

BOR Ceremony Remarks – June 16, 2011

President Komorowski, General Janicki, Ambassador Boswell, Deputy Assistant Director Irvine. It is a great honor to join you in honoring those BOR officers being promoted today. They deserve recognition for the outstanding work they've done in the service of their country.

I would like to join others in recognizing those BOR officers who have given their lives in the performance of their duty, both in Iraq and on April 10. Americans deeply appreciate Polish contributions and sacrifice in Iraq and Afghanistan, and we continue to mourn those who perished in the Smolensk tragedy. We will never forget them, nor will we forget those loved ones they left behind.

Our governments work together to provide security for the people of our two nations – to create the conditions for

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democratic institutions and prosperity. Poles, like Americans know that the world is a safer and better place when the gift of freedom is shared.

The Government Protection Bureau serves not only throughout Poland but also in regions of the world where achieving security is a constant struggle. BOR officers serve honorably under difficult and challenging conditions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, North Africa and other such dangerous locations to protect their diplomats as they work to implement Poland's foreign policy.

I echo the points Ambassador Boswell made regarding the excellent work of the Government Protection Bureau. It is indeed a truly professional organization and I would like to personally thank them for outstanding work they did not only

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while protecting President Obama during his recent visit to Warsaw, but also during the many other occasions our senior government officials have come to Poland.

They have provided a great deal of assistance to the U.S. Embassy and it is indeed an honor and a pleasure to work with them.

I would also like to recognize the outstanding partnership that exists under General Janicki's leadership between BOR and its U.S. partners, both the Diplomatic Security Service and the U.S. Secret Service.

The Government Protection Bureau and these two agencies cooperate extremely well and today's signing of their Statements

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of Cooperation highlight the deep professional respect each agency has for each other.

This professional and productive partnership highlights the true strength and greater potential of the U.S.-Polish alliance. The U.S. truly has no better friend than Poland, and we look forward to ever closer cooperation. Thank you.