

S. HRG. 113-184

# **BENGHAZI: THE ATTACKS AND THE LESSONS LEARNED**

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## **HEARING**

BEFORE THE

## **COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS UNITED STATES SENATE**

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

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**EXHIBIT 1**

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Jacob Sullivan (SCB) .....	6
Team Chief, Office of Terrorism Analysis .....	9
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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

So, as far as the, "Hey, you're not going to Benghazi anymore," I don't know if I was ever told, like, "You aren't going to Benghazi." I was just told, "Hey, possible thing that may come along is that, [REDACTED] you're going here, and, sister platoon, Sixth Platoon, you're going to go there." Most of my planning and preparation evolved around me going to Tripoli.

Q When was your platoon packed out and ready to get on a plane?

A I believe it was around 0545. I know it was before 6.

Q Obviously, your company commander is aware of that.

A Yes, sir.

Q Did they notify anybody up the food chain that at 0545 you're ready to go?

A Yes, sir.

Q Who would they notify?

A He would have notified CTF 68.

Q And, again, for the record, tell me what CTF 68 is.

A CTF 68 is a subordinate command to Sixth Fleet. At the time, it was basically a skeleton staff that facilitated communication for the elements of the Navy and the Marine Corps that were stationed at Naval Station Rota for the Sixth Fleet that was stationed in Naples.

[REDACTED]

Captain [REDACTED] Yes, ma'am.

Ms. Green. -- and is also local time in Libya.

Mr. Tolar. Yes. Thank you.

BY MR. TOLAR:

Q Do you recall whether or not you learned about the Ambassador was missing before midnight?

A I believe that that did not come out on the news until I had done my recall and that we were watching the news in the company CP.

Q You had mentioned that you talked to your company commander prior to midnight when you started seeing this stuff go down. Did he give you any specific guidance?

A "Be ready."

Q Okay.

Let's talk about September 12. So we've passed midnight, we've rolled into the 12th. When did you receive VOCO or a warning order that the FAST platoon was going to be mobilized?

A Around 0230 is when we got the official notification. So that was our official, [REDACTED] We already had some lead-in to it, obviously.

Q So, in hour --

A Yes, sir.

Q -- was it at 0239? Does that sound familiar?

A Yes, sir.

Q Okay. All right. Obviously, by that point, you'd already

initiated your recall process?

A Yes, sir.

Q Who notified you officially that you were being mobilized?

A My company commander.

Q Okay. And what was his name?

A Major [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Q And how were you notified?

A In person, face-to-face.

Q What were your specific orders at that time?

A Prepare my platoon to deploy to Libya. We didn't know where exactly we were going, but we knew through open media sources of what was going on on the deck.

At that time, we started to make contact with the embassy to attempt to gain SA of what was happening and what our potential mission would be. We started to do the Marine Corps planning process, so intelligence preparation of the battle space and then problem-framing to figure out what our courses of action could be.

Q Were you aware on the 12th that any other DOD assets were being mobilized?

A My company commander told me that there was a high probability that CIF, Commanders In-extremis, were being mobilized, but, other than that, we did not know of anyone. Or I did not know of anyone.

Q Okay. Do you know what their mission was going to be?

A I do not, sir.

[REDACTED]

A Absolutely.

Q Did you believe you had all the necessary enablers, air assets? Were they readily available to support you if you needed them?

A Absolutely. Yes, sir.

Q All right. Let's talk about September 11. Talk to me for a minute about where you all physically were on September 11. Were you on base? Were you --

A Yes, sir. So, when we're deployed there, all my Marines are living in the enlisted quarters, which is right behind the company CP. And then myself and my platoon sergeant, we are in the Navy Gateway Inn, 250 meters up the road from the company CP.

So, that evening, I recall I was actually talking to my dad on Skype, watching the Armed Forces Network news channel, which rotates through news affiliates, and I think it was Fox News that night. And all of a sudden we see a consulate building on fire. And I said sarcastically to my father, "Well, I probability won't be in Spain tomorrow."

As soon as I hung up with him, I got on the phone with my commanding officer, and we had a short talk of, "Hey, are you watching the news?" "Yeah, I'm watching the news." "Hey, when do we want to recall the boys?" And he said something more or less in the lines of, "Make sure you do your laundry and you got enough soap."

A couple hours later, he was calling me, telling me he was going to go down to the commander of CTF 68, who is the higher headquarters of FAST Company Europe, and that I needed to start getting my Marines

[REDACTED]



together. This was around midnight, so it would be on September 12.

Start getting my Marines together at midnight on September 12. We didn't know what was going on. And a lot of them already had SA because they also had TVs in their room.

Q Did you initiate your recall roster --

A Yes, sir.

Q -- at midnight, more or less?

A Around midnight is when my platoon sergeant and I initiated the recall.

Q Okay.

Mr. Richards. And that was Spanish time, just for clarification?

Captain [REDACTED] Yes, sir, Spanish time.

BY MR. TOLAR:

Q Okay.

Let's back up a little bit. In terms of the Rota Naval Station, were there any air assets typically stationed at Rota?

A No, sir. No. What we always planned upon is primarily aircraft coming from Ramstein, because that's where the preponderance of Air Force C-130s were. And, if necessary, we had the ability to reach out to the C-130s that were disaggregated from the MEU if they were in vicinity of Naval Station Europe.

Q Were there any other Marines in Rota?

A I believe that there was a Marine Corps liaison to the Spanish. He's generally a Harrier pilot because that's the airframe that they fly. I don't think there's any other Marines in Rota.