

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Letters to the Editor for Nov. 2

By: [TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF](#) | Times-Dispatch

Published: November 02, 2012

Editor, Times-Dispatch:

Benghazi attack didn't fit the script

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"We don't need no stinkin' badges" was the taunt from the Mexican bandits in "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre" novel and movie when their authority is challenged. Our commander-in-chief and his staff seem to have taken a similar arrogant position as press reports detailing the terrorist killings of our Libyan ambassador and three staff members have re-created their horrific last hours of life.

"They don't need no stinkin' guns," seems to have been the high-level decision made to not come to the aid of the besieged ambassador and his staff. News reports of a 50-minute real-time video of the terrorist attack sent to the White House Situation Room prompt rational disbelief as to the non-response by the White House. According to Fox News, the request for military intervention at the CIA annex was denied and the two on-site Navy SEALs were told to "stand down." The SEALs did the right thing and fought to the death.

Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta has taken the "see no evil, hear no evil" line of personal exculpatory defense for a military non-response in time of an ongoing battle on U.S. soil. He is quoted as not knowing what was going on, which dovetails with the "leading from behind" policy.

One explanation might be that this terrorist attack did not meet White House photo-op minimum requirements. Who can forget that picture last year of senior White House staff, including our president and secretary of state, gathered in the Situation Room in apparent spellbound rapture as they viewed the Navy SEALs killing Osama bin Laden? The Benghazi terrorist attack may have lacked obligatory, pre-production script approval. The rewrite is taking place now.

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Charlottesville.