

Obama, Brennan Set Up Ambassador Stevens for Murder in Benghazi

by William F. Wertz, Jr.

Benghazi: The Definitive Report

by Brandon Webb and Jack Murphy
New York: William Morrow, February 2013
80 pages, eBook, \$2.99

Feb. 16—Published on the very day that the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence held its hearing to confirm the nomination of John Brennan as Director of the CIA, this report by Jack Murphy, a former U.S. Army Ranger and Brandon Webb, a former U.S. Navy SEAL, sets out to expose the role of Brennan, as the person whose secret assassination operation, run with the blessing of President Obama, was ultimately responsible for the fact that Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans were killed in Benghazi. They base their charges largely on interviews with people in Libya.

Although the 83-page eBook does not hold Obama responsible for Brennan's crimes, which Obama authorized, and does not fully explore the inside-outside operation run by the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG) to carry out the terrorist attack in Benghazi, it nonetheless presents a case which should contribute to stopping the confirmation of Brennan as CIA Director, and which could lead to the impeachment of Obama.

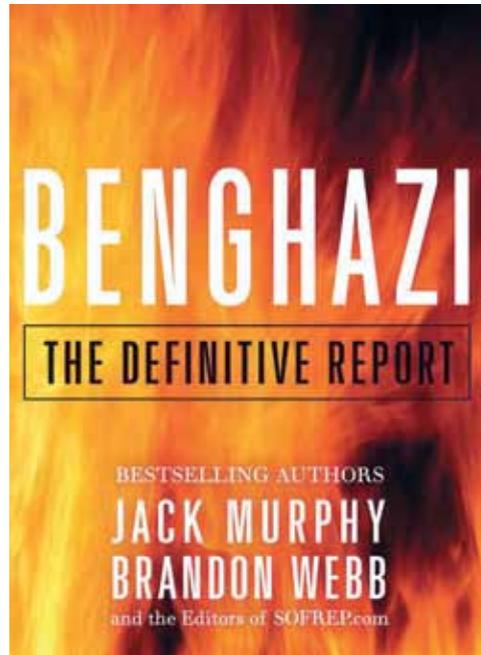
In the first chapter, "The Libyan Powder Keg," the authors implicitly point out that Obama has been in an

alliance with al-Qaeda in Libya. They identify the LIFG, members of which returned home from Afghanistan with the most radical religious ideas "such as Wahhabi Islam, originally from Saudi Arabia." They also point out that on a per-capita basis, Libya, in particular, the Libyan cities of Benghazi and Derna, provided the greatest number of al-Qaeda fighters against the U.S. in Iraq. These two cities, they write, have traditionally been the home of the "Libyan Fighting Group."

As *EIR* has previously reported,¹ during the "revolution" against Qaddafi, the group supported and promoted by Obama and British Intelligence was the LIFG, which was designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization, and which officially merged with al-Qaeda in 2007. All of the participants in the 9/11 terrorist attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi were connected to the LIFG, including Ansar al-Sharia, which led the attack, and all of the militias and organizations which were supposed to provide security,

including the February 17th Brigade, which was created by the emir of the LIFG, Abel Hakim Belhadj, and Libya Shield, which is run by Wissam bin Hamid, who was identified in an August 2012 Library of Congress Report as possibly the head of al-Qaeda in Libya.

Importantly, Ambassador Stevens was aware of the threat represented by the LIFG, going back to his stint



1. See *EIR*, Feb. 1, Feb. 8, and Feb. 15, 2013, for previous articles on this subject.

in Libya as Deputy Chief of Mission in 2007-09. From what they report, Stevens clearly recognized the danger inherent in the project to overthrow Qaddafi:

“While Stevens commented on the difficulty faced in dealing with Gaddafi, in regard to African regional issues, he did state outright to General Ward (AFRICOM commander prior to being removed for misconduct) and Secretary [of State Condoleezza] Rice that Libya (pre-Civil War) was a strong ally in the fight against terrorism. He reiterated that Gaddafi feared a ‘terrorism belt’ that stretched through the Sahel on his southern border from Mauritania to Sudan and was proud of the fact that he’s convinced the tauregs in the south to cease smuggling weapons and terrorists through the desert in exchange for economic incentives. Stevens made it clear that Libyan security services took the threat of the Libyan Fighting Group and Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) very seriously. So long as Gaddafi remained in power, these elements were kept in check internally by the dictator.”

U.S. Boots on the Ground

The authors challenge Obama’s contention that there were no U.S. boots on the ground in Libya, and that therefore, there was no need to seek the consent of Congress, as specified by the Constitution and the War Powers Resolution, to carry out military operations against Qaddafi. They write:

“What we do know is that the British Special Air Service (SAS) landed in Libya at some point—probably the secretive intelligence gathering component of the SAS called ‘The Increment,’ which works alongside MI-6. Elite counter-terrorist operators from America’s Delta Force were deployed to Libya as ‘analysts,’ which allowed President Obama to declare that America did not have any boots on the ground but was simply providing air support for the rebels. The reality was that Delta Force had a small contingent instructing the rebels in the finer points of weapons and tactics.”

In addition, they report that numerous private military companies (PMCs) were on the ground during the Libyan civil war. “Among the PMCs in Libya at this time were SECOPEX of France, led by Pierre Marziali; Blue Mountain Group of the U.K. [which failed to provide security at the U.S. mission on 9/11—WFW]; AKE, run by former SAS operator Andrew Kain; and Galice Security out of France, led by former GIGN commando Federic Gallis. MVM, a company that had a large number of CIA contracts at the time, also had

people on the ground in the aftermath of the civil war. . . . The possible involvement of other American PMCs with known agency links—such as Xe(Select), Triple Canopy, and SOCMG—is something that needs further investigation.”

The authors also reveal the possible involvement of PMCs in the murder of Qaddafi:

“A video showing Gaddafi’s body being dragged and sodomized with a bayonet has voices in the background, voices speaking Spanish with a Colombian accent. Could this misplaced Colombian have been working for the UAE’s Reflexive Responses?” They go on to say that Reflexive Responses was established by Erik Prince of Blackwater infamy, and that the nucleus of this PMC is known to consist of Colombian military veterans. They also point out that it would have been “highly embarrassing” if Qaddafi had stood trial and started talking about which governments he had under-the-table agreements with.

Brennan’s Secret War?

The basic thesis of the report is that Obama authorized Brennan as his chief of counterterrorism to carry out a secret war in the Middle East and Northern Africa without the knowledge of the CIA, the Pentagon, or the State Department. Sometime during the Summer of 2012, he carried out operations against al-Qaeda operatives in Libya, which resulted in the retaliatory attack on the mission on Sept 11. Since Brennan’s operations were secret, he did not take measures to protect the mission.

Referring to Stevens and the American forces in Benghazi, the authors state that, “They had no idea that Special Operations missions would be kicking the hornets’ nest in Libya and therefore could not prepare for the fallout that would result.”

The authors maintain that “behind closed doors, President Obama had given his counterterrorism adviser, John Brennan, *carte blanche* to run operations in North Africa and the Middle East. . . . In 2012, a secret war across North Africa was well underway. . . . With JSOC (Joint Special Operations Command) Brennan waged his own unilateral operations in North Africa outside of the traditional command structure.” These operations were “off the books.”

“Sometime prior to September of 2012, this JSOC element was directed by John Brennan to conduct operations in Libya. These operations targeted a high-level Al Qaeda operative who will not be named here



White House/Pete Souza

President Obama authorized John Brennan, then his chief of counterterrorism, to wage a secret war in the Middle East and Northern Africa, which led, according to the Murphy-Morrow book, to the retaliatory attack on the Benghazi mission in September 2012.

out of consideration of operational security.

“In the weeks before the Benghazi tragedy, they most likely hit a known associate of al-Suri in order to get him to ‘up periscope’ and increase his visibility, which would then make it possible for JSOC to run a targeted operation to kill or capture him.”

The authors are perhaps deliberately contradictory as to the target of this operation. They say they won’t name the target, but then they name al-Suri, about whom they say the following: “One of the main targets is known to be Yasin Al-Suri, one of the last major league Al Qaeda leaders. . . . Al-Suri is the architect behind Al Qaeda’s current open-front setup, which encourages self-radicalizing cells to work independently in a sort of ‘plug and play’ strategy.”

Although the authors identify al-Suri as Yasin, there are actually two al-Qaeda operatives with the last name al-Suri, Yasin and Abu Musab. Abu Musab is the individual who, better fits their description. Before 9/11/2001, he was the person who took Western report-

ers to meet with Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan. He was captured by the CIA in late 2005, later rendered to Syria where he was imprisoned until sometime in December 2011, when he was released. His whereabouts are not currently known. He is the author of a 1,600-page book entitled *A Call to a Global Islamic Resistance*.

They also mention senior al-Qaeda operative Abd al-Baset Azzouz, who was dispatched from Pakistan by Egyptian al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri to establish a base of operations in Libya. But they don’t mention another al-Qaeda senior operative also believed to be in Libya, Abd al-Hamid al-Ruqhay, alias Abu Anas al-Libi.

While the specifics of Brennan’s operation by their nature cannot be confirmed, it is nonetheless known that in June 2012, Obama and Brennan did carry out a drone assassination in Pakistan of Abu Yahya al-Libi, the second-

in-command of al-Qaeda, and the younger brother of a founding member of the LIFG in Libya, who is now an official in the Libyan Interior Ministry. It is also known that al-Zawahiri called for retaliation for this drone assassination. And despite the fact that Abu Yahya al-Libi and his older brother were known members of the LIFG and that the mission’s security was provided by militias controlled by the LIFG, neither Obama nor Brennan lifted a finger to protect Ambassador Stevens and the mission.

Thus, although the specific mission the authors report that Brennan carried out cannot be confirmed, an operation of the same nature is known to have occurred.

The authors also report that Brennan was directly responsible for transferring weapons to the opposition in Syria and did this behind the back of Ambassador Stevens:

“While it is an open secret that the United States has been facilitating or at the very least allowing, large weapons transfers from Libya to rebel fighters in Syria,

it is unlikely that Stevens was involved in these activities, as they do not fall under purview of a Foreign Services officer in the State Department. Furthermore, Ambassador Stevens did not see eye to eye with White House counterterrorism adviser John Brennan when it came to unilateral military action, which Stevens saw as counterproductive to his mission in Libya.”

Thus they write that “Stevens likely helped consolidate as many weapons as possible after the war to safeguard them, at which point Brennan exported them overseas to start another conflict.”

They also assert that the forced resignation of CIA Director David Petraeus was a palace coup, and that John Brennan wanted to replace him.

“It is an open secret in Washington, D.C., that John Brennan is a world-class windbag. . . . He has long had his eye on becoming the Director of Central Intelligence or Director of National Intelligence.”

The authors’ conclusion is that Brennan should be reined in or fired, but if what they say is true, and there is good reason to believe it is, what they document must be thoroughly probed by the U.S. Congress, and if Barack Obama authorized Brennan’s actions, then Obama is impeachable for authorizing the “private

war” carried out by Brennan in violation of the U.S. Constitution, which private war led directly to the murder of Stevens and the other Americans.

The authors cite an article by Seymour Hersh written in 1987 entitled “Targeting Gaddafi,” which detailed how the White House’s National Security Council was exploiting a legal loophole in order to kill him. He wrote in the aftermath of the Iran-Contra scandal that, “Oliver North would emerge in the public’s perception as a unique and extraordinary player inside the National Security Council, a hard-charging risk-taker who was different from his colleagues. It is now apparent that North was but one of many at work in the White House who believed in force, stealth and operations behind the back of the citizenry and the Congress. He was not an aberration, but part of a White House team whose full scope of operations has yet to be unraveled.”

What Obama has unleashed through Brennan is far worse than Iran-Contra and far worse than Watergate. If Brennan is confirmed, far more Americans will die. But as evil as Brennan is, it is President Obama who has enabled him. If Obama is not impeached, there will be many more Benghazis, some of them without doubt inside the United States of America.

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