

are the rules of engagement.

What we did find is that in the written documentation, the military -- either State Department spelled out its rule, its tiering, its escalation of force rules, more widely than the military did. The military, you know, I just described three steps; we describe more. On the other hand, so you could say the State Department had better rules. But the military also had a better description about not when you use force, but how you use force. They even know -- we believe that our people were trained this way. They spelled it out more specifically about specifically saying, make sure you fire only aim shots, although State Department regulations prohibited the firing of warning shots, and then make sure that you take particular attention to the safety of innocent bystanders and avoid civilian casualty.

You had two sets of rules, each one of them very, very strong but we saw additional protections and safeguards in the DOD rules that were not in the State rules, so we recommended and the Secretary has approved adopting them.

QUESTION: But just very quickly, what about the idea that some of these incidents and the magnitude of them are contributing to affecting your larger mission in Iraq?

AMBASSADOR KENNEDY: The whole goal here is to protect diplomats without having any adverse effect on the political dynamic there. That has always been the State Department's goals. For those of you who have been out there, getting into a numbers game is something that I am just very, very hesitant to do and I -- but I read numbers in the newspapers all the time.

But recall that the State Department is moving thousands of moves and every move is preceded by an advance team, so you have the advance team goes out, the advance team comes back, the motorcade with the protectee goes out, the motorcade with the protectee comes back. There may or may not be a quick reaction force prepositioned and so, when you say -- as we said, as I think has been reported, they're -- just in the Baghdad area alone in the first nine months or so of the year, there were 1800 moves. Well, that's really 7200-plus moves when you say out and back for both the advanced team and the reg -- you know, the motorcade with the protectee. And then add some quick reaction force, you're talking about 7500 moves.

And yes, there have been incidents, but this is a very, very dangerous environment to be moving people in and our goal is to move people safely with nobody getting hurt on the part of innocent bystanders.

QUESTION: Thanks.

OPERATOR: Our next question comes from John Broder. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Hello, Ambassador Kennedy. I'm with the *New York Times*.

AMBASSADOR KENNEDY: Yes, John.

QUESTION: Did you, as part of this review, consider doing away with private security contractors, specifically Blackwater, entirely? And if so, why did you decide to keep them and if not, why didn't you consider that option going either with State Department DS officers or military people?