



April 8, 2013

To: Members of The U.S. House of Representatives

Subject: The Benghazi attacks on 9/11/ 2012

The undersigned are a representative group of some 700 retired Military Special Operations professionals who spent the majority of their careers preparing for and executing myriad operations to rescue or recover detained or threatened fellow Americans. In fact, many of us participated in both the Vietnam era POW rescue effort, The Son Tay Raid, as well as Operation Eagle Claw, the failed rescue attempt in April of 1980 in Iran, so we have been at this for many years and have a deep passion for seeking the truth about what happened during the national tragedy in Benghazi.

The purpose of this letter is to encourage all members of the US House of Representatives to support H.Res. 36, which will create a House Select Committee on the Terrorist Attack in Benghazi. It is essential that a full accounting of the events of September 11, 2012, be provided and that the American public be fully informed regarding this egregious terrorist attack on US diplomatic personnel and facilities. We owe that truth to the American people and the families of the fallen.

It appears that many of the facts and details surrounding the terrorist attack which resulted in four American deaths and an undetermined number of American casualties have not yet been ascertained by previous hearings and inquiries. Additional information is now slowly surfacing in the media, which makes a comprehensive bipartisan inquiry an imperative. Many questions have not been answered thus far. The House Select Committee should address, at a minimum, the following questions:

1. Why was there no military response to the events in Benghazi?
 - a. Were military assets in the region available? If not, why not?
 - b. If so, were they alerted?
 - c. Were assets deployed to any location in preparation for a rescue or recovery attempt?
 - d. Was military assistance requested by the Department of State? If so, what type?
 - e. Were any US Army/Naval/USMC assets available to support the US diplomats in Benghazi during the attack?
 - f. What, if any, recommendations for military action were made by DOD and the US Africa Command?
2. What, if any, non-military assistance was provided during the attack?
3. How many US personnel were injured in Benghazi?
4. Why have the survivors of the attack not been questioned?
5. Where are the survivors?
6. Who was in the White House Situation Room (WHSR) during the entire 8-hour period of the attacks, and was a senior US military officer present?
7. Where were Leon Panetta and General Martin Dempsey during the crisis, and what inputs and recommendations did they make?
8. Where were Tom Donilon, the National Security Advisor, Denis McDonough, his deputy, Valerie Jarrett and John Brennan during the attacks, and what (if any) recommendations or decisions did *any* of them make?

9. Why were F-16 fighter aircraft based in Aviano, Italy (less than two hours away) never considered a viable option for disruption (if not dispersal) of the attackers until “boots on the ground” (troop support--General Dempsey’s words) arrived?
10. Were any strike aircraft (such as an AC-130 gunship) in the area or possibly overhead that would cause former SEAL Tyrone Woods to laser-designate his attacker’s position and call for gunship fire support, thereby revealing his own location that led to his death?
11. Who gave the order to “STAND DOWN” that was heard repeatedly during the attacks?
12. What threat warnings existed before the attack, and what were the DOD and DOS responses to those warnings? What data (which will reveal exact timelines and command decisions) is contained within the various SITREPS, records, logs, videos and recordings maintained by the myriad of DOD, Intelligence Community and State Department Command Centers that were monitoring the events in Benghazi as they unfolded?
13. Why did the Commander-in Chief and Secretary of State never *once* check in during the night to find out the status of the crisis situation in Benghazi?
14. What was the nature of Ambassador Stevens’ business in Benghazi at the time of the attack?
15. What guidance has been provided to survivors and family members since the time of the attack, and who issued that guidance?
16. Why are so many agencies now requiring their personnel that were involved in or have access to information regarding the events that took place in Benghazi sign Non-Disclosure statements?

This was the most severe attack on American diplomatic facilities and personnel since the attacks on the US Embassies in Tanzania and Kenya in 1998. Thus far, it appears that there has been no serious effort to determine critical details of this attack. This is inexcusable and demands immediate attention by the Congress. Congress must show some leadership and provide answers to the public as to what actually occurred in Benghazi. Americans have a right to demand a full accounting on this issue.

A longstanding American ethos was breached during the terrorist attack in Benghazi. America failed to provide adequate security to personnel deployed into harm’s way and then failed to respond when they were viciously attacked. Clearly, this is unacceptable and requires accountability. America has always held to the notion that no American will be left behind and that every effort will be made to respond when US personnel are threatened. Given our backgrounds, we are concerned that this sends a very negative message to future military and diplomatic personnel who may be deployed into dangerous environments. That message is that they will be left to their own devices when attacked. That is an unacceptable message.

The House Select Committee should focus on getting a detailed account of the events in Benghazi as soon as possible. H. Res. 36 will provide a structure for the conduct of a thorough inquiry of Benghazi and should be convened immediately.

We ask that you fulfill your responsibilities to the American people and take appropriate action regarding Benghazi. With over sixty members of the US House of Representatives calling for this Select Committee already, it seems that the time is right to take appropriate action on Benghazi.

Signed:

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MSG Laverne "Bing" Allar, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SGT Jeffrey a. Yaro, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Tom Holschuh, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SFC David S. Surman, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Joseph Tetreault, USA (Ret) Special Forces/SFOD-D
SFC Gerald Holt, USA (Ret) Ranger
SFC Jerald L. Petersen, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Rodolfo "Rudy" D. Rodrigues, USA (Ret) Special Forces/SFOD-D
MSG William "Todd" Black, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SFC Larry L. Trimble, USA (Ret) Special Forces/Ranger
SGM Kenneth C. Baschke, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SFC Lawrence Cardassi, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CSM Hank Luthy, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CW3 Willy Welsch, USA (Ret) Special Forces/SFOD-D
SFC Phillip Schulz, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SFC John L. Leffler, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Pete B. Estrada, USA (Ret) Special Forces
A1C David "Mac" McLay, USAF (Veteran) Air Commando
CSM Selmer R. "Dick" Hyde, USA (Ret) Special Forces/Ranger
SSG Nick Walton, USA (Veteran) Special Forces
MSG Daniel E. Deck, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG James Blakelee, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG John M. Trantanella, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SFC Brian Shives, USA (Ret) Special Forces
Sgt Martin T. Bennet, USAF (Ret) MACV-SOG
CW4 Greg Coker, USA (Ret) Aviation/160thSOAR
SFC Terry Grant Winkley, USA, (Ret) Special Forces
MSG George Torrealba, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SGM Johnnie King, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CW3 Charles Garland, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SFC James E. King, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SFC Jay McGinness, USA (Ret) Special Forces

1 SG Jim "Ringo" Ringland, USA, (Ret) Special Forces
MSG John D. Tippy, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CW3 James H. Thackaberry, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SGM John Shimkoski, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SGT James D. Thacker, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CSM Thomas A. Reesman, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CSM Gail R. Ernst, USA (Ret) Ranger
CSM David L. Clark, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SFC Edward Laminack, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SFC John A. Hughes, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Kenneth Chapman, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CW4 Akira Wayne Kim, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG David L. Rotner, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Jerry "Fonz" Fontana, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SGM William F. Hux, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Billy Cason, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SFC Anthony Ruddeen, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CSM Joe Lupyak, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SGM Samuel Wright, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG William A. Easterling, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG David C. Goodwin, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CW3 Todd B. Girdner, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Jeff Hinton, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CSM Patrick R. Ballogg, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CW4 John "Chet" Hayward, USA (Ret) Special Forces/Ranger
SGT Clifford N. Alford, USA (Ret) Special Forces/CIA
SGT Richard E. Gross, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SGM George Davenport, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Lee "Tony" Douglas, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SFC Robert Rogers, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CW2 Thomas Leslie Tannahill, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SGM Daniel Zahody, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CSM Gerald Hamm Jr, USA, (Ret) Special Forces/Ranger
SFC Lloyd Carpenter, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CW2 Michael Flick, USA (Ret) Special Forces

MSG Donald M. Feeney Jr, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Henry S. Moran, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CW2 David S. Chacon, USA (Ret) Special Forces/Ranger
SFC Chris Mottler, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SFC Phillip Crowley, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CW3 Joseph Lloyd, USA, (ret) Special Forces
MSG Timothy F. Wynne, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SFC David A. Anderson, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SGM Jesse Boyd, USA (Ret) Special Forces/Ranger
SFC Stephan Harrell, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SGM Lanny Lucero, USA Ret) Special Forces/Ranger
MSG Russell Justice, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SGT Lou Campbell, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CW4 Eric Crum, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SSG Blake Mills, USA (Veteran) Special Forces
SGT Mark Miller, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Robert F. Finke, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SFC John Jones, USA (Ret) (Special Forces
MSG Leamon L. Ratte, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG James "Mel" Banks, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CSM Leandro Sanfeliz Jr. USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Joseph H Socie, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SGM Charles E. Smith, USA (Ret) Special Forces/Ranger
SGM Alan F. Farrell, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SFC James Plannette, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Randall Long, USA (Ret) Ranger JTAC
MSG Charles S. Spence, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Carl A. Fuller, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Patrick T. Quinn, USA (Ret) Special Forces/Ranger
SFC David Kauffman, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Thomas Collins, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CSM Earnie Holifield, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Donald R. Doering, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CSM Rick Lavoie, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SFC Cecil A. Sager Jr, USA (Ret) Special Forces/Ranger

MSG Randy Earp, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Perry Turpin, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG John M. Ailello, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SFC John Bartsow, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG David Mullins, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CW5 Lawrence Plessler, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CSM Robert T. Hill, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Joe Back, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SGM Joe Burt, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Serafin Antonio Panigua, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Jack Pope, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SGM David L. Tope Jr, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SFC Henry F. Wilson III, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Kenneth J. Garcy, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SSgt Patrick Walker, USAF (Ret) Air Commando/SOWT
MSG Eddie Licon, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SFC Thomas F. Schultz, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SFC John Thomas Leggat, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Ernest Hartwig, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Dennis Cherup, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SGM Manuel Beck, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Jeff Ruble, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SFC Scott Randol, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CW5 Walt Edwards, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CWO (R) Miguel (Ponch) Ruiz-Pattzi, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Danny Cartwright, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG James Weatherford, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Don W. Benesh, USA (Ret) Special Forces/MACV-SOG
CSM Bobby Pruett, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SFC George Armstrong Menor, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Curtis Earle Edwards, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SSG Michael Duffy Jr., USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Lloyd O'Daniel, USA (Ret) Special Forces/MACV-SOG
CSM Roger George, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CSM Gerald E. Klein, USA (Ret) Ranger

SFC James Hull, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SGM Durwin Dengerud, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Ronnie Medini, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SGM Cecil W. "Bud" Morgan, USA (Ret) Special Forces/Ranger
CW2 Albert Matos, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Bruce Kuhlman, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Michael K. Aleen, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SSGT Danny J. Perry, USA (Vet) Special Forces
MSG James D. McHenry, USAR (Ret) Special Forces
SGT James "Ernie" Acre, USA (Ret) Special Forces/MACV-SOG
SFC Charles Roberts, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Tim Louys, USA (Ret) Special Forces
QMCS Richard R Powers Jr., USN SEAL (Ret.)
MSG Timothy M. Ferris, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SGM Jon F. Ridolfo, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SGM James Kilcoyne, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CW3 Bobby D. Shireman, USA (Ret) Special Forces
1SG Joseph M. Crane, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SGT Ward "Buddy" Gilbert, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Terry Huffman, USA (Ret) Special Forces
Jerry Kleive, USN SEAL
LCDR Cade Courtley, USN SEAL
LT H.S. (Bud) Thrift, USN SEAL (Ret.)
BMC Richard L. Arnold, USN SEAL (Ret.)
CDR Rick Bernard, USN SEAL (Ret.)
LCDR Steve Elson, USN SEAL (Ret.)
LT William J. Blackmon, USNR SEAL
CAPT Ronald K. Bell, USN SEAL (Ret.)
LT Philip A. Black, USN SEAL
Richard Cyrus, USN SEAL
LTJG James M. Hawes, USN SEAL
MCPO Jerome D. Cozart, USN SEAL (Ret.)
Captain Steve Ahlberg, US Navy (Ret.) SEAL
CPO Carl T. Zellers, USN SEAL (Ret.)
LCDR David L. Tash, US Navy (Ret.) SEAL

Jim Seidel, USN SEAL
HMC Richard Bryan Willis, USN SEAL (Ret.)
CDR R.J. Thomas, USN SEAL (Ret.)
LT Roland Samuelson, USNR SEAL
QMCM Tom Shoulders, USN SEAL (Ret.)
SCPO Dan Yowell, USN SEAL (Ret.)
CAPT Ron Seiple, USNR SEAL (Ret.)
SN Wayne Gough, USN SEAL
Paul A Tamosunas, USN SEAL
MSG Keith Laub, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CPT Robert S. Crenshaw, USA, RANGER
BMCS Frank Odermann, USN SEAL (Ret.)
CAPT Steve Ahlberg, USN SEAL (Ret.)
Rick Worthen, USN PBR
Hunter Grimes II USN SEAL
Maj William "Bill" Diggins, USAF (Ret) Air Commando
LT John R. Dew, USNR SEAL
CWO4 Gary Jackson USN SEAL (Ret.)
CDR Alan G Morris, USN SEAL (Ret.)
CDR Mark Divine, USN SEAL (Ret.)
MAJ Logan Fitch, USA Ret) Special Forces
Glenn Heidenreich, USN SEAL
Col. Michael Haas, USAF/USA, (Ret) Sp Forces/Ranger/Pararescue
MCPO Mark Kauber, USN SEAL (Ret.)
COL John D. Blair IV, USA SF (Ret.)
COL J. H. ("Scotty") Crerar, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CAPT Martin McNair, USNR SEAL (Ret.)
MCPO Tom Keith, USN SEAL (Ret.)
MAJ Charles Odorizzi, USA SF (Ret.)
LT John Rottger, USNR SEAL (Ret.)
LT Christopher O. Bent, USN SEAL
LT Martin Every, USN SEAL
COL Marshall Helena, USA (Ret) Special Forces/Ranger
COL Wayne Long, USA (Ret) Special Forces
Lt. Col. Tim Penley, USAF (Ret)

Lt. Col. Joseph W. Cook, III, USAF (Ret)
CAPT Edward Lyon, USN SEAL (Ret.)
CDR Tom Deitz, USN SEAL (Ret.)
CAPT Roger Crossland, USN SEAL (Ret.)
MAJ Andy Messing, USA (Ret) Special Forces
MSG Randy Lykens, USA (Ret) Special Forces
1SG Gordon V. Stinson, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CPO Brandon Webb, USN SEAL
LT Francis B. Cleary, USNR SEAL
LCDR Joe Fuller, USN SEAL
MSgt. Bob La Rosa, USAF (Ret) Air Commando
HTCS Steven Granger, USN SEAL (Ret.)
BMC Henry R. Kawecki , USN SEAL (Ret.)
Lt Col Dennis B. Haney, USAF (Ret) Wild Weasel
CDR Marshall D. Daugherty, USN SEAL (Ret.)
CWO4 Mike USN SEAL (Ret.)
QMCM Tom Shoulders, USN SEAL (Ret.)
SOCM Mike Bloom SEAL (Ret.)
Larry Reams, USA (Ret) Ranger
SCPO Robert J. Guzzo, USN SEAL (Ret.)
LCDR Thomas Kleehammer, USN SEAL (Ret.)
SOCS John Westfall, USN SEAL (Ret.)
CPO John Westfall, USN SEAL (Ret.)
SSG Chester Howard, USA (Ret) Special Forces
BMC Ted L. Traver, USN SEAL (Ret.)
Dennis H. Johnson, USN (Ret.) Command Master Chief Seal Team 6
LT Alan R. Horner, USN SEAL
CDR Bruce Willhite USN/SEAL (Ret.)
PO1 Don Tinnin (Medical Ret), SEAL
MSG John Nettles, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SFC Allen Berberick, USA (Ret) Special Forces
SFC Kelly A. Stewart, USA (Ret) Special Forces
CPO John J. Ballis, USN/SEAL (Ret.)
CPO Tom McCutchan, USN SEAL (Ret.)
LTC Raymond "Ray" Morris, USA (Ret) Special Forces

MMCM Kirk Scarboro, USN/SEAL (Ret.)
Philip Williams, USN Beach Jumper
Mike Macready, USN SEAL
HMC Manny Perez, USN SEAL (Ret.)
CDR Mike Wilkinson, USN SEAL (Ret.)
MCPO Thomas D. Vawter , USN SEAL (Ret.)
MCPO James Madison, USN SEAL (Ret.)
MCPO Bill Bruhmuller, SEAL USN (Ret.)
GM2 Benjamin Smith USN SEAL
BM1 Thomas E. Black, USN SEAL (Ret.)
Captain David Del Giudice, USN SEAL (Ret)
Chris Wilhelm, USN SEAL
MCPO Arturo Farias, USN SEAL (Ret.)
Joe Murray, USN SEAL
Chris Berman, USN SEAL
MCPO William A. Garnett, USN SEAL (Ret.)
Carlton. J. Poulnot, USN SEAL
Eric L. Hansen, USA (Ret.) Special Forces 18D
LCDR Robert S. Hayman, USN SEAL (Ret.)
William R. Rosencrans, USN SEAL
CPO Terrence Flynn, USN SEAL (Ret.)
Roger Guerra, USN SEAL
James Seidel, USN SEAL
CPO Robert Willingham, USN SEAL (Ret.)
Rick March, USN SEAL
Forrest Hedden, USNR SEAL
Michael J. Baumgart, USN SEAL
Gordon Boyce, USN SEAL