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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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REPORT CLASS SECRET//ORCON/NOFORN

DIST: 14 SEPTEMBER 2012

COUNTRY: (U//FOUO) LIBYA

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SUBJ: (S//OC/NF) OBSERVATIONS FROM THE 11 AND 12 SEPTEMBER 2012

**Attacks Against the U.S. Consulate and Separate U.S.**

**Facility in Benghazi, Libya**

DOI: (U//FOUO) Mid-September 2012

SOURCE: (S//NF) A CIA Officer.

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SUMMARY: (U//FOUO) None.

TEXT: 1. (Context Statement: The source of the following information was a CIA officer with direct access to the below events.)

2. On 11 September 2012 at approximately 2200 (local), during an **attack** on the **U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya**, a commander of an unidentified militia in the proximity of the facility stated that the **attackers** belonged to the Ansar al-Shari'a militia. The militia commander stated that he preferred to negotiate with the **attackers** rather than move toward the Consulate and engage in armed confrontation with them. At this time, there was no sign of a large gathering or protest; the only individuals observed in front of the Consulate were militia members who were neither participating in the **attack** nor providing assistance to the Consulate.

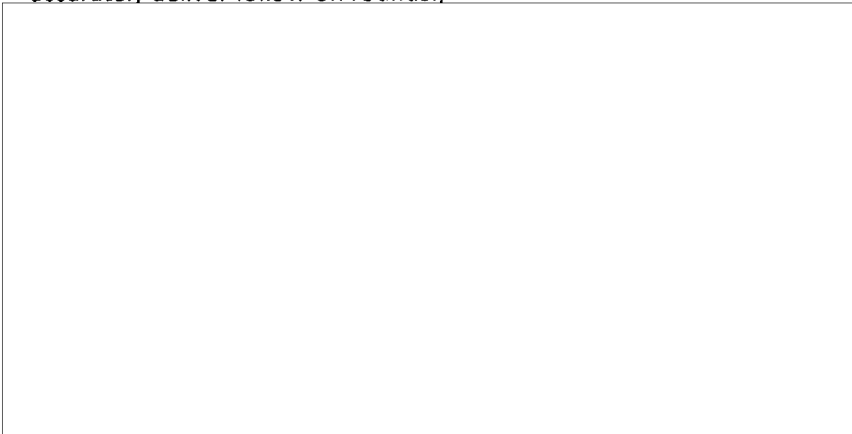
3. The **attackers** breached the Consulate compound using explosives and immediately **attacked** the guard building and lit it on fire. Following this, they moved through the compound and **attacked**

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the various buildings, also lighting them on fire using fuel from the compound's generators. In addition to small arms, the **attackers** employed large-caliber weapons (NFI) and rocket propelled grenades (RPGs) against the vehicles carrying U.S. personnel as they evacuated from the **U.S. Consulate**.

4. On 12 September 2012 at approximately 0100 (local), following the **attack** on the **U.S. Consulate**, groups of individuals approached a separate **U.S. facility in Benghazi** and used small arms and an RPG against the facility. Following an exchange of fire between the **attackers** and **U.S. personnel** at the facility, the **attackers** retreated. (CIA Officer Comment: The **attackers** likely were aware of the general area in which the **U.S. facility** was located, but it appeared they were uncertain as to its exact location. They were likely unaware of the facility's defensive posture and were surprised by the ability of the facility's personnel to effectively locate and engage them.) At approximately 0500 on 12 September, the **attackers** returned and engaged the same **U.S. facility in Benghazi** with mortar fire. The first and second rounds landed to the south and north of the compound, respectively, and subsequent rounds impacted within the compound, including three to four direct hits on the compound's main building. (CIA Officer Comment: The mortar fire was highly accurate and was assessed to have originated from a racetrack approximately 800 meters south of the facility. The first and second shots likely "bracketed" the main building and allowed the assailants to accurately deliver follow-on rounds.)



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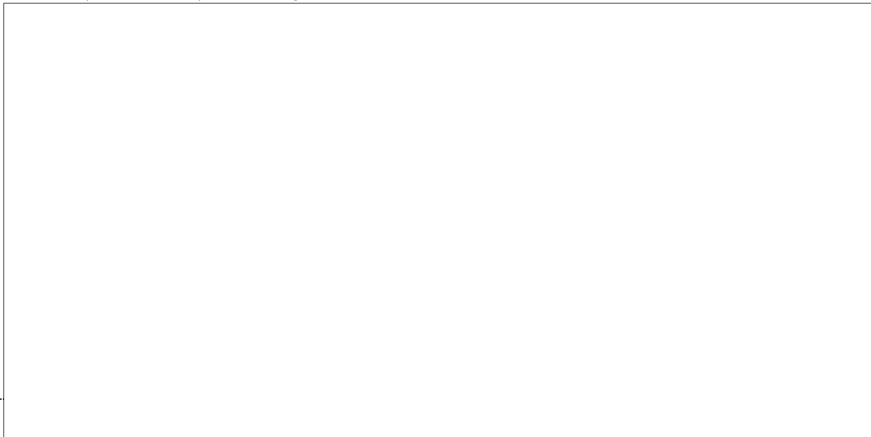
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