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MailOnline

Panetta: President Obama was absent night of Benghazi attack and did not check in once during the night of the deadly terror assault

By [James Nye](#)

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The outgoing Defense Secretary Leon Panetta revealed on Thursday that President Obama was absent the night of the lethal attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya - despite being told that the attack was occurring.

Speaking in front of senators investigating the terror assault which saw four Americans, including Ambassador Chris Stevens lose their lives, Panetta said that Mr. Obama did not call or communicate with his defense secretary that night either.

According to his testimony, Panetta said that he met with the president at 5.00 p.m. on September 11th and went through a meeting that lasted 30 minutes during which he informed Mr. Obama of the incident before he left the Department of Defense for the evening and did not check back in.

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Defense Secretary Leon Panetta told senators on Thursday that President Barack Obama was absent the night U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other Americans were killed in Libya

According to Panetta's recollection the two spent around 20 minutes discussing events at the American embassy in Egypt that was surrounded at the time and the situation that had just begun to unfold in Benghazi.

'A Defense Department timeline says that Panetta and Dempsey had been informed of the terrorist attack in Benghazi at 4:32 p.m.--28 minutes before they went into their meeting with Obama,' according to [CNS News](#).

'At today's hearing, Panetta said he informed Obama of the attack when they entered their 5:00 p.m. meeting.

'That was one hour and 18 minutes after the attack started and while it was ongoing.'



Leon Panetta said that he and the President went through a 30 minute meeting knowing that the Benghazi attack had begun - but that was the last contact he had with Mr. Obama that evening

Panetta said to Senator Kelly Ayotte, that President Obama left operational details for Benghazi 'up to us' - implying that the situation was under the control of Panetta and General Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

'Did you have any further communications with him that night?' Senator Ayotte asked.

'No,' Panetta replied.

'Did you have any other further communications? Did he ever call you that night to say how are things going, what's going on, where's the consulate?' she followed-up with.

'No,' Panetta said in response. 'But we were aware as we were getting information about what was taking place there, particularly when we got information that the ambassador, his life had been lost, we were aware that that information went to the White House.'



The attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi claimed the lives of four Americans on September 11th 2012



Under attack: An armed man waves takes a picture as buildings and cars are engulfed in flames after being set on fire inside the US consulate compound in Benghazi late on September 11

In addition, Panetta admitted to Senator Ayotte that there was no communication with anyone at the White House and that no one from the White House called for an update on the situation.

It was also revealed that neither the Secretary of Defense nor the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff spoke

to Secretary of State Hilary Clinton once during the eight-hour attack on the consulate in Benghazi.

'In between 9:42 p.m., Benghazi time, when the first attacks started, and 5:15 am, when Mr. Doherty and Mr. Woods lost their lives, what conversations did either of you have with Secretary Clinton?' asked Senator Ted Cruz.



Ambassador Chris Stevens died in the attack - At Thursday's hearing, Panetta said he informed Obama of the attack when they entered their 5:00 p.m. meeting. That was one hour and 18 minutes after the attack started and while it was ongoing

'We did not have any conversations with Secretary Clinton,' said Panetta.

General Dempsey also said he had no conversations with the former Secretary of State.

'And General Dempsey, the same is true for you?' Cruz asked. Dempsey confirmed this.

VIDEO Panetta: Obama was absent the night of Benghazi attack

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Well Obama was voted in so stop moaning next time get off your backsides and vote and he will be replaced.

- [pat](#) , london, 08/2/2013 16:51

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Impeach this loser.

- [denise9829](#) , Sylvania, United States, 08/2/2013 16:46

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I firmly believe that Obama is the Anti-Christ!

- [Rosie B.](#) , Tahoe, United States, 08/2/2013 16:41

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BUSTED....

- [Stiggs](#) , any town, United States, 08/2/2013 16:37

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We suspected that Obama was missing in action as the Benghazi massacre was taking place, showing little or no interest in what was happening. The next morning, Obama flew to Las Vegas for yet another fund raiser to boost his election prospects. That's how much he cared. In the final analysis, Obama is the only one who could have authoritatively give the order to move heaven and hell to rescue those being attacked in Benghazi. He failed. Stunning incompetence.

- [Rootie](#) , Spokane WA USA, 08/2/2013 16:37

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Frightening times for Americans. We obviously have a narcissistic and possibly sociopathic President. He IS dangerous. He is either mentally compromised OR he is purposely as a "mole" bringing the destruction of America from within. We need to fear what Obama's next move will be (or omission) even more than a terrorist attack on our soil. This man and his wife have an unsatiable hunger for celebrity status, luxury, fine vacations, and seek out those who adore them.....Not only should Obama be impeached, Clinton resign, but the MSM be duly knocked down to the status of a "nickel" news. Oh, and it is my belief, that due to Obama's hubris, his mental instability, he will trip up big time. Something will happen that event he MSM will not be able to provide cover. Pride comes before a fall.

- [Lee Hopley](#) , seattle, United States, 08/2/2013 16:34

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" when all along it was Cheney who was after Iraq's Oil. Let's get real here People. - enlightenedgirl, believe, " Yes, let's get real. YOU do some research and tell us just who got the big Iraq oil contracts - Europeans, that's who. Now go away.

- [Stan-Expat](#) , Gone, 08/2/2013 16:32

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im pretty sure on 9/11 he had a busy schedule with all the memorials and such. very busy day

- [jimbob](#) , sonora, 08/2/2013 16:32

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A government full of empty suits.

- [Private](#) , Chicago USA, 08/2/2013 16:31

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I have always thought that if you followed the timeline of Obama, you would find out the truth. Exactly who was he with? I am guessing that Secret Service was covering up some affair Obama was having.

- [Jenna](#) , Boston, 08/2/2013 16:28

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