

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY / MIDDLE EAST UPDATE
March 27 - April 7, 2013

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1. [Kerry on Deadly Attack in Zabul Province, Afghanistan](#) (04-06-2013)

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY KERRY

Our State Department family is grieving over the loss of one of our own, an exceptional young Foreign Service Officer, killed today in an IED attack in Zabul province, along with service members, a Department of Defense civilian, and Afghan civilians. Four other State Department colleagues suffered injuries, one critically.

Our American officials and their Afghan colleagues were on their way to donate books to students in a school in Qalat, the province's capital, when they were struck by this despicable attack.

Just last week in Kabul, I met our fallen officer when she was selected to support me during my visit to Afghanistan. She was everything a Foreign Service Officer should be: smart, capable, eager to serve, and deeply committed to our country and the difference she was making for the Afghan people. She tragically gave her young life working to give young Afghans the opportunity to have a better future.

We also honor the U.S. troops and Department of Defense civilian who lost their lives, and the Afghan civilians who were killed today as they worked to improve the nation they love.

I spoke this morning with our fallen Foreign Service Officer's mother and father and offered what little comfort I can for their immeasurable loss. As a father of two daughters, I can't imagine what her family is feeling today, or her friends and colleagues.

I also have been in close touch with Secretary Hagel, the White House, and our senior management team at the State Department, including Deputy Secretary Burns, Undersecretary Kennedy, and Ambassador Cunningham in Kabul. We will all keep in close contact as we learn more facts about this attack and the brave people who were killed and wounded. We are also in contact with the families of those injured.

We know too well the risks in the world today for all of our State Department personnel at home and around the world – Foreign Service, Civil Service, political appointees, locally employed staff and so many others. I wish everyone in our country could see first-hand the devotion, loyalty and amazingly hard and hazardous work our diplomats do on the front lines in the world’s most dangerous places. Every day, we honor their courage and are grateful for their sacrifices, and today we do so with great sadness.

2. White House Fact Sheet on U.S. Security Sector Assistance Policy (04-05-2013)

Fact Sheet

U.S. Security Sector Assistance Policy

United States policy on Security Sector Assistance is aimed at strengthening the ability of the United States to help allies and partner nations build their own security capacity, consistent with the principles of good governance and rule of law. The United States has long recognized that the diversity and complexity of the threats to our national interest require a collaborative approach, both within the United States Government and among allies, partners, and multilateral organizations. More than ever before, we share security responsibilities with other nations and groups to help address security challenges in their countries and regions, whether it is fighting alongside our forces, countering terrorist and international criminal networks, participating in international peacekeeping operations, or building institutions capable of maintaining security, law, and order, and applying justice. U.S. assistance to build capabilities to meet these challenges can yield critical benefits, including reducing the possibility that the United States or partner nations may be required to intervene abroad in response to instability.

Effectively building security capacity requires multi-year investments, though such up-front costs are relatively small when compared to the larger political, economic, and societal costs in the event that local institutions flounder and instability ensues. While security sector assistance can yield significant benefits, the United States cannot build capacity in all countries. It is essential that we are selective and focus our targeted assistance where it can be effective and is in line with our broader foreign policy and national security objectives. Investments of such assistance are critical to better share the costs and responsibility of global leadership.

To address these challenges, the United States must improve its ability to enable partners in providing security and justice for their own people and responding to common security challenges. Therefore, the United States will pursue a new approach to security sector assistance to better meet this complex and interdependent security environment. This approach will align with the goals and guidelines outlined below.

The Definition of Security Sector Assistance

The security sector is composed of those institutions - to include partner governments and international organizations - that have the authority to use force to protect both the state and its citizens at home or abroad, to maintain international peace and security, and to enforce the law and provide oversight of those organizations and forces. It includes both military and civilian organizations and personnel operating at the international, regional, national, and sub-national levels. Security sector actors include state security and law enforcement providers, governmental security and justice management and oversight bodies, civil society, institutions responsible for border management, customs and civil emergencies, and non-state justice and security providers. Security sector assistance refers to the policies, programs, and activities the United States uses to:

- Engage with foreign partners and help shape their policies and actions in the security sector;
- Help foreign partners build and sustain the capacity and effectiveness of legitimate institutions to provide security, safety, and justice for their people; and,
- Enable foreign partners to contribute to efforts that address common security challenges.

Goals for U.S. Security Sector Assistance

The principal goals of our security sector assistance are to:

1. Help partner nations build sustainable capacity to address common security challenges, specifically to: disrupt and defeat transnational threats; sustain legitimate and effective public safety, security, and justice sector institutions; support legitimate self-defense; contribute to U.S. or partner military operations which may have urgent requirements; maintain control of their territory and jurisdiction waters including air, land, and sea borders; and help indigenous forces assume greater responsibility for operations where U.S. military forces are present.
2. Promote partner support for U.S. interests, through cooperation on national, regional, and global priorities, including, but not limited to, such areas as: military access to airspace and basing rights; improved interoperability and training opportunities; and cooperation on law enforcement, counterterrorism, counternarcotics, combating organized crime and arms trafficking, countering Weapons of Mass Destruction proliferation, and terrorism, intelligence, peacekeeping, and humanitarian efforts.
3. Promote universal values, such as good governance, transparent and accountable oversight of security forces, rule of law, transparency, accountability, delivery of fair and effective justice, and respect for human rights.
4. Strengthen collective security and multinational defense arrangements and organizations, including by helping to build the capacity of troop- and police-contributing nations to United Nations and other multilateral peacekeeping missions, as well as through regional exercises, expert exchanges, and coordination of regional intelligence and law enforcement information exchanges.

Our assistance can also yield the benefit of the adoption of U.S. products and technology, which increases interoperability and interdependence between the United States and partners, lowers the unit cost for all, and strengthens the industrial base.

Policy Guidelines for U.S. Security Sector Assistance

To effectively achieve the goals identified above, the United States must strengthen its own capacity to plan, synchronize, and implement security sector assistance through a deliberate and inclusive whole-of-government process that ensures alignment of activities and resources with our national security priorities. Therefore, the United States will:

- Ensure consistency with broader national security goals. Security Sector Assistance programs will support and complement the full range of broad U.S. national security and foreign assistance objectives.
- Foster United States Government policy coherence and interagency collaboration. Transparency and coordination across the United States Government are needed to integrate security sector assistance into broader strategies, synchronize agency efforts, reduce redundancies, minimize assistance-delivery

timelines, ensure considerations of the full range of policy and operational equities, improve data collection, measure effectiveness, enhance and sustain the United States Government's security sector assistance knowledge and skills, and identify gaps.

- Build sustainable capacity through comprehensive sector strategies. Partner capacity can only be sustained over the long-term when partner governments have the political will, absorptive capacity, credible and effective institutions, willingness to independently sustain U.S. investments, an equal stake in the success of security sector initiatives, and policy commitment to security sector reform. United States Government efforts must be sensitive to these requirements, including anticipation of partner capacity, sustainment and oversight needs, coordination with partner governments across the breadth of security sector assistance activities, and pursuit of security sector reform as part of a broader, long-term effort to improve governance and promote sustainable economic development.
- Be more selective and use resources for the greatest impact. To maximize the impact of limited resources for security sector assistance, the United States Government will be strategic and focused on investments aligned with national security priorities and in countries where the conditions are right for sustained progress. Resource allocation will be evaluated based on common U.S. Government assessments, multi-year strategies, and performance against measures of effectiveness.
- Be responsive to urgent crises, emergent opportunities, and changes in partner security environments. Though a more strategic, anticipatory approach to security sector assistance should limit this requirement, the United States should have the ability to allocate flexible security sector assistance to respond to short-notice requirements. Timely shifts in partner interests, emerging threats, or performance against security sector objectives may require review of whether security sector investments remain an effective tool in meeting U.S. national security goals. In such instances, U.S. policymakers should consider initiating, restructuring, or terminating security sector assistance programs either as part of the annual planning cycle or on an immediate basis.
- Ensure that short-term interventions are consistent with long-term goals. Any instance of surging security sector assistance to meet unforeseen urgent and emergent needs or opportunities should be incorporated into a broader United States Government strategy to sustain any new capacity, mitigate potential negative impacts on other national security objectives, and achieve longer-term U.S. goals and objectives.
- Inform policy with rigorous analysis, assessments, and evaluations. The United States Government will introduce common standards and expectations for assessing security sector assistance requirements, in addition to investing in monitoring and evaluation of security sector assistance programs. Such standards will be aided by a requirement for measurable security sector assistance objectives, appropriate data collection of the impacts and results of security sector assistance programs, and improved efforts to inform decision-making processes with data on what works and what does not work through impact evaluations when permissible. Such standards and data collection will take into account the varying security and information environments where U.S. programs operate.
- Analyze, plan, and act regionally. Security sector assistance programs should be complemented by and linked to a broader regional approach, including cross-border program coordination, support for regional organizations, and facilitation of linkages among partner countries, where appropriate.
- Coordinate with other donors. The United States Government will establish a division of labor with other bilateral, multilateral, and regional actors based on capacity, effectiveness, and comparative advantage.

Such coordination will be aimed at sharing the burden across a greater number of interested parties and enhanced coordination with the partner governments to achieve mutually agreed outcomes.

3. Secretary Kerry to Meet with Israeli, Palestinian Leaders (04-04-2013)

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr. | Staff Writer

Secretary of State John Kerry will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas April 8–9 in Jerusalem and Ramallah.

Following President Obama's recent visit to the region, Obama asked the secretary to continue exploring with the Israelis and the Palestinians how the United States can support their efforts at getting back to negotiations "and in having a real dialogue leading to peace," State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland told journalists April 3 in Washington.

Obama visited Jerusalem, Ramallah and Amman, Jordan, March 20–23 and was accompanied by Kerry during those visits. The president met with Netanyahu and Abbas during his trip and delivered a major address while in Jerusalem to college students on the importance of U.S. relations in the region and a desire for a meaningful peace.

"As you know, the secretary had a chance to have a meeting directly after the visit with both Prime Minister Netanyahu and with President Abbas," Nuland told journalists. "It's now been a couple of weeks. They've had some time to reflect on the visit."

Nuland said this is a chance for Kerry to return and listen again and to hear what the two leaders think may be possible going forward. Kerry believes strongly in personal diplomacy and seeks to meet with international leaders and listen directly to their concerns.

Kerry will "also be making clear that the parties themselves have to want to get back to the [negotiating] table, that this is a choice that they have to make, and that they've also got to recognize — both parties — that compromises and sacrifices are going to have to be made if we're going to be able to help," Nuland said during the department's daily press briefing.

Nuland added that Kerry has been passionate during his entire career in public service about the active role of the United States in supporting Middle East peace.

"The president, with his trip, committed very strongly that if the parties are ready to move, we are ready to help them, and that he wants Secretary Kerry to explore what's possible," Nuland said.

Nuland emphasized that the president and the secretary want to see what's possible for future peace negotiations, but that this trip should not be interpreted as a renewal of the "shuttle diplomacy" that was conducted in the 1970s by then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and subsequent secretaries.

"It reflects the commitment of the president, the commitment of the secretary, to see what's possible," she added.

Nuland said the president said during his visit that both sides are going to have to create an environment for peace, but that restarting the process would have to be without preconditions.

"The secretary is committed to using his strong relationships with both leaders to encourage them to be open, to be creative, to be prepared for compromises, and to work hard to build trust between them, to increase confidence, and to create that environment where we're able to help them," Nuland said.

Nuland told journalists that Kerry begins his trip April 6 with a stop in Istanbul, where he will consult with Turkish leaders on a variety of subjects, including the ongoing civil strife in Syria. He will then visit Jerusalem and Ramallah April 8-9.

Kerry then travels to London April 10-11 for the Group of Eight (G8) Foreign Ministers meeting and a series of bilateral meetings with some of the ministers on the sidelines.

"And then April 12th through April 15th, he will go on to Northeast Asia, starting in Seoul on April 12th, in Beijing on April 13th, and in Tokyo on April 14th," she said, before Kerry returns to Washington on April 15.

4. Ambassador DiCarlo at U.N. on Adoption of Arms Trade Treaty (04-02-2013)

USUN PRESS RELEASE

Statement by Ambassador Rosemary A. DiCarlo, U.S. Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, at the UN General Assembly Meeting on the Arms Trade Treaty, April 2, 2013

Mr. President, the United States is proud to have been able to co-sponsor and vote in favor of adopting the Arms Trade Treaty. The treaty is strong, balanced, effective, and implementable, and we believe it can command wide support. We join others in congratulating Ambassador Peter Woolcott for his tireless efforts in guiding the negotiation.

The treaty is the product of a long, intensive negotiation, and I know that no nation, including my own, got everything it may have sought in the final text. The result, however, is an instrument that succeeds in raising the bar on common standards for regulating international trade in conventional arms while helping to ensure that legitimate trade in such arms will not be unduly hindered.

The negotiations remained true to the original mandate for them from UN General Assembly Resolution 64/48, which called for negotiating a treaty with the highest possible common international standards for the transfer of conventional arms and for the negotiations to be conducted in an open and transparent manner, on the basis of consensus. The consensus rule remains important for the United States; the United Nations is most effective when it is able to take decisions by consensus.

Mr. President, as the United States has urged from the outset, this Treaty sets a floor – not a ceiling – for responsible national policies and practices for the regulation of international trade in conventional arms. We look forward to all countries having effective national control systems and procedures to manage international conventional arms transfers, as the United States does already.

We believe that our negotiations have resulted in a treaty that provides a clear standard, in Article 6, for when a transfer of conventional arms is absolutely prohibited. This article both reflects existing international law and, in paragraph three, would extend it by establishing a specific prohibition on the transfer of conventional arms when a state party knows that the transfer will be used in the commission of genocide, crimes against humanity, or the enumerated war and other crimes. Article 7 requires a state party to conduct a national assessment of the risk that a proposed export could be used to commit or facilitate serious violations of international humanitarian law or international human rights law, as well as

acts of terrorism or transnational organized crime. Taken together, these articles provide a robust and complementary framework that will promote responsible transfer of decisions by states parties.

5. U.N. Treaty Will Set Controls over Global Arms Trade (04-02-2013)

The United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly passed the first global arms trade treaty aimed at addressing the adverse effects of international arms sales on global peace and stability.

Secretary of State John Kerry welcomed the treaty, which he described as "a strong, effective and implementable Arms Trade Treaty that can strengthen global security while protecting the sovereign right of states to conduct legitimate arms trade."

In an April 2 statement, Kerry said the treaty will establish a global standard to regulate the \$70 billion per year conventional arms trade.

"It will help reduce the risk that international transfers of conventional arms will be used to carry out the world's worst crimes, including terrorism, genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes," Kerry said.

According to press reports, the treaty passed with 154 votes in favor and 23 abstentions. Only Iran, Syria and North Korea voted against it.

The treaty prohibits states from exporting conventional weapons in violation of arms embargoes. It also requires them to develop control systems and review sales contracts to help prevent those exports from being sold on the black market or used for human rights abuses, terrorism and organized crime.

Countries that ratify the treaty will be required to issue an annual public report on their export of conventional weapons, according to press reports.

The measure will reportedly cover exports of tanks, armored combat vehicles, large-caliber weapons, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, warships, missiles and launchers, small arms and light weapons.

Countries will be able to ratify the treaty beginning in June, and it will go into effect 90 days after 50 nations have joined, according to press reports.

Speaking to reporters March 28, Assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Nonproliferation Thomas Countryman said that although he does not expect the treaty to immediately reduce violence, its requirements will make a difference.

"I think over time as more states take action not only to have more effective controls on their own legal exports but also, as this treaty calls for, take more effective action against black market arms brokers and cooperate against the diversion of weapons, I think it will contribute to a reduction of violence," he said.

6. U.S. Providing Humanitarian, Nonlethal Aid to Syria (03-27-2013)

The United States is providing an "exceptional amount" of humanitarian aid to the Syrian people and rising levels of nonlethal assistance to the Syrian opposition, according to White House press secretary Jay Carney.

The Syrian Opposition Coalition is the "legitimate representative of the opposition and of the Syrian people in their effort to rid their country of the scourge that is President Assad, a leader with enormous amounts of blood of his own people on his hands," Carney said to reporters in Washington March 26.

"We continue to provide an exceptional amount of humanitarian aid to the Syrian people, the largest amount, I believe, of any country. We continue to provide nonlethal assistance to the opposition and continue to step up the levels of nonlethal assistance that we provide," Carney said.

The United States and its NATO partners, Carney said, are sticking to their decision not to intervene militarily in Syria and are not planning to meet a Syrian Opposition Coalition request for Patriot missiles, which are designed to shoot down aircraft.

Carney added that the Patriot missiles deployed in Turkey, where many Syrian refugees have fled, are for "defensive purposes only," to augment Turkey's air defense capabilities to defend its territory and people.

In February, the White House released a fact sheet saying the United States has contributed \$365 million so far in humanitarian aid to help more than 1.5 million people inside Syria and more than 500,000 Syrians who have fled to neighboring countries. This money is spent for emergency medical care, food and winterization supplies such as blankets and heaters. The U.S. government channels the aid through the United Nations, nongovernmental organizations and partner countries such as Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon, which shelter the refugees.

The more than \$50 million so far in U.S. nonlethal assistance goes to groups working to build democratic institutions at the local and national levels and to nonsectarian civic groups that are trying to put together a nationwide network of activists from different religions and ethnic groups who want to link Syrian citizens with governmental structures.

The nonlethal assistance has enabled activists to establish community radio stations that inform refugees and displaced people about where they can get services. The assistance also is used to train citizen journalists in gathering, evaluating and disseminating information.

The nonlethal assistance has made it possible for unarmed opposition elements inside Syria to link up with global supporters, according to the fact sheet. For example, the Syria Justice and Accountability Center is getting support in its work to document human rights abuses and coordinate transitional justice and accountability efforts after the Assad regime falls.

A portion of the nonlethal assistance also is spent on promoting the Syrian business community's engagement in transition processes, the fact sheet said.

7. Hagel, Russian Counterpart Discuss Mutual Security Issues (03-27-2013)

Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoygu made a congratulatory call to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, and the two leaders discussed a range of issues, Pentagon Press Secretary George Little said March 25.

Hagel and Shoygu discussed the ongoing security transition in Afghanistan, Little said in a statement.

"Secretary Hagel assured his counterpart that the handover of security responsibilities is progressing as the capabilities of the Afghan national security forces continue to improve," he added.

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Hagel said the United States would keep Russia and all concerned apprised throughout the process, and he encouraged close bilateral cooperation on other issues, including Syria, North Korea and Iran.

"Minister Shoygu expressed his desire to reconvene missile defense discussions with the U.S. at the deputy minister level," Little said. "Secretary Hagel agreed and reiterated that this is an important part of U.S.-Russian relations."

Hagel assured the minister that these discussions would continue and be carried forward by Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Jim Miller, the press secretary noted.

"Secretary Hagel expressed his appreciation for the call, as well as his desire to continue close coordination on a range of global issues," Little said.