

## **Chuck's Q&A with Central Command regarding Marines**

**I-Team: When we were conducting interviews for this story, one of the family members of one of the Marines killed in the attack mentioned a Pentagon report that was released in February regarding the attack. Is any part of that report public? If so, can you please provide a copy?**

Military: You may be referring to a review conducted by International Security Assistance Force's (ISAF) Regional Command (Southwest) (RC(SW)). They conducted a "Joint Review Board Initial Report of Administrative Inquiry" in September 2012, and also completed a supplemental review of the attack in January 2013. These reviews focused on the facts and circumstances surrounding the attack, the response, and force protection. Neither report is publicly releasable as both are classified.

**I-Team: Why weren't Marine's at Camp Leatherneck/Camp Bastion trained specifically to respond to a base-breaching attack?**

Military: I encourage you to review the final investigation when it is released. Regardless, training is a service responsibility, so I must also refer you to the U.S. Marine Corps to address your question.

**I-Team: Were the security towers closest to the Taliban entry point staffed at the time of the incursion? If not, why? Were all other towers staffed? Were there plastic dummies in the towers closest to the Taliban entry point? Why were Tongan soldiers being used for perimeter security? Has it been determined where the intruders obtained U.S. military uniforms? If so, where? The Taliban is seen in videos planning the attack, including intricate maps of the base and training by cutting through wire. Was this an intelligence failure as much as a security failure?**

Military: In regards to your questions, it would be premature to comment on any findings, recommendations, or possible actions related to CENTCOM's investigation of the attack. After notification briefings to stakeholders (to include family members) and a security review, an unclassified version of CENTCOM's investigation report will be made available to the public.

**I-Team: Why wasn't an investigation of the September 14, 2012 attack convened until May 22, 2013?**

Military: As mentioned above, ISAF RC(SW) conducted two reviews, which focused on the facts and circumstances surrounding the attack, the response, and force protection. These reviews were followed by a CENTCOM review of force protection at the BLS Complex in March 2013. Subsequently, based upon his own determination and a request from the Marine Corps Commandant received on 22 May 13, U.S. Central Command commander Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III directed an investigation to begin that month to determine potential accountability of U.S. personnel in relation to the attack on the Bastion-Leatherneck-Shorabak (BLS) Complex. On Sept. 16, Gen. Austin approved the findings and recommendations of that investigation and the report was provided to the U.S. Marine Corps Commandant for further action as appropriate.

