OF THE ATTACKERS TO HELD THEM TO ACCOUNT?
05:40:57	>> NEITHER THE PERPETRATORS OR THE PEOPLE THAT MADE DECISIONS, THE FOUR PEOPLE NAMED IN THE ARPB PUT ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE.
05:41:05	I UNDERSTAND ONE OF THEM IS TRYING TO COME OFF OF THAT LEAVE AND GO TO NATO WHICH IS SHOCKING TO ME.
05:41:10	>> SO AT THIS POINT NO ONE IS AWARE OF ANYONE HELD TO ACCOUNT IN ANY WAY FOR THE MURDER OF FOUR AMERICANS?
05:41:17	>> NOT THAT I'M AWARE OF.
05:41:19	>> IN 1998, WE'VE DISCUSSED FREQUENTLY THERE WAS A BOMBING OF THE EMBASSY IN KENYA AND TANZANIA.
05:41:27	THERE WAS AN ARB AT THE END OF THAT, AS WELL.
05:41:31	AT THE END OF THE THAT ARB THAT WAS DONE IN 1999, IT SAID THIS.
05:41:35	NUMBER ONE, STATE DEPARTMENT OF WASHINGTON DID NOT ASSESS THE THREATS OR TAKE NOTES OF THE CLEAR WARNING SIGNS AND ESCALATING THREATS.
05:41:44	NUMBER TWO, IT NOTED THE FACILITY INADEQUATE AND THERE WAS A LACK OF WARNING SIGNS.
05:41:52	THAT COULD HAVE BEEN WRITTEN A MONTH AGO.
05:41:54	WE HAVE DISCUSSED OFTEN ON THIS THE ONE THING WE HAVE TO DO IS LEARN THE LESSON.
05:41:58	IN 1998, THE SAME THING OCCURRED.
05:42:03	AND WE HAVE NOT LEARNED THE LESSON.
05:42:05	WHAT WE KNOW OF TODAY AND THE REALITIES THAT HAVE COME OUT AND ALL THAT YOU HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO CONVERSATION AND WHAT YOU HAVE CONTRIBUTED IS INVALUE SBL THAT WE DID NOT DO THE MOST BASIC MINIMUM SECURITY THAT WAS REQUIRED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S STANDARDS SET AFTER THE BOMBING IN KENYA AND IN TANZANIA.
05:42:25	WE DID NOT DO DID BASICS.
05:42:26	WE DID NOT PROVIDE THE LEVEL OF SECURITY.
05:42:29	THERE WERE, IN FACT, CAMERAS THERE WERE IN THE BOX IN BENGHAZI BECAUSE A TECHNICAL PERSON WAS NEVER SENT TO INTALL THEM AND COULD HAVE BEEN ADDITIONAL WARNING SIGNS AND HAD NOT INSTALLED AND DONE.
05:42:42	WE KNOW THAT THE TRIPOLI FACILITY AT A GREATER RISK THAN BENGHAZI AND MORE VULNERABILITY VULNERABILITIES IN PHYSICAL SECURITY AND IN ACTUAL STAFFING OF PEOPLE, THE GUN TOTERS AS YOU MENTIONED, THE DOOR KICKERS AND SUCH TO PROVIDE THAT SECURITY.
05:42:59	THE MINIMUM LEVEL WAS NOT PROVIDED.
05:43:02	IN FACT, MY UNDERSTANDING, MR.
05:43:03	HICKS, IS THAT IT REACHED SUCH A POINT OF VULNERABILITY THAT APPROACHED SOME SECURITY AND ASKED FOR THE DIPLOMATS THAN TRAINED TO HANDLE A GUN BECAUSE THERE WAS SUCH A FEAR OF THE PEOPLE ON THE GROUND BECAUSE YOU WERE SO EXPOSED.
05:43:16	IS THAT TRUE?
05:43:19	>> THAT'S TRUE. >> WE HAVE GOT TO LEARN THE LESSONS OF THE PAST.
05:43:21	THIS HAPPENED IN 1998.
05:43:23	WE ALLOWED IT TO HAPPEN AGAIN.
05:43:26	THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS TO PUT IN TO PRACTICE THEIR OWN STANDARDS AND THE THINGS WE KNOW TO BE RIGHT.
05:43:32	WE CANNOT ALLOW A PLACE THAT'S LISTED AS CRITICAL AND HIGH RISK TO OUR PERSONNEL TO BE IGNORED.
05:43:39	AND TO NOT HAVE THE SUPPORT THEY NEED.
05:43:41	IF THERE'S ANY ONE GAIN THAT WE CAN DO AND ANY ONE WAY TO HONOR THOSE THAT HAVE FALLEN IS THAT WE ACTUALLY DO LEARN THE LESSON AND WE PROTECT OUR DIPLOMATS WITH WHAT IS REQUIRED.
05:43:53	WITH THAT, MR. CHAIRMAN, I YIELD BACK.

05:43:55	>> I THANK THE GENTLEMAN.
05:43:57	WE GO TO THE FROM FLORIDA.
05:44:01	MR.
05:44:02	HICKS? >> I'D LIKE TO MAKE A CLARIFICATION OF A CONVERSATION.
05:44:06	THERE'S NO INHERENT CONTRA CONTRADICTION BETWEEN DENYING OR AVOIDING A PRIVATE INTERVIEW WITH SOMEONE AND MAKING SURE THAT HE HAS INFORMATION AVAILABLE.
05:44:18	I JUST WANT TO BE CLEAR ON THAT.
05:44:22	>> MR. MICAH?
05:44:23	>> THANK YOU.
05:44:24	MR. NORDSTROM, I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER READ SO MUCH TESTIMONY, BUT WHAT YOU PROVIDED LAST NIGHT.
05:44:31	THAT WAS PARTICULARLY INFORMATIVE.
05:44:35	AND TALKING ABOUT THE -- ON PAGE 7 YOU TALK ABOUT THE RATING LEVEL ASSIGNED FOR THREAT CATEGORIES FOR OUR VARIOUS POSTS.
05:44:47	AND THERE ARE FOUR OF THEM.
05:44:48	CRITICAL, HIGH, MEDIUM AND LOW.
05:44:54	AND WE HAVE 264 POSTS THAT -- WHERE WE HAD SECURITY CONCERNS, OVERSEAS DIPLOMATIC POSTS AT THE TIME OF BENGHAZI.
05:45:08	THERE WERE 14 POSTS RATED AS EITHER HIGH OR CRITICAL.
05:45:11	NOT A HUGE NUMBER.
05:45:14	BUT 14.
05:45:15	TWO OF THEM -- TWO OF THE POSTS WERE BENGHAZI AND TRIPOLI.
05:45:19	ARE YOU AWARE OF THAT MR.
05:45:20	THOMPSON, MR.
05:45:21	NORDSTROM?
05:45:22	YOU PUT IT IN THERE.
05:45:23	IT'S NOT LIKE THEY HAD THIS INCREDIBLE ARRAY OF POSTS THAT WERE ON THIS HIGH ALERT.
05:45:30	IS THAT CORRECT? >> THAT'S MY UNDERSTANDING.
05:45:31	THE VERY SMALL AMOUNT WERE HIGHER CRITICAL.
05:45:35	>> AND THEN FINALLY, AGAIN, I HAVE NOT READ THE CLASSIFIED.
05:45:39	I READ THE UNCLASSIFIED VERSION.
05:45:42	MR.
05:45:43	CHAVEZ POINTED OUT LATER IN THE REPORT IT LOOKS LIKE THEY TRIED TO COOK THIS TO PUT BLAME BASICALLY ON THE LOWER LEVEL.
05:45:50	THERE'S A CERTAIN PLATEAU AND THEN EVERYBODY BELOW GETS THE BLAME.
05:45:55	UP ON PAGE 4 WHEN I HAD MY TIME BEFORE, I SAID EMBASSY TRIPOLI, THIS IS FROM THE REPORT, DID NOT DEMONSTRATE STRONG AND SUSTAINED ADVOCACY FOR SECURITY FOR SPECIAL MISSION BENGHAZI.
05:46:12	AND YET, WE HAVE HEARD YOUR PREDECESSOR MR.
05:46:16	HICKS PLEADED FOR ADDITIONAL HELP.
05:46:17	YOU PLEADED FOR IT.
05:46:18	IT'S DOCUMENTED.
05:46:20	AND YOU DIDN'T GET IT.
05:46:21	YOU ACTUALLY GOT A REDUCTION.
05:46:23	IS THAT CORRECT?
05:46:24	AS WAS POINTED OUT?
05:46:25	>> YES.
05:46:26	DRASTIC REDUCTION.
05:46:27	>> SO IT WASN'T LIKE THIS WAS ALL OVER THE PLACE.
05:46:33	FINALLY. FOR THE ARPB, YOU PUT IN HERE TO IGNORE THE ROLE OF SENIOR LEADERSHIP PLAYED BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE SEPTEMBER 11th ATTACK SENDS A CLEAR MESSAGE TO ALL STATE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES.
05:46:47	LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE WHITEWASHING THE FOLKS AT THE HIGHER PAY GRADES AND LEVELS AND YOU ALL ARE TAKING THE BLAME.
05:46:54	IS THAT A FAIR ASSESSMENT?
05:46:55	>> I THINK THE BASIC MESSAGE IS WHETHER OR NOT YOU'RE SITTING OUT AT THE POST REQUESTING RESOURCES, PREPARING FOR TESTIMONY BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE OR STANDING ON A BUILDING SURROUNDED BY AN ARMED MOB ATTACKING YOU, THE MESSAGE THE SAME.
05:47:09	YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.
05:47:10	>> MR.

05:47:12	HICKS?
05:47:13	>> I SHARE WHAT MR.
05:47:14	NORDSTROM HAD TO SAY?
05:47:16	>> MR.
05:47:17	THOMPSON?
05:47:18	>> I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WERE NEVER INTERVIEWED AND YOU HAD ONE OF THE MOST STRATEGIC POSITIONS BY THE ARB.
05:47:27	THAT IS TRUE?
05:47:28	>> I'M NOT SURE OF STRATEGIC, SIR.
05:47:31	IT'S A TOOL THAT SHOULD BE -- REMAIN ON THE MENU OF OPTIONS IS PROBABLY MY BASIC POINT.
05:47:38	IT WAS EARLY TAKEN OFF THE MENU.
05:47:40	>> IT'S VERY SAD COMMENTARY.
05:47:42	I YIELD BACK.
05:47:44	THANK YOU. >> WOULD THE GENTLEMAN YIELD?
05:47:46	>> I'VE GOT TIME.
05:47:48	>> THANK YOU.
05:47:49	I THINK WHAT WE'VE HEARD HERE TODAY IS CLEARLY IN THE FUTURE RSOs, DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSIONS, CHIEF OF MISSIONS NEED TO PUT EVERYTHING IN A CABLE IN THE FUTURE, WHEN YOU KNOW THERE'S A SECURITY PROBLEM, AND YOU'RE BEING TOLD, YOUR APPLICATION WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL, IT WOULD NOT BE WANTED OR PEOPLE SAY, JUST BE PATIENT OR DON'T PUT IN IT A CABLE, THE ANSWER IS, THE NEXT ARB WILL PROBABLY WHITEWASH THE SAME AS THIS ONE ON OCTOBER 10th, RANKING MEMBER AND I AND MANY OTHERS SAT THROUGH A HEARING IT WAS MADE CLEAR MESSAGE AFTER MESSAGE AFTER MESSAGE INCLUDING THE ACTUAL, IF YOU WILL, OPEN SOURCE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ATTACKS THAT OCCURRED ON OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND OUR OWN, IF THAT'S NOT SAYING LOUDLY THEY BLEW A HOLE IN OUR WALL WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE US THE SECURITY WE NEED, THEN I'M AFRAID THE DEAFNESS AND AT LEAST UNDERSECRETARY KENNEDY'S LEVEL IS NOT IN ANY WAY CURABLE BY TECHNOLOGY KNOWN TO AMPLIFY SOUND.
05:48:55	SO WITH THAT, THIS HEARING IS CLOSED.
05:48:57	BUT THIS INVESTIGATION IS NOT OVER.
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