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## Witnesses Differ On Details Of Libya Attack

BY NANCY A. YOUSSEF

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BENGHAZI, Libya — Witnesses in Benghazi, Libya, provide a chronology for the Sept. 11 attack on the U.S. consulate here that differs in significant ways from timelines released by U.S. officials in Washington, raising more questions about how the assault unfolded and the speed with which Americans at a nearby CIA annex responded to calls for help from the consulate.

The versions of the attack told here indicate that the last visitor who met with Ambassador Chris Stevens, who died in the assault on the consulate, departed at least 45 minutes earlier than U.S. officials in Washington have said. Witnesses here also suggest that the attack may have begun as many as 15 minutes earlier than officials in Washington have said.

Witnesses also said there was no indication that anyone in the U.S. diplomatic compound was aware before the assault that protests had broken out in neighboring Egypt over an inflammatory film about the Prophet Muhammad that was produced in the United States.

The differences in the timelines could mean that CIA officers stationed in a compound just 1.2 miles away may have waited as long as 40 minutes before setting out to assist the besieged consulate and might not have arrived there until more than an hour after the attack began. A timeline released by the CIA says help was dispatched after just 25 minutes and that it took the rescue squad 25 minutes to arrive.

At a minimum, the witness accounts suggest that after two months, the U.S. government still may not know the basic sequence of events and when key moments in the assault occurred.

What took place in Benghazi on the night of Sept. 11 and the early morning of Sept. 12 is the subject of at least three congressional hearings this week, beginning with a closed session of the Senate



NANCY A. YOUSSEF/MCT

Diplomats from other countries worried that the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, was overly dependent on local Libyans for its security. On the day of the attack that resulted in the death of Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans, U.S. officials had spotted a police officer taking photos of the compound from a villa under construction across the street and complained to local authorities. This was the view the officer would have had of the compound. The damaged building is the compound's cafeteria, where Amb. Stevens and other Americans at the consulate would have eaten most of their meals. The gate in front was known as Bravo gate, which the attackers stormed on the night of the attack.

Foreign Affairs committee Tuesday and ending with separate sessions of the Senate and House of Representatives intelligence committees Thursday. Interest in those hearings, already high, only increased with the resignation Friday of retired Army Gen. David Petraeus, who resigned as the director of the CIA over an extramarital affair with his biographer, Army Reserve Lt. Col. Paula Broadwell.

What new information might be presented at those hearings isn't clear. The hearings are closed to the public, and whatever details emerge most likely will come in the form of leaks from the participants.

But the timelines that have been offered by the State Department, the CIA and the Defense Department offer inconsistent versions of what took place during the deadliest assault on a U.S. diplomatic compound in more than three decades. And any account of what meetings or discussions, if any, took place at CIA headquarters in Langley, Va., as the events in Benghazi unfolded is still missing.

In addition to Stevens, a State Department computer expert, Sean Smith, died at

the consulate. Two CIA security contractors, former Navy SEALs Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty, died several hours later when assailants attacked the CIA annex, to which survivors of the assault on the consulate had fled.

According to witnesses, Stevens had arrived in Benghazi on Sept. 10 for a four-day visit, his first extensive stay in this city since he assumed the ambassador's post in May.

On the evening of Sept. 11, Stevens met with the Turkish consul here, Ali Sait Akin, in what everyone agrees was his last official act. While State Department officials said Stevens escorted the Turkish consul out of the compound at 8:30 p.m., a guard at the compound and an official familiar with the meeting said Akin left at 7:45 p.m.

A 31-year-old security guard employed by a British contracting company, the Blue Mountain Group, said he distinctly remembered the time of the meeting because about a half-hour before Akin was scheduled to meet with Stevens, the ambassador approached the guard, introduced himself and asked what security measures were needed to allow the Turkish consul to enter, including what kind of badge the Turkish delegation needed to enter the compound. Stevens addressed the guard in Arabic and told him Akin would arrive at 6:30 p.m. for an hourlong meeting.

As the guard and Stevens spoke, the protests in Cairo had been going on for nearly two hours. Stevens didn't mention the film to the guard, and no one from the compound warned the guard about possible protests throughout the night, the guard said.

Akin arrived on time and the men met for an hour, the guard said. While they discussed security broadly, they didn't talk about the film, the protests or the Sept. 11 anniversary, an official familiar with the meeting, who spoke only on the condition of the anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject, told McClatchy Newspapers. After the meeting, Stevens and Akin chatted for about 15 minutes as they strolled around the compound, and Akin

left at 7:45 p.m.

The guard made a note of the time of Akin's arrival and departure in a book in which the guards tracked all movements, from official visits to when the cook arrived, he said.

rived, he said.
As of four days ago, no U.S. or Libyan official had questioned Akin about his meeting with Stevens, according to the of-

ficial familiar with the meeting.

From the time the guard's shift started at 4 p.m., Stevens didn't leave the compound. The State Department, in a briefing Sept. 12, said Stevens retired to his bedroom at 9 p.m.

State Department officials have said the attack started at 9:40 p.m., a time that the CIA timeline also sets as the approximate beginning. A Pentagon account of its response said the assault started at 9:42 p.m.

But two guards at the compound told McClatchy that the attack began earlier; one said at 9:25 p.m. and the other at 9:35.

One guard, who was at the main gate and placed the assault's beginning at 9:25 p.m., said a colleague stationed at a side gate about 25 yards away had alerted him by radio that attackers were approaching. The guard said he stuck his head out a window in the compound's wall and saw the attackers on one side of the road, near where his colleague was stationed, and Libyan police on the other side of the road fleeing. He said he hit the alarm button to alert the compound that it was under attack

Behind the compound, at a nearby restaurant, a Western diplomat who was having dinner heard a mortar round go off around 9:30 p.m., presumably after the attackers had arrived at the compound. When he was told that U.S. officials put the start of the attack at 9:40 p.m. he paused and said he was dubious. "It was no later than 9:40 p.m., maximum," he said, after a long pause. The diplomat asked that neither he nor the country he represents be identified, also because of the sensitivity of the matter.

## Libyans, Diplomats: CIA's Benghazi Station A Secret

BY NANCY A. YOUSSEF

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BENGHAZI, Libya — Just more than a mile from the group of villas that served as the U.S. consulate in Benghazi was another set of U.S.-leased villas — an annex where the CIA had set up shop, and from where would-be rescuers set out on the night of Sept. 11 in response to the attack at the consulate.

Despite speculation to the contrary, no Libyan or non-American diplomats stationed in Benghazi say they knew of the existence or purpose of the CIA annex.

Top Libyan security officials in Benghazi and Tripoli, as well as diplomatic representatives who worked closely with Americans here, said they had no idea about the compound, which unlike the consulate had no signs of American life outside its tall gates. There were no concrete barriers in front or barbed wire on the top of its concrete wall.

Libya's deputy interior minister, Omar al-Khadrawy, and the deputy interior minister for Benghazi, Saleh Daghman, told Mc-Clatchy Newspapers they didn't know that the CIA had kept a base there. Neither did the second in command of Benghazi's largest revolutionary brigade, the Libyan Shield. Two consuls from allied nations who met frequently with Americans said they didn't know the CIA annex existed until after the deadly Sept. 11 attack.

Ahmed Langhi, Benghazi's representative to the country's congress, the General National Council, said he didn't think that anyone in the top levels of the Libyan government knew that the CIA was housed there; neither did he.

Of the dozen people Mc-Clatchy asked in Benghazi and Tripoli, only an unarmed 31-year-old security guard who was stationed at the main gate of the consulate on Sept. 11 had heard about a possible second U.S. compound in Benghazi. And he said

he didn't know the CIA had been based there.

"All I heard about was a secret building," the guard said, adding that he didn't know where it was. The guard asked not to be further identified, fearing reprisals from extremists for working with Americans.

During an Oct. 26 questionand-answer session at the University of Denver, Paula Broadwell, who's been named as the woman whose affair with CIA Director David Petraeus led to his resignation Friday, told the audience that two Libyan militiamen were being held at the CIA annex and suggested that the attackers were targeting the annex, rather than the consulate.

"Now, I don't know if a lot of you heard this, but the CIA annex had actually, um, had taken a couple of Libyan militia members prisoner, and they think that the attack on the consulate was an effort to try to get these prisoners back. So that's still being vetted," she said.

But most here don't believe that. The guard, who stayed around the consulate for the duration of the assault, said he thought that the subsequent attack on the CIA compound happened because the attackers had followed the Americans who were fleeing the consulate to the CIA annex.

"They came to kill Americans," he said.

The assault at the consulate began somewhere between 9:25 and 9:40 p.m. The CIA annex came under fire twice in subsequent hours, according to a timeline released by the CIA. The first attack consisted of what the agency called "sporadic small arms fire and RPG rounds," a reference to rocket-propelled grenades. That assault lasted about 90 minutes, from 11:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

The second, more serious attack took place at 5:15 the next morning, according to the CIA, when assailants lobbed mortar rounds into the compound for 11

minutes. It was during this assault that CIA contractors Glen Doherty and Tyrone Woods, both former Navy SEALs, were killed.

Since the attacks, events have unfolded very differently for the two compounds.

At the consulate, gawkers and looters still could enter the property, and no repairs had been made to the burned-out buildings. Two months after he died here of smoke inhalation, Ambassador Christopher Stevens' clothes still hung in the closet; his ties were strewn on the floor. In the build-

ing that served as an office and operations center, State Department stationery littered the floor and lettered Post-it notes left by the FBI on the day agents came here to investigate were stuck throughout the compound buildings.

ings. But at the CIA safe house,
American officials cleared their
property within days of the attack. By Sept. 14, three new families had moved into the four
houses that make up the compound, according to a gatekeeper
at the door. Nearby residents said

the landlord wanted Libyans living there as soon as possible, so his property wouldn't be destroyed by extremists angry that the CIA had been stationed there.

At the annex, which looks like any other upscale residential compound in Benghazi, the gate-keeper clearly was used to reporters coming by. He opened the gate only slightly and refused to engage in the kind of friendly talk that's common in the city. He said no one was allowed inside and that there'd been no damage from the attack, something difficult to

believe if mortar rounds were what killed Woods and Doherty, who reportedly were on the roof when it was struck by mortar fire.

When he was asked whether reporters could assess whether there was any damage, the gate-keeper had a ready answer. He opened the gate slightly wider, allowing a quick peek at the pristine property, which had no signs of its former use.

"Libyans live here now," he said before quickly shutting the door.

## **Implementing Exercise into Everyday Life with Diabetes**

Have you ever tried to start an exercise program that would help to lower your blood sugar level only to run into a road block?

Have you ever wanted to start an exercise program but don't know where to begin?

Have you been told that you should "lose weight" or "walk more" to decrease your blood sugar levels?

If any of the above statements describe you – you might be interested in a new program starting at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital that will help you establish a personalized exercise program that fits your lifestyle.

WHO: Avera Sacred Heart Hospital Occupational Therapy Department, Dakota Diabetes, Avera Sacred Heart Wellness Center, and the University of South Dakota Occupational Therapy Department.

WHAT: A new program regarding implementing exercise into everyday life with diabetes. The program will be based on the occupational therapy theory of Occupational Adaptation. This theory holds that in order to be functional in life activities, a person must make adaptations to his/her environment and self. Most people adapt to changes in the world around them everyday without even noticing. But when a person confronts a particularly difficult situation, sometimes this process gets stalled. It is at that point that a person may need

some assistance from an occupational therapist to help the person through the adaptation process. In this instance, being faced with a diagnosis of diabetes and having to implement the multitude of lifestyle changes that need to occur can sometimes be overwhelming. In light of the new research about exercise and diabetes control, this program will focus specifically on implementing exercise into everyday life. The program will consist of 6 x 1 hour sessions that will address: 1. The Occupational Adaptation Process and how it relates to exercise

- 2. Cardiovascular vs.
- Strength Training
  3. Developing a Personalized
  Program that actually fits
  into a person's lifestyle
- 4. Time management5. Overcoming Barriers to
- exercise 6. Coping
- 7. Implementation of that program with an actual practice session at the ASHH Wellness Center

The cost of the program is \$70 for the entire 6 sessions. At this point, this program is not coverable by insurance; however, no one will be turned away for inability to pay. The participant will leave the program with an understanding of his/her life roles and schedules and how to integrate exercise within a framework that allows for continued participation in occupation. He/she will also have a written copy of a program that he/she designs with the help of an occupational therapist, diabetes educator, and exercise physiologist.

In addition to the above bene-

fits, this program will also be used for a research study by the USD Department of Occupational Therapy. The study's aim is to determine if this type of intervention produces a statistically significant positive change in the participant's behavior. As such, the participant will be asked to fill out several short forms prior to the beginning of the sessions and again several months after the sessions are completed. Results of the study would be available to any physician who is interested.

WHEN: The groups will be offered on a scheduled basis. Each set of 6 sessions will have no more than 5 participants to keep the participant to therapist ratio low.

WHERE: Groups will be scheduled through the Avera Sacred Heart Hospital Occupational Therapy Department at 605-668-8268. Participants will be sent a packet with their scheduled sessions and locations of those sessions.

WHY: Recent research suggests that people with diabetes who implement 150 minutes of cardiovascular exercise along with 2-3 sessions of strengthening activities on non-consecutive days per week have lower HbA1C levels and better control of their blood sugars. We feel that examining a person's current lifestyle and his/her

ability to adapt combined with

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Sacred Heart Hospital
specific education regarding ex-

ercise will assist the person to develop an individualized exercise program that may be more likely to succeed.

**HOW:** There are several ways to be part of this program. First of all, you can sign up to be contacted with more information through the sign up sheet available through Dakota Diabetes (Susan Barnes). You can also contact the Avera Sacred Heart Hospital Occupational Therapy Department at 605-668-8268. The Occupational Therapy Department will have a staff member contact you with more information. You are not obligated to participate in this program by signing up or requesting more information. If you decide to participate, the Occupational Therapy Department will talk with the physician who manages your diabetes to make sure that you are medically cleared to participate. Then they will send you a packet with more information that would need to be filled out. You can participate in the group sessions without being part of the research portion if you wish. The \$70 fee is due at the time of the first session. However, if this fee would prevent you from participating in the sessions, please let us know. No one will be turned away for inability to pay.

If you have any further Questions, please contact Beryl Olson at 605-668-8268.

