New CCB Report Proves Dereliction of Duty in Benghazi

By Roger Aronoff

When Accuracy in Media decided in 2013 that we would lead an investigation into Benghazi, we didn't know who would be involved, how long it would last, and what its impact would be. It has exceeded all of our expectations.

AIM’s Citizens’ Commission on Benghazi held a press conference on June 29 at the National Press Club which exposed new details about the attacks in Benghazi, Libya on September 11, 2012, as well as the ensuing cover-up. Coincidentally, the CCB also released its new Benghazi report on the same day that the Select Committee on Benghazi released its own report.

The media largely stayed away from our press conference, because the truth about the individuals responsible for the Benghazi scandal damages the liberal narrative supporting both President Obama and Hillary Clinton.

The only representative from the mainstream media was The Washington Post’s designated hit man, Dana Milbank, who regularly trolls conservative gatherings to heap scorn, sarcasm and peddle misinformation to his waiting readers. As I have reported, Milbank previously falsified details about a briefing by conservatives at the Heritage Foundation. That is the sad state of journalism in this country today.

I noted at the press conference that “There's a media theme, or meme, out there that keeps saying—and you see this [at the] New York Times, CNN, everywhere, saying, ‘No new evidence of any wrongdoing by Hillary Clinton.’ That seems to be the conclusion of most of the media in response to yesterday’s [House Select Committee report]. And we see a field of smoking guns.”

“No matter what comes out…the role of many in the mainstream media is to protect the legacy of President Obama and protect the presidential candidacy and viability of Hillary Clinton,” I argued.

The CCB report discusses in detail how the administration switched sides in the War on Terror and then engaged in an elaborate cover-up when jihadists attacked and killed our Ambassador, and three other brave Americans, during the 2012 presidential election season. Key findings of the report include:

- “The Obama administration throughout 2012 deliberately withheld urgently-requested security for the U.S. mission in Benghazi, at least in part to buttress the false narrative that al-Qa’eda had been defeated for the benefit of the president’s re-election campaign in 2012—despite the fact that Benghazi was one of the most vulnerable U.S. posts anywhere in the world in the volatile post-Qaddafi environment.”
- “For reasons not entirely clear, multiple advance warnings about an impending attack against the U.S. mission in Benghazi were ignored by the Obama administration as a whole, the Department of Defense specifically, and also especially Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who bore ultimate responsibility for diplomatic mission security.”
- “Despite an egregious failure by the Pentagon to preposition forces in advance, various U.S. assets were available to deploy immediately when the Benghazi attack began the night of 11 September 2012, but were held back from even attempting a rescue effort.”
- “The Obama White House and Clinton State Department led a concerted two-week cover-up regarding the facts of the Benghazi attack for crass political purposes and to collaborate with the international campaign led by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation that seeks criminalization of all criticism of Islam.”

Although the Select Committee on Benghazi issued a

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Dear Fellow Media Watchdogs:

The Republican convention is in the books, and it was a fascinating week. I started out as a journalist for a weekly newspaper in Texas covering the Democratic convention in Chicago in 1968, and then both conventions in 1972 in Miami. I later covered three more conventions, but since I arrived at AIM in 1997, my interest has been more in the coverage of the conventions, as opposed to the conventions themselves. That said, this was one for the ages.

The first night’s highlight was the very animated speech by the former mayor of New York City, Rudy Giuliani. But soon the story became Melania Trump’s speech, for which she and the Trump campaign were accused of plagiarism. You’d have thought she had placed thousands of pages of classified materials on an unsecured server, based on the horrified reaction of the liberal media. While there was clearly a lifting of a paragraph from a Michelle Obama speech, it was mere platitudes, such as dreaming big, and being sure that your word is your bond. But it turned into a three day story, in which some of us pointed out the far more egregious examples of plagiarism by Barack Obama and Joe Biden, and the many lies of Hillary Clinton.

Ted Cruz was the next story that reached end of the world status. He spoke at the convention on the third night, and though he urged the voters to vote their conscience, he didn’t formally endorse Trump for president. It certainly looks like a poor choice by Cruz if he was thinking about his future in politics, but that was his choice. Trump gave his speech on Thursday night, and the media pounced. The Left-Wing Cliché Factory sent out the words “dark” and “dystopian” to describe the speech. And all of the left-wing—that is to say the establishment—media ran with those words. America and the world, we were told following the speech, looks nothing like what Trump described. President Obama assured us that the world had never been less violent, crime was down, deportations were up, and racial harmony was the best it had been in forever. As the story shifted to the Democrat Party convention, the media braced for a positive, harmonious, and uplifting convention. But just days before it started, a WikiLeaks drop of nearly 20,000 emails from and to the Democratic National Committee (DNC) confirmed a couple of things we already knew. One, the DNC had its thumb on the scale for Hillary Clinton over Bernie Sanders. And two, the ties between the media and the Democrats are as strong and corrupt as they’ve ever been. Maybe even worse.

In this issue of the AIM Report, we have published an article by Fred Gielow, an AIM board member. It is a survey of our members about how they feel about certain issues, as well as aspects of AIM and the media. I believe you will find it quite interesting. We had offered prizes to the winners of a draw from the names of those who submitted their answers to our survey. The two winners, we are happy to announce, are Ralph Cheatham of Vero Beach, FL and Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Heckert of San Mateo, CA.

For Accuracy in Media

Roger Aronoff

To the Editor:

I am truly gratified with your report on the CCB’s work on Benghazi. In particular, I was pleased that you pointed out how fraudulent the mainstream media is when it comes to reporting [or not reporting] the facts. Second, and equally important, you raised a crucial point about the total ineptitude of the Congressional men & women in attempting to ferret out the facts...

Herman Kaufman

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Please keep your submissions to 50 words or less. Letters may be edited for length.
lengthier—over 800 pages long—report after expending many more resources, the Committee still failed to point the finger at those responsible for this debacle: Hillary Clinton and President Barack Obama.

“And when I watched the [Select Committee on Benghazi] press conference yesterday, to say I was disappointed would be an understatement, because Chairman [Trey] Gowdy is not a stenographer and he’s not a tape recorder,” said CCB Member and retired Admiral James Ace Lyons at the press conference. “[Gowdy] was there to make findings and conclusions. He had the information; he coppped it out.”

As my colleagues and I explained at the press conference, Select Committee on Benghazi Chair Gowdy had an unparalleled opportunity to explain the attacks, connect the dots and hold people accountable. Instead, he and the remainder of the GOP members largely acted as stenographers rather than investigators.

Presciently, we wrote in our report that “Our Citizens’ Commission was formed in 2013 with the unsettling sense that neither the Congressional Committees, the State Department’s Accountability Review Board (ARB), the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI), nor even Representative Trey Gowdy’s (R-SC) Select Committee on Benghazi would report these events in a way that was fully accurate and complete.”

Representatives Jim Jordan (R-OH) and Mike Pompeo (R-KS) provided their own supplemental report to the Select Committees—an addendum more willing to place blame. And at the press conference on June 28 when their report was released, Pompeo called Mrs. Clinton’s actions “morally reprehensible.” But when it came to passing judgment, Gowdy took a pass.

This has allowed the mainstream media to repeatedly claim that despite an exhaustive investigation, no new revelations have been found that implicate Hillary Clinton. Steve Benen of MSNBC’s headline read that Clinton has been “exonerated.” But no new revelations are necessary to demonstrate the ongoing Benghazi cover-up.

Regrettably, without even attending

the event, MSNBC repeated some of the lies perpetuated by Milbank. “This is what it’s come to: Benghazi conspiracy theorists are so creative, and so unmoved by evidence or reason, that they can convince themselves that congressional Republicans are in on the conspiracy,” writes Benen for MSNBC (emphasis in original).

Our report did, however, receive favorable coverage from The Washington Times and WorldNetDaily. Whether or not other members of the mainstream media continue to ignore our report, its findings continue to expose the truth and call for accountability.

“Secretary of State Clinton must be held responsible for her failure to provide adequate protection to the SMC in Benghazi in the months leading up to the attack, as well as for her failure to immediately request permission from the Libyan government for cross-border authority, and then to convey that authority to available U.S. military forces,” we write in our report. “Lastly, the Obama administration cover-up that followed the Benghazi debacle served only to add insult to injury by denying the truth about what happened to the American people and suppressing with a heavy hand those who had been personally involved and who wanted to speak out.”

We argue in the report that, in truth, “a hastily-concocted false narrative about a YouTube video was fed to the media and public alike in a campaign quickly, but efficiently, coordinated with the administration’s domestic and international Muslim Brotherhood networks. The objective was to conceal the fact that al-Qa’eda-linked jihadists attacked our mission and killed four Americans that night.”

In other words, President Obama and Hillary Clinton are responsible for first aiding al-Qaeda-linked rebels, then failing to protect or rescue our Ambassador and three other Americans from al-Qaeda-linked militias and jihadists.

That is why the “thrust of our investigation has been not merely to document the sequence of events, but, more importantly, to reveal the reasons why the Obama administration and the Clinton State Department so radically changed U.S. policy in the war against the Global Jihad Movement (GJM) in ways that benefited this country’s worst enemies.”

Our report “is not intended to cover every single aspect of the Benghazi debacle, but will add new details to the CCB’s earlier reporting on each of these phases of the Benghazi attack: before, during, and after.”

These conclusions the Post’s Milbank called the fantasies of “a coalition of far-right foreign-policy types,” “conspiracy theorists,” and “agitators.”

This is all part of the attempt to discredit the messenger, because Milbank can’t really dispute the message—although he has certainly tried. But at least he was there, and spelled the names correctly.

When Milbank quotes from the CCB’s findings, the obvious inference is that he finds these points to be baseless—and believes they could only originate from the minds of right-wing conspiracy theorists. The findings in the CCB’s latest report are, indeed, very damning accusations. But we back them up in every case, and encourage people to read the report and judge for themselves. Our military and intelligence experts—former admirals, generals, colonels, congressmen and CIA officers—are people with vast service to this country and outstanding reputations.

It is Milbank and the rest of the mainstream media who are being played for fools by not examining our evidence.

After all, Clinton’s pivotal role can be seen in her aide, Jake Sullivan’s email that Clinton had “leadership/ownership/stewardship of this country’s Libya policy from start to finish.” Yet somehow we are supposed to believe that Mrs. Clinton ignored Libya after Qaddafi’s death, and missed 600 requests for additional security. That’s what she told the House Select Committee on Benghazi when she testified last October.

The military dereliction of duty in Benghazi is shocking, as well. “So we had no pre-planning of the possibility

Whether or not members of the mainstream media continue to ignore our report, its findings continue to expose the truth and call for accountability.
of a terrorist attack in the region on that day and while the attack was underway no U.S. military assets were moved into action,” said CCB Member Gen. Tom McInerney. “At least a fly-by over Benghazi could have been arranged, with F-16s using full after-burners that could have dispersed the terrorists and ended the attack.”

“Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, as well as USCINCEUR Adm. James G. Stavridis and USAFRICOM Commander General Carter F. Ham, all share responsibility for their failure to pre-position U.S. military forces in the face of so much advance warning about the situation in Benghazi,” we write in our report. “They also failed to insist on the timely dispatch of forces to at least attempt a rescue the night of the attack.”

“Never in the history of the United States have we seen a cover-up like this,” said McInerney.

The testimony from Gen. McInerney is very compelling. He led the air attacks into Libya in 1986. Admiral Ace Lyons also commanded more than 250,000 troops at one time as commander in chief of the Pacific Fleet of the U.S. Navy.

I was joined at the National Press Club by a number of other members of the CCB, including former CIA officer Clare Lopez, General Thomas McInerney, Lt. Colonel Denny Haney, Admiral James “Ace” Lyons (all retired), our attorney John Clarke, as well as guests Rear Admiral Chuck Kubic (ret.) and Charles Woods, father of Ty Woods, the former Navy SEAL who was killed in the attack on the CIA Annex.

Here are some of our findings, in the words of each of the CCB members and the guests:

Clare Lopez:
“So, when we undertook to begin this second report, we think that we bring to this topic a willingness to name names, a willingness to assign responsibility and to demand accountability that too many of the others, committees and others, have not done—have neglected to do.”

“Now, from Christopher Stevens to the folks at the CIA Annex, they were in fact then relying on exactly the jihadist enemy that was eventually to turn on them and to kill four Americans and injure others so gravely.”

“First of all, it was the anniversary of 9/11. That alone should have put U.S. forces and diplomatic missions the world over on extra alert.”

“Absolutely, they [Hillary and Obama] lied. There’s no question. We know, again, from Judicial Watch documents obtained through the FOIA process that the administration, including the President and Secretary of State Clinton, were actively involved that very night while the attack was still going on in concocting a false narrative to deflect the story from the truth and to defend at all costs, even the cost of American lives, the re-election campaign of the President. They were not even decided on which video they were going to blame.”

General Thomas McInerney (ret.):
“It was 9/11. Isn’t 9/11 a significant date for us? And yet we had none of this preparation. We had all of the Combatant Commanders back in Washington, DC, on a commanders’ conference.”

“We should have prepositioned F-16s from Aviano down to Sigonella to be on 15-minute alert.”

“If you go by Benghazi and go a low at night, full after-burner, they don’t know whether you’ve got laser-guided bombs or what you’ve got.”

“So, there was no pre-planning. I call that dereliction of duty.”

Lt. Colonel Dennis Haney (ret.):
“I talked to Sean Smith’s uncle this morning, and he said he’s read our report. He got halfway through [Trey] Gowdy’s report, he got all the way through our report. He says read this [CCB] report if you want to know the truth.”

“Qaddafi was out there killing bad guys. He was killing al Qaeda, and al Qaeda we supported—they went to Syria, they became ISIS. We developed ISIS. That’s a fact.”

Admiral James “Ace” Lyons (ret.):
“Benghazi never had to happen. Libya never had to happen.”

“There’s no reason why F-16 aircraft weren’t moved from Aviano to Sigonella, or to Souda Bay, Crete—either place. We had a 130-man Marine force recon team at Sigonella. We had the Marine FAST teams at Rota. We had the Commanders’ in Extremis Force in Croatia. We had assets.”

“We know Jeremy Bash, the chief of staff at the Department of Defense, at 1910 that evening sent an email, or called the State Department, and said ‘we’re spinning up as we [speak].’ Where do we get the cross border authority?”

John Clarke:
“Now we just heard, I just found out, because I haven’t read Mr. Gowdy’s report, that the order [to deploy] was given at 7:00 pm. Well, the attack began at 3:42 pm, local time. That’s three hours later.”

Rear Admiral Chuck Kubic (ret.):
“And I found out eventually that it was Secretary Clinton working directly with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who had shut down not that truce talk [with Qaddafi] but had struck down a parallel one I didn’t even know was happening through a different business channel.”

“So it struck me that the same behavior that shut down the 72-hour truce at the onset of the war, leading to death, destruction a failed state, was the same kind of behavior that existed in that 7:30 [Deputies] meeting.”

Charles Woods:
“Many, many times Ty as a Navy SEAL in his 20 years of service was in worse situations than this. But he always knew that if there was a compromise of the mission, that he was going to be extracted. That did not happen in this case. That’s part of the DNA of being in the military. That’s part of the code of ethics, is you are always rescued.”

“We have a lot of experts in the military that say they could have been rescued. No attempt was made.”

You can read the CCB’s new report online at www.aim.org/benghazi. It is well documented, it puts Benghazi in context, it explains why we were in Libya—what we did and didn’t do—and it names the people most responsible for the failures of Benghazi. Also, AIM and the CCB are determined to continue with our investigation, well into the next administration, whoever the next president is.

Roger Aronoff is the Editor of Accuracy in Media, and a member of the Citizens’ Commission on Benghazi. He can be contacted at roger.aronoff@aim.org.
Results of 2016 AIM Membership Survey

By Fred Gielow

In January 2016, a survey was distributed to AIM supporters, asking for their opinion on various issues and institutions. Hundreds responded with opinions, judgments, and comments. We appreciate that so many took time to complete these questions and we greatly value the information supplied. Here’s a brief summary of the results we received.

Of the 12 issues described, the highest rated was Immigration, Refugees and Border Security, scoring 9.4 out of a possible 10. Second highest was Terrorism at Home and Abroad (9.2). Third highest: Bias in the Media (9.1). Rated lowest was Climate Change (3.9). Next lowest: Media Ownership by Foreigners and The Culture Wars (tied at 7.9 each).

By far, Fox News is your preferred TV network: 94% of those who responded to the survey listed it. The other networks are not as popular: CNN - 17%, CBS - 16%, NBC - 16%, and ABC - 15%. Coming in last was MSNBC at 5%.

The importance of social media did not rank very high with AIM supporters: On a scale of 1 (not important) to 5 (very important), Facebook ranked 2.6, Twitter ranked 2.3, and YouTube ranked 2.6.

The main reason (of those listed) for supporting AIM (86.6% of those responding) was the Need for a Media Watchdog. The second most important reason (46.9%) was News Information and Reporting Not Available Anywhere Else. Third (43.8%): Special Investigative Reports.

AIM ranks high in how well it addresses issues of media bias. On a scale of 1 (very poorly) to 5 (very well), AIM averaged an impressive 4.6.

AIM writers also ranked high: Don Irvine: 4.4, Cliff Kincaid: 4.5, and Roger Aronoff: 4.5 94.4% of survey respondents read the AIM Report.

AIM receives high marks (4.6 out of 5) for how well it covers compelling issues, such as Benghazi, terrorist threats, immigration, etc.

While these results were interesting, a number of the comments were as well. Here’s a brief sample of what supporters told us:

From Hermitage, Pennsylvania:

“I like the way you expose the radical leftist agenda.”

From Philomath, Oregon:

“Thank you for your good and long presence.”

From Johnson City, Texas:

“The AIM Report is thorough; appropriate for the month; well written.”

From Willowbrook, Illinois:

“Often we don’t get all the news we should get, but you supply it in the newsletters.”

From Adams, Minnesota:

“I’d like more on culture wars and religious freedom.”

From Waverly, Tennessee:

“Am in wheelchair and wife is recovering from heart attack. Have deleted my name from all files with very few exceptions. AIM is one exception. $10 is my cap.”

From Phoenix, Arizona:

“The research that goes into the AIM article—to me it’s like Paul Harvey is still with us providing ‘the rest of the story.’”

From La Habra, California:

“I have learned so much from AIM about so many subjects.”

From Span Fork, Utah:

“The AIM Report is an excellent newsletter.”

From Portage, Wisconsin:

“I started supporting AIM forty years ago—I admired Reed Irvine.”

Fred Gielow, an AIM board member, spent more than 32 years in the computer industry as a product planner. Now retired, he has written two books about politics: You Don’t Say, and I Can’t Believe You Said That. His website is YouDontSay.org
Devoted Hillary Clinton supporter Chris Matthews was livid at the GOP for daring to have the mother of Benghazi victim Sean Smith speak at the Republican National Convention and “lie” about Hillary Clinton, when they could have done so many more positive things.

Patricia Smith, the mother of information management officer Sean Smith, who was killed during the attack on the U.S. Special Mission Compound in Benghazi on September 11, 2012, gave a no-holds-barred speech that firmly laid the blame for her son’s death on Hillary Clinton.

“For all of this loss, for all of this grief, for all of the cynicism, the tragedy in Benghazi has wrought upon America, I blame Hillary Clinton,” Smith said. “I blame Hillary Clinton personally for the death of my son.”

Matthews was incensed that the GOP would revive the Benghazi issue with such a direct attack on his gal Hillary, instead of focusing on more uplifting themes:

“I don’t understand why the Republicans would choose to put this on prime-time television when they have such wonderful stories of American heroism to speak to the American people. I think it was wrong. I don’t care what that woman up there, the mother, has felt. Her emotions are her own. But for the country in choosing a leader, it’s wrong to have someone get up there and tell a lie about Hillary Clinton. It’s not true. It’s logically not true. It’s manifestly not true, she had anything to do in that case even if all the arguments of what she said afterwards, or Susan Rice said afterwards on Meet the Press are true. And anybody who thinks about it for a second knows it’s not true. And I think it’s wrong that they ruined their evening with this.”

I guess that in Matthews’ mind the deaths of Smith—along with those of Ambassador Chris Stevens, Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty—don’t qualify as heroism. He would rather perpetuate the lie that then-Secretary of State Clinton wasn’t culpable in the deaths of these brave men, despite evidence to the contrary, so as not to endanger her chances of winning the presidency in November.

Race Relations Hits 25-year Low in NBC/ Wall Street Journal Poll

By Don Irvine

Amidst the rash of recent police shootings comes a new NBC/Wall Street Journal poll that showed race relations are at the worst level they have ever been in the 25-year history of the poll.

Meet the Press moderator Chuck Todd discussed the results on Sunday:

“Race relations are the lowest point in the history of our poll, more than 25 years. The previous low was in October of ’95, which was the month of the O.J. Simpson murder trial acquittal. Back then, 61 percent said race relations were bad, while 34 percent thought race relations were good.

In our new poll a whopping 74 percent of all Americans say race relations are bad, and only 24 percent say they are good. 50 points underwater in that question.

And African-Americans are particularly feeling increasingly negative about the country.

A standard question that we asked ‘Is the country headed in the right direction or going on off on the wrong track?’

In January, African-Americans were a net positive on this question. 18 points ahead on the positive side, saying the country was headed in the right direction. Now, African Americans are in a negative standpoint, minus 22 points, saying the country is headed on the wrong track. A 40-point swing in just six months. It’s obvious all of this has had an impact.”

Todd concluded with a question—which presidential candidate would be better on race relations? He noted that neither Clinton nor Trump received a majority, with Clinton at 41%, Trump at 19% and 33% saying neither, underscoring the poll respondents’ lack of confidence in either candidate to solve the problem.

What Todd left out of his summary of the poll results was how Obama has fanned the flames of this racial divide by defending the racist Black Lives Matter movement, and defending the victims of police shootings before investigations are completed and all the facts are known.

Obama promised to unite our country, but instead he has set us back 25 years. That is his true legacy.