

# THE BENGHAZI BETRAYAL

by James “Mac” McCarty

## KEY CHARACTERS OF BENGHAZI



**Under Secretary of State Patrick Kennedy, Who Repeatedly  
Reduced Security in Benghazi**

### THE WHITE HOUSE:

**John O. Brennan (56).** Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Adviser. Although he is one of the president’s top counterterrorism advisors, Brennan appears to be largely “missing in action” on the Night of Benghazi.

**Thomas E. Donilon (57).** National Security Advisor. On the Night of Benghazi Donilon appears to defer to his deputy, Denis McDonough, to “lead” the U.S. government’s pathetic response to the terror attacks.

**Jacob “Jack” Lew (57).** White House Chief of Staff. Although he is present in the White House on the Night of Benghazi, Lew does not appear to play any significant role in responding to the attacks.

**Denis McDonough (42).** Deputy National Security Advisor. To the extent anyone is coordinating the entire U.S. government’s actions (and inactions) on the Night of Benghazi, it is Denis McDonough. However, he will be woefully ill-informed of the true facts on the ground in Libya.

**Barack H. Obama (51).** President of the United States and Commander in Chief. Although he ultimately is responsible for protecting the besieged Americans on the Night of Benghazi, he will never make it to the White House Situation Room. His whereabouts on this night largely remain a mystery to this day. He fails to call any Libyan leader to seek help. Obama never speaks with Secretary Panetta or General Dempsey again following their regularly-scheduled 5:00 p.m. meeting at the White House.

**Ben Rhodes (35).** Deputy National Security Advisor for Strategic Communications, National Security Council. Rhodes will be a principal architect of the “Benghazi Narrative,” designed to help minimize the significance of the terror attacks in Benghazi in order to win a presidential election just weeks away.

## **THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE:**

**Jeremy Bash.** Chief of Staff to Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta. Bash will represent the Pentagon on the marathon, two-hour interagency meeting of “Deputies” that leisurely discusses the crisis while it is ongoing five thousand miles away.

**General Martin E. Dempsey (59).** Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Along with Defense Secretary Petraeus, he will brief President Obama on the attacks in the Oval Office at 5:00 p.m. on the Night of Benghazi. He then will work with Panetta to identify three different U.S. military forces that can deploy during the crisis. Like Panetta and General Ham, Dempsey fails to ensure the U.S. military acts with urgency and efficiency during the attacks and evacuations.

**General Carter F. Ham (60).** Commander, U.S. Africa Command (“AFRICOM”). Forces under his command will fail to meet all of their timetables on the Night of Benghazi, and never will enter Benghazi to rescue the three-dozen besieged Americans there. Most of his troops never will get closer to Libya than Sigonella Naval Air Station in Sicily. Ham will “retire” just weeks after Benghazi.

**Leon E. Panetta (74).** Secretary of Defense. After briefing President Obama, Panetta will preside over a “Council of War” from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the Night of Benghazi. Following this conference, he will claim he orders three different military units to “Deploy Now” to respond to the crisis. None of the three units ever will make it to Benghazi. Only one unit makes it to Libya, but it arrives well after the Battle of Benghazi is over. Panetta will not remain at the Pentagon to “stand watch” to ensure his forces deploy quickly. He will never speak to the Secretary of State during the attacks and evacuations.

**Vice Admiral James “Sandy” Winnefeld (56).** Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. On the Night of Benghazi, after participating in Secretary Panetta’s 6:00 p.m. “Council of War” Winnefeld goes home to host a dinner party for foreign dignitaries while the Battle of Benghazi rages.

## THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE:

**Hillary R. Clinton (65).** Secretary of State. Clinton later will claim she had no involvement in the decisions that denied additional security in Benghazi, and that in fact significantly reduced security assets there. On the Night of Benghazi she will go home while her Ambassador, Chris Stevens, remains missing. She will not speak with Secretary of Defense Panetta a single time during the crisis.

**Gregory N. Hicks.** Deputy Chief of Mission, Tripoli, Libya. Hicks will take over as Chief of Mission in Tripoli following Ambassador Stevens' death. Hicks will supervise the evacuation of the U.S. Embassy on the Night of Benghazi, and will coordinate U.S. communications with the Americans besieged in Benghazi.

**Patrick F. Kennedy (63).** Under Secretary of State for Management. Kennedy made or approved many of the disastrous security decisions involving Libya generally, and Benghazi specifically. He will continue his mistakes on the Night of Benghazi, arguing the U.S. military should restrain itself in various ways, the "F.E.S.T." terrorism crisis-response team should not be deployed, and the Libyan government must approve any deployment of U.S. forces into that country.

**Charlene Lamb.** Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security. A subordinate of Patrick Kennedy's, she also made many unfortunate security-related decisions concerning the U.S. diplomatic outposts in Libya. She will be one of only four mid-level State Department employees suspended (with pay) for eight months for their actions concerning Benghazi.

**Cheryl Mills (47).** Chief of Staff and Counselor to Secretary of State Clinton. Mills will have extensive involvement in assembling, coordinating with, and overseeing the Benghazi "Accountability Review Board" charged with investigating the State Department's actions regarding the Benghazi tragedy.

**Susan E. Rice (47).** United States Ambassador to the United Nations. Although Rice had no involvement in any manner concerning Benghazi, she will be sent on five Sunday news shows to explain the crisis. Her appearance will be a disaster, and very likely costs her the nomination to succeed Hillary Clinton as Secretary of State.

**Sean Patrick Smith (34).** Information Management Specialist with the U.S. Foreign Service. In September 2012 he was temporarily assigned to the Special Mission Compound in Benghazi. Smith will be one of four Americans murdered by the terrorists on the Night of Benghazi.

**J. Christopher "Chris" Stevens (52).** U.S. Ambassador to Libya. Stevens will be assassinated by a terrorist mob on the Night of Benghazi after they set his residence on fire.

**Mark I. Thompson.** Deputy Coordinator for Operations, U.S. State Department, and head of the U.S. government's "Foreign Emergency Support Team" ("F.E.S.T."). U.S. officials will reject Thompson's recommendation to deploy F.E.S.T. to Libya on the Night of Benghazi.

**Dave Ubben** (about 31). A Diplomatic Security Agent with the State Department, one of five such security men stationed at the Mission Compound in Benghazi. He found the body of Sean Smith in the burned-out Mission Villa. Later, Ubben will be one of two Americans severely wounded during the terrorist attacks on the Night of Benghazi.

## THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY:

**David H. Petraeus (59).** Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Little is known of Petraeus' involvement in responding to the terror attacks on the Night of Benghazi.

**Michael J. Morell (54).** Deputy Director of the CIA (2010-2013). After the attacks, Morell will become responsible for preparing the now-infamous CIA "Talking Points" intended to explain what happened in Benghazi.

**Tripoli Chief of Station.** The top CIA official in Libya. On the Night of Benghazi, he organized and deployed "Team Tripoli," an improvised group of CIA security contractors and two U.S. special operations soldiers. Team Tripoli will be the only U.S. help headed to Benghazi.

### CIA Security Contractors:

**Dave "D.B." or "Boone" Benton (38, a pseudonym).** Private security contractor assigned to Benghazi.

**Glen A. "Bub" Doherty (42).** Private security contractor assigned to Tripoli. While a member of "Team Tripoli," he will be murdered in the dawn terrorist mortar attack on the CIA Annex on September 12, 2012.

**Mark "Oz" Geist (46).** Private security contractor assigned to Benghazi. He will be severely injured in the dawn terrorist mortar attack on the CIA Annex.

**Kris "Tanto" Paronto (41).** Private security contractor assigned to Benghazi.

**Jack Silva (38, also a pseudonym).** Private security contractor assigned to Benghazi.

**John "Tig" Tiegen (36).** Private security contractor assigned to Benghazi.

**Tyrone S. "Rone" Woods (41).** Private security contractor assigned to Benghazi. He will be murdered in the dawn terrorist mortar attack on the CIA Annex.



