

QUESTION: So they are the officer in charge. Are they going to carry weapons like the security details? Would they be expected to --

AMBASSADOR KENNEDY: They are sworn federal special agents. Yes, they will carry weapons.

QUESTION: And to the expectation, then, that they will command these small groups or units, if you want to call them that?

AMBASSADOR KENNEDY: Yes, they're the officer in charge.

QUESTION: Okay. Thank you.

OPERATOR: The next question comes from Daniel Doby. Your line is open.

QUESTION: Thank you, Ambassador. Ambassador, I just wanted to kind of make clear what beyond the guidance to the agents and the -- and setup of new structures-- is deviated? Because after all, we've already had the report that the agents from Diplomatic Service -- Security will be traveling with the convoys and we've already had the cameras and so on.

What would you (inaudible) answer the actual changes on the ground, given that what they're saying really in some of the guidance is a reiteration and clarification of rules that were already operating anyway?

AMBASSADOR KENNEDY: Well, I think there's several things. First of all, we're going to be putting in additional training modules, as I mentioned, to increase cultural awareness in hope and -- because we always believe additional training helps to produce a better product. We have put in place the Joint Incident Review Board, which we believe is important to make sure that there are firm reviews of everything, firm -- I should say fair and open reviews of everything just so that there is no -- that there is no doubt that the reviews are all-encompassing. We think that the additional liaison that's being established between the Regional Security Office and the Multi-National Force-Iraq will be of a significant benefit in order to make sure that they have full coordination there. And we believe that establishing direct channels between the Regional Security Officer and Iraqi police and security officials will also lead to a greater exchange of information.

So taken as a collectivity, those are -- I think those are positive changes, but I fully agree. I mean, the Secretary also reviewed the interim report and has ordered those to be implemented as well. So it is a combination of both the interim and the final. But she takes this very seriously, which is why she had the team go out there, and because she wanted to move as expeditiously as possible, she asked for an interim report and then a final report. And one reads the two pieces as one.

QUESTION: And if I could just follow up on that, Ambassador. There has been some talk that perhaps one final -- one final way of dealing with this would be to put contractors under the DOD's authority, so -- not obviously have soldiers -- U. S. soldiers putting (inaudible), but firmly under (inaudible) authority.

This is an alternative to that, isn't it? This is putting them more clearly under State's authority and having clearer structures, isn't it, (inaudible) putting it under the Army's authority?