

How to Prevent the Next Benghazi

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS



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Five steps toward crafting an "expeditionary diplomacy" doctrine that secures both U.S. interests and the brave officials looking out for those interests.

For most of America's history, our diplomacy was based on establishing rapport with foreign leaders, negotiating military alliances, promoting trade and reporting back to Washington on key developments, all while watching out for our citizens abroad. But since World War II, and particularly under Presidents Obama and George W. Bush, our approach has expanded: Our diplomats now move beyond host government offices to work directly with populations to help mediate conflicts, press economic development and serve shoulder to shoulder with the military in the fight against terrorism.

This new type of mission, dubbed "expeditionary diplomacy," is hands-on and often effective. But, as we saw with the Sept. 11, 2012, attack on the Benghazi outpost that killed Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and three other Americans, it can also be very dangerous. In hearings this past week before Senate and House committees, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton reiterated her conviction that direct-to-the-population diplomatic work is essential for U.S. security. But to make sure the risks of expeditionary diplomacy are worth the rewards, we need a clear, formal framework for deciding when these missions should be undertaken, avoided or rolled back...

[Read the full article on the Washington Post website. \(http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/how-to-prevent-the-next-benghazi/2013/01/25/034ce1ee-663b-11e2-85f5-a8a9228e55e7_story.html\)](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/how-to-prevent-the-next-benghazi/2013/01/25/034ce1ee-663b-11e2-85f5-a8a9228e55e7_story.html) ❖

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