# RUSSIA

## 2016ER ATTACKS

*Carly Fiorina, Bush, and Walker have been especially critical of Clinton’s “reset” policy with Russia, while Jindal has blamed her for Russia’s recent takeover of Crimea.*

**Bobby Jindal Blamed The Obama White House And Former Secretary Of State Hillary Clinton For Fumbling Foreign Policy, Including “Russia's Incursion Into Crimea And Ukraine.”** “Otherwise, Jindal's remark were heavy on blaming the Obama White House, including former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, for fumbling foreign policy. ‘Today, we see a world in which the Obama administration has neglected or abandoned America's long-standing allies. Our “special relationship” with Britain is gone, NATO is drifting, Eastern Europe is disaffected, and Israel has been purposefully alienated from the United States,’ he said. He went on to say the last months has sparked the rise of ISIS, Russia's incursion into Crimea and Ukraine, and other flare-ups around the world.” [The Post And Courier, [10/7/14](http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141007/PC1603/141009474/1031/louisiana-gov-bobby-jindal-takes-on-president-obama-at-the-citadel)]

**Fiorina: “I Have Met Vladimir Putin And Know That It Will Take More To Halt His Ambitions Than A Gimmicky Red ‘Reset’ Button.”** [Conservative Political Action Conference, [2/26/15](http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/02/25/carly-fiorina-is-getting-a-cpac-upgrade.html)]

**Jeb Bush’s Prepared Remarks To The Chicago Council On Global Affairs Contained A “Veiled Allusion” To Hillary Clinton In Criticizing The US-Russian “Reset” She Spearheaded.** “While the excerpts make no specific mention of Hillary Clinton, they contain a veiled allusion to the former secretary of state's 2009 attempt to re-establish relations between the United States and Russia. The so-called reset has become a focal point in Republican attacks against Clinton as she prepares for a potential 2016 run. ‘With grandiosity, they announce resets and disengage,’ Bush will say. ‘Hashtag campaigns replace actual diplomacy and engagement. Personal diplomacy and maturity is replaced by leaks and personal disparagement.’” [CNN, [2/18/15](http://www.cnn.com/2015/02/18/politics/jeb-bush-iraq-speech/)]

**Walker: Hillary Clinton Gave Russia A Reset Button.** “The fervent Republicans who throng the Conservative Political Action Conference every year aren’t representative of the American electorate … Rubio and others skipped ahead to criticize former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, whom they excoriated as no different from Obama in foreign affairs. ‘She actually gave a reset button to the Russians,’ exclaimed Walker, to whoops from the audience. ‘A reset button!’” [Los Angeles Times, [3/3/15](http://www.vindy.com/news/2015/mar/03/republicans-audition-for--play/)]

## CLINTON DEFENSE

**THE RUSSIA RESET WAS CONSIDERED BY SOME EXPERTS AND JOURNALISTS TO HAVE ACHIEVED ITS MAIN OBJECTIVES BY 2011**

**Carnegie Endowment Report: “Little More Than A Year On, The Reset Has Produced Some Impressive Concrete Outcomes.”** “Little more than a year on, the reset has produced some impressive concrete outcomes, ranging from a new strategic nuclear arms control agreement to cooperation on the transit of troops and equipment to Afghanistan to a united front on a new round of sanctions against Iran.” [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, [2010](http://carnegieendowment.org/files/indispensable_institutions.pdf)]

**Washington Post: “The Reset In Relations” Between The U.S. And Russia “Has Brought The United States A Number Of Rewards.”** “Still, a serious rupture between the United States and Russia could have wide-reaching consequences. The reset in relations has brought the United States a number of rewards, including cooperation on fighting terrorism, permission to use Russian territory to supply troops in Afghanistan, agreement on the New START nuclear arms pact and cooperation on dealing with Iran.” [Washington Post, [12/8/11](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/putin-lashes-back-at-clinton-criticism/2011/12/08/gIQAQ5lYgO_story.html)]

**December 2011: “The Obama Administration Has Shown Signs Of A Less Tolerant Approach To Russia, Suggesting It Had Met Its Reset Objectives And Was Preparing For A Testier Relationship.”** “The Obama administration has shown signs of a less tolerant approach to Russia, suggesting it had met its reset objectives and was preparing for a testier relationship…At the end of October, Clinton’s chief technology aide visited Russia to promote the benefits of a free Internet. Her assistant secretary for democracy and human rights met beleaguered activists, asking what kind of support the United States could provide.” [Washington Post, [12/8/11](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/putin-lashes-back-at-clinton-criticism/2011/12/08/gIQAQ5lYgO_story.html)]

**UNDER SECRETARY CLINTON, THE U.S. AND RUSSIA NEGOTIATED A NEW ARMS REDUCTION TREATY WHICH WAS PRAISED FOR ITS IMPORTANCE AND SMOOTH IMPLEMENTATION AND APPROVED BY THE SENATE IN 2010**

**The Senate Voted To Allow Ratification Of The New START Treaty In December 2010 In A 71-26 Vote With 13 Republicans Voting In Favor.** [Treaty Doc. 111-5, Vote 298, [12/22/10](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=111&session=2&vote=00298)]

**Washington Post: The New START Treaty Aimed To Reduce The Stockpile Of Deployed, Strategic Nuclear Weapons In Both Countries” And Establish “New Procedures To Verify Which Weapons Each Country Possesses.”** “President Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed a sweeping new arms reduction pact Thursday that pledges to reduce the stockpile of deployed, strategic nuclear weapons in both countries and commits the old Cold War adversaries to new procedures to verify which weapons each country possesses.” [Washington Post, [4/8/10](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/08/AR2010040801677.html)]

**Washington Post: “Experts From The Right And The Left Agree The [New START] Treaty Extends A Verification Plan That Has Allowed The World's Two Nuclear Giants To Maintain Stability That Has Existed For The Past 20 Years.”** [Washington Post, [4/8/10](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/08/AR2010040801677.html)]

**USA Today: The New START Treaty Limited The U.S. And Russia Each To “1,550 Strategic Warheads, Down From 2,200.”** “A U.S.-Russia nuclear arms treaty that limits the number of atomic warheads the former Cold War foes can possess and allows them to inspect each other's arsenals — securing a key foreign policy goal of President Barack Obama— went into effect Saturday…New START, negotiated last year, limits each side to 1,550 strategic warheads, down from 2,200. It limits the number of deployed strategic launchers and heavy bombers to 700.” [USA Today, [2/5/11](http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/world/2011-02-05-start-treaty_N.htm)]

**Washington Post: Carnegie Endowment Nuclear Nonproliferation Scholar Said NATO Allies Strongly Supported New START And Thought “We Would Really Lose Credibility” If The U.S. Failed To Pass It.** “The stakes were high: Defeat of the pact would have severely damaged Obama's global standing, hampering his ability to negotiate other treaties, and would have dealt a major setback to the president's ‘reset’ of relations with Russia. ‘It's one of those things in life where failing to get it would be more important than actually what you get with it,’ said George Perkovich, a scholar on nuclear nonproliferation at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Perkovich noted that Washington's NATO allies had strongly supported the pact. ‘We would really lose credibility’ if it failed, he said Tuesday.” [Washington Post, [12/22/10](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/12/21/AR2010122104371.html)]

**Washington Post: New START Required The Votes Of Two-Thirds Of Senators Present To Allow President Obama To Proceed With Ratification.** “The Senate ratified the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, known as New START, by a vote of 71 to 26, easily clearing the threshold of two-thirds of senators present as required by the Constitution for treaty ratification.”

**Brookings Institution Senior Fellow On New START: “Implementation Appears To Be Going Smoothly…Russia Has Already Met These Limits” And “The Two Sides Have Carried Out More Than One Hundred Inspections And Exchanged Almost 6,000 Treaty Notifications.”** “New START requires both countries to reduce arsenals to no more than 1,550 deployed strategic warheads on 700 deployed strategic missiles and bombers by February 2018. Implementation appears to be going smoothly. Russia has already met these limits, while U.S. strategic forces are moving towards them. The two sides have carried out more than one hundred inspections and exchanged almost 6,000 treaty notifications.” [Blog Post, Brookings Institution, [2/4/14](http://www.brookings.edu/research/opinions/2014/02/04-new-start-treaty-three-years-old-what-next-pifer)]

**UNDER SECRETARY CLINTON, THE U.S. SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATED TRANSPORT OF LETHAL MATERIEL THROUGH RUSSIA TO SUPPORT THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN**

**Congressional Research Service: “In February 2009, Russia Allowed A Resumption Of Shipment Of Non-Lethal Equipment Into Afghanistan Through Russia.” And This Path “Played A Significant Role In Removing Much U.S. Equipment During The 2014 U.S. Drawdown.”** “Russia seeks to contain U.S. power in Central Asia and to prevent the infiltration of radical Islamists based in Afghanistan into Russia. In part acting on the latter interest, Russia cooperated in developing the Northern Distribution Network supply line to Afghanistan. In February 2009, Russia allowed a resumption of shipment of non-lethal equipment into Afghanistan through Russia. (Russia had suspended the shipments in 2008 over differences over the Russia-Georgia conflict.) About half of all ground cargo for U.S. forces in Afghanistan flowed through the Northern Distribution Network from 2011-2014, despite the extra costs as compared to the Pakistan route. The route played a significant role in removing much U.S. equipment during the 2014 U.S. drawdown.” [Congressional Research Service, [2/24/15](http://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL30588.pdf)]

* **Defense News: “The Cost Of Ferrying Supplies By Air And Over Northern Railways And Roads Has Cost The U.S. Military About $100 Million A Month.”** “Pakistan has agreed to reopen its border to NATO supply convoys into Afghanistan after a seven-month blockade, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said July 3, adding Washington was sorry for the loss of life in a botched U.S. air raid last year…The border blockade has forced the United States and its allies to rely on much longer, more expensive northern routes through Central Asia, Russia and the Caucasus. The cost of ferrying supplies by air and over northern railways and roads has cost the U.S. military about $100 million a month, according to the Pentagon.” [Defense News, [7/3/12](http://archive.defensenews.com/article/20120703/DEFREG02/307030005/U-S-Apology-Leads-Pakistan-Reopen-Important-NATO-Supply-Route)]

**Associated Press: Following Clinton’s First Visit To Russia As Secretary Of State, A Senior Official Confirmed An “Agreement That Allows U.S. Military Planes To Transport Lethal Materiel Over Russia To Afghanistan.”** “Clinton's visit to Moscow is her first since becoming Washington's top diplomat and since President Barack Obama, who visited Russia in July, vowed to ‘reset’ U.S.-Russia relations. The senior official traveling with Clinton said that there had been some improvements in cooperation, including a recent agreement that allows U.S. military planes to transport lethal materiel over Russia to Afghanistan.” [Associated Press, [10/12/09](http://www.cleveland.com/world/index.ssf/2009/10/hillary_clinton_to_press_russi.html)]

**SECRETARY CLINTON WAS AT TIMES AN OUTSPOKEN CRITIC OF RUSSIAN PRESIDENT PUTIN**

**Washington Post: Putin Blamed Secretary Clinton For Inciting Protests Against His Administration, Saying “She Set A Tone For Some Of Our Public Figures…They Heard This Signal And Launched Active Work With The U.S. State Department.”** “Putin lacerated Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton for questioning the validity of last Sunday’s parliamentary elections and suggested that she had galvanized thousands of protesters by declaring the vote ‘neither free nor fair.’ ‘She set the tone for some of our public figures inside the country, sent a signal to them. They heard this signal and launched active work with the U.S. State Department’s support,’ he said.” [Washington Post, [12/8/11](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/putin-lashes-back-at-clinton-criticism/2011/12/08/gIQAQ5lYgO_story.html)]

**Reuters: In A Speech To The Organization For Security And Cooperation In Europe, Secretary Clinton Called Russia’s 2011 Parliamentary Elections “Neither Free Nor Fair.”** “‘When authorities fail to prosecute those who attack people for exercising their rights or exposing abuses, they subvert justice and undermine the people's confidence in their governments,’ Clinton said in a speech at the meeting of the 56-nation OSCE, Europe's biggest rights watchdog. ‘As we have seen in many places, and most recently in the Duma elections in Russia, elections that are neither free nor fair have the same effect,’ she added, in comments that went a step further than her criticism of the vote on Monday.” [Reuters, [12/6/11](http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/12/06/us-russia-election-usa-idUSTRE7B50IE20111206)]

**Los Angeles Times: Secretary Clinton Criticized The Conviction Of Russian Businessman Mikhail Khodorovsky, Saying It ‘Raises Serious Questions About…The Rule Of Law Being Overshadowed By Political Considerations.”** “‘Today's conviction in the second trial of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev on charges of embezzlement and money laundering raises serious questions about selective prosecution -- and about the rule of law being overshadowed by political considerations,’ Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in a statement. ‘This and similar cases have a negative impact on Russia's reputation for fulfilling its international human rights obligations and improving its investment climate.’” [Los Angeles Times, [12/28/10](http://articles.latimes.com/2010/dec/28/world/la-fg-russia-tycoon-20101228)]

**UNDER SECRETARY CLINTON, THE U.S. SECURED RUSSIAN COOPERATION ON IRAN SANCTIONS**

**Secretary Clinton Announced In May 2010 That China And Russia Had Agreed To Back Sanctions Against Iran Over Its Nuclear Program.** “The United States is to begin circulating today at the United Nations in New York a new resolution of sanctions on Iran over its nuclear program and continued enrichment of uranium. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton’s surprise announcement during Senate testimony Tuesday morning – and her elaboration that both Russia and China are on board in supporting the new resolution – is seen in part as a Big Powers’ response to a deal struck with Iran Monday by Brazil and Turkey to move a portion of Iran’s enriched uranium stockpile out of the country.” [Christian Science Monitor, [5/18/10](http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Foreign-Policy/2010/0518/Hillary-Clinton-Russia-China-to-back-new-Iran-nuclear-sanctions)]

**The U.N. Security Council Imposed Sanctions On Iran In June 2010 With The Support Of China And Russia.** “After several months of grueling diplomacy, the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday imposed a fourth round of sanctions on Iran's military establishment -- a move that the United States and other major powers said should prompt the Islamic Republic to restart stalled political talks over the future of its nuclear program…The administration did succeed in preserving support from China and Russia, although only after assuring them that the measures would not impair their ability to continue trading with Tehran.” [Washington Post, [6/10/10](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/09/AR2010060902876.html)]

**SECRETARY CLINTON HAS ADVOCATED FOR A RAMPED UP U.S. RESPONSE TO THE RUSSIAN INCURSION INTO CRIMEA, INCLUDING ARMING UKRAINIAN TROOPS**

**Secretary Clinton: “I Think We Should Be Putting More Financial Support Into The Ukrainian Government…Make It Very Clear That The Money Comes With Certain Strings And That In The Absence Of Accountability, The Money Won’t Come.”** “I think we should be putting more financial support into the Ukrainian government…I think we’re smart enough to figure out how we would hold them accountable for that and to make it very clear that the money comes with certain strings and that in the absence of accountability, the money won’t come.” [Politico, [1/21/15](http://www.politico.com/story/2015/01/hillary-clinton-ukraine-aid-military-financial-114462.html)]

**Secretary Clinton: “I Do Think We Should Do More To Help Ukraine Defend Its Borders…New Equipment, New Training For The Ukrainians.”** “I do think we should do more to help Ukraine defend its borders…New equipment, new training for the Ukrainians. The United States plus NATO have been very reluctant to do that, and I understand it completely because it’s a very sticky, potentially dangerous, situation. But I think the Ukrainian army and the Ukrainian civilians who’ve been fighting against the separatists have proven that they’re worthy of some greater support.” [Politico, [1/21/15](http://www.politico.com/story/2015/01/hillary-clinton-ukraine-aid-military-financial-114462.html)]

## 2016ER VULNERABILITIES

**Lindsey Graham Voted Against Allowing New START Treaty Ratification**. [Treaty Doc. 111-5, Vote 298, [12/22/10](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=111&session=2&vote=00298)]

# LIBYA

## 2016ER ATTACKS

*Rand Paul has been the most outspoken critic of Hillary Clinton’s foreign policy, accusing her of rushing into war in Libya and then quickly abandoning the country after the fall of Gadhafi—a development he claims helped facilitate security issues like the attack on Benghazi and the rise of ISIL.*

**Rand Paul Said Hillary Clinton’s “Main Achilles’ Heel” Was That She Did Not Think Through The “Unintended Consequences” Of Involvement In Libya And Did Not Provide “An Adequate Defense For Our Consulate In Libya.”** “‘Her [Hillary Clinton’s] main Achilles’ heel is that she didn’t provide an adequate defense for our consulate in Libya,’ Paul said during a trip to Georgia just before the midterms. ‘And also, she didn’t think through the unintended consequences of getting involved in the Libyan war. So I think you’d have an interesting dynamic, were there a [Republican] nominee that was for less intervention overseas and in the Middle East and that’s fiscally conservative. You’ve never seen that kind of combination before, and I think there’s a lot of independent voters, actually, that might be attracted to that kind of message.’” [Politico, [11/9/14](http://www.politico.com/story/2014/11/rands-grand-plan-112729.html)]

**Rand Paul Referred To U.S. Military Engagement In Libya As “Hillary’s War” And Said The Rise Of ISIS Was An Unintended Consequence Of It.** “Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) certainly has a knack for boldness. On Sunday's Meet the Press, he dubbed U.S. military engagement in Libya ‘Hillary’s war’ and stated the rise of the Islamic State (ISIS) is not a result of President Obama's inaction in the Middle East but the unintended consequence of the U.S. military engagement in Libya.” [Breitbart, [8/27/14](http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Government/2014/08/27/Exclusive-Rand-Paul-Hillary-Clinton-s-War-Hawk-Style-Policies-Destabilized-Libya-Syria-Leading-To-Benghazi-Terrorist-Attack-Rise-Of-ISIS)]

**Rand Paul: “Hillary's War In Libya Allowed Thousands Of Surface-To-Air Missiles To Fall Into The Hands Of Radical Islamists.”** “Hillary's war in Libya is a perfect example…Hillary's war made us less safe. Libya's less stable, and radical jihadists run amok. They swim in our swimming pool! Hillary's war in Libya allowed thousands of surface-to-air missiles to fall into the hands of radical Islamists. As Hillary was declaring victory in Libya, Ambassador Stevens was pleading for more security.” [CPAC Speech, 2/27/15]

## CLINTON DEFENSE

**SECRETARY CLINTON CLAIMED THAT THE U.S. DID NOT ABANDON LIBYA AFTER INTERVENING TO OUST GADHAFI**

**Secretary Clinton: “We Did Stick Around” In Libya After Gadhafi Was Ousted, “With Offers Of Money And Technical Assistance...To Border Security, Training.”** When *The Atlantic*’s Jeffrey Goldberg claimed that the U.S. did not stick around for the aftermath of Qaddafi’s fall in Libya, Secretary Clinton said: “Well, we did stick around. We stuck around with offers of money and technical assistance, on everything from getting rid of some of the nasty stuff he left behind, to border security, to training.” [The Atlantic, [8/10/14](http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2014/08/hillary-clinton-failure-to-help-syrian-rebels-led-to-the-rise-of-isis/375832/?single_page=true)]

**VISITING LIBYA JUST BEFORE GADHAFI’S DEATH, CLINTON OFFERED U.S. SUPPORT FOR A DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION, CITING U.S. AUSTERITY AS THE REASON AID TOTALS REMAINED LOW**

**New York Times: In Late 2011, Secretary Clinton “Pledged Political And Economic Support For Libya’s Transitional Government.”** “Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton pledged political and economic support for Libya’s transitional government on Tuesday, even as a senior administration official warned that Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi and his loyalists remained ‘a lethal nuisance’ who could stall the country’s evolution… Mrs. Clinton raised a host of issues with Mr. Abdel-Jalil and other Libyan officials, including the consolidation of political control, the prevention of violence against Colonel Qaddafi’s supporters and the integration of myriad rebel militias into a new security structure.” [New York Times, [10/18/11](pledged%20political%20and%20economic%20support%20for%20Libya’s%20transitional%20government)]

**New York Times: Between February And October 2011, “The United States…Contributed $135 Million In Assistance To Libya’s New Leader…Including Humanitarian Aid And Military Equipment — Though Not Weapons, Which France, Qatar And Other Nations Have Supplied.”** “The United States has contributed $135 million in assistance to Libya’s new leaders since February, including humanitarian aid and military equipment — though not weapons, which France, Qatar and other nations have supplied.” [New York Times, [10/18/11](pledged%20political%20and%20economic%20support%20for%20Libya’s%20transitional%20government)]

* **New York Times: In Late 2011 Secretary Clinton Promised Libya “Medical Equipment And Treatment In The United States For Some Of The Most Gravely Wounded Fighters, Educational And Cultural Exchanges And A Project…To Help Preserve Ancient Ruins.”** “Mrs. Clinton promised more help on Tuesday, including medical equipment and treatment in the United States for some of the most gravely wounded fighters, educational and cultural exchanges and a project with Oberlin College in Ohio to help preserve ancient ruins at Cyrene.” [New York Times, [10/18/11](pledged%20political%20and%20economic%20support%20for%20Libya’s%20transitional%20government)]

**New York Times: Secretary Clinton “Said The Relatively Meager Amount Of New Assistance [To Libya] Reflected Not Only Fiscal Austerity At Home…But Also The Fact That Oil-Rich Libya Needed Expertise More Than Cash To Rebuild Its Society And Economy.”** “Mrs. Clinton said the relatively meager amount of new assistance reflected not only fiscal austerity at home — she told Mr. Jibril that such aid faced deep opposition in Congress — but also the fact that oil-rich Libya needed expertise more than cash to rebuild its society and economy after four decades under Colonel Qaddafi.” [New York Times, [10/18/11](pledged%20political%20and%20economic%20support%20for%20Libya’s%20transitional%20government)]

**FACT CHECKERS HAVE DEBUNKED CLAIMS THAT THE U.S. ALLOWED REBELS TO ACQUIRE THOUSANDS OF SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES AFTER GADHAFI’S FALL**

**Politifact: Of An Estimated 20,000 Surface-To-Air Missiles That Gadhafi Amassed Over 40 Years, “The United States Recovered 5,000, NATO Destroyed Thousands, The U.S.-Backed Transitional Government Acquired Many, And Many Are Inoperable.”** “The 2011 U.S.-backed Libyan uprising -- part of the Arab Spring -- toppled the decades-long dictator Col. Muammar Gaddafi. At the time, the State Department estimated that Gaddafi had amassed about 20,000 MANPADS over 40 years…Of those 20,000 MANPADS -- the United States recovered 5,000, NATO destroyed thousands, the U.S.-backed transitional government acquired many, and many are inoperable. While we know terrorists got their hands on a few, it’s highly unlikely that they have ‘thousands.’” [Politifact, [3/9/15](http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2015/mar/09/rand-paul/paul-gets-it-wrong-fate-libyan-missiles/)]

## 2016ER VULNERABILITIES

**Christie Said President Obama Had Taken The Leadership Role In Libyan Conflict—“He's Calling The Shots, And We All Know That.”** MORGAN: “Would you like to see a spreading of that load going forward, where America's not the go-to country -- for military support, for helping out with despotic regimes and so on?” CHRISTIE: “Well, America's always got to be the leader in that regard.” MORGAN: “Does it have to be?” CHRISTIE: “I think it does –” MORGAN: “I mean, look at Libya and the way President Obama dealt with that. You know, he quite deliberately decided America wasn't going to be the leader.” CHRISTIE: “Yes. But we really are. I mean, come on, let's face it, we are. He's calling the shots, and we all know that. And so, let's not be kidding because they call it something different. America's taken the responsibility.” [Piers Morgan Tonight, CNN, 6/14/11]

**The Senate Voted 90-10 To Shelve Rand Paul’s Resolution Saying The President Could Not Act Unilaterally In Libya, Which He Forced To The Floor By Threatening To Hold Up Senate Action Until It Was Voted On.** “On a 90-to-10 vote, the Senate on Tuesday voted to shelve a resolution proposed by Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) on the U.S. involvement in Libya, four days after Paul and a fellow freshman, Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah), threatened to hold up Senate action until Paul’s measure was brought to the floor…The Paul resolution is comprised of one sentence: a statement made by then-Sen. Barack Obama in 2007 that the president cannot unilaterally act on matters of war.” [Washington Post, [4/5/11](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/2chambers/post/senate-shelves-rand-pauls-libya-resolution/2011/04/05/AFaylpkC_blog.html)]

**Pence Thanked Secretary Of State Hillary Clinton For Her Efforts To “Isolate Libya During A Time Of Extraordinary Tragedy In The Streets.”** “Thank you, Chairman. And I want to thank the Secretary of State for her testimony and her service to the country. It’s good to see you back before the committee. I also want to thank you, specifically, for the efforts by the administration and your offices to further isolate Libya during a time of extraordinary tragedy in the streets, tragedy of which I think we're probably only partially aware. I – I want to continue to encourage and urge the administration to stand with those that are standing in that now bifurcated country to use all means at our disposal to provide support and certainly associate myself with Mr. Royce’s comments about isolating radio communications and – and would express appreciation for your efforts at Geneva and elsewhere to facilitate a coordinated -- a coordinated international response, including a no-fly zone. Gadhafi must go. And I'm – I’m grateful to hear the Secretary of State and the administration take that position unambiguously.” [Hearing on Assessing U.S. Foreign Policy Priorities and Needs Amidst Economic Challenges, House Foreign Affairs Committee, [3/1/11](http://www.micevhill.com/attachments/immigration_documents/hosted_documents/112th_congress/TranscriptOfHouseForeignAffairsCommitteeHearingOnFY12BudgetRequestForForeignAffairs.pdf)]

**Pence: “I Certainly Support The Decision To Enforce A No-Fly Zone [In Libya] With The Wanton Slaughter Of Civilians That Was Taking Place At The Hands Of Muammar Gaddafi.”** “COTTO: Let’s get into this budget thing, but for starters, because obviously Libya is pretty significant in the news today, can I just get your initial thoughts on us getting involved over there? Do you think it’s a good idea? A bad idea? Too late? What are your thoughts? PENCE: Well, I certainly support the decision to enforce a no-fly zone with the wanton slaughter of civilians that was taking place at the hands of Muammar Gaddafi. I think the international community responded in a proper way. I’m disappointed that the President consulted with the UN and didn’t consult or seek resolution for the use of force from the Congress. It’s also disappointing for me to see us yield the lead role to the French in this matter. I mean, the French are essentially leading the world community in confronting Muammar Gaddafi.” [Radio Interview, WLS-AM, [3/21/11](http://illinoisreview.typepad.com/illinoisreview/2011/03/cotto-interview-with-mike-pence.html)]

**Rubio Said Congress Should Go Beyond President Obama’s State Goals In Libya And Authorize The Removal Of Gadhafi.** “While many Republicans have questioned U.S. military strikes in Libya and the Obama administration has emphasized limits on America's role, freshman GOP Sen. Marco Rubio says Congress should go beyond President Obama's stated goals and authorize the removal of Moammar Gadhafi.” [Palm Beach Post, 4/1/11]

**Rubio Refused To Give The President More Credit On Libya – Insisting It Was To The Credit Of Europe.** Asked if the President should get more credit for bring down Gadaffi, Rubio said: “No, let's give credit where it's due. Number one, the French and the British carry the load on this and let's not forget that. Number two, the Libyan people. Actually, I should say it in the reverse. The Libyan people, OK? (Inaudible) -- those Libyans laying in those beds who fought for their freedom and were able to accomplish it. The British, the French and our NATO allies who were involved. I think the president did the right thing. He just took too long to do it and he didn't do enough of it and the proof is in -- is in -- is in -- you see it now before us. What has happened as a result of this being an extended conflict? A number of things. The country is now more beat up. It's going to cost more money to rebuild Libya. You have more people dead. You have more people maimed. And so people that instead of being able to go work have to go to rehab to be able to gain their functionality. You have thousands of rocket -- shoulder fired rockets that are missing all of that because of how long this took in the chaos.” [Rubio Media Availability on Jobs, 10/20/11]

**Politifact: Rand Paul’s Claim That U.S. Intervention In Libya “Allowed Thousands Of Surface-To-Air Missiles To Fall Into The Hands Of Radical Islamists” Is Mostly False.** “Paul said that U.S. military involvement in Libya ‘allowed thousands of surface-to-air missiles to fall into the hands of radical Islamists.’ Experts told us that even though some terrorists are known to have a few Libyan surface-to-air missiles, the idea that they have ‘thousands’ is extremely unlikely… It’s also incorrect to say the United States’ military involvement caused these missiles to go missing. The weapon looting began before the United States and NATO showed up. And when they showed up, they destroyed or recovered many thousands. It’s arguable that American involvement had the exact opposite effect than what Paul asserts. The statement contains an element of truth but ignores critical facts that would give a different impression, so we rate Paul’s claim Mostly False.” [Politifact, [3/9/15](http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2015/mar/09/rand-paul/paul-gets-it-wrong-fate-libyan-missiles/)]

# ISIL

## 2016ER ATTACKS

**RAND PAUL CLAIMED SECRETARY CLINTON SAID “ISIS IS NOT A THREAT…TO AMERICA”**

**Rand Paul: Hillary Clinton Said “ISIS Is Not A Threat – Not A Threat To America. Those I Think Were Her Exact Words.”** RAND PAUL: “Well you know, I don't think we really want a commander-in-chief who is battling climate change instead of terrorism. She also has been out there saying ISIS is not a threat – not a threat to America. Those I think were her exact words.” BILL HEMMER: “Did she say that?” RAND PAUL: “I believe a couple of months ago there was a quote from her saying ISIS is not a threat to America. But what I would say is that for her to be out there saying that the biggest threat to our safety and our wellbeing is climate change, I think is -- goes to the heart of the matter whether she has the wisdom to lead the country, which I think it's obvious she doesn't.” [America’s Newsroom, Fox News, 9/5/14]

**BOBBY JINDAL BLAMED SECRETARY CLINTON FOR ALLOWING THE RISE OF ISIL AS PART OF THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION**

**Bobby Jindal Blamed The Obama White House And Former Secretary Of State Hillary Clinton For Fumbling Foreign Policy, Including “The Rise Of ISIS.”** “Otherwise, Jindal's remark were heavy on blaming the Obama White House, including former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, for fumbling foreign policy. ‘Today, we see a world in which the Obama administration has neglected or abandoned America's long-standing allies. Our “special relationship” with Britain is gone, NATO is drifting, Eastern Europe is disaffected, and Israel has been purposefully alienated from the United States,’ he said. He went on to say the last months has sparked the rise of ISIS, Russia's incursion into Crimea and Ukraine, and other flare-ups around the world.” [The Post And Courier, [10/7/14](http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141007/PC1603/141009474/1031/louisiana-gov-bobby-jindal-takes-on-president-obama-at-the-citadel)]

## CLINTON DEFENSE

**SECRETARY CLINTON SAID SHE COULD NOT HAVE PREDICTED THE SUCCESS OF ISIS IN TAKING OVER PORTIONS OF IRAQ**

**Clinton Said She Could Not Have Predicted The Rise Of ISIS And Its Efficacy “In Seizing Cities In Iraq And Trying To Erase Boundaries To Create An Islamic State.”** “‘So this is not just a Syrian problem anymore,’ Clinton said. ‘I never thought it was just a Syrian problem. I thought it was a regional problem. I could not have predicted, however, the extent to which ISIS could be effective in seizing cities in Iraq and trying to erase boundaries to create an Islamic state. That’s why it’s a wicked problem.’” [Daily Caller, [6/12/14](http://dailycaller.com/2014/06/12/hillary-clinton-i-could-not-have-predicted-that-al-qaida-would-take-over-iraq/)]

**JUNE 2014: SECRETARY CLINTON JOINED OBAMA IN RULING OUT AIRSTRIKES AGAINST ISIL, CITING THE LEADERSHIP PROBLEMS OF IRAQI PRIME MINISTER MALIKI**

**CNN: June 2014: “Hillary Clinton Has Firmly Planted Herself With The White House And Those Who Say The United States Should Not Provide Military Assistance – Particularly Airstrikes – To The Iraqi Government” To Fight ISIL.** “Hillary Clinton has firmly planted herself with the White House and those who say the United States should not provide military assistance – particularly airstrikes – to the Iraqi government in response to the rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria and other militants.” [CNN, [6/13/14](http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2014/06/13/hillary-clinton-no-airstrikes-in-iraq-at-this-time/)]

**CNN: In June 2014, Secretary Clinton Said About Airstrikes In Iraq: “That Is Not A Role For The United States,” Citing Insufficient Commitment To “An Inclusive Iraq” From Prime Minister Maliki.** “Earlier on Friday, the BBC released a 20-minute interview with Clinton, where the former secretary of state said airstrikes in Iraq were not appropriate ‘at this time.’ ‘That is not a role for the United States,’ Clinton said. ‘There needs to be a number of steps that Maliki and his government must take to demonstrate that he is committed to an inclusive Iraq – something he has not done up to date.’” [CNN, [6/13/14](http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2014/06/13/hillary-clinton-no-airstrikes-in-iraq-at-this-time/)]

**CNN: Clinton Called Iraqi Prime Minister Maliki’s Government “Dysfunctional, Unrepresentative, Authoritarian…There’s No Reason On Earth That I Know Of That We Would Ever Sacrifice A Single American Life For That.”** “Clinton characterized the Maliki government as ‘dysfunctional, unrepresentative, authoritarian’ in front of an audience of 1,500 in Washington. For that reason, she added – to sustained applause – that ‘there's no reason on earth that I know of that we would ever sacrifice a single American life for that.’” [CNN, [6/13/14](http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2014/06/13/hillary-clinton-no-airstrikes-in-iraq-at-this-time/)]

**AUGUST 2014: SECRETARY CLINTON ASSERTED THAT FAILURE TO FOLLOW HER RECOMMENDATIONS AND MORE AGGRESSIVELY TRAIN AND EQUIP SYRIAN REBELS LEFT AN OPENING FOR ISIL’S RISE**

**Secretary Clinton: “The Failure To Help Build Up A Credible Fighting Force” Among The Syrian Opposition “Left A Big Vacuum, Which The Jihadists Have Now Filled.”** “I know that the failure to help build up a credible fighting force of the people who were the originators of the protests against Assad—there were Islamists, there were secularists, there was everything in the middle—the failure to do that left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled. They were often armed in an indiscriminate way by other forces and we had no skin in the game that really enabled us to prevent this indiscriminate arming.” [The Atlantic, [8/10/14](http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2014/08/hillary-clinton-failure-to-help-syrian-rebels-led-to-the-rise-of-isis/375832/?single_page=true)]

* **HEADLINE: “Hillary Clinton Joins Critics Of Obama's Response To ISIS In Iraq.”** [Christian Science Monitor, [8/10/14](http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/USA-Update/2014/0810/Hillary-Clinton-joins-critics-of-Obama-s-response-to-ISIS-in-Iraq-video)]

**OCTOBER 2014: SECRETARY CLINTON “DESCRIBED THE SERIOUS THREAT POSED BY ISLAMIC STATE,” SAYING MILITARY ACTION WAS ESSENTIAL BUT NOT SUFFICIENT IN DEFEATING ISIL**

**Wall Street Journal: Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton described the serious threat posed by Islamic State.** “Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton described the serious threat posed by Islamic State in remarks here Wednesday, saying the group is far more advanced and well-funded than al Qaeda ever was. ‘This is the best funded, most professional, expansionist Jihadist military force that we have seen ever,’ she said.” [Wall Street Journal, [10/8/14](http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2014/10/08/hillary-clinton-says-isis-strongest-jihadist-threat-to-date/)]

**Secretary Clinton: ISIL Is “The Best Funded, Most Professional, Expansionist Jihadist Military Force That We Have Seen Ever.”** “Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton described the serious threat posed by Islamic State in remarks here Wednesday, saying the group is far more advanced and well-funded than al Qaeda ever was. ‘This is the best funded, most professional, expansionist Jihadist military force that we have seen ever,’ she said.” [Wall Street Journal, [10/8/14](http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2014/10/08/hillary-clinton-says-isis-strongest-jihadist-threat-to-date/)]

**CBC News: Secretary Clinton Called Military Action Against ISIL “Critical…Essential To Try To Prevent Their Further Advance…[But] Military Action Alone Is Not Sufficient.”** “Hillary Clinton, the former U.S. secretary of state, says military action is ‘critical’ to the U.S.-led fight against Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria, but is ‘not sufficient’ on its own. ‘I think military action is critical. In fact, I would say essential to try to prevent their further advance and their holding of more territory,’ Clinton told an audience at the Canada 2020 conference in Ottawa…‘Military action alone is not sufficient,’ Clinton quickly added, describing the fight against Islamic jihadists as ‘a long-term commitment.’” [CBC News, [10/6/14](http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/hillary-clinton-says-military-critical-but-insufficient-against-isis-1.2789098)]

**FEBRUARY 2015: SECRETARY CLINTON BACKED PRESIDENT OBAMA’S STRATEGY OF USING AIR STRIKES AND REGIONAL SOLDIERS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIL**

**Politico: Secretary Clinton “Essentially Backed The President’s Strategy” Against ISIL, Saying “You Have To Use, Not Only Air Force But Also Army Soldiers From The Region…A Lot Of The Right Moves Are Being Made.”** “On the effort against ISIL, Clinton suggested during the Q&A with journalist Kara Swisher that there was little use in inserting U.S. combat troops into the fight and essentially backed the president’s strategy so far. ‘It’s a very hard challenge, because you can’t very well put American or Western troops in to fight this organism,’ she said, in her clearest statement yet on the topic. ‘You have to use, not only air force but also army soldiers from the region and particularly from Iraq. … A lot of the right moves are being made, but this is a really complicated and long-term problem.’” [Politico, [2/24/15](http://www.politico.com/story/2015/02/silicon-valley-hillary-clinton-115473.html)]

## 2016ER VULNERABILITIES

**RAND PAUL’S AIDE HAD TO WALK BACK FALSE COMMENTS HE MADE ABOUT SECRETARY CLINTON ASSERTING THAT ISIL WAS NOT A THREAT TO AMERICA**

**An Aide To Rand Paul Walked Back His Comments And Said Paul Meant To Criticize Hillary Clinton For Her Comments On The Prisoner Swap For U.S. Soldier Bowe Bergdahl, Not That She Underestimated The Threat Of ISIS.** “An aide to Republican Senator Rand Paul said the lawmaker intended to criticize Hillary Clinton, a possible 2016 Democratic rival for the presidency, for comments on the prisoner swap for U.S. soldier Bowe Bergdahl, not that she underestimated the threat posed by Islamic State. ‘Hillary Clinton has said ISIS is not a threat to the United States,’ Paul said on Fox News Channel’s ‘Hannity’ on Sept. 3. The Kentucky lawmaker repeated that assertion to Fox’s Bill Hemmer two days later, noting his belief that those were Clinton’s ‘exact words.’…An aide to Paul who requested anonymity said the lawmaker meant to refer to Clinton’s remark in June that the five Taliban fighters exchanged for Bergdahl were ‘not a threat’ to the U.S.” [Bloomberg, [9/9/14](http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:n_LhtScbXzkJ:www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-09-08/paul-misstates-clinton-record-on-islamic-state-risk.html+&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us)]

# SYRIA

## 2016ER ATTACKS

**RUBIO INSISTED THAT DESPITE CLINTON’S CLAIMS SHE ADVOCATED FOR ARMING SYRIAN REBELS AS SECRETARY OF STATE, SHE WAS “COMPLICIT IN IMPLEMENTING AND PUBLICLY DEFENDING THE PRESIDENT’S DISASTROUS FOREIGN POLICIES.”**

**Rubio Said He Urged Obama And Secretary Clinton In 2011 To “Intervene Decisively To Oust Assad And To Identify And Arm The Moderate Syrian Opposition.”** “The truth is that, when the Syrian people rose up in 2011 in protest against Bashar al-Assad’s brutal rule, our vital national interest was to prevent a protracted civil war in which radical jihadists from all over the world could rush into a vacuum. If they could seize operational spaces, they could use them to plan and carry out attacks against our allies and ultimately America. In the early stages of this conflict, responsible, bipartisan voices called for U.S. leadership, hoping precisely to prevent the outcome we have now seen play out. I urged Secretary Clinton and President Obama to intervene decisively to oust Assad and to identify and arm the moderate Syrian opposition. Instead, we were told that Assad was a ‘reformer’ and that we should not get involved.” [Marco Rubio, Washington Post, [9/12/14](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/marco-rubio-lets-reject-the-veiled-isolationism-of-obama-and-clinton/2014/09/12/b4e769c0-3780-11e4-8601-97ba88884ffd_story.html)]

**Rubio Attacked Hillary Clinton For Saying She Privately Advocated For A Different Syria Position Than What Obama Pursued: “She And Other Administration Officials Who Found Their Voices Only After They Left Office Were Complicit In Implementing And Publicly Defending The President’s Disastrous Foreign Policies.”** “Some former Obama administration officials, notably Secretary Clinton, have tried to argue that they advocated internally for a different approach, that they saw the train wreck coming. But the fact of the matter is that when they were in positions of responsibility, they failed to prevent the situation that now exists. ‘What are we going to arm them with and against what?’ Secretary Clinton said of the Syrian opposition in 2012. She and other administration officials who found their voices only after they left office were complicit in implementing and publicly defending the president’s disastrous foreign policies — and we’ll be dealing with the consequences for decades to come.” [Marco Rubio, Washington Post, [9/12/14](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/marco-rubio-lets-reject-the-veiled-isolationism-of-obama-and-clinton/2014/09/12/b4e769c0-3780-11e4-8601-97ba88884ffd_story.html)]

## CLINTON DEFENSE

**SECRETARY CLINTON HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS TOUGH AND INFLUENTIAL VOICE IN INTERNAL OBAMA ADMINISTRATION DEBATES WHILE SHE WAS SECRETARY OF STATE**

**Wall Street Journal’s William Galston: As Secretary Of State, “Mrs. Clinton Was Among The Administration’s Toughest Voices During Internal Debates.”** “The only significant difference between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton in 2008 was her vote for the Iraq war, which probably cost her the presidential nomination. Little has changed. During her tenure as secretary of state, Mrs. Clinton was among the administration’s toughest voices during internal debates. She supported the use of American air power in Libya, and the Navy SEAL raid that killed Osama bin Laden. (Both Vice President Joe Biden and Defense Secretary Robert Gates opposed it.)” [William Galston column, Wall Street Journal, [7/23/14](http://online.wsj.com/articles/william-a-galston-the-big-2016-foreign-policy-debates-1406071181)]

**SECRETARY CLINTON’S MEMOIR DESCRIBES HER SUPPORT FOR A PLAN TO VET AND ARM MODERATE SYRIAN REBELS…**

**Hard Choices:** **“If The United States Could Train And Equip A Reliable And Effective Moderate Rebel Force, It Could Help Hold The Country Together During A Transition, Safeguard Chemical Weapons Stockpiles, And Prevent Ethnic Cleansing And Score Settling.”** “One of the prime worries about Syria—and one of the reasons it was a wicked problem—was the lack of any viable alternatives to Assad on the ground. He and his allies could plausibly argue, like Louis XV of France, ‘Après moi, le déluge.’ (After Assad, chaos.) The power vacuum in Iraq after the fall of Saddam and the disbanding of the Iraqi Army offered a cautionary tale. But if the United States could train and equip a reliable and effective moderate rebel force, it could help hold the country together during a transition, safeguard chemical weapons stockpiles, and prevent ethnic cleansing and score settling. But could it be done? The key would be thoroughly vetting the rebel fighters to ensure we first weeded out the extremists and then maintained close intelligence sharing and operational coordination with all our partners.” [Hillary Clinton, Hard Choices, 6/10/14]

**Hard Choices:** **The Key To Effectively Arming Syrian Rebels “Would Be Thoroughly Vetting The Rebel Fighters To Ensure We First Weeded Out The Extremists And Then Maintained Close Intelligence Sharing And Operational Coordination With All Our Partners.”** “One of the prime worries about Syria—and one of the reasons it was a wicked problem—was the lack of any viable alternatives to Assad on the ground. He and his allies could plausibly argue, like Louis XV of France, ‘Après moi, le déluge.’ (After Assad, chaos.) The power vacuum in Iraq after the fall of Saddam and the disbanding of the Iraqi Army offered a cautionary tale. But if the United States could train and equip a reliable and effective moderate rebel force, it could help hold the country together during a transition, safeguard chemical weapons stockpiles, and prevent ethnic cleansing and score settling. But could it be done? The key would be thoroughly vetting the rebel fighters to ensure we first weeded out the extremists and then maintained close intelligence sharing and operational coordination with all our partners.” [Hillary Clinton, Hard Choices, 6/10/14]

**…AND HER WORK WITH FOREIGN LEADERS TO ENSURE AN EFFORT TO ARM MODERATE SYRIAN REBELS COULD BE COORDINATED WITH REGIONAL PARTNERS**

**Hard Choices: In Coordinating Syria Efforts, Secretary Clinton Worked With Leaders Of Turkey, Great Britain, France, And Germany To Address Questions Such As “What Would It Take To Impose A No-Fly Zone?...Could We Better Coordinate Support For The Armed Opposition?”** “Although there had been continuous consultations between us and the Turks since the [Syria] conflict started, I thought we should intensify operational planning by our militaries in order to prepare contingency plans. What would it take to impose a no-fly zone? How would we respond to the use or loss of chemical weapons? How could we better coordinate support for the armed opposition? The Turks agreed, and two days later Davutoğlu and I got on the phone to discuss our thinking with the Foreign Ministers of Great Britain, France, and Germany.” [Hillary Clinton, Hard Choices, 6/10/14]

**Hard Choices: Secretary Clinton Pushed “To Begin Arming And Training Moderate Syrian Rebels…[Confident] We Could Put In Place Effective Coordination With Our Regional Partners**.” “Our military’s top brass, reluctant to get involved in Syria, consistently offered dire projections of the forces that would be required to overcome Assad’s advanced air defenses and conduct a Libya-style no-fly zone. But Secretary of Defense Panetta had become as frustrated as I was with the lack of options in Syria; he knew from his own time leading the CIA what our intelligence operatives could do…I returned to Washington reasonably confident that if we decided to begin arming and training moderate Syrian rebels, we could put in place effective coordination with our regional partners.” [Hillary Clinton, Hard Choices, 6/10/14]

**INTERNAL DISAGREEMENTS OVER U.S. SYRIA POLICY DID NOT BECOME PUBLIC UNTIL FORMER DEFENSE SECRETARY LEON PANETTA AND JOINT CHIEFS CHAIRMAN MARTIN DEMSPEY TOLD CONGRESS THEY SUPPORTED A CLINTON-BACKED PLAN TO ARM MODERATE SYRIAN REBELS**

**New York Times: In February 2013, Then-Defense Secretary Panetta And Chairman Of The Joint Chiefs Of Staff Dempsey For The First Time Acknowledged Support For A 2012 “Plan To Arm Carefully Vetted Syrian Rebels…Backed By Hillary Rodham Clinton.”** “[O]n Thursday, deep divisions over what to do about one of those issues — the rising violence in Syria — spilled into public view for the first time in a blunt exchange between Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona, and the leaders of the Pentagon. Testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta acknowledged that he and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, had supported a plan last year to arm carefully vetted Syrian rebels. But it was ultimately vetoed by the White House, Mr. Panetta said, although it was developed by David H. Petraeus, the C.I.A. director at the time, and backed by Hillary Rodham Clinton, then the secretary of state.” [New York Times, [2/7/13](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/08/us/politics/panetta-speaks-to-senate-panel-on-benghazi-attack.html?pagewanted=all&pagewanted=print)]

**SECRETARY CLINTON CLAIMS TO HAVE RECOMMENDED U.S. AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA ROBERT FORD, WHO PUSHED FOR A PLAN TO ARM MODERATE SYRIAN REBELS**

**Secretary Clinton: “In Early 2010…I Recommended That The President Nominate Robert Ford…As The First U.S. Ambassador To Syria In More Than Five Years.”** “In early 2010, about a year before the maelstrom began in Syria, I recommended that the President nominate Robert Ford, an experienced diplomat who had served across the Middle East, most recently in Iraq, as the first U.S. Ambassador to Syria in more than five years.” [Hillary Clinton, Hard Choices, 6/10/14]

**McClatchy: Syrian Ambassador Robert Ford Spent Years “Agitating From Within A Reluctant Administration To Arm Vetted Moderates To Fight Bashar Assad’s Brutal Regime” Becoming “Increasingly Critical Of [Syrian Rebels] As Disjointed And Untrustworthy.”** “Robert Ford was always one of the Syrian rebels’ loudest cheerleaders in Washington, agitating from within a reluctant administration to arm vetted moderates to fight Bashar Assad’s brutal regime. In recent weeks, however, Ford, the former U.S. ambassador to Syria who made news when he left government service a year ago with an angry critique of Obama administration policy, has dropped his call to provide weapons to the rebels. Instead, he’s become increasingly critical of them as disjointed and untrustworthy because they collaborate with jihadists.” [McClatchy, [2/18/15](http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2015/02/18/257024/once-a-top-booster-ex-us-envoy.html)]

**U.S. Ambassador To Syria Robert Ford On Secretary Clinton’s Push To Arm Rebels: “Clinton Understood That The Guys With The Guns Mattered…That It Would Have Regional Implications, And That It Could Become One Large Operating Area For Al Qaeda.”** “For Clinton personally, the engagement of the armed groups was crucial and the White House’s forced policy of pretending that the best way to support the revolution was through the civilian opposition based in Turkey was foolish. ‘Clinton understood that the guys with the guns mattered, not the people in Istanbul, that it would have regional implications, and that it could become one large operating area for al Qaeda,’ said Ford. ‘In 2012 and the start of 2013 the most we could do was to provide help to the civilian opposition. We had no permission from the White House to help the FSA, so we did not do so.’” [Daily Beast, [8/14/14](http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/08/14/obama-stifled-hillary-s-syria-plans-and-ignored-her-iraq-warnings-for-years.html)]

**SECRETARY CLINTON CITED THE U.S. FAILURE TO BOLSTER ARMED REBELS IN SYRIA AS A REASON FOR THE GROWING POWER OF JIHADISTS IN SYRIA**

**Secretary Clinton: “The Failure To Help Build Up A Credible Fighting Force” Among The Syrian Opposition “Left A Big Vacuum, Which The Jihadists Have Now Filled.”** “I know that the failure to help build up a credible fighting force of the people who were the originators of the protests against Assad—there were Islamists, there were secularists, there was everything in the middle—the failure to do that left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled. They were often armed in an indiscriminate way by other forces and we had no skin in the game that really enabled us to prevent this indiscriminate arming.” [The Atlantic, [8/10/14](http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2014/08/hillary-clinton-failure-to-help-syrian-rebels-led-to-the-rise-of-isis/375832/?single_page=true)]

**JOHN MCCAIN HAS REPEATEDLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PRESIDENT OBAMA DECIDED NOT TO ARM SYRIAN REBELS DESPITE SECRETARY CLINTON’S PUSH TO DO SO**

**John McCain On The Syrian Opposition: President Obama’s “Entire National Security Team, Including His Secretary Of State, Said We Want To Arm And Train And Equip These People, And He Made The Unilateral Decision To Turn Them Down.”** “MCCAIN:…I'm astounded that Mr. Carney should say that the Free Syrian Army is now stronger. In fact, they have been badly damaged. CARNEY: That's not what I said, Senator. I said, if I could, sir, what I said is that we know a great deal more about the makeup of the opposition. MCCAIN: Oh, come on, you knew about it -- come on, Jay, we knew all about them then. You just didn't choose to know. I was there in Syria. We knew them. Come on, you guys are the ones -- it's your boss is the one that when the entire national security team wanted to arm and train them, that he turned them down…facts are stubborn things, Mr. Carney. And that is, his entire national security team, including his secretary of state, said we want to arm and train and equip these people, and he made the unilateral decision to turn them down. And the fact that they didn't leave a residual force in Iraq, overruling all of his military advisers, is the reason why we're facing ISIS today. So the facts are stubborn things in history. And people ought to know them. And now the president is saying basically that we are going to take certain actions, which I would favor. But to say that America is safer, and that the situation is very much like Yemen and Somalia shows me that the president really doesn't have a grasp for how serious the threat of ISIS is.” [CNN, 9/10/14]

**John McCain: President Obama** **“Overruled The Senior Leaders Of His Own National Security Team, Who Were In Unanimous Agreement That America Needs To Take Greater Action To Change The Military Balance Of Power In Syria.”** Mr. McCain said he was dismayed that Mr. Obama had ‘overruled the senior leaders of his own national security team, who were in unanimous agreement that America needs to take greater action to change the military balance of power in Syria.’” [New York Times, [2/7/13](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/08/us/politics/panetta-speaks-to-senate-panel-on-benghazi-attack.html?pagewanted=all&pagewanted=print)]

**WASHINGTON POST’S DAN BALZ CLAIMED THAT SECRETARY CLINTON SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO PUBLICLY STATE DISAGREEMENT WITH OBAMA’S SYRIA POLICY BECAUSE DOING SO MAY HAVE MADE HER “APPEAR DISLOYAL”**

**Washington Post’s Dan Balz: “[A]S A Former Member Of The Administration, Clinton Is Not Exactly A Free Agent…If She Thinks The Administration Should Have Taken A More Aggressive Posture Earlier, She Is Likely To Be Restrained From Saying So, Lest She Appear Disloyal.”** [Dan Balz, Washington Post, [9/4/13](http://www.washingtonpost.com/will-hillary-clintons-position-on-syria-military-strike-affect-2016-presidential-race/2013/09/04/1e3de13c-155f-11e3-961c-f22d3aaf19ab_story.html)]

## 2016ER VULNERABILITIES

**RICK PERRY HAD LIMITED PRAISE FOR SECRETARY CLINTON’S ASSESSMENT OF THE RIGHT COURSE OF ACTION IN SYRIA**

**Rick Perry On Early Intervention In Syria: “I Think On That Issue [Secretary Clinton] Was Closer To Being Right Than She Has Been On Some Other Ones.”** In an article about Texas Governor Rick Perry’s statements on foreign policy in a speech in Iowa, U.S. News and World Report reported: “Asked Tuesday at the Iowa State Fair whether he agreed with the former secretary of state’s assessment that a lack of prior U.S. intervention in Syria emboldened jihadists to penetrate Iraq, the GOP governor of Texas found some daylight with the potential future presidential rival. ‘I think on that issue she was closer to being right than she has been on some other ones,’ he replied.” [U.S. News and World Report, [8/12/14](http://www.usnews.com/news/blogs/run-2016/2014/08/12/rick-perry-hillary-clinton-close-to-right-on-syria)]

# ISRAEL

## 2016ER ATTACKS

**REPUBLICANS ACCUSED SECRETARY CLINTON OF NEGLECTING U.S. ALLIES LIKE ISRAEL, DAMAGING THE U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP, AND MISUNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEMS POSED BY GAZA**

**Bobby Jindal Attacked The Obama Administration And Hillary Clinton For Neglecting And Abandoning Our Allies.** “Otherwise, Jindal's remark were heavy on blaming the Obama White House, including former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, for fumbling foreign policy. ‘Today, we see a world in which the Obama administration has neglected or abandoned America's long-standing allies. Our 'special relationship' with Britain is gone, NATO is drifting, Eastern Europe is disaffected, and Israel has been purposefully alienated from the United States,’ he said. He went on to say the last months has sparked the rise of ISIS, Russia's incursion into Crimea and Ukraine, and other flare-ups around the world.” [The Post And Courier, [10/7/14](http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141007/PC1603/141009474/1031/louisiana-gov-bobby-jindal-takes-on-president-obama-at-the-citadel)]

**Jindal: “The Worst Legacy Of Obama & Hillary Clinton Is The Intentional Damage They Caused To Our Relationship With Israel And The Coddling Of Iran.”** [@BobbyJindal, Twitter, [3/3/15](https://twitter.com/BobbyJindal/status/572807244561195008)]

**Ted Cruz: “Hillary Clinton Seems To Fundamentally Misunderstand The Problem” In Gaza.** In a statement posted to his official Facebook page, Senator Ted Cruz wrote: “Hillary Clinton seems to fundamentally misunderstand the problem. Hamas doesn't put rockets in schools, mosques, hospitals, and homes because ‘Gaza is pretty small.’ Hamas does so--and tells civilians to stay there, when the rockets are about to be taken out--because they want to use the citizens of Gaza as human shields. The entire objective, for Hamas, is to have heart-wrenching pictures of dead Palestinian women and children emblazoned across the evening news, for the UN and the media to use to demonize Israel. Using civilians as human shields is a war crime, and Secretary Clinton should not be excusing it merely as a consequence of the small size of Gaza.” [Blog Post, Senator Ted Cruz, Facebook, [7/29/14](https://www.facebook.com/tedcruzpage/posts/10152603151697464)]

## CLINTON DEFENSE

**SOME COLUMNISTS CLAIMED THAT SECRETARY CLINTON IS LIKELY TO HAVE A BETTER RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU THAN PRESIDENT OBAMA CURRENTLY DOES…**

**Foreign Policy’s Aaron David Miller: Secretary Clinton “Has Some Natural Advantages That Would Help Mitigate Some Of The Gratuitous Tensions That Have Made An Already Tough [U.S.-Israel] Relationship Tougher And Perhaps Lay The Groundwork For More Productive Cooperation.”** “Indeed, she conceded in her book Hard Choices that she was never comfortable playing the bad cop with Netanyahu to Joe Biden’s more even-tempered good cop. And yet, she has some natural advantages that would help mitigate some of the gratuitous tensions that have made an already tough relationship tougher and perhaps lay the groundwork for more productive cooperation.” [Aaron David Miller, Foreign Policy, [11/10/14](http://foreignpolicy.com/2014/11/10/would-hillary-be-good-for-the-holy-land/)]

**Foreign Policy’s Aaron David Miller On Secretary Clinton: “Should She Become President…Better Ties With Israel Are Virtually Guaranteed.”** “Should she become president, on one level, better ties with Israel are virtually guaranteed. I remember well the transition from Bush 41 to Bill Clinton in 1993. A willful effort was made to demonstrate that the page had turned and that the roller coaster ride under Bush and Secretary of State James Baker (quite productive really) was over. Granted it was easier then because Yitzhak Rabin was prime minister. But let’s not forget that the Clintons dealt with Bibi too as prime minister. It was never easy. But clearly it was a lot more productive than what we see now. A couple of interim Israeli-Palestinian agreements and a successful leader summit helped keep things quiet. It was conflict management. But, hey, that’s kind of what’s required now.” [Aaron David Miller, Foreign Policy, [11/10/14](http://foreignpolicy.com/2014/11/10/would-hillary-be-good-for-the-holy-land/)]

**Washington Post: “From Netanhayu’s Perspective, Clinton Would Be An Improvement Over President Obama.”** “From Netanhayu’s perspective, Clinton would be an improvement over President Obama, who has all but washed his hands of an Israeli leader he finds overbearing, Israeli officials and observers said in interviews here.” [Washington Post, [3/1/15](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/for-hillary-and-bibi-a-long-and-sometimes-fraught-relationship/2015/03/01/fe6c7a26-bea9-11e4-b274-e5209a3bc9a9_story.html)]

**SECRETARY CLINTON HAS LONG-STANDING PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH ISRAELI LEADERS**

**Foreign Policy’s Aaron David Miller: Secretary Clinton “Has Long-Standing Ties To A Wide Range Of Israeli Personalities.”** “To put it simply, as a more conventional politician, Hillary is good on Israel and relates to the country in a way this president doesn’t. She visited the country for the first time in 1981 and has been as frequent visitor ever since; she has long-standing ties to a wide range of Israeli personalities and has incorporated all of the tropes from Leon Uris’s novel Exodus, including making the desert bloom, etc., into her vocabulary. Unlike Obama, who was not quite 6 years old at the time of the 1967 war (the seminal event that mobilized both the non-Jewish and Jewish communities in support of Israel), Hillary is from a different generation and functioned in a political world in which being good on Israel was both mandatory and smart.” [Aaron David Miller, Foreign Policy, [11/10/14](http://foreignpolicy.com/2014/11/10/would-hillary-be-good-for-the-holy-land/)]

**Foreign Policy’s Aaron David Miller: “Hillary Has Formed Close Relationships With Israelis,” Such As The Family Of Assassinated Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.** “Then there’s the reality that unlike Barack Obama, Hillary has formed close relationships with Israelis. These aren’t instrumental ties of convenience either. Like her husband who was shattered by Rabin’s murder, she grieved personally too. And her friendship with Rabin’s wife Leah was among the strongest. I accompanied her to Mrs. Rabin funeral in 2000 and observed how deeply she was affected by Leah’s passing, which along with Rabin’s murder reflected a consequential moment in the Clinton presidency. Rabin, Yasser Arafat (the most frequent visitor to the Oval Office in 2000), and the Oslo process gave a young president with little experience in foreign policy a brief brush with history and the larger-than-life personalities that can drive it. Hillary had a front-row seat. And I believe the tragedy and unfulfilled promise of it all touched her deeply. She has empathy for the Palestinians too, a fact that got her into trouble in 1998 when in a message to the Seeds of Peace organization she endorsed Palestinian statehood before it was fashionable in U.S. policy. But her real affinity lies with the Israelis. Indeed, like Bill Clinton, the Israelis frustrate her. But she has bought off on the idea that unless you can get Israeli buy-in, there just won’t be a deal. And that means being tough at times but very reassuring most of the time. Vinegar is useful, but honey more so.” [Aaron David Miller, Foreign Policy, [11/10/14](http://foreignpolicy.com/2014/11/10/would-hillary-be-good-for-the-holy-land/)]

**CLINTON HAS SHOWN HER ABILITY TO WORK WITH NETANYAHU IN THE PAST**

**Washington Post: The Relationship Between Secretary Clinton And Netanyahu Was Built On A Shared Sense That Each Can Do Business With The Other…[And] Did Not Seem To Suffer From The Rougher Patches During Clinton’s Tenure As Secretary Of State.”** “Clinton’s tough line with Netanyahu was born of a two­-decades-old acquaintance built on wary respect and a shared sense that each can do business with the other. Their relationship did not seem to suffer from the rougher patches during Clinton’s tenure as secretary of state, officials said. Clinton and Netanyahu made a point of showing no hard feelings when Clinton visited Israel just two months after the March 2010 settlement debacle and telephonic dressing-down.” [Washington Post, [3/1/15](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/for-hillary-and-bibi-a-long-and-sometimes-fraught-relationship/2015/03/01/fe6c7a26-bea9-11e4-b274-e5209a3bc9a9_story.html)]

**Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu Said He Knew Secretary Clinton Understood “That Israel Will Have To Take Whatever Action Is Necessary To Defend Its People.”** “I’m sure you understand that Israel will have to take whatever action is necessary to defend its people. This is something that I don’t have to explain to Americans. I know that you, President Obama, and the American people understand that very well.” [Al Jazeera English, YouTube, [11/20/12](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XDqI1BkGhUg)]

**Washington Post: Secretary Clinton Praised Netanyahu For “Publicly For Taking ‘Unprecedented’ Steps Toward Peace, Defended Israeli Military Action In The Gaza Strip In 2012 And Nudged Netanyahu Into A Cease-Fire With Old-Fashioned Shuttle Diplomacy.”** “She also praised him publicly for taking ‘unprecedented’ steps toward peace, defended Israeli military action in the Gaza Strip in 2012 and nudged Netanyahu into a cease-fire with old-fashioned shuttle diplomacy.” [Washington Post, [3/1/15](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/for-hillary-and-bibi-a-long-and-sometimes-fraught-relationship/2015/03/01/fe6c7a26-bea9-11e4-b274-e5209a3bc9a9_story.html)]

**SECRETARY CLINTON SUPPORTED EXPANSION OF U.S. FUNDING FOR ISRAEL’S IRON DOME MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM**

**Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu Thanked Secretary Clinton For Her “Support Of Iron Dome.”** “I want to thank you especially for your support of Iron Dome—it’s been saving lives.” [Al Jazeera English, YouTube, [11/20/12](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XDqI1BkGhUg)]

**According To Her Memoir, Secretary Clinton And President Obama “Got To Work Expanding Security Cooperation And Investing In Key Joint Defense Projects, Including Iron Dome.”** “President Obama and I wanted to take it to the next level. Right away, we got to work expanding security cooperation and investing in key joint defense projects, including Iron Dome, a short-range missile defense system to help protect Israeli cities and homes from rockets.” [Hillary Clinton, Hard Choices, 6/10/14]

* **Assistant Secretary Of State For Political-Military Affairs Andrew Shapiro: “Since Day One, President Obama And Secretary Clinton Have Not Only Honored And Re-Energized America's Enduring Commitment To Israel's Security, But Have Taken Action To Expand It To An Unprecedented Level.”** “Since day one, President Obama and Secretary Clinton have not only honored and re-energized America's enduring commitment to Israel's security, but have taken action to expand it to an unprecedented level. Our work is rooted in knowledge shared across the decades by presidents and policymakers on both sides of the aisle that a strong and secure Israel -- and an Israel at peace with its neighbors -- is critical not only to the interests of Israelis and Palestinians, but also to America's strategic interests.” [Assistant Secretary Shapiro Remarks at the Brookings Saban Center, State Department, [7/16/10](http://www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/rm/144753.htm)]
* **Assistant Secretary Of State Shapiro: The President Asked Congress For $205 Million To Support Iron Dome Because He And Secretary Clinton Understood That “The rocket threats from Hezbollah and Hamas represent the most immediate challenge” To Israeli Security.** “Let me now turn to another area where we are deepening our security relationship with Israel. The rocket threats from Hezbollah and Hamas represent the most immediate challenge. This is a very real daily concern for ordinary Israelis living in border towns such as Sderot, who know that a rocket fired from Gaza may come crashing down at any moment. As a Senator, President Obama travelled to Israel and met with families whose homes had been destroyed by rockets. So the President understands this threat. Secretary Clinton understands it. And I understand it. That is why earlier this spring, the President asked Congress to authorize $205 million to support the production of an Israeli-developed short range rocket defense system called Iron Dome.” [Assistant Secretary Shapiro Remarks at the Brookings Saban Center, State Department, [7/16/10](http://www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/rm/144753.htm)]

**SECRETARY CLINTON SIGNALED THAT SHE WOULD BE ABLE TO RETAIN ISRAEL’S SUPPORT FOR AN IRANIAN NUCLEAR DEAL**

**Washington Post: Secretary Clinton “Is On Record Voicing Much The Same Concern” As Israel Over A Possible Iran Deal, And “If A Deal Is Signed, Clinton Would Carry It Forward But Would Probably Also Find Ways To Reassure Netanyahu That The United States Will Not Be Hoodwinked.”** “The Iran deal at issue now is likely to be resolved before the 2016 election, but not the underlying fear for Israelis that Iran remains what Netanyahu calls an ‘existential’ threat next door. Clinton is on record voicing much the same concern, along with doubts that Iran would abide by any deal it struck. If a deal is signed, Clinton would carry it forward but would probably also find ways to reassure Netanyahu that the United States will not be hoodwinked.” [Washington Post, [3/1/15](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/for-hillary-and-bibi-a-long-and-sometimes-fraught-relationship/2015/03/01/fe6c7a26-bea9-11e4-b274-e5209a3bc9a9_story.html)]

**SECRETARY CLINTON DENOUNCED HAMAS AND PALESTINIAN ATTEMPTS TO BYPASS A PEACE PROCESS WITH ISRAEL**

**Secretary Clinton: “I Would Not Put Hamas In The Category Of People We Could Work With.”** “I would not put Hamas in the category of people we could work with. I don’t think that is realistic because its whole reason for being is resistance against Israel, destruction of Israel, and it is married to very nasty tactics and ideologies, including virulent anti-Semitism. I do not think they should be in any way treated as a legitimate interlocutor, especially because if you do that, it redounds to the disadvantage of the Palestinian Authority, which has a lot of problems, but historically has changed its charter, moved away from the kind of guerrilla resistance movement of previous decades.” [The Atlantic, [8/10/14](http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2014/08/hillary-clinton-failure-to-help-syrian-rebels-led-to-the-rise-of-isis/375832/?single_page=true)]

**Secretary Clinton: “What You See Is Largely What Hamas Invites And Permits Western Journalists To Report On From Gaza.”** [The Atlantic, [8/10/14](http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2014/08/hillary-clinton-failure-to-help-syrian-rebels-led-to-the-rise-of-isis/375832/?single_page=true)]

**Secretary Clinton On Isreal-Gaza Conflict: “Part Of The Hamas Calculation…[Was] To Provoke Israel To Respond.”** In a live question-and-answer session at Twitter headquarters in San Fransisco, Secretary Clinton said: “Because of the actions by Hamas, first to rain rockets onto Israel, Israel being provoked — because I do think that was part of the Hamas calculation, to provoke Israel to respond, to defend itself, which any nation has to do if you are under attack like that, and then we see the unfortunate effects of any conflict with innocent people being caught in the crossfires.” [Politico, [7/21/14](http://www.politico.com/story/2014/07/hillary-clinton-israel-gaza-109210.html?hp=l12)]

**Secretary Clinton Called The 2012 United Nations General Assembly Vote To Recognize Palestine As A Nonmember State “Unfortunate And Counterproductive.”** “Secretary of State Hillary Clinton blasted the United Nations General Assembly Thursday for voting to recognize Palestine as a nonmember state. ‘I want to say a few words about the unfortunate and counterproductive resolution at the United Nations General Assembly,’ Clinton said at an event hosted by Foreign Policy magazine in Washington D.C.” [Poliico, [11/29/12](http://www.politico.com/politico44/2012/11/clinton-blasts-unfortunate-and-counterproductive-un-150685.html)]

**SECRETARY CLINTON DEFENDED ISRAEL’S ACTIONS DURING A RECENT ISRAEL-GAZA CONFLICT**

**Secretary Clinton: International Criticism Of Israel’s Self-Defense “Is Uncalled For And Unfair.”** “We do see this enormous international reaction against Israel, and Israel’s right to defend itself, and the way Israel has to defend itself. This reaction is uncalled for and unfair.” [The Atlantic, [8/10/14](http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2014/08/hillary-clinton-failure-to-help-syrian-rebels-led-to-the-rise-of-isis/375832/?single_page=true)]

**Secretary Clinton: “It Is Not ‘Accurate Or Fair’ To Say Israel May Have Committed War Crimes.”** “Hillary Clinton retorts an U.N commissioner, tells @FareedZakaria, it isn't "accurate or fair" to say Israel may have committed war crimes.” [Twitter, @danmericaCNN, [7/25/14](https://twitter.com/danmericaCNN/status/492738699944529921)]

**Secretary Clinton: “If I Were The Prime Minister Of Israel, You’re Damn Right I Would Expect To Have Control Over Security” In The West Bank.** “I got Netanyahu to agree to the unprecedented settlement freeze, it did not cover East Jerusalem, but it did cover the West Bank and it was actually legitimate and it did stop new housing starts for 10 months…So what I tell people is, yeah, if I were the prime minister of Israel, you’re damn right I would expect to have control over security [in the West Bank], because even if I’m dealing with Abbas, who is 79 years old, and other members of Fatah, who are enjoying a better lifestyle and making money on all kinds of things, that does not protect Israel from the influx of Hamas or cross-border attacks from anywhere else. With Syria and Iraq, it is all one big threat. So Netanyahu could not do this in good conscience.” [The Atlantic, [8/10/14](http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2014/08/hillary-clinton-failure-to-help-syrian-rebels-led-to-the-rise-of-isis/375832/?single_page=true)]

**…AND CALLED THE TEMPORARY RESOLUTION OF THE 2012 ISRAEL-GAZA CONFLICT ONE OF HER BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**Secretary Clinton Considers The 2012 Cease-Fire Between Israel And Hamas “One Of Her Biggest Accomplishments As Secretary Of State,” But That Truce “Has Fallen Apart Less Than Two Years Later.”** “Hillary Clinton often points to the 2012 cease-fire between Israel and Hamas as one of her biggest accomplishments as secretary of state. She may have to add an asterisk to that story. The truce Clinton helped forge has fallen apart less than two years later, and Israel and the Palestinian militant group that runs the Gaza Strip are again deep in military conflict.” [Politico,  [7/15/14](http://www.politico.com/story/2014/07/hillary-clinton-legacy-mideast-biggest-accomplishment-108924.html?hp=l9)]

**Politico: In The Weeks Before The Cease-Fire Collapsed, Secretary Clinton “Singled Out The Deal Repeatedly As One Of Which She Is Particularly Proud.”** “On her book tour in the United States and Europe, and in several speeches before the book’s release, she has singled out the deal repeatedly as one of which she is particularly proud — and still intact. In a C-SPAN interview that aired over the July 4 weekend, right before hostilities broke out in a concerted fashion, Clinton was asked about her ‘favorite’ story from the book. She offered several anecdotes, but noted the Gaza cease-fire first.” [Politico, [7/15/14](http://www.politico.com/story/2014/07/hillary-clinton-legacy-mideast-biggest-accomplishment-108924.html?hp=l9)]

## 2016ER VULNERABILITIES

# BENGHAZI

## 2016ER ATTACKS

### State Department Stonewalling

**Ted Cruz On Hillary Clinton And Benghazi: “She Has Deliberately Stonewalled.”** “‘What I think is that she has deliberately stonewalled,’ Cruz said in an interview with George Stephanopoulos on ‘This Week.’ ‘The American people deserve the truth; our men and women in harm’s way deserve the truth,’ the Texas Republican added.” [ABC News, [6/1/14](http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/politics/2014/06/ted-cruz-says-hillary-clinton-deliberately-stonewalled-benghazi/); Ted Cruz Interview, This Week, ABC, 6/1/14]

### Political messaging in Benghazi response

**Ted Cruz Said Hillary Clinton Had “Stonewalled” On Benghazi And Said Her Chief Political Aide Instructed Foreign Services Officers Not To Talk To Members Of The Press Or Congress.”** “MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Rand Paul said her handling of Benghazi's disqualifying her from the presidency. Do you agree? SEN. CRUZ: What I think is that she has deliberately stonewalled. We know, for example, that her chief political aide, Cheryl Mills, went to senior foreign services officers and told them, don't talk to the press, don't talk to members of Congress.” [Ted Cruz Interview, “This Week with George Stephanopoulos”, ABC, 6/1/14]

### Inadequate diplomatic security and preparation

**Rand Paul Said That Hillary Clinton Admitted She Had Not Read The Cables From Benghazi And If He Had Been President, He Would Have Fired Her.** “Paul also commented on what he said was the current administration’s failure in the handling the 2012 attack on the American consulate in Benghazi, Libya. ‘Six months in advance, possibly nine months in advance, Hillary Clinton was asked for more security and it was denied,’ Paul said. ‘At the same time, $100,000 was spent for a charging station at the Vienna embassy for their cars, $5 million was spent on crystal wear for the embassies, $100,000 was spent to send three comedians to India. I asked Hillary one question, ‘Did you read the cables?’ She said, ‘No.’ I said frankly, ‘If I had been president you would have been relieved of your duties.’’” [The Lima News, [10/21/14](http://www.limaohio.com/news/home_top-news/50536144/Rand-Paul-visits-Lima)]

**Rand Paul: “Had I Been President At The Time” Of Benghazi, “I Would Have Relieved You Of Your Post.”** “Ultimately, with your leaving, you accept the culpability for the worst tragedy since 9/11, and I really mean that. Had I been President at the time, and I found that you did not read the cables from Benghazi, you did not read the cables from Ambassador Stevens, I would have relieved you of your post.” [Senate Hearing on Benghazi Consulate Attack, C-SPAN, [1/23/13](http://www.c-span.org/video/?310496-1/senate-hearing-benghazi-consulate-attack)]

**Rand Paul Said Hillary Clinton Should Be Precluded From Being Commander In Chief Since She Could Not “Protect Our Embassies.”** “But Paul saved special scorn for Clinton, the prospective frontrunner for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, specifically highlighting her role in the events surrounding the deadly 2012 attacks on American consulate in Benghazi, Libya. ‘If she wants to be commander in chief and she cannot protect our embassies, I don’t think that she could or should be,’ Paul said. ‘I think it precludes her from ever being considered as commander in chief.’” [Politico, [8/29/14](http://www.politico.com/story/2014/08/rand-paul-hillary-clinton-110464.html)]

**Rand Paul Compared The Benghazi Incident To A 1993 Mission In Somalia In Which President Clinton’s Then-Secretary Of Defense Resigned Following The Death Of Americans, And Said That If Hillary Clinton Had “Worked For Bill Clinton, She’d Probably Have Been Fired.”** “The first-term senator went on to compare Benghazi to the 1993 mission in Mogadishu, Somalia, in which 18 U.S. military members were killed. Two months after the tragedy, President Bill Clinton announced the resignation of Les Aspin, then secretary of the defense. Aspin had taken heat for denying security requests for U.S. forces in the region just a month before the attack. ‘He ignored the request and he resigned ultimately in disgrace,’ Paul said. ‘I think had Hillary Clinton worked for Bill Clinton, she'd probably have been fired.’” [CNN, [8/29/14](http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2014/08/29/rand-paul-if-hillary-clinton-worked-for-bill-clinton-shed-probably-have-been-fired/)]

**Rubio On Obama’s And Hillary Clinton’s U.S. Foreign Policy: They Thought “America’s Problems Around The World Were Created By A Robust Foreign Policy Through The Bush Administration, And That His Job Was To Extract Us From These Things Around The World. I Think That’s Proven To Be A Disaster.”** MR: “The ultimate responsibility is on the President, and on the members of his cabinet, like Hillary Clinton, who guide policy and who make decisions on management and so forth with regards to the decisions that were made with security at this facility in Benghazi. And for the President, he’s the one who has failed to lay out a strategic view of what America’s role in the world is. To the extent that there is one, it seems to have been that America’s problems around the world were created by a robust foreign policy through the Bush administration, and that his job was to extract us from these things around the world. I think that’s proven to be a disaster.” [Hugh Hewitt Show, [6/9/14](http://www.hughhewitt.com/senator-marco-rubio-hillary-clintons-hard-choices-photos-many-people-going-question/)]

**Rubio On The Number One Question He Would Ask Hillary Clinton About Benghazi If Given The Opportunity: “Think That Question Would Be Explain To Us The Process By Which The Decision Was Made To Keep That Consulate Open, Given All Of This Information That’s Out There.”** GB: “If you were in the House, hypothetically, and on this Select Committee…” MR: “Yeah.” GB: “And if Secretary Clinton were to show up, what is the number one question you think that she hasn’t sufficiently answered that you would put to her?” MR: “And I think that question would be explain to us the process by which the decision was made to keep that consulate open, given all of this information that’s out there, and I think it’ll be very important to see whether this Select Committee will be able to hold hearings in a classified setting, where the details about some of that reporting stream will be, they’ll be able to delve into.” [Hugh Hewitt Show, [6/9/14](http://www.hughhewitt.com/senator-marco-rubio-hillary-clintons-hard-choices-photos-many-people-going-question/)]

**Rand Paul Said That There Was A Bar That Everyone Running For The Presidency Needed To Pass Of Would They Defend The Country And Our Interests, And If You Were Not Able To Do That Then You Should Not Be President.** ED BERLINER: “Should all of this then disqualify her [Hillary Clinton] as a candidate for the presidency?” RAND PAUL: “I think the main thing, and I think there’s a bar that everyone who wants to run for the president and that’s will you defend the country? Will you defend our people? Will you defend American interests? And I think if you’re not able to do that or not up to the task, that really you shouldn’t be president. And that’s why I’ve said Benghazi should preclude her from consideration because it wasn’t just that she made mistakes that day, it was for nine months preceding that. She was probably asked 20 times for more security for that embassy. When I asked her did you read the cables from Ambassador Stevens, she acted as if she just didn’t have time, she was too busy traveling the world and showing that she was a great traveling secretary of state. But there’s a real problem when the ambassador is pleading for help and saying we’re in danger of being overrun and you continue to reduce the security forces there. And I think it was worse than that. I think it’s sort of this politically correct sort of thing where they didn’t want people to have arms, they didn’t want our people to wear their uniforms. They didn’t want our people even to wear their military boots because that somehow would defend the sensibility of the Libyans. It just shows poor judgment I think that she was unable to really get beyond that to say, you know what, our first mission is actually to protect our people in the field.” [Midpoint, Newsmax TV, 3/3/15]

**Rand Paul Said That Benghazi Should Preclude Hillary Clinton From The Presidency Because It Was Not Just Mistakes On That Day, It Was Nine Months Of Ignoring Security Requests From The Ambassador.** ED BERLINER: “Should all of this then disqualify her [Hillary Clinton] as a candidate for the presidency?” RAND PAUL: “I think the main thing, and I think there’s a bar that everyone who wants to run for the president and that’s will you defend the country? Will you defend our people? Will you defend American interests? And I think if you’re not able to do that or not up to the task, that really you shouldn’t be president. And that’s why I’ve said Benghazi should preclude her from consideration because it wasn’t just that she made mistakes that day, it was for nine months preceding that. She was probably asked 20 times for more security for that embassy. When I asked her did you read the cables from Ambassador Stevens, she acted as if she just didn’t have time, she was too busy traveling the world and showing that she was a great traveling secretary of state. But there’s a real problem when the ambassador is pleading for help and saying we’re in danger of being overrun and you continue to reduce the security forces there. And I think it was worse than that. I think it’s sort of this politically correct sort of thing where they didn’t want people to have arms, they didn’t want our people to wear their uniforms. They didn’t want our people even to wear their military boots because that somehow would defend the sensibility of the Libyans. It just shows poor judgment I think that she was unable to really get beyond that to say, you know what, our first mission is actually to protect our people in the field.” [Midpoint, Newsmax TV, 3/3/15]

**Rand Paul Said It Showed “Poor Judgment” That Hillary Clinton Was Not Able To Get Over Political Correctness And Allow Security Forces In Libya To Have Arms And Their Uniforms, Even If It Offended The Sensibility Of Libyans.** ED BERLINER: “Should all of this then disqualify her [Hillary Clinton] as a candidate for the presidency?” RAND PAUL: “I think the main thing, and I think there’s a bar that everyone who wants to run for the president and that’s will you defend the country? Will you defend our people? Will you defend American interests? And I think if you’re not able to do that or not up to the task, that really you shouldn’t be president. And that’s why I’ve said Benghazi should preclude her from consideration because it wasn’t just that she made mistakes that day, it was for nine months preceding that. She was probably asked 20 times for more security for that embassy. When I asked her did you read the cables from Ambassador Stevens, she acted as if she just didn’t have time, she was too busy traveling the world and showing that she was a great traveling secretary of state. But there’s a real problem when the ambassador is pleading for help and saying we’re in danger of being overrun and you continue to reduce the security forces there. And I think it was worse than that. I think it’s sort of this politically correct sort of thing where they didn’t want people to have arms, they didn’t want our people to wear their uniforms. They didn’t want our people even to wear their military boots because that somehow would defend the sensibility of the Libyans. It just shows poor judgment I think that she was unable to really get beyond that to say, you know what, our first mission is actually to protect our people in the field.” [Midpoint, Newsmax TV, 3/3/15]

### Cover-up and continuing investigation

**Rand Paul: While The Administration Continued To Cover Up Benghazi, “I Will Continue To Seek The Truth Until Those At The Top Of This Two-Year Chain Of Deception Are Finally Held Accountable.”** “This new Benghazi ‘intelligence’ report [from the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence] is little more than a C.Y.A. attempt designed to protect incompetent politicians and government agents at the expense of justice for the victims of September 11, 2012. They will continue to cover up. I will continue to seek the truth until those at the top of this two-year chain of deception are finally held accountable.” [Rand Paul Op-Ed, Breitbart, [12/1/14](http://cdn.breitbart.com/Big-Government/2014/11/29/Benghazi-Report)]

### Miscellaneous

**Rand Paul Said “Politics Is What Happens To Discuss Whether People Are Fit For Office,” And Said There Would Be A Discussion About Whether Hillary Clinton Was “Fit To Lead.”** “Addressing criticism that his scrutiny of Benghazi is politically motivated, Paul said ‘Yeah, politics is what happens to discuss whether people are fit for office. There will be a discussion over the next four years whether or not Hillary Clinton is fit to lead this country.’” [Politico, [8/29/14](http://www.politico.com/story/2014/08/rand-paul-hillary-clinton-110464.html)]

**Rand Paul Blasted Hillary Clinton As Not “Fit To Lead The Country” For Her Response To Benghazi And Comments About Her Wealth.** “Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., said Hillary Clinton is not ‘fit to lead the country’ Friday, mocking the former secretary of state's comments about her wealth and condemning her response to the September 2012 attack on a U.S. facility in Benghazi.” [CBS, [8/2/14](http://www.cbsnews.com/news/sen-rand-paul-hillary-clinton-not-fit-to-lead-the-country/)]

**Rubio Said Clinton Would Have To “Answer For Benghazi” If She Ran For President.** RUBIO: “I think she's going to have to answer for Benghazi. I know people want to push that aside, but here's a fact. The State Department knew that the risk level for that facility was extremely high. They should have either closed that facility or provided it adequate security. They did not, under her watch. She will have to answer for that.” [Situation Room, CNN, 2/25/14]

## CLINTON DEFENSE

### Secretary Clinton’s Cooperation with Investigations

**SECRETARY CLINTON TOOK RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ATTACK IN BENGHAZI**

**Secretary Clinton: “I Take Responsibility” For The Consequences Of The Benghazi Attack.** “Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Monday tried to douse a political firestorm over the deadly assault on a U.S. diplomatic mission in Libya, saying she's responsible for the security of American diplomatic outposts. ‘I take responsibility,’ Clinton told CNN in an interview while on a visit to Peru. ‘I'm in charge of the State Department's 60,000-plus people all over the world, 275 posts. The president and the vice president wouldn't be knowledgeable about specific decisions that are made by security professionals. They're the ones who weigh all of the threats and the risks and the needs and make a considered decision.’” [CNN, [10/16/12](http://www.cnn.com/2012/10/15/us/clinton-benghazi/)]

**SECRETARY CLINTON TESTIFIED BEFORE TWO STATE DEPARTMENT COMMITTEES INVESTIGATING BENGHAZI IN 2013, AND HAS AGREED TO DO SO AGAIN…**

**Secretary Clinton Testified Before The House And Senate Committees Investigating Benghazi In 2013.** “In what probably was her final major public appearance as secretary of state, Hillary Rodham Clinton spent Wednesday delivering a forceful defense of the Obama administration’s response to the killings of four Americans in Libya last year and praising the commitment of the United States’ diplomats. Clinton, who returned to work this month after suffering a concussion and blood clot in early December, spent six hours testifying and answering questions. She started at 9 a.m. before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and ended after 5 p.m. with the House Foreign Affairs Committee.” [Washington Post, [1/23/13](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/clinton-to-appear-before-congress-over-benghazi-attack/2013/01/22/3f03f8ee-64ce-11e2-85f5-a8a9228e55e7_story.html)]

**CNN: Secretary Clinton “Has Agreed To Testify To The House's Select Committee Investigating Benghazi.”** “Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has agreed to testify to the House's select committee investigating Benghazi, the panel's Democratic ranking member told CNN on Tuesday. Rep. Elijah Cummings said that Clinton agreed to testify before the committee investigating the 2012 terrorist attack in December after he contacted her months earlier.” [CNN, [1/27/15](http://www.cnn.com/2015/01/27/politics/benghazi-hillary-clinton-testify/)]

**Secretary Clinton Answered More Than 200 Questions On The Record About Benghazi On The Record.** “On September 18, 2014, one day after our Committee’s first hearing, an entity known as Stop Hillary PAC delivered more than 264,000 signatures to the Select Committee insisting that you issue a subpoena to compel Secretary Clinton to testify, despite the fact that she had already testified before the House and Senate about Benghazi and answered more than 200 questions for the record.” [Select Committee on Benghazi Democrats Letter to Trey Gowdy, [3/6/15](http://democrats.benghazi.house.gov/sites/democrats.benghazi.house.gov/files/documents/2015_03_06_SCBDems_to_TG_re_Clinton_Subpoena.pdf)]

**…YET TREY GOWDY HAS DELAYED HER TESTIMONY FOR MONTHS**

**Secretary Clinton Agreed To Testify As Early As December 2014 But Trey Gowdy Delayed Her Appearance.** “As a courtesy, the Ranking Member contacted Secretary Clinton, and she responded that she was willing to testify at a public hearing to answer the Select Committee’s questions. She agreed without hesitation, and she offered to testify as early as December 2014. The Ranking Member personally communicated all of this information to you in October 2014. On November 12, 2014, in a joint phone call with both Republican and Democratic staff, Secretary Clinton’s attorney again confirmed her cooperation and willingness to testify in a public hearing before the Committee as early as December. But instead of obtaining Secretary Clinton’s testimony in December, you decided to delay her testimony, explaining that you first wanted to obtain all of her documents related to Benghazi.” [Select Committee on Benghazi Democrats Letter to Trey Gowdy, [3/6/15](http://democrats.benghazi.house.gov/sites/democrats.benghazi.house.gov/files/documents/2015_03_06_SCBDems_to_TG_re_Clinton_Subpoena.pdf)]

### Wasteful and Political GOP Investigations

**MULTIPLE GOP-LED INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE BENGHAZI ATTACKS HAVE COST TAXPAYERS MILLIONS OF DOLLARS AND HAVE SOUGHT TO POLITICIZE THE TRAGEDY FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT**

**The Pentagon Said The Multiple Investigations Into The Benghazi Attacks Cost Millions And Thousands Of Hours In Personnel Time.** “The Pentagon says Congress' multiple investigations of the deadly 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, have cost the department millions of dollars and thousands of hours of personnel time.” [Huffington Post, [3/25/14](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/25/pentagon-benghazi-cost_n_5031095.html)]

* **Assistant Secretary Of Defense Elizabeth King: The Six Investigations Into Benghazi Cost The Pentagon “Thousands Of Man-Hours” To Investigate “50 Congressional Hearings, Briefings, And Interviews.”** “The Department has devoted thousands of man-hours to responding to numerous and often repetitive congressional requests regarding Benghazi which includes time devoted to approximately 50 congressional hearings, briefings, and interviews which the Department has led or participated in.” [Assistant Secretary Of Defense for Legislative Affairs Elizabeth King, Letter To Representative Adam Smith, [3/11/14](http://thinkprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/DoD-Cost-of-Benghazi.pdf)]
* **Assistant Secretary Of Defense Elizabeth King Estimated The Total Cost Of Benghazi Related Congressional Requests To Be In The Millions Of Dollars.** “The total cost of compliance with Benghazi related congressional requests sent to the Department and other agencies is estimated to be in the millions of dollars.” [Assistant Secretary Of Defense for Legislative Affairs Elizabeth King, Letter To Representative Adam Smith, [3/11/14](http://thinkprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/DoD-Cost-of-Benghazi.pdf)]

**In A May 2014 FOX News Poll, 63% Of Respondents, Including 38% Of Republicans, Said That They Thought Republicans In Congress Were Investigating Benghazi For Mostly For Political Gain.** [FOX News, [5/14/14](http://www.foxnews.com/politics/interactive/2014/05/14/fox-news-poll-what-voters-think-obama-benghazi-scandal/)]

**Lindsay Graham Consulted Lara Logan On The Now Discredited 60 Minutes Report On Benghazi.** “What wasn’t known at the time was that Graham had consulted with CBS correspondent Lara Logan on the now-discredited Benghazi report that led to her being sidelined from the network for over six months. The Oct. 27 report started unraveling four days after airing, following revelations that security contractor Dylan Davies, the ‘60 Minutes’ eyewitness, had given conflicting stories about his whereabouts during the attack.” [Huffington Post, [5/4/14](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/04/lara-logan-benghazi-cbs_n_5264246.html)]

**HEADLINE: “Republicans Raising Money Off Benghazi Effort.”** [Washington Post, [5/10/13](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-politics/wp/2013/05/10/republicans-raising-money-off-benghazi-effort/)]

**HEADLINE: “GOP Fundraises Off Benghazi Attack.”** [Salon, [5/14/13](http://www.salon.com/2013/05/14/gop_fundraises_off_benghazi_attack/)]

**The NRCC Used Benghazi To Raise Money.** “The National Republican Congressional Committee is using the debate over Benghazi to raise money.  On a new fundraising page, the committee asks for donations to keep up the fight, declaring it a ‘coverup’ and using pictures of President Obama and former secretary of state Hillary Clinton.  The page implores supporters to ‘demand answers.’” [Washington Post, [5/10/13](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-politics/wp/2013/05/10/republicans-raising-money-off-benghazi-effort/)]

* **The NRCC Bragged That Their Benghazi Fundraising Page Gave Them The Most Trafficked Day In The History Of Their Website.** “And it worked: the NRCC says its Clinton/Benghazi fundraising page made Friday the most trafficked day in the history of its Web site, and the Crossroads video has been viewed more than 100,000 times since Friday.”  [Washington Post, [5/13/13](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2013/05/13/why-the-gop-needs-to-be-cautious-in-tying-hillary-to-benghazi/)]

**Salon: The NRCC Sent A Second Fundraising Solicitation From John Bolton Asking For “$5 To Support The NRCC In Their Goal To Hold The Administration Accountable For Benghazi.”**  “Because no good scandal should go to waste, the National Republican Congressional Committee has enlisted John Bolton to turn the Benghazi attack into cash for Republican congressional campaigns.  ‘As an Under Secretary of State during the September 11, 2001, attacks, and later as Ambassador to the UN, I saw very closely what a terrorist event looks like,’ Bolton wrote in an email solicitation sent to supporters this morning. ‘What’s happened with Benghazi is not how it’s supposed to be handled and I think it could be a hinge point for the Obama administration.’  Then came the ask: ‘Will you give $5 to support the NRCC in their goal to hold the administration accountable for Benghazi? Your $5 will go a long way. Americans deserve an explanation — please help out,’ Bolton wrote.”  [Salon, [5/14/13](http://www.salon.com/2013/05/14/gop_fundraises_off_benghazi_attack/)]

**RNC: “Stand With @tgowdysc & Click To Demand @HillaryClinton Turn Over Her Secret Server.”** [@RNC, Twitter, [3/12/15](https://twitter.com/GOP/status/576185914415792128)]

### Diplomatic security funding

**REPUBLICANS HAVE ADMITTED TO REDUCING EMBASSY SECURITY FUNDING IN ADVANCE OF THE BENGHAZI ATTACKS**

**John Boehner, Eric Cantor, Darrell Issa, Kevin McCarthy, and Cathy McMorris-Rodgers All Voted In Favor Of H. AMDT 307 To H.R. 3081 On July 9th, 2009.** [111th Congress, First Session, Vote 517, [7/9/09](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2009/roll517.xml)]

* **H. ADMT 307 Failed On A Vote Of 156-271 But Attracted The Support Of 150 Republicans.** [111th Congress, First Session, Vote 517, [7/9/09](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2009/roll517.xml)]

**H. ADMT 307 Would Have Reduced Funding For Diplomatic And Consular Programs By $1.2 Billion.** “Amendment sought to reduce funding for Diplomatic and Consular Programs by $1.2 billion; Operating Expenses for USAID by $330 million; and Global Health by $670 million, reflecting FY 2009 enacted funding levels.” [GovTrack, Accessed [5/5/14](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/D?d111:2:./temp/~bdHIzS::)]

**The FY 2011 State Department And Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill Passed The House As H.R. 1473 On April 14, 2010 And Established An Annual Rate Of $48.98 Billion For State And Foreign Operations Accounts.** “The legislation became P.L. 112-10, approved by the House and Senate on April 14 and signed by the President on April 15. P.L. 112-10 establishes FY2011 funding levels for State Department and Foreign Operations accounts at a total annual rate of $48.98 billion.” [CRS, State, Foreign Operations, And Related Programs: FY2011 Budget and Appropriations, Page 1, [4/22/11](http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R41228.pdf)]

* **Diplomatic And Consular Programs Was Cut By 8% From The Total FY 2010 Enacted Level**. “Within this title, Diplomatic and Consular Programs are cut 8% from the total FY2010-enacted level, including supplementals, the Embassy Security, Construction and Maintenance account is cut by 10%, and Educational and Cultural Exchange programs are cut 6%.” [CRS, State, Foreign Operations, And Related Programs: FY2011 Budget and Appropriations, Page 1, [4/22/11](http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R41228.pdf)]

**H.R. 1473 Passed 260-167 With 179 Republicans Voting In Favor, Including John Boehner, Eric Cantor, Darrell Issa, Kevin Mccarthy, Cathy McMorris Rodgers, And James Lankford.** [112th Congress, 1st Session, Vote 268, [4/14/11](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2011/roll268.xml)]

**Republicans Cut $128 Million Of The White House’s Request For Embassy Funding In FY 2011 And $331 Million Off The State Department’s Request In FY 2012.** “For the past two years, House Republicans have continued to deprioritize the security forces protecting State Department personnel around the world. In fiscal year 2011, lawmakers shaved $128 million off of the administration's request for embassy security funding. House Republicans drained off even more funds in fiscal year 2012 -- cutting back on the department's request by $331 million.” [Huffington Post, [10/10/12](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/10/10/jason-chaffetz-embassy_n_1954912.html)]

* **Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) Acknowledged In October 2012 That Republicans Had Consciously Voted To Reduce Funding For State Department Embassy Security Since Taking Control Of The House In 2010.** “Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) acknowledged on Wednesday that House Republicans had consciously voted to reduce the funds allocated to the State Department for embassy security since winning the majority in 2010. On Wednesday morning, CNN anchor Soledad O'Brien asked the Utah Republican if he had ‘voted to cut the funding for embassy security.’‘Absolutely,’ Chaffetz said. ‘Look we have to make priorities and choices in this country. We have…15,000 contractors in Iraq. We have more than 6,000 contractors, a private army there, for President Obama, in Baghdad. And we’re talking about can we get two dozen or so people into Libya to help protect our forces. When you’re in tough economic times, you have to make difficult choices. You have to prioritize things.’” [Huffington Post, [10/10/12](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/10/10/jason-chaffetz-embassy_n_1954912.html)]

**In February 2011, Cantor Dismissed The Idea Put Forth By Secretary Clinton That Spending Cuts Would Endanger National Security.** “House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Va.) also dismissed the notion that the House Republican plan would endanger national security. ‘My position, as far as that funding is concerned, we asked the appropriators to go about trying to identify cuts that we could withstand to bring spending back to '08 levels without jeopardizing our national security,’ Cantor said at his weekly pen-and-pad briefing.” [Washington Post, [2/14/11](http://voices.washingtonpost.com/44/2011/02/secretary-clinton-house-republ.html)]

**Boehner Spokesman Michael Steel: “We Have Confidence That The Soldiers And Diplomats Serving In Harm’s Way Will Have The Resources They Need To Protect America.”** “A Boehner spokesperson reiterated House Republicans' commitment to reducing spending and expressed confidence that members of the military and civilians working abroad will have the resources necessary to do their jobs. ‘The American people know we're broke -- we're borrowing 41 cents out of every dollar we spend,’ Boehner spokesperson Michael Steel said. ‘Right now, we need to stop the Washington spending spree so the economy can grow and the private sector can create more jobs. We have confidence that the soldiers and diplomats serving in harm's way will have the resources they need to protect America.’” [Washington Post, [2/14/11](http://voices.washingtonpost.com/44/2011/02/secretary-clinton-house-republ.html)]

### Asked and answered questions

**COMMITTEES INVESTIGATING THE STATE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO ATTACKS IN BENGHAZI CONTINUE TO ASK QUESTIONS THAT HAVE LONG SINCE BEEN ANSWERED**

**Boehner Said The Benghazi Select Committee Should Focus On “The Number Of Requests For More Security And Why It Was Not Provided.”** “You know, I think that there are probably three areas that the Committee will look at—the events leading up to 9/11, 2012, the requests—the number of requests for more security and why it was not provided…” [Fox News, 5/11/14]

**The Independent Accountability Review Board Concluded That There Was Inadequate Security Due To Systemic “Failures And Leadership And Management Deficiencies At Senior Levels Within Two Bureaus Of The State Department.”** “The Independent Accountability Review Board concluded that the Special Mission in Benghazi had inadequate security because of ‘[s]ystemic failures and leadership and management deficiencies at senior levels within two bureaus of the State Department.’ The Board found several factors that led to support gaps, including a misplaced reliance on local security forces, short-term staffing challenges, and the temporary nature of the facility. Multiple Congressional investigations have confirmed these findings.’” [House Select Committee On Benghazi Minority Website, [9/16/14](http://askedandanswered-democrats.benghazi.house.gov/question.php?q_id=2)]

**House Committee On Benghazi Minority Website Noted That A Number Of Investigations Have Already Answered The Question “Why Was Security In Benghazi Inadequate Despite Repeated Requests?.”** “Why was security in Benghazi inadequate despite repeated requests?... SOURCES THAT HAVE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION:

The Independent Accountability Review Board

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Bipartisan Report

Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Bipartisan Report

House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Democratic Staff Report

Accountability Review Board Vice Chairman Admiral Michael Mullen

Accountability Review Board Chairman Ambassador Thomas Pickering” [House Select Committee On Benghazi Minority Website, [9/16/14](http://askedandanswered-democrats.benghazi.house.gov/question.php?q_id=2)]

### Benghazi-related emails

**THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS RELEASED SECRETARY CLINTON’S BENGHAZI-RELATED EMAILS TO THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE AND DESPITE HAVING HAD ACCESS TO THE EMAILS FOR MONTHS, TREY GOWDY HAS MADE FALSE STATEMENTS ABOUT THEM**

**Secretary Clinton Handed Over 55,000 Pages Of Emails To The State Department, Who Turned Over The Relevant Benghazi-Related Emails To The Select Committee.** “You have long been aware that Secretary Clinton used a personal email account. She provided her emails—55,000 pages of them—to the State Department, which in turn provided to the Committee those relevant to Benghazi. You are also aware, as we are, having read the responsive emails, that they are consistent with the findings of the nonpartisan Accountability Review Board. And you are aware that Secretary Clinton and her counsel have cooperated with the Select Committee in every way they have been asked, including the Secretary’s willingness to come back to Congress and testify yet again.” [Select Committee on Benghazi Democrats Letter to Trey Gowdy, [3/6/15](http://democrats.benghazi.house.gov/sites/democrats.benghazi.house.gov/files/documents/2015_03_06_SCBDems_to_TG_re_Clinton_Subpoena.pdf)]

* **2/27/15: The State Department Confirmed That It Had Finished Production Of Secretary Clinton’s Emails Related To Benghazi.** “On February 27, 2015, during a meeting with Select Committee staff, State Department officials confirmed that they had completed their production of Secretary Clinton’s emails relating to the Benghazi attacks. Based on your statements, the Committee’s next steps should have been to hold a hearing with Secretary Clinton in March. Instead, this week, you rushed to issue a unilateral subpoena to Secretary Clinton with no debate, no vote, and no deliberation whatsoever by Committee Members.” [Select Committee on Benghazi Democrats Letter to Trey Gowdy, [3/6/15](http://democrats.benghazi.house.gov/sites/democrats.benghazi.house.gov/files/documents/2015_03_06_SCBDems_to_TG_re_Clinton_Subpoena.pdf)]
* **The State Department Reviewed The 55,000 Pages Of Emails From Secretary Clinton’s Personal Account And Produced 850 Pages, Or 300 Emails, Related To Benghazi.** “In fact, the Secretary had produced to the State Department 55,000 pages of emails from her personal account relating to a number of topics, including Benghazi. On February 13, 2015, the State Department reviewed those 55,000 pages and produced to the Select Committee Secretary Clinton’s emails related to Benghazi from March 3, 2011, to December 21, 2012, which consisted of approximately 850 pages, or about 300 emails.” [Select Committee on Benghazi Democrats Letter to Trey Gowdy, [3/6/15](http://democrats.benghazi.house.gov/sites/democrats.benghazi.house.gov/files/documents/2015_03_06_SCBDems_to_TG_re_Clinton_Subpoena.pdf)]

**Trey Gowdy Argued That Secretary Clinton Had Multiple Personal Emails.** “The House committee investigating the 2012 terrorist attacks in Benghazi will issue new requests to Hillary Clinton for emails from multiple personal accounts she used during her tenure as secretary of state. Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) told reporters on Tuesday that lawyers for the Benghazi Committee would be issuing the new requests - which he didn’t rule out could come in the form of subpoenas - to Clinton and her email providers in the coming weeks. ‘It was not as if she had both an official and a private email account. She did not use personal email in addition to government email. She used personal email in lieu of government email,’ Gowdy said. ‘And she had more than one private email account.’” [Politico, [3/3/15](http://www.politico.com/story/2015/03/benghazi-hillary-clinton-multiple-personal-email-accounts-115722.html)]

* **The State Department Disputed That Secretary Clinton Had Used Two Personal Emails.** “The State Department has also refuted Gowdy’s claim that Clinton was using two personal email addresses. ‘There was just one email account,’ State Department Marie Harf said Wednesday.” [The Blaze, [3/4/15](http://www.theblaze.com/stories/2015/03/04/trey-gowdy-subpoenas-hillary-clintons-personal-emails/)]
* **Select Committee Democrats Explained Trey Gowdy Had Long Been Aware That Secretary Clinton Used A Personal Email Address.** “You have long been aware that Secretary Clinton used a personal email account. She provided her emails—55,000 pages of them—to the State Department, which in turn provided to the Committee those relevant to Benghazi. You are also aware, as we are, having read the responsive emails, that they are consistent with the findings of the nonpartisan Accountability Review Board. And you are aware that Secretary Clinton and her counsel have cooperated with the Select Committee in every way they have been asked, including the Secretary’s willingness to come back to Congress and testify yet again.” [Select Committee on Benghazi Democrats Letter to Trey Gowdy, [3/6/15](http://democrats.benghazi.house.gov/sites/democrats.benghazi.house.gov/files/documents/2015_03_06_SCBDems_to_TG_re_Clinton_Subpoena.pdf)]

### Stand-down order

**U.S. MILITARY OFFICERS DEBUNKED THE IDEA THAT A “STAND-DOWN ORDER” WAS ISSUED DURING THE BENGHAZI ATTACK**

**Associated Press: Military Officers Testified That There Were Was No “Stand-Down Order” That Prevented Them From Rescuing The Four Victims Of The Benghazi Attack.** “Military officers testified that there was no ‘stand-down order’ that held back military assets that could have saved the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans killed at a diplomatic outpost and CIA annex in Benghazi, Libya. Their testimony undercut the contention of Republican lawmakers.” [Associated Press, [7/11/14](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_BENGHAZI_STAND_DOWN_ORDER?SITE=VALYD&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)]

**Associated Press: The “Stand Down” Theory Focused On A Team That Was Prevented From Flying To Benghazi And Told To Remain In Tripoli.** “The ‘stand-down’ theory centers on a Special Operations team - a detachment leader, a medic, a communications expert and a weapons operator with his foot in a cast - that was stopped from flying from Tripoli to Benghazi after the attacks of Sept. 11-12, 2012, had ended. Instead, it was instructed to help protect and care for those being evacuated from Benghazi and from the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli.” [Associated Press, [7/11/14](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_BENGHAZI_STAND_DOWN_ORDER?SITE=VALYD&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)]

* **The Order To Remain In Place In Tripoli Allowed A Special Operations Team To Protect Embassy Personnel And A Medic To Save The Life Of An Evacuee From Benghazi.** “The ‘stand-down’ theory centers on a Special Operations team - a detachment leader, a medic, a communications expert and a weapons operator with his foot in a cast - that was stopped from flying from Tripoli to Benghazi after the attacks of Sept. 11-12, 2012, had ended. Instead, it was instructed to help protect and care for those being evacuated from Benghazi and from the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli. The senior military officer who issued the instruction to ‘remain in place’ and the detachment leader who received it said it was the right decision and has been widely mischaracterized. The order was to remain in Tripoli and protect some three dozen embassy personnel rather than fly to Benghazi some 600 miles away after all Americans there would have been evacuated. And the medic is credited with saving the life of an evacuee from the attacks.” [Associated Press, [7/11/14](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_BENGHAZI_STAND_DOWN_ORDER?SITE=VALYD&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)]

**Military Officials Agreed That No Help Could Have Arrived In Benghazi In Time To Rescue The Victims.** “Military officials differ on when that telephone conversation took place, but they agree that no help could have arrived in Benghazi in time. They put the call somewhere between 5:05 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. local time. It would take about 90 minutes to fly from Tripoli to Benghazi. The next U.S.-chartered plane to make the trip left at 6:49 a.m., meaning it could have arrived shortly before 9 a.m., nearly four hours after the second, 11-minute battle at the CIA facility ended at about 5:25 a.m.” [Associated Press, [7/11/14](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_BENGHAZI_STAND_DOWN_ORDER?SITE=VALYD&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)]

**Rear Admiral Brian Losey, The Special Operations Commander For Africa At The Time Of The Benghazi Attacks, Argued That There Was No Order To Stand Down.”** “Beyond questions of timing, the testimony of Rear Adm. Brian Losey, who was then Special Operations commander for Africa, also challenged the idea the team had the capacity to bolster security in Benghazi. Losey said there was ‘never an order to stand down.’ His instruction to the team ‘was to remain in place and continue to provide security in Tripoli because of the uncertain environment.’” [Associated Press, [7/11/14](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_BENGHAZI_STAND_DOWN_ORDER?SITE=VALYD&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)]

* **Losey Challenged What The Special Operations Team At The Focus Of The Stand Down Theory Could Have Done To Secure The Benghazi Compound.** “Losey questioned what the four could have done to aid the situation in Benghazi, where American personnel were preparing to evacuate as soon as possible.” [Associated Press, [7/11/14](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_BENGHAZI_STAND_DOWN_ORDER?SITE=VALYD&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)]
* **Losey Noted That The Military Would Have Lost Its Command Operation In Tripoli If The Special Forces Team Had Left.** “Losey questioned what the four could have done to aid the situation in Benghazi, where American personnel were preparing to evacuate as soon as possible. He said assigning the small team to defend a perimeter wouldn't have been appropriate and would have meant the military's losing its command operation in Tripoli ‘for the benefit of four riflemen who weren't even riflemen.’” [Associated Press, [7/11/14](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_BENGHAZI_STAND_DOWN_ORDER?SITE=VALYD&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)]
* **Losey Said That Only One Member Of The Special Operations Team Was A Rifleman And His Foot Was In A Cast.** “Losey questioned what the four could have done to aid the situation in Benghazi, where American personnel were preparing to evacuate as soon as possible. He said assigning the small team to defend a perimeter wouldn't have been appropriate and would have meant the military's losing its command operation in Tripoli ‘for the benefit of four riflemen who weren't even riflemen.’ ‘The guy's command and control, he's communications, medical,’ Losey recounted. ‘I've got one weapons guy with his foot in a cast. Didn't make a lot of sense.’” [Associated Press, [7/11/14](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_BENGHAZI_STAND_DOWN_ORDER?SITE=VALYD&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)]

**The Commander Of The Special Operations Team At The Focus Of The Stand Down Theory Agreed That It Was The Right Decision To Stay In Tripoli.** “The Special Operations detachment leader's name is omitted from the testimony transcript, but he previously has been identified as Lt. Col. S.E. Gibson. More than a year-and-a-half later, Gibson, who is now a colonel, agreed that staying in Tripoli was the best decision.” [Associated Press, [7/11/14](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_BENGHAZI_STAND_DOWN_ORDER?SITE=VALYD&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)]

**NOVEMBER 2012: INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS NOTED THAT CIA OPERATIVES IN BENGHAZI MADE DECISIONS ON THE GROUND WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM WASHINGTON**

**November 2012: Senior Intelligence Official: “There Was No Second-Guessing Those Decisions Being Made On The Ground, By People At Every U.S. Organization That Could Play A Role In Assisting Those In Danger.”** [Washington Post, [11/1/12](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/cia-rushed-to-save-diplomats-as-libya-attack-was-underway/2012/11/01/c93a4f96-246d-11e2-ac85-e669876c6a24_story_1.html)]

* **Intelligence Officials Said Washington Did Not Interfere With The Decisions CIA Operatives Made During The Benghazi Attack.** “Instead, U.S. intelligence officials insisted that CIA operatives in Benghazi and Tripoli made decisions rapidly throughout the assault with no interference from Washington.” [Washington Post, [11/1/12](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/cia-rushed-to-save-diplomats-as-libya-attack-was-underway/2012/11/01/c93a4f96-246d-11e2-ac85-e669876c6a24_story_1.html)]

**September 2014: New York Times: “American Officials Have Previously Acknowledged That The Central Intelligence Agency Security Team Paused To Try To Enlist Support From Libyan Militia Allies.”** [New York Times, [9/4/14](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/05/world/africa/new-book-says-cia-official-in-benghazi-held-up-rescue.html?partner=rss&emc=rss)]

**SEPTEMBER 2014: A SENIOR INTELLIGENCE OFFICIAL REITERATED THAT WASHINGTON DID NOT SECOND-GUESS THE DECISIONS CIA OPERATIVES IN BENGHAZI MADE ON THE GROUND**

**A Senior Intelligence Official Noted That There Was An Attempt To Secure Local Support To Defend The Diplomatic Compound And Argued That There Was No Second-Guessing Decisions Made On The Ground.** “In an emailed statement on Thursday, a senior intelligence official said ‘a prudent, fast attempt was made to rally local support for the rescue effort and secure heavier weapons.’ The official said ‘there was no second-guessing those decisions being made on the ground’ and ‘there were no orders to anybody to stand down in providing support.’” [New York Times, [9/4/14](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/05/world/africa/new-book-says-cia-official-in-benghazi-held-up-rescue.html?partner=rss&emc=rss)]

**REP. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER ARGUED THAT THE HOUSE AND SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES FOUND NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE CLAIM OF A STAND DOWN ORDER**

**Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger Said The House And Senate Intelligence Committees Found No Evidence To Support The Claim Of A Stand Down Order.** “Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-Md.) said lawmakers never came across evidence indicating the station chief had told his team to ‘stand down’ and abort a rescue mission. ‘After interviewing these individuals, including those writing the book, and all of the others on the ground that night, both Republicans and Democrats on the House Intelligence Committee and the Senate Intelligence Committee concluded that there was not, in fact, an order to stand down and no evidence was found to support such a claim,’ he said.” [The Hill, [9/5/14](http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/216787-key-dem-stand-down-order-in-benghazi-doesnt-match-congressional)]

**Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger Said Senior CIA Officials On The Ground In Benghazi Waited To Send The Security Team To Gather Intelligence And Avoid A Potential Ambush.** “Contractors and other security officers told the House committee about 25 minutes passed between learning about the attack and the time the commandos departed for their rescue mission, the congressman said. ‘The team said they were prepped and ready to go within minutes, but the senior CIA officers responsible for the welfare of all Annex personnel were concerned they might be sending their security team into an ambush so they tried to obtain better intelligence and heavy weapons before dispatching the team,’ Ruppersberger added.” [The Hill, [9/5/14](http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/216787-key-dem-stand-down-order-in-benghazi-doesnt-match-congressional)]

**Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger Noted That A Senior CIA Official Had Told The House Intelligence Committee That The Outcome Could Have Been Worse If The Security Team Acted Earlier.** “‘The team said they were prepped and ready to go within minutes, but the senior CIA officers responsible for the welfare of all Annex personnel were concerned they might be sending their security team into an ambush so they tried to obtain better intelligence and heavy weapons before dispatching the team,’ Ruppersberger added. He noted that a high-ranking CIA official told the committee the outcome could have been much worse if the rescue team had tried to act sooner.” [The Hill, [9/5/14](http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/216787-key-dem-stand-down-order-in-benghazi-doesnt-match-congressional)]

**THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE FOUND NO EVIDENCE THAT THE CIA CHIEF OF BASE IN BENGHAZI GAVE A STAND DOWN ORDER**

**The Senate Intelligence Committee Found No Evidence That The Chief Of Base In Benghazi Intentionally Delayed Or Obstructed The Response To The Diplomatic Compound.** “The Committee explored claims that there was a ‘stand down’ order given to the security team at the Annex. Although some members of the security team expressed frustration that they were unable to respond more quickly to the Mission compound, 12 the Committee found no evidence of intentional delay or obstruction by the Chief of Base or any other party.” [Review of the Terrorist Attacks on U.S. Facilities in Benghazi, Libya, September 11-12, 2012, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, [1/15/14](http://www.intelligence.senate.gov/benghazi2014/benghazi.pdf)]

**THE SECURITY TEAM AT THE CIA ANNEX WAITED TO BUILD SUPPORT FROM LOCAL MILITIAS BEFORE MAKING THEIR WAY TO THE DIPLOMATIC COMPOUND**

**9/11/12: 9:40-10:03 PM: Before Departing For The Compound, The Security Team At The CIA Annex Attempted To Secure Support From The 17th February Brigade And Other Allied Militias.** “During the period between approximately 9:40 p.m. and 10:03 p.m. Benghazi time, the Chief of Base and security team members attempted to secure assistance and heavy weapons (such as .50 caliber truck-mounted machine guns) from the 17th February Brigade and other militias that had been assisting the United States.” [Review of the Terrorist Attacks on U.S. Facilities in Benghazi, Libya, September 11-12, 2012, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, [1/15/14](http://www.intelligence.senate.gov/benghazi2014/benghazi.pdf)]

**9/11/12: 10:03 PM: The Security Team At The CIA Annex In Benghazi Responded To The Attack On The Compound 20-25 Minutes After First Receiving Notification.** “Two armored vehicles were prepared so the security team could respond from the Annex. Approximately 20-25 minutes after the first call came into the Annex that the Temporary Mission Facility was under attack, a security team left the Annex for the Mission compound. In footage taken from the Annex's security cameras, the security team can be observed departing the CIA Annex at 10:03 p.m. Benghazi time.” [Review of the Terrorist Attacks on U.S. Facilities in Benghazi, Libya, September 11-12, 2012, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, [1/15/14](http://www.intelligence.senate.gov/benghazi2014/benghazi.pdf)]

**When The Security Team Arrived At The Compound, The 17th February Brigade Refused To Provide Covering Fire For The Team Although Members Of The Militia Assisted The Team In Its Assault.** “Outside the compound, the security team asked 17th February Brigade members to ‘provide cover’ for them to advance to the gate of the Temporary Mission Facility with gun trucks. The 17th February Brigade members refused, saying they preferred to negotiate with the attackers instead. Eventually, the security team initiated their plan of assault on the Mission compound. Some members of the 17th February Brigade ‘jump[ed] into the vehicle’ and ‘a few 17 Feb members follow[ed] behind on foot to support the team/’ according to the informal CIA notes provided to the Committee.” [Review of the Terrorist Attacks on U.S. Facilities in Benghazi, Libya, September 11-12, 2012, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, [1/15/14](http://www.intelligence.senate.gov/benghazi2014/benghazi.pdf)]

**THE CIA STATION CHIEF IN BENGHAZI MADE AN INDEPENDENT DECISION TO PAUSE THE RESCUE IN AN ATTEMPT TO GET HELP FROM LOCAL LIBYAN MILITIAS**

**September 2014: New York Times: “American Officials Have Previously Acknowledged That The Central Intelligence Agency Security Team Paused To Try To Enlist Support From Libyan Militia Allies.”** [New York Times, [9/4/14](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/05/world/africa/new-book-says-cia-official-in-benghazi-held-up-rescue.html?partner=rss&emc=rss)]

**Security Team Members Said They Waited Twenty Minutes In Their Vehicles While The Compound Was Attacked.** “In a new book scheduled for release next week and obtained by The New York Times, the commandos say they protested repeatedly as the base chief ordered them to wait in their vehicles, fully armed, for 20 minutes while the attack on the diplomatic mission was unfolding less than a mile away.” [New York Times, [9/4/14](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/05/world/africa/new-book-says-cia-official-in-benghazi-held-up-rescue.html?partner=rss&emc=rss)]

**The Security Team Claimed The Base Chief Prevented Them From Rescuing Ambassador Stevens In Time.** “Five commandos guarding the C.I.A. base in Benghazi, Libya, in September 2012 say that the base chief stopped them from interceding in time to save the lives of Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and an American technician during the attack on the diplomatic mission there.” [New York Times, [9/4/14](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/05/world/africa/new-book-says-cia-official-in-benghazi-held-up-rescue.html?partner=rss&emc=rss)]

**New York Times: The Security Team Members’ Account Suggested That The CIA Station Chief Issued The “Stand Down” Orders On His Own.** “The commandos’ account — which fits with the publicly known facts and chronology — suggests that the base chief issued the ‘stand down’ orders on his own authority. He hoped to enlist local Libyan militiamen, and the commandos speculate that he hoped the Libyans could carry out the rescue alone to avoid exposing the C.I.A. base.” [New York Times, [9/4/14](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/05/world/africa/new-book-says-cia-official-in-benghazi-held-up-rescue.html?partner=rss&emc=rss)]

## 2016ER VULNERABILITIES

# EUROPE

## 2016ER ATTACKS

**Rubio On If He Thinks There Is A Signature Achievement Of Hillary Clinton’s Tenure As Secretary Of State: “I Do Not.”** MR: “Around the world today, perhaps, the most common theme is one of serious doubt about the U.S.’ willingness to lead or ability to lead, whether it’s in Asia or Europe, or in any part of the planet, so what is the signature achievement of her four and a half years at the State Department?” HH: “Do you think there is one?” MR: “I do not. In fact, I think if you look at the administration’s foreign policy especially during her watch, it completely lacked any sort of strategic vision of what America’s role is in the world in the 21st Century.” [Hugh Hewitt Show, [6/9/14](http://www.hughhewitt.com/senator-marco-rubio-hillary-clintons-hard-choices-photos-many-people-going-question/)]

**Bobby Jindal Attacked The Obama Administration And Hillary Clinton For Neglecting And Abandoning Our Allies.** “Otherwise, Jindal's remark were heavy on blaming the Obama White House, including former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, for fumbling foreign policy. ‘Today, we see a world in which the Obama administration has neglected or abandoned America's long-standing allies. Our 'special relationship' with Britain is gone, NATO is drifting, Eastern Europe is disaffected, and Israel has been purposefully alienated from the United States,’ he said. He went on to say the last months has sparked the rise of ISIS, Russia's incursion into Crimea and Ukraine, and other flare-ups around the world.” [The Post And Courier, [10/7/14](http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141007/PC1603/141009474/1031/louisiana-gov-bobby-jindal-takes-on-president-obama-at-the-citadel)]

## CLINTON DEFENSE

**SECRETARY CLINTON HAS MAINTAINED A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH EUROPEAN ALLIES…**

**British Foreign Secretary William Hague On Secretary Clinton: “We Each Relied Heavily On The Bond Of The Special Relationship During A Time Of Momentous Upheaval And Change In The Middle East.”** “The working relationship between a British Foreign Secretary and an American Secretary of State is exceptionally close. I think I speak for both of us in saying that we each relied heavily on the bond of the Special Relationship during a time of momentous upheaval and change in the Middle East. But one of the many reasons I enjoyed working with you so much is because we share the conviction that foreign policy is not just about responding to the crises of today; it is about improving the condition of humanity.” [British Foreign Secretary Hague Remarks, [10/12/13](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/hillary-clinton-awarded-chatham-house-prize)]

**British Foreign Secretary William Hague On Secretary Clinton: “As Secretary Of State You Strongly Supported My Campaign To End The Use Of Rape As A Weapon Of War.”** “As Secretary of State you strongly supported my campaign to end the use of rape as a weapon of war, and last month we passed an inspiring milestone, when 134 countries came together for the first time to endorse our new global declaration promising to end sexual violence in conflict.” [British Foreign Secretary Hague Remarks, [10/12/13](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/hillary-clinton-awarded-chatham-house-prize)]

**British Foreign Secretary William Hague On Secretary Clinton: “I Am Pleased On My Own Account To Be Able To Thank You For Our Excellent Working Relationship And Friendship, For Your Inspiring Faith In Value Of Diplomacy, [And] For Your Attachment To Britain.”** “So I am proud to pay tribute to you tonight Hillary, for this richly-deserved recognition of your service to your country and to the world; and I am pleased on my own account to be able to thank you for our excellent working relationship and friendship, for your inspiring faith in value of diplomacy, for your attachment to Britain, your belief in the power of friendship between nations, your often infectious optimism, your infallible good humour, your steely resolve, and for being a Secretary of State who not only served the American people, but fought powerfully for all of us who want to see the expansion of human rights and freedom everywhere.” [British Foreign Secretary Hague Remarks, [10/12/13](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/hillary-clinton-awarded-chatham-house-prize)]

**Clinton On U.S.-U.K. Relationship: It Is So Special To Me, Personally, And I Think It Is Very Special Between Our Countries…It Doesn't Matter In Our Country Whether It's A Republican Or Democrat, Or Frankly In Your Country Whether It's A Conservative Or A Tory…There Is A Level Of Trust And Understanding.”** “‘It is so special to me, personally, and I think it is very special between our countries. There's just a—not just a common language—but a common set of values that we can fall back on,’ she said. ‘It doesn't matter in our country whether it's a Republican or Democrat, or frankly in your country whether it's a Conservative or a Tory. There is a level of trust and understanding. It doesn't mean we always agree because of course we don't.’” [National Journal, [7/3/14](http://www.nationaljournal.com/politics/why-is-hillary-clinton-in-england-20140703)]

**French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius On Secretary Clinton: “You’re Both An Altogether Remarkable Woman And A Friend Of Europe And France.”** “My dear Hillary, I wanted to tell you how extremely pleased we are to have you here at the Ministry, which is familiar to you. You’ve come here to present your book, and I’m sure it will be a very great success. It’s been a pleasure for me – along with our friends present and a number of predecessors you worked with too – to welcome you for this really friendly discussion, because – even though this will embarrass you – you’re both an altogether remarkable woman and a friend of Europe and France.” [Foreign Minister Fabius Remarks, [7/7/14](http://www.ambafrance-us.org/spip.php?article5814)]

**French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius Praised Clinton’s “Leadership…Natural Authority,” And Her Efforts Aimed At Allowing Women To “Have An Increasingly Important Role In A Global Society.**” “What’s always struck me is that you don’t often take for yourself the posts you’ve held and the positions you’ve adopted, you take them so that women genuinely have an increasingly important role in global society. That’s really something extremely important. I was also always struck, during the too short a time I worked with you, by what in plain French is called ‘leadership.’ What’s more, there is no word to translate this into excellent French, but it’s true to say that this leadership is very impressive both due to your skills and because you have a natural authority which means that when you speak, everyone listens, and very often everyone follows.” [Foreign Minister Fabius Remarks, [7/7/14](http://www.ambafrance-us.org/spip.php?article5814)]

**Washington Post: Secretary Clinton Was Able To Forge An International Coalition To Intervene In Libya “Using Her Mixture Of Political Pragmatism And Tenacity To Referee Spats Among NATO Partners.”** Some Republicans derided the effort as ‘leading from behind,’ while many others questioned why President Obama was entangling the nation in another overseas military campaign that had little strategic urgency and scant public support. But with NATO operations likely to end this week, U.S. officials and key allies are offering a detailed new defense of the approach and Clinton’s pivotal role — both within a divided Cabinet and a fragile, assembled-on-the-fly international alliance. What emerges from these accounts is a picture of Clinton using her mixture of political pragmatism and tenacity to referee spats among NATO partners, secure crucial backing from Arab countries and tutor rebels on the fine points of message management.” [Washington Post, [10/30/11](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/hillarys-war-how-conviction-replaced-skepticism-in-libya-intervention/2011/10/28/gIQAhGS7WM_story.html)]

**Reuters: Secretary Clinton Called German Chancellor Angela Merkel “the greatest leader in Europe.”** “Former U.S. secretary of state Hillary Clinton called Chancellor Angela Merkel ‘the greatest leader in Europe’ during a visit to Berlin on Sunday and said it was high time America had a woman leader too, though without confirming she would seek the job.” [Reuters, [7/6/14](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/06/usa-clinton-merkel-idUSL6N0PH0N320140706)]

**…WHILE STILL PRESSURING FRIENDLY NATIONS TO STAND UP TO RUSSIA**

**Wall Street Journal’s Washington Wire: Secretary Clinton “Called On European Nations To Become Less Dependent On Russian Energy Supplies And Impose Stronger Sanctions.”** “‘Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called on European nations to become less dependent on Russian energy supplies and impose stronger sanctions on their Eastern neighbor. ‘They need to understand they must stand up to [Russian President] Vladimir Putin,’ Mrs. Clinton said on CNN in an interview with Fareed Zakaria. ‘The reluctance has to do with European dependence on energy from Russia.’” [Washington Wire, Wall Street Journal, [7/27/14](http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2014/07/27/clinton-to-europe-loosen-russias-energy-grip/)]

* **Wall Street Journal’s Washington Wire: As Secretary of State, Clinton Established “A Roughly 100-Person Office That Seeks To Further Diplomacy Through Energy Security.”** “Mrs. Clinton said that while she was Secretary of State during the first term of the Obama administration, she told European nations then that they need to diversify their energy supplies. As secretary, she created in 2011 the department’s Bureau of Energy Resources, a roughly 100-person office that seeks to further diplomacy through energy security.” [Washington Wire, Wall Street Journal, [7/27/14](http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2014/07/27/clinton-to-europe-loosen-russias-energy-grip/)]

**Secretary Clinton On Missing Malaysian Airplane: If Evidence Links Russia To The Crash, Europe Must “Put Putin On Notice That He Has Gone Too Far.”** Speaking about the crash of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 in Ukraine, Secretary Clinton said, “If there is evidence linking Russia to this, that should inspire the Europeans to do much more on three counts. One, toughen their own sanctions — make it very clear there has to be a price to pay. Number two, immediately accelerate efforts and announce they are doing so to find alternatives to Gazprom. Russia has not diversified its economy. It is still largely dependent upon natural resources, principally gas and oil. And thirdly do more in concert with us to support the Ukrainians…Put Putin on notice that he has gone too far and we are not going to stand idly by. So, the Europeans have to be the ones to take the lead on this. It was a flight from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur over European territory. There should be outrage in European capitals.” [Charlie Rose, PBS, 7/17/14]

**CNN: London Mayor Boris Johnson Said That “Hillary Clinton Is Worried That European Governments Are Being ‘Too Wimpy’ In Dealing With Russian President Vladimir Putin” And That “She Wanted Us In Britain To Stick It, To Take It To Putin.”** “Hillary Clinton is worried that European governments are being ‘too wimpy’ in dealing with Russian President Vladimir Putin, London's mayor Boris Johnson said Friday… ‘Her general anxiety was that Putin, if unchallenged and unchecked, would continue to expand his influence in the perimeter of what was the Soviet Union. She spoke of alarm in Estonia and the Baltic states. I was very, very struck by that.’ ‘I was struck by the firmness with which she wanted us in Britain to stick it, to take it to Putin,’ he said, once again underlining he was not using Clinton's exact words but offering a ‘brutal summary’ of what she said.” [CNN, [2/13/15](http://www.cnn.com/2015/02/13/politics/hillary-clinton-boris-johnson/)]

## 2016ER VULNERABILITIES