

# NV&GWVC NEWSLETTER

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## The Working Theory on Benghazi

By Larry J. O' Daniel

In the book, Shariah - The Threat to America - it was charged that today working analysts jeopardize their careers if they do not use politically correct language to describe the threat to the United States. That is an understatement. The book was written in 2010, before Benghazi. The Coalition's working theory is that the Intelligence Community is corrupted. The maxim to provide information to policy makers, without fear, without prejudice, and to present alternative theories if honest differences cannot be worked out, was gone on the night of the attack. In its place, is a "talking points" political mish mash of mush meaning nothing.

### BACKGROUND:

When a huge event occurs, the intelligence community is tasked to find out why. In early June, 1969, I was the Phoenix advisor in Thoi Binh District, An Xuyen Province. I had just transferred in from Go Cong Province, Hoa Tan District. I was being tasked ultimately to Song Ong Doc District, An Xuyen Province to handle the coordination with Breezy Cove, the Naval Base just outside Song Ong Doc district compound. Thoi Binh needed an adviser then during the wait for a new District Senior Adviser.

My team in Hoa Tan had just pulled off a significant VCI snatch a few weeks earlier. Hoa Tan was nearly pacified and I still had six months left on my tour. "Do it again" was implied in being transferred to a Province officially about 90% un-pacified.

That morning, the most significant VCI victory in

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the canal from Thoi Binh District Compound. An investigating team came from Corps Headquarters to investigate. As the Intelligence coordinator, I was part of that team. Everyone was interviewed that morning after a team was sent in to secure the compound. We also viewed the compound, the surrounding area, everything. I was of course interviewed.

Ultimately we found the VC timing was impeccable. They took advantage of the relative youth on the American advisory team (The acting DSA was still a 1LT on active duty about a year. The Phoenix Coordinator was still a 2LT on active duty less than a year and in Thoi Binh a couple of weeks.). They hit just after a rotation to the post by the wiped out unit. The VC had the advantage of position, strength (all ARVN units were undermanned and out gunned by the VC everywhere in An Xuyen. The big "surge" of effort was still in the final planning stages. It would not begin for another thirty to sixty days. There were no talking points. No denial of attack. No cover story. It happened. It hurt. I later found a document that named the unit and how and when it would happen – after – the event. Even if I had seen it, it would have meant little, not yet knowing the military and political landscape. I know a little about good operations and those that hurt.

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## The Working Theory on Benghazi

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### BENGHAZI:

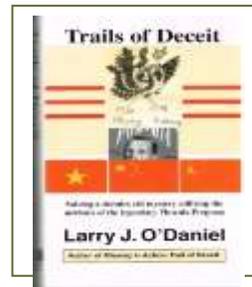
The attack at Benghazi was a recognized act of war. Two previous attacks on the United States ending with the deaths of Ambassadors were perpetrated by Islamist terrorists. Thus, when an Islamist terrorist group takes responsibility and provides an explanation for the attack that makes credible sense, they should be listened to.

The *Washington Free Beacon*, via its well connected and respected military writer Bill Gertz, quotes an Al Qaeda approved website claiming Libyan Ambassador Chris Stevens was killed during a botched kidnapping (article 6/5/13). This kidnapping was to be part of a prisoner swap - Stevens for captured prisoner Blind Sheikh. Allegedly, the death occurred during a lethal injection administered to Stevens.

This claim is in addition to one that Stevens was gang raped and sodomized in a manner similar to that of the late dictator Qadaffi, after his capture and overthrow. These two claims would contradict the public pronouncement of September 12, 2012 of a Libyan doctor that Stevens died of severe asphyxiation. It would definitely contradict every explanation of the Obama Administration beginning with the You Tube video one.

1. Ansar Al Sharia, an Al Qaeda group, took early credit for the attack, later modifying that claim to being they did not participate as a separate entity, but also carried out their duties they were entrusted with at the Benghazi Hospital.

*"Chris Stevens was killed during a botched kidnapping...Ansar Al Sharia, an Al Qaeda group, took early credit for the attack..."*



*Larry J. O' Daniel, author of the new book "Trails of Deceit."*

2. The known facts about the two previously killed Ambassadors are:

A. Adolph Dubs was killed in Afghanistan by Islamic terrorists in 1979 in a kidnapping attempt.

B. Francis Meloy was killed in 1976 after being kidnapped by a Palestinian Separatist Group.

C. Cleo A. Noel, Jr. was killed in the Sudan in 1973 in a botched attempt to trade Noel and others for jailed Sirhan Sirhan. The group involved was Black September, the same involved in the 1972 Olympics massacre of Israeli athletes. Also demanded was the release of "allies being held in Israeli and European prisons." Ten diplomats were seized and those killed were three non-Muslim.

3. In October 2012, after a delayed release because of war priorities (their explanation for the delay), Ayman al Zawahiri called for increased kidnappings of Westerners in an attempt to free terrorists already imprisoned. He gave that as one reason for the kidnapping of American contractor Weinstein in Afghanistan. Among those demanded released were Ramzi Yousef (WTC I bomber) and the Blind Sheikh.

4. In June 2012, a group naming itself after the Blind Sheikh was active in Benghazi around the time the first explosion took place at the American Consulate.

### FACTS BEARING ON THE THEORY:

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## The Working Theory on Benghazi

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5. Norman Benotman, a former Libyan Islamist leader who has since renounced terror and extremists, stated that in that same June, Benghazi Islamists were actively following (shadowing) our diplomats. In his analysis of the 9/11 attack, he declared this was probably in response to the deceased Libyan al Qaeda's leader's (al Libi) death (announced formally by al Qaeda just a couple of days before the attack). This was a revenge attack, he theorized. This took into account the attack happened in two waves, obviously timed as such, and there was the reported targeting of Americans as they left the consulate on the way to the safe house.

### OTHER FACTS TO CONSIDER:

A. The Zawahiri Trigger: Norman Benotman believes the attack in September was in retribution for the death of Al Libi. The Zawahiri video was cited in numerous press accounts just before and after the attack. Borth Muslim and non-Muslim press renderings mused the video was a trigger for the actual attack. The video was released no later than 24 hours before the attack, called for retribution attacks, and was primed for release on 9/11 (although it was plainly stated it was months in preparation).

B. The Administration debunked the trigger theory stating that it came "too soon before the attack for it to have been the signal to go" or variations on this theory. That would make it contrary to known precedents of such instances.

C. However, the Quran only requires a warning prior to an attack. It has no set time frame. It can be days, weeks, years, or minutes. The Quran does not require the entity warned even understand that they are being warned. It is up to them to understand the superior thinking and writing of the person doing the warning.

D. The Released Administration E Mails: (This particular set comes from USA Today 5/16/13 edition) In contrast to the Administration's stance on the Zawahiri video, the CIA warned the Cairo



Embassy, based on social media postings, that the Embassy in September might be demonstrated against and the jihadists were being encouraged to break into the Embassy. (This is a mirror reflection of the Zawahiri message and Zawahiri's brother was coordinating (or his presence was hugely felt) things in Cairo. There was no mention in these e mails of the Zawahiri "trigger".

E. The released e mails did not mention the sodomizing of Stevens. A Lebanese news organization Tayyar.org and the Libyan Free Press made the allegations early. This could not have escaped notice because the State Department and White House were notified of the Ansar Al Sharia claim of responsibility only two hours after the first attack. AFP denied it was a source for the Tayyar (Lebanon) news. The State Department was also queried by the Washington Times (Pickett) at the time of publication of such an alleged event as to the nature of Stevens' death.

F. Reuters reported (9/11/12) "Zawahiri's posting said the recording was made during Ramadan (July 19 - August 18 2012) but it was released to coincide with the anniversary."

G. Israel National News carried an article concerning Stevens being "gang raped." (9/21/12) Professor Phyllis Chesler - watched Stevens being dragged

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through the streets video and engaged two arabists to analyze what could be deduced. The mobs were chanting a song of victory over one's enemies and praising god for it (as they dragged the body through the streets). She further reported "according to one of my arabists, the Arab language media reported that Ambassador Stevens had been gang raped before he was mob murdered." She had the link to one of the sources and it was not Tayyar.org.

H. The Zawahiri video speaks for itself. It calls for retribution of al Libi's death and pictorially ties together the June 2012 attack on the Consulate (film) at Benghazi and the 9/11/01 attack in New York City.

I. Within two hours we knew and reported to appropriate State and CIA and White House addressees in the e mails that Ansar Al Sharia took credit for the attack. That somehow got scrubbed in the "talking points."

J. The media talking points - hit on by Susan Rice and the President and Secretary Clinton eerily reflected the early Arab News Reports on the attack as being in response to the You Tube video on Islam. By that time, other news organizations had already deduced the video played no part in the attacks. Even Al Jazeera noted the Zawahiri video, albeit they reported it as a "little noticed development" and correctly called it "Al Qaeda's Chief Ayman al Zawahirir publicly confirmed Libi's death."

The September 12 Telegraph reported "Ayman al Zawahiri mourned the death of a leading commander from Libya and urged his followers to puncture the 'arrogance' of the 'evil empire,' America." Noting the sequence of events, they continued, "This sequence suggests there could have been more to the bloodshed... than a spontaneous demonstration... escalated out of control... unlikely... that the attack could be so quickly planned in direct response... but the evidence shows that armed groups... have been trying to kill the representatives of Western countries for some time."

Continuing, "As for the theory that the fatal incident was sparked by the You Tube Video, no other protests of this kind are known to have taken place elsewhere in Libya." They also quoted Benotman "A statement from a local group styling itself 'Ansar al Sharia' was quick to claim responsibility."

There are more of the same and the Coalition has commented extensively to reinforce these views. This brings us to some disturbing working theory conclusions.

### WE APOLOGIZED FOR BEING ATTACKED

The Rice, President Obama, and Clinton widely reported and repeated statements about a You Tube Video few saw and no one except for the Muslim world reported on has all the symbolism of the United States apologizing for being attacked. If this is not "submission" to the Islamic Shariah requirement, no one has explained the difference. We were attacked in a casus belli for war. The country responsible for security provided none. Our Ambassador was humiliated in an Islamic Shariah fashion - thereby transferring the humiliation to the United States. No response militarily was made. Instead of pinpointing the attack on Al Qaeda or affiliate, an obscure video (actually a crude trailer) was blamed and the United States profusely apologized for a video that had no ties to the government. Statements went so far as to stop just short of calling for renunciation of Free-Speech rights.

A common theme in the Islamic press has been attacks have been perpetrated in Libya since June 2012 that "western intelligence agencies" based in Libya, were to blame because "they wanted to undermine Sharia, Islamic law..."

### FAST AND FURIOUS LIBYA...

The Coalition has noted the allegations of gun running from Libyan stocks to Syrian rebels favored by Islamic extremist groups and Qatar, Turkey, etc. There is no reason to reevaluate that position. It must be further investigated and publicly. The public has the "need to know" which side and why we are helping in this volatile situation.

## The Working Theory on Benghazi

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### **CORRUPTION OF THE INTELLIGENCE CYCLE...**

One of the most disturbing points to "Benghazigate" is the corruption of the intelligence services and the intelligence cycle. Here, the requirement began as soon as the attacks were known. What happened - why - did we know about it - what happened wrong, if anything. The information started in before the attacks. The warnings about security and the lack thereof. The Zawahiri and other social-media comments. The previous attacks on diplomats in Benghazi. Ansar al Sharia taking credit. The overhead UAV videos. On-the-spot reporting. The theory is they get put into a mix and sorted out by analysts with the guideposts of being honest and straight forward. If there are varying interpretations, they get sent to the DNI (Director of National Intelligence) for guidance and further analyzing. The goal is not to invent political talking points. The goal is to provide the best intelligence possible to decide upon further actions. Further, it is to inform the public about a hugely significant war like attack upon our country. None of this happened.

The Director of Central Intelligence, after showing no further interest in watering down the "talking points" to political blather of insignificant and spurious points was later relieved of duties after the election about a situation known for many months before by the Administration. This action effectively ended speculation General Petraeus might run in 2016.

The State Department was defensive in protecting it's turf and reputation. They wanted no repercussions for actions either taken, not taken, contemplated, or not contemplated which would reflect badly on a potential 2016 candidate. Truth was not sought and the Secretary widely yelled "what difference does it make now?"

The first statement seen (and released after declassification) was straight forward about what happened. However, like many numerous other situations, Fast and Furious, the attack and assassination of UBL, federal knowledge about the Boston Bombers, the first statements, rewrites, clarifications, re-clarifications, re-cantings, re-castings, etc. "puncturing the fog of war" were false. They were deceiving, They were misleading. They were lies. Blame came back in Benghazi on the intelligence community. Not a single leader publicly protested or leaked every so cleverly so as to get the point across while maintaining deniability, in their defense. This has happened so often as to make it a running joke that intelligence in this administration is an oxymoron.

Words have meanings and consequences, especially in analysis. No one can take seriously public pronouncements. You wait for the fifth rewrite to see what might have actually happened. The intelligence community has to be frustrated. They cannot use words like jihad, islamist, Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas, Hezbollah, Shariah, Al Qaeda, etc. in their correct context defined by official documents and authoritative writings. We have workplace violence. Overseas-contingency-operations. Extremists (undefined as to who or what). An act of war became a crying towel about a third rate trailer no one ever saw. Actual facts got scrubbed.

This is corruption that professionals should shun, denounce, refuse to participate in, become whistle blowers about. It is dishonest and a high crime and misdemeanor. You cannot plan actions against an enemy you cannot accurately define either in composition or in tactics. You are submitting to a planned defeat.

Larry J O'Daniel, former CPT, USAR, MI is a graduate of the Military Intelligence School, the Infantry School, Electronic Warfare School, Counterinsurgency (Phoenix) course. He served on the Staff and Faculty of the Electronic Warfare School before leaving active duty. He helped formulate beginning information sharing plans for Arizona and CENTCOM, Iraq. He has written several books, articles, and commentaries on professional intelligence gathering over a 43 year period. He is the POW Chair of the National Vietnam and Gulf War Veterans Coalition and is a member of the Counterterror Committee.

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Larry O' Daniel is a member and contributor to the NV&GWVC Counter-Terrorism Unit and we would like to thank him for his efforts on behalf of the NV&GWVC.

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## **Conclusion:**

Sadly, we have a national security team that subordinates itself to Islamic circles. The President bows to a Saudi King. The Secretary of State wears Islamic head scarves. We scrub our governmental language about a genuine war we are supposedly still engaged in. The administration engages with, endorses, refuses to use appropriate terms for, agencies, allies of, and actual named groups once called unindicted co-conspirators in terror supporting activities. Counter terror heads cannot define a simple term like jihad (it cannot be of ignorance since Islam was studied and certain facts of which pronouncement is more authoritative than others has to be known).

In intelligence, a guiding principle is "if you believe in coincidence, you do not belong in the intelligence field." All these things point to a conclusion, we are not at war against those proposing Shariah on the United States. The war on Al Qaeda long ago became a wide ranging war against all enemies - known and beginning to know - who affiliate with that group. Al Qaeda itself was a front for those who want to impose a world-wide caliphate. It was not self-sustaining. It took orders from others. It gave orders to others. Sunnis and Shias have united in a common cause - defeat the Big and Little Satan (USA and Israel) - and where needed, they will put aside differences (and have done so in active plots, actual attacks, and actual conspiracies) to defeat us. That does not preclude attacks on each other as Shariah allows that also.

Failure to acknowledge this, publicly discuss this, publicly encourage debate and scholarly research into this, is tantamount to malfeasance in office.