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Wilson, Terpil and the Pentagon

The House intelligence committee has evidence indicating that the Pentagon, not the CIA as has been suspected, might have established ties with two former CIA men accused of providing weapons and expertise to train terror teams in Libya in recent years. The CIA has denied any formal connection with Edwin Wilson and Frank Terpil during their Libyan operations. Thomas Clines, a former CIA officer, has told the House investigators that upon retiring in 1978 he was awarded a secret Defense Department contract to find information on Soviet weapons sold to Libya and that he hired as his agent Douglas Schlachter, who was then working for Wilson in Libya. Clines said he received his contract from Erich von Marbod, a senior official of the Defense Security Assistance Agency—a Pentagon office that handles arms sales to foreign countries but isn't supposed to be involved in intelligence projects. Von Marbod retired last December; associates say that he took a legitimate medical retirement and left under no cloud.