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# MailOnline

## Revealed: Ambassador to Libya told officials of security worries on day he died in consulate raid as special forces chief says he asked for 'more not less' back-up month before attack

- Chris Stevens wrote cable warning militias could turn against U.S.
- Armed Libyan groups were responsible for security around Benghazi
- Head of special-operations team tells of dismay at being ordered to leave Libya a month before attack which killed ambassador and three others

By [Hugo Gye](#)

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**Warning: Chris Stevens told officials that militia groups providing security in Benghazi had turned against the U.S.**

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The American ambassador to Libya sent a diplomatic cable spelling out his worries about the security situation in Benghazi on the day he was killed in a raid on the U.S. consulate, it has been revealed.

Chris Stevens told State Department officials that two militias which had been providing security in the city were threatening to withdraw over a dispute about U.S. policy.

The news comes at the same time as it has emerged that the head of a special-operations team helping the embassy in Libya with security asked for 'more, not less' reinforcements before the government pulled dozens of people out of the country earlier this year.

The revelations could come as a further blow to Barack Obama, whose administration has been under fire for failing to prevent last month's terrorist attack.

On September 11th, the day he died, Mr Stevens wrote to Washington officials detailing a dispute involving the leaders of two prominent Benghazi militias who were responsible for security in the city, according to the [Daily Beast](#).

The two men, Wissam bin Ahmed and Muhammad al-Gharabi, claimed that the U.S. was lobbying for centrist politician Mahmoud Jibril to become Libya's prime minister.

They said that if he won the vote, they 'would not continue to guarantee security in Benghazi, a critical function they asserted they were currently providing,' according to Mr Stevens.

Despite that warning, Mr Stevens did not ask for more U.S. troops, and commented that Benghazi officials believed the city was becoming safer.

The cable made no mention of a U.S.-made YouTube video mocking the Prophet Muhammad which was originally thought to have been the motivation for the deadly assault on the consulate later that night.

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**Rage: A protester holding his rifle during the assault on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi on September 11th**



**Attack: Four U.S. citizens died in the raid on the consulate in Benghazi, including Mr Stevens**

The American compound was being guarded by members of the 'February 17 Martyrs Brigade', a militia which shared members with the groups run by Mr bin Ahmed and Mr al-Gharabi.

It was not only Mr Stevens who saw potential security issues cropping up in Libya before the September 11 raid.

Lt. Col. Andrew Wood, who was head of a Special Forces 'Site Security Team' in the country, said officials felt 'like we were being asked to play the piano with two fingers' after a number of troops were withdrawn from

Libya in August.

He told [CBS This Morning](#) that worried embassy staff had approached him to ask if they would still be safe when his team had left.

'I could only answer that what we were being told is that they're working on it,' he said.

He added: 'Shooting instances occurred, many instances involved the local security guard force that we were training.'

'Constantly, there were battles going on between militias, criminal activity and that became increasing danger as time went on as well.'



**Pleas: Lt. Col. Andrew Wood said he asked for reinforcements in Libya but faced troop withdrawals instead**



**Aftermath: The U.S. consulate in Benghazi the day after last month's deadly assault**

Mr Wood claimed that other senior officials, including Mr Stevens, had requested a boost in the U.S. security presence, saying: 'We felt we needed more, not less.'

Although his team was based in the city's capital Tripoli, Mr Wood said he would have accompanied the ambassador to Benghazi had he still been in the country.

State Department officials said that as the Site Security Team was intended to help re-open the embassy in Tripoli, their departure from Libya was irrelevant to the subsequent security situation.

They also claimed that Mr Wood did not know the details of the situation in Benghazi, which is 400 miles from the capital.

Mr Wood is one of many witnesses who will this week appear at a hearing of the House Oversight Committee investigating the assault.

## VIDEO: Ambassador Stevens assesses the situation in Libya in August 2011:

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This is appalling to me. We have got to vote this president out of office.

- [Tiffany](#) , Alabama, USA, 08/10/2012 20:27

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thanks to the anti USA and west the zombie OBAMA

- [luigi](#) , watford, United Kingdom, 08/10/2012 19:25

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We need to protect our assets better

- [Jim](#) , United States of America, 08/10/2012 19:23

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Our Commander-In-Chief has been MIA for the last year. He campaigns non-stop. Hillary Clinton should be fired and Obama should be replaced after November 6th.

- [MJT](#) , Somewhere in the USA, 08/10/2012 19:02

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The deaths of the ambassador and others, are due entirely to the decisions of Obama and Hillary Clinton. THEY WERE WARNED, and ignored the warnings. Then they LIED about it, time and time again. The blood of these men is on their hands. I don't know how they can sleep at night. I apologize to the world for these hopeless, worthless do-nothings. With a new president, please give us another chance to make it right.

- [Brittnee](#) , Chillicothe USA, 08/10/2012 18:31

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Obama referred to the incident as a "bump in the road". I'm sure the Ambassador's family, along with the families of the other three slain Americans, would disagree with that statement. Obama and the State Department have lied consistently to the American public over this attack. But, the truth will eventually come out. It's funny none of this has been reported in the American media??

- [MarineE7](#) , Elgin, 08/10/2012 18:22

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Once again the bureaucrats in Washington knew better what was going on in Libya then the people sent to check the situation on the ground. I guess it is easier to stick their heads in the ground rather than face reality. Oh well it was only "a bump in the road". Road to where?

- [ftk67](#) , Las Cruces NM USA, 08/10/2012 18:16

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