

your question. To withdraw your request press *2. Again, press *1 to ask a question. One moment, please for the first question.

Our first question comes from Warren Strobel. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Hi, Pat. Blackwater -- and I understand this is not just a report about Blackwater, but Blackwater in particular has gotten a lot of flak for being overly aggressive in its escort operations. But I've already talked to one or two people around the State Department today who are concerned that by changing the risk here that you might, in fact, put U.S. diplomats at more risk. Did you sort of talk about that at all in your report?

And secondly, did you find any issues where you think there was any -- people should be -- how do you put it, any wrongdoing or any sort -- anybody needs to be reprimanded?

AMBASSADOR KENNEDY: Okay. First of all, I know the entire report has just been made available to you. I think on balance we felt that the -- as the report says, that the protective security operation has been highly effective. I mean, the finding, number one, was the Department security operations in Iraq have been highly effective in ensuring the safety of mission personnel. So there is no plan to denigrate -- to denigrate safety.

When you have an operation that is well choreographed and it has a number of rules involved, there's rules for the use of force, there's rules on the escalation of force, there are five or six steps that one takes before one is authorized to use deadly force, all of that being true there are still always improvements that one can make to processes and procedures to achieve a better overall result and that is what the recommendations are driving at. It's not a question of lessening or increasing risk. It's -- the issue is to do the job in such a way as that you minimize the risk to both the protectees and to any innocent Iraqis who happen to be in the area where a convoy is moving through.

And lastly, no, we did not find any actions that we thought called out for disciplinary action, but I remind you that this report was a report on policy and procedures and structure and not on any particular activity, though we did review lots of paper and talked to lots of people. We did not find anything that would cause us to write up a finding of fault.

QUESTION: Thanks.

OPERATOR: Our next question comes from Farah Stockman. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Hi, thanks for having this call. I didn't hear you say that contractors would now be required to report incidents, the use of deadly force. Did I miss that? Is that now required? And if there is this review panel set up to review incidents of deadly force, won't that -- won't it be quite busy if people do, in fact, start reporting these incidents?

And I guess the last question is, you talked about the Justice Department and that this panel would have the power to review -- to report things to the Justice Department. There seems to be -- can you just get us up to date on whether or not the Justice Department now has the power to prosecute contractors who -- there seems to be a lot of question marks about that.

AMBASSADOR KENNEDY: Okay. First of all, any discharge of a weapon is already -- is reported -- reportable. It is in