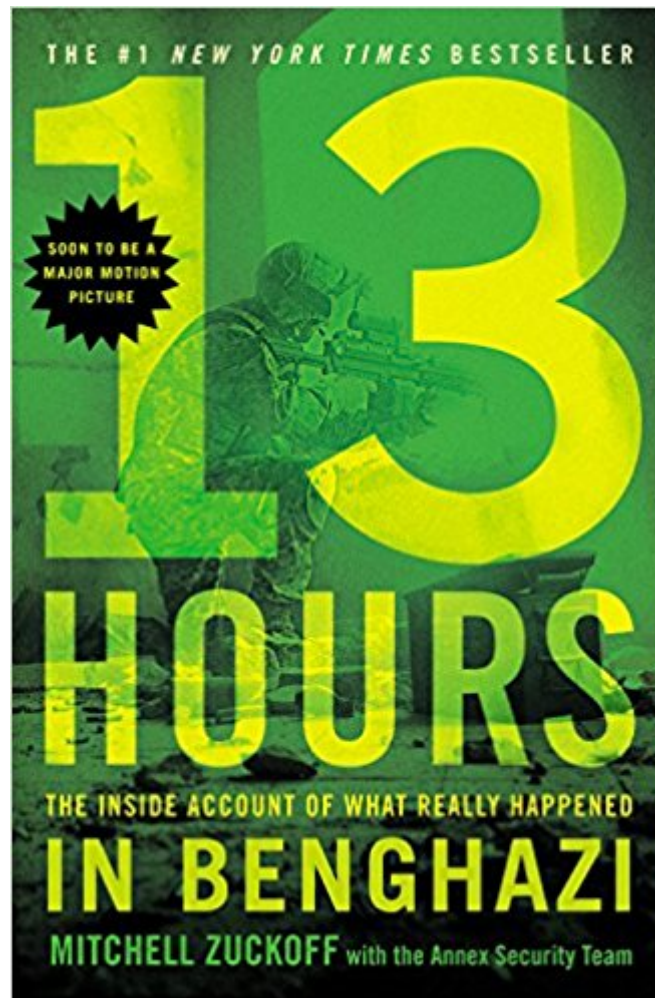




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# 13 Hours: The Inside Account Of What Really Happened In Benghazi



## Synopsis

**NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE** The harrowing, true account from the brave men on the ground who fought back during the Battle of Benghazi. **13 HOURS** presents, for the first time ever, the true account of the events of September 11, 2012, when terrorists attacked the US State Department Special Mission Compound and a nearby CIA station called the Annex in Benghazi, Libya. A team of six American security operators fought to repel the attackers and protect the Americans stationed there. Those men went beyond the call of duty, performing extraordinary acts of courage and heroism, to avert tragedy on a much larger scale. This is their personal account, never before told, of what happened during the thirteen hours of that now-infamous attack. **13 HOURS** sets the record straight on what happened during a night that has been shrouded in mystery and controversy. Written by New York Times bestselling author Mitchell Zuckoff, this riveting book takes readers into the action-packed story of heroes who laid their lives on the line for one another, for their countrymen, and for their country. **13 HOURS** is a stunning, eye-opening, and intense book--but most importantly, it is the truth. The story of what happened to these men--and what they accomplished--is unforgettable.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A crisply written, gripping narrative of the events of the battle in Benghazi that adds considerable detail to the public record of what happened there...[an] authoritative account." •The Wall Street Journal "A great number of journalists and government instrumentalities have tilted at Benghazi...All of those efforts look fragmentary when placed side-by-side with **13 HOURS**." •The Washington

## Post

Mitchell Zuckoff is the author of six previous nonfiction books, including the New York Times bestsellers *Lost in Shangri-La* and *Frozen in Time*, and a professor of journalism at Boston University. The Annex Security Team consists of the five surviving CIA contract operators who responded to the September 11, 2012, attack in Benghazi.

I loved the background of Benghazi's history in the beginning and how it transitioned to the events of 2012. The fast paced, down to earth account given by the survivors made me swell with pride that there are good guys out there, willing to take on evil to protect others and what we should all hold dear. I would recommend this book to anyone who is on the fence about what happened that horrible day and hope they would see how everything they see in 1 minute sound bytes is not always the whole story.

A riveting account of what happened during the "battle of Benghazi". The book is hard to put down. It is the account of what happened during the attack on our diplomatic outpost and CIA annex by the heroic defenders of the compounds. The book describes what the State Department's security team experienced during the attack. The book contains little of the political back and forth just the facts of what happened during the attack. The book reads like a great thriller novel. The story shows heroes still exist in this world of ambivalence.

Factual account of the desperate fight the defenders of our Benghazi outposts undertook. I bought this book 9/10 at Costco and finished early this morning 9/12. The author makes it quite clear this is purely a factual account - no politics. And there shouldn't be any. The brave surviving defenders who largely relate this sad event clearly want it this way. Kudos to the author. And Bravo Zulu to the defenders.

Exciting and compelling story told by the men that lived it. It is good to hear the events from someone that can be trusted.

This book is a collection of first hand accounts, maps, interviews and historical information rolled into one seamless wave of storytelling. Some books I can't put down for the anticipation of the unfolding plot. This book, these pages turned themselves. Not until I was reading the

acknowledgements at the end did I realize it was 3:30am and the author had said all he was gonna say for now on the subject. Good Read, as they say.

There was no official consulate in Benghazi. They called it the Diplomatic Compound, or Compound, because it unofficially housed American diplomats at various times for varying purposes. It was slated to host Ambassador Chris Stevens on his next Benghazi visit from Tripoli on September 11, 2012. Less than a mile away was the clandestine CIA compound known as The Annex. It housed about 30 CIA analysts and a small force of contract "operators" who provided security. They were known as the Global Response Staff (GRS Operators). The operators would accompany CIA agents as they made their way through the unfriendly confines of the city to assure their safety. They also provided security for the Annex. While the State Department hired local militia to provide most of the heavily armed security in both places, the GRS Operators knew they were the only ones they could trust if and when the crap hit the fan. The five GRS members of the Annex Security Team were all ex-military (Rangers, SEALs, Marines), all knew each other well, were in their late thirties and early forties and most had young families. All had vast Middle East military experience and some knew the language well. Others promised this to be their last "paycheck" before retiring for good; a last chance to make a few dollars to provide some financial security to their families. The Annex GRS team was asked to do an assessment of the security at the Diplomatic Compound. Ambassador Stevens had only a handful of capable, but light armed, Department of State (DS) agents for his personal protection. The Annex Security Team told the DS staff their security arrangement was awful, they should not trust the militia and would be easily overrun if a forceful attack was made. They also promised to act as the QRF (Quick Reaction Force) and come to their assistance in the event of an attack. Both Stevens and the DS agents had long asked the Department of State for more protection for the Ambassador but were routinely turned down. A lightly guarded American Ambassador in a tumultuous and unsettled Arab city was a ripe target and a recipe for disaster, especially on the anniversary of September 11. The worst did come to pass. 13 Hours is the story of how the GRS operators from the Annex did all they could, at huge risk of life and limb, to save the Ambassador, his staff and the DS agents. By the time they got there, the Compound had been overrun and the buildings were ablaze and smoking. The local militia protection had fled. They then returned to the Annex to repel 2 formidable terrorist attacks thereby protecting the CIA staff (and most likely its secrets) within that compound. The third attack killed two of them. These operators were not young gung-ho soldiers acting recklessly in a randomly scattered effort to kill the enemy. They were mature, competent, professional warriors who trusted

each other implicitly. They would willingly give their life for each other or for the mission. But not before extracting a terrible price from their enemy. They were the consummate warriors, insisting on providing help to the diplomatic compound when the desperate calls for help started coming in. However, they were delayed by the controversial "stand down" order (if they said they were given one, you can be sure it's the truth) and did not arrive at the Diplomatic Compound in a timely manner. They may not have been able to save Chris Stevens or Sean Smith in any event but they successfully evacuated the rest of the staff and returned to defend the Annex. At the Annex, exposed on the rooftops to provide better firing and observation positions, these GRS Operators made their stand. Dozens if not hundreds of jihadists were cut down attempting to breach the walls. Stocked with plenty of ammo and night vision, they made their attackers pay a humiliating price. But they knew as good as they were, they could not hold out forever. Their pleas for a Specter gunship or low flying F-16s or a company of Marines were ignored and they began to wonder why their country was not helping them. Finally, a convoy of GRS Operators from Tripoli and Libyan Militia fought their way into the Annex and evacuated all personnel. All but ex-SEAL Tyrone "Rone" Woods and his old SEAL friend Glen "Bub" Doherty who came in with the "rescue" convoy and Sean Smith and Ambassador Stevens. They went out in body bags. Mitch Zuckoff does a wonderful job introducing us to these extraordinary war-fighters. His narrative is fast paced and the ironies are numerous and heart breaking. You can't help but bleed with these special guys, cry with their families and shake a fist at the leadership that abandoned them. John E. Nevola - Author of The Last Jump U.S. Army Veteran Military Writer's Society of America

Was a quick read. It was a good story and it seemed to be realistic: without all the political 'fluff' (there was political backstory). It wasn't an attempt to sway the reader in one way or the other: just presented the information as it was known to the parties.

This account of what happened in Benghazi by the people who were actually there is riveting. It evoked emotions of rage at the impotence of the Americans and lack of response when lives could have been saved, it made me sad and I grieved at the loss of the men who fought so valiantly to protect those people inside the building, and it made me proud to be an American because we hold our flag so dear that many of us are willing to lay down our lives to protect it and our fellow Americans. Shame on our pitiful, corrupt administration in power at the time.

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