# An All-Too-Common Problem

When is a government bureaucracy too large and complex to handle simple tasks without a strenuous strain on resources and assets? This type of question would be one of many republican policy makers in the aftermath of the 2012 Benghazi tragedy. When U.S. government agencies start to believe their work takes precedence over those of their co-workers, they undermine the precious lines of communication within the government. Such lack of communication during precursors to the attack such as threats, a bombing at the consulate, and assassination attempts; so strong was the evidence of a danger, that it was failed to be prevented. These are just a few in over 300 documented security incidences. I am not bashing on any methods our government may use but in the words of Congressman Chaffetz in his recent visit to UVU, "Self Criticism is good for the nation."
After the revolution and the fall of Gaddafi, Libya was ruled by militias. Not one militia but many. They consisted of non-centralized, local bands of everyday citizens taking up arms against the regime. This lack of central leadership would make perfect conditions for every militia to form its own agenda. Most may be secular but there is always room for extremists that claim they fight for Islam. Whether way some may say extremist groups were involved or not, the evidence of threats has been there the whole time. The first such occasion is a threat against Christopher Stevens. He enjoyed a morning run outside the embassy compound. Somebody seemed to take notice when his daily running route; publishing it on Facebook with a threat against him, but no extra security measures were taken.

The second incident occurred in April 2012, when a lone man detonated a bomb in the wall of the consulate compound. The damage was done and even though he was caught on camera, still no extra security was added other than local guards with Walkie-talkies. This was during a time when Clinton wanted to "normalize" foreign security by reducing U.S. troop presence and keeping a low profile with local security forces. Still after military advice from leaders such as LTC Andrew Wood to add more security, the agenda of the state department was placed before the security of its personnel.

The third instance came in June when an assignation attempt on the British ambassador in the form of a car bomb. That was the final push for the U.K. government, U.N., and Red Cross. They all pulled out of Libya as violence increased. Suggestions were made over and over again to the state department for the U.S. to withdraw, but the ultimate decision was made to stay.

The only time when one U.S. government agency not listening to another actually worked was during the attack; When U.S. Navy Seals near the site responded to help fend off attackers. They do not respond to the State department but which freed them from any state protocol for defending.

We can see that the lack of communication can inhibit tragedy prevention but the real problem comes today as fingers are being pointed of whom is at fault and contradicting broadcasts of a "planned" vs "spontaneous attack." And If the U.S. wants to make better

foreign relations then they need to form stronger relations within themselves between agencies.

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