

Secretary Clinton's Response to the Accountability Review Board Report

This week, the Accountability Review Board (ARB) issued its report on the attacks in Benghazi. The Secretary has embraced all 29 of the Board's recommendations and is moving quickly to implement them:

- The Secretary asked Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources Tom Nides to lead a team to ensure the implementation of all 29 of the ARB's recommendations, as well as to pursue steps above and beyond those recommended in the Board's report.
- Other members of the implementation team include: the Undersecretary for Political Affairs, the Undersecretary for Management, the Director General of the Foreign Service, and the Deputy Legal Advisor.
- The Implementation Team held its first meeting on December 18, 2012. They will continue to meet regularly to fulfill the Secretary's commitment to have implementation of all recommendations well underway before the next Secretary of State takes office.

In addition to implementing the ARB's recommendations, the Secretary has already ordered the following steps to improve security:

Request for Increase in Funds

- The Secretary submitted a proposal to Congress that requests \$1.419 billion in FY 2013 funds that would be drawn from savings in the Department's Overseas Contingency Operations, primarily by reallocating unobligated Iraq funds.
- The proposal would enable the Department to enhance security in three critical areas:
 - Additional Marine Security Guard Detachments (\$553 million to fund 35 additional detachments);
 - Increase in Diplomatic Security (DS) personnel (\$130 million to support an additional 155 DS personnel and related equipment);
 - Facility security upgrades and construction of new embassy compounds (\$736 million).

Interagency Security Assessment of High Threat Posts

- Within weeks of the attacks in Benghazi, Secretary Clinton and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Martin Dempsey partnered to establish and dispatch five Interagency Security Assessment Teams (ISATs) to assess the security posture and needs of 19 high-threat posts, and to recommend any security adjustments required. Deputy Secretary Nides has already briefed Congress on the teams' initial findings.

New Deputy Assistant Secretary of State of Diplomatic Security for High Threat Posts

- To strengthen the Department's ability to evaluate, manage, and mitigate security threats, the Secretary has created a new Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for High Threat Posts in the Diplomatic Security Bureau. She appointed Bill Miller, one of our most experienced security professionals, to serve in this important role.
- The new position will focus on U.S. posts in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Libya, Mauritania, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen.
- The new Deputy Assistant Secretary will also lead an Implementation Task Team (ITT) charged with evaluating the ISAT recommendations and developing a comprehensive plan to carry out priority actions.