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Convening a Benghazi Accountability Review Board (ARB)

Announcement by Under Secretary for Management Patrick F. Kennedy

Four personnel assigned to support the U.S. Government Mission in Libya were killed on September 11, 2012, in Benghazi, Libya. Pursuant to Section 301 of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986, as amended (22 U.S.C. 4831 et seq.), the Secretary of State has determined that this attack involved loss of life that was at or related to a U.S. mission abroad. Therefore, the Secretary has convened an Accountability Review Board to examine the facts and the circumstances of the attacks and to report such findings and recommendations as it deems appropriate.

The Secretary has appointed Thomas R. Pickering, a retired U.S. Ambassador, as Chair of the Board. He will be assisted by Admiral Michael G. Mullen, Ms. Catherine Bertini, Mr. Richard J. Shinnick, and Mr. Hugh J. Turner III, and the Executive Secretary to the Board, Uzra Zeya. They bring to their deliberations distinguished backgrounds in government service. If you are contacted for an interview with the board, I ask you to give them your full and prompt cooperation.

The Board will submit its conclusions and recommendations to Secretary Clinton within 60 days of its first meeting, unless the chair determines a need for additional time. Appropriate action will be taken and reports submitted to Congress on any recommendations made by the board.

Anyone with information relevant to the Board's examination of these incidents should contact the board promptly at (202) 647-6246 or send a fax to the board at (202) 647-6640. This notice shall also be published in the Federal Register.

Convening a board is the official process to investigate such incidents, as created by an act of Congress. Because of keen interest by the media and by congressional offices, the Department is receiving many inquiries on the incident in Benghazi. If you get any questions or letters from congressional offices, please do not respond to them directly, but contact the bureau of Legislative Affairs at: H_MIDDLEEAST@STATE.GOV, and Joy Drucker and Josh Blumenfeld.

If you get press inquiries, please send them to PA PRS_ISSUES at: PRSISUES@STATE.GOV and Melinda Masonnis.