STATEMENT OF GREGORY N. HICKS

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Wednesday, May 8, 2013

I am a career public servant. Until the aftermath of Benghazi I loved every day of my job.

In my 21 years of government service prior to Tripoli, I earned a reputation for being an innovative policymaker who got the job done. I was promoted quickly and received numerous awards. People who worked for me rated my leadership and management skills highly.

I have two Master's Degrees from the University of Michigan: Applied Economics, and Modern Near Eastern and North African Studies. I have served my country extensively in the Mid-East. Besides Libya I have served in Afghanistan, Bahrain, Yemen, Syria, and The Gambia. I speak fluent Arabic.

In Bahrain, my Shia opposition contacts gave me advance warning of impending attacks on our embassy and anti-American demonstrations, allowing us to prepare and avoid injuries to staff. I learned that knowledge of local conditions and strong connections with the local population are as important as the strength and height of walls. One reason I am here is because I pledged to the Foreign Service that none of us should ever again experience what we went through in Tripoli and Benghazi on 9/11/2012.

After I arrived in Tripoli as Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) on July 31, 2012, I fast became known as the Ambassador's "bulldog," because of my decisive management style. In the days immediately after the Benghazi attack, the President and Secretary of State praised my performance over the telephone. President Obama wrote Libyan President Magariaf expressing confidence in my abilities. Deputy Secretary Burns and General Ham told me how much they appreciated how I handled the night of the assault and its aftermath. I received written notes of commendation from Under Secretary Wendy Sherman and Executive Secretary Stephen Mull. Incoming Chargé Larry Pope personally told me my performance was "near-heroic."

In February 1991, I swore an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States. I am here today to honor that oath. I look forward to answering your questions fully and truthfully.

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

UNCLASSIFIED

MRN:	12 WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC 9172588
Date/DTG:	Sep 17, 2012 / 172024Z SEP 12
From:	WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC
Action:	AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI *IMMEDIATE*
Subject:	MESSAGE TO LIBYAN PRESIDENT MOHAMED YUSUF AL MAGARIAF

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SUBJ: MESSAGE TO LIBYAN PRESIDENT MOHAMED YUSUF AL MAGARIAF

EYES ONLY FOR CDA HICKS

1. Charg d'Affaires: Please pass the following message from President Obama to President Magariaf at the earliest opportunity. Signed original to follow.

2. Begin text.

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for responding quickly to the tragic attack against our people in Benghazi. The words of condemnation and condolence offered by you and your government have been deeply appreciated, and I hope you will have the opportunity to express these sentiments directly to the families of the victims in the near future. Your idea of an official congressional delegation expressing condolences would be a welcome gesture.

I am also pleased that you have taken swift action to identify and apprehend the perpetrators of this outrageous attack. As we discussed, there can be no place for this type of extremism in a new Libya, and your decisive action now will be critical toward ensuring your country's future security and stability. The United States is a partner with you in this regard. Ensuring the security of our personnel in Libya will also be essential for our future work together to support Libya's democratic transition. We count on your full cooperation in the investigation.

Charg d'Affaires Greg Hicks and his entire team have my full confidence, and I know they will be working closely with your government in the coming days.

Sincerely,
Barack Obama

End text.
Minimize considered.

Deputy Secretary of State

September 21, 2012

Dear Greg,

Many thanks for all the exceptional work that you and your extraordinary staff put into my visit. I'm honored to serve with you, and will support you in every way that I can.

Warm regards,

Bill

Deputy Secretary of State
William J. Burns
Letter of Appreciation for Gregory Hicks
9/21/12

Dear Greg,

Many thanks for all the exceptional work that you and your extraordinary staff put into my visit. I'm honored to serve with you, and will support you in every way that I can.

Warm Regards,

Bill

Hicks, Gregory N

From: Sherman, Wendy R
Sent: Tuesday, September 18, 2012 1:18 PM
To: Hicks, Gregory N
Cc: Jones, Beth E; Dibble, Elizabeth L; Lakhdhir, Kamala S; Escrogima, Ana A

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Greg,

I wanted to take a moment to thank you and the team in Mission Libya for your resolve and extraordinary commitment to duty this past week. Words can only begin to express our sorrow at the death of four close colleagues last week during the attack in Benghazi. I have tremendous respect and admiration for everyone's commitment to doing the hard work needed to press forward: to secure our people and facilities, to continue engagement with the Libyan government and people, and to answer what I know must be an extraordinary volume of requests and instructions from Washington. And everyone one in Mission Libya must do so under the weight of profound grief. We are all in your debt.

As we work through the monitoring group and frequent video conferences to help decide how best to secure missions around the region and around the world, I wanted to acknowledge and appreciate how uniquely difficult this period is for Mission Libya. Please know for all the Americans who remain, who were evacuated on short notice, and for all our locally engaged staff whom we know are grieving alongside us, that you have my sincere appreciation, as well as the gratitude of the Secretary and President, and everyone in the State family and throughout the government, for the work you and your team are continuing to do in the aftermath of the attack.

Please do not hesitate to call or write me if you need anything or if I, or anyone in the government, can be helpful to you in any way.

In deepest sympathy and gratitude,

Wendy