



## **The Week in Homeland Security: Congress Resumes Benghazi Inquiries**

By: Jennifer Scholtes - November 11, 2012

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Since the House and Senate recessed shortly after the September attack in Libya, questions and accusations from lawmakers about the way the Obama administration handled the situation have been fermenting for seven weeks.

So when the two chambers reconvene this week, administration officials will be spending a lot of time on Capitol Hill.

On Tuesday, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will hold a closed hearing on the Sept. 11 attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi. And on Thursday, both the House and Senate Intelligence Committees will hold closed hearings on the issue, while the House Foreign Affairs Committee has scheduled an open hearing that day.

Acting CIA Director Mike Morrell is expected to testify in place of former Director David H. Petraeus at the closed hearings. Despite Petraeus' resignation last week, several Republicans are insisting he appear for questioning anyway.

"I don't see how in the world you can find out what happened in Benghazi before, during and after the attack, if Gen. Petraeus doesn't testify," Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., told CBS on Sunday.

State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland told reporters that Undersecretary for Management Patrick F. Kennedy will testify at each of the closed hearings on Benghazi. And the Senate Intelligence Committee has also listed Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, FBI Deputy Director Sean Joyce and National Counterterrorism Center Director Matthew Olsen as witnesses.

Kennedy and Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security Eric J. Boswell will brief members of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Wednesday. And Kennedy will brief chairmen and ranking members in the House Friday morning, Nuland said.

The State Department has turned documents related to the Benghazi attack over to the

House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, she said.

"We have told all of these requesting committees and their staff that they can see these documents as many times as they'd like to see them, for as long as they'd like to see them," Nuland said. "So there've been some reports out there that we've been withholding information or that we've been limiting time -- none of that is accurate. We've really done our utmost under the secretary's instructions to be fully compliant, transparent and open with the Congress."

Other homeland security-related events this week include:

### **Monday, Nov. 12**

- The American Bar Association and the American Bankers Association will hold a conference on detecting and preventing money laundering and terrorist financing. 9 a.m., Washington.
- The Inter-American Dialogue will hold a discussion titled "U.S. Elections: Implications for Latin America." 11 a.m., Washington.
- George Washington University will hold a discussion titled "The People Have Spoken: Time to Face the Facts," featuring former Rep. Jane Harman. 7 p.m., Washington.

### **Tuesday, Nov. 13**

- The Center for Strategic and International Studies will host a discussion titled "The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Contract Spending and the Supporting Industrial Base." 8 a.m., Washington.
- The George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs will host a discussion titled "Public Diplomacy in the Next Four Years: A Post-Election Look at American Strategies and Priorities for Engaging with the World." 8 a.m., Washington.
- The British American Security Information Council will hold a discussion titled "Nuclear Modernization: What Does it Mean and What is Required for U.S. Security?" 8 a.m., Washington.
- The American Bar Association and the American Bankers Association will hold a conference on detecting and preventing money laundering and terrorist financing. 8:15 a.m., Washington.
- The New America Foundation will hold a discussion on the implications of the 'fiscal cliff' on economic, social and national security issues. 9 a.m., Washington.
- The Johns Hopkins Nitze School of Advanced International Studies Protection Project will host a symposium titled "The Procedural and Substantive Elements of Prosecuting Cases of Trafficking in Persons: Comparative Models and International Standards." 9 a.m., Washington.

- The Brookings Institution will host a discussion titled "Yemen and the Fight Against a Resurgent al Qaeda." 10 a.m., Washington.
- The Center for Strategic and International Studies will host a discussion titled "U.S.-Turkish Relations: A Review at the Beginning of the Third Decade of the Post-Cold War Era." 10:30 a.m., Washington.
- TechFreedom and the Competitive Enterprise Institute will hold a discussion titled "Tech Policy After the Election." 10:30 a.m., Washington.
- BGov and the National Defense Industrial Association will hold a webinar on the impact of election results on looming sequestration cuts. 2 p.m., Washington.
- Deputy Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter and Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Frank Kendall will hold a briefing on updates to Better Buying Power 2.0. 2:15 p.m., Washington.
- The Institute of World Politics will hold a discussion titled "Military Strategy and China Today." 2:30 p.m., Washington.
- The Hudson Institute will hold a discussion titled "Combating Nuclear Terrorism: Overcoming the Senate Impasse." 4 p.m., Washington.
- The National Endowment for Democracy will hold a discussion titled "Democratization Theory and the Arab Spring." 6 p.m., Washington.

### **Wednesday, Nov. 14**

- The Middle East Institute will host a conference titled "New Horizons, New Challenges: The Middle East in 2013." 8:45 a.m., Washington.
- The International Institute for Strategic Studies will host a discussion titled "China and America: Who Threatens Whom?" 11 a.m., Washington.
- The Cato Institute will host discussion with Ted Galen Carpenter on his book "The Fire Next Door: Mexico's Drug Violence and the Danger to America." Noon, Washington.
- The Wilson Center will host a discussion titled "Lebanon and the Arab World in Transition." Noon, Washington.
- The Center for National Policy will host a discussion titled "American Insurgency: Sovereign Citizens Against the Government." Noon, Washington.
- George Washington University's Homeland Security Policy Institute will host a discussion titled "Cybersecurity Priorities: Looking Forward to the Upcoming Administration," featuring former Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers, R-Mich., and Rep. Michael McCaul. 3:30 p.m., Washington.

### **Thursday, Nov. 15**

- The Wilson Center will host a discussion with Edward Djerejian, formerly U.S. ambassador to Syria and Israel. 8:45 a.m., Washington.
- The Family Online Safety Institute will hold a conference titled "A Safer Internet for All." 9 a.m., Washington.
- The Senate Armed Services Committee will hold a confirmation hearing on the nomination of Marine Corps Gen. John R. Allen to be commander of U.S. European Command and supreme allied commander for Europe, as well as Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr. to be commander of International Security Assistance Force and commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan. 9 a.m., Washington .
- The House Homeland Security Counterterrorism and Intelligence Subcommittee will hold a hearing titled "Weapons of Mass Destruction Terrorism: Assessing the Continued Homeland Threat." 10 a.m., Washington.
- The House Homeland Security Transportation Security Subcommittee will hold a hearing on issues facing the Transportation Security Administration. 10 a.m., Washington.
- The George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs will host a discussion titled "Protest and Rebellion in the Middle East." Noon, Washington.
- The Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies will host a discussion titled "The Obama Administration and U.S. Foreign Policy." 12:15 p.m., Washington.
- The Henry L. Stimson Center will hold a discussion on its report titled "A New U.S. Defense Strategy for a New Era: Military Superiority, Agility and Efficiency." 2 p.m., Washington.
- The Peterson Institute for International Economics and the Stimson Center will hold a briefing titled "A New U.S. Defense Strategy for a New Era: Military Superiority, Agility and Efficiency." 2 p.m., Washinton.
- The Henry L. Stimson Center will host a discussion titled "Ramifications of cyberattacks for space and nuclear deterrence." 2 p.m., Washington.
- The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace will hold a book discussion on "Eating Grass: The Making of the Pakistani Bomb." 3 p.m., Washington.
- The Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies will hold a discussion titled "What Does It Take to Be a Naval Power?" 4:30 p.m., Washington.
- Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory will hold a lecture titled "Past U.S. Military Experimentation and Transitions." 6 p.m., Arlington.

**Friday, Nov. 16**

- The House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations and

Management will hold a hearing titled "A Line in the Sand: Assessing Dangerous Threats to Our Nation's Borders." 9 a.m., Washington .

- The Nitze School of Advanced International Studies will host a discussion titled "Living Under Drones: Death, Injury and Trauma to Civilians from U.S. Drone Practices." 1 p.m., Washington.

- Naval Operations Admiral Jonathan Greenert will speak at a National Press Club luncheon. 12:30 p.m., Washington.