



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4302

October 31, 2012

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Panetta:

As I travel around my district, I hear again and again from my constituents about their concern regarding the tragic attack on our consulate in Benghazi. One common inquiry I receive is about the origin of weapons used in the attack. In light of this, I would appreciate it if you could please respond to the below questions.

1. Is there any evidence that U.S. weapons were used in the attack on our consulate in Benghazi?
2. Did the United States or our allies furnish any rebel groups in Libya with weapons during the uprising against Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi? If so, what kinds of weapons were supplied? Were they small arms? Shoulder-fired rockets?
3. If weapons were furnished to any rebels, what kinds of accounting were done to ensure that the weapons were controlled and did not fall into the hands of extremists? What actions are we taken to ensure that any weapons that were furnished to the Libyan opposition are being secured?
4. If weapons were furnished to any rebels, was Ansar Al Sharia one of the groups that were furnished with weapons? If they were not directly furnished weapons, is it possible that they acquired them indirectly from those who were?

Thank you for time and attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

TED POE  
Member of Congress  
TEXAS