



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JAN 17 2014

Dear Chairman Royce:

Thank you for your letters of November 19, 2013, and December 13, 2013, concerning the employment status of the four Department of State employees who were placed on administrative leave following the issuance of the Benghazi Accountability Review Board (ARB) report in December 2012. This response also serves as an update to the Department's answer to your Question for the Record #12 from the House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on September 18, as well as supplementing Secretary Kerry's testimony before your committee on December 10. The employees were permanently relieved of the positions that gave rise to the ARB's findings and assigned to positions of lesser responsibility.

The former Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) had resigned this position in December 2012, consistent with the recommendation of the ARB. He had been serving simultaneously as Director of the Office of Foreign Missions (OFM). At the end of November 2013, he resigned from this position and retired. As is authorized, he has registered with the Department for temporary assignments on a "When Actually Employed" status, which allows former employees to return on a part-time, as-needed basis to support Departmental activities. We expect that he will work on occasion for the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations on real property issues, and will have no responsibilities relating to the provision of security resources.

The former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of DS is working in the Office of the Executive Director of DS on projects involving management and administrative issues, and will do so until the next assignment cycle. The Deputy Assistant Secretary for DS/International Programs is in training while she waits for

The Honorable  
Edward Royce, Chairman,  
Committee on Foreign Affairs,  
House of Representatives.

her next assignment, which will occur on the regular assignments cycle. Neither will have worldwide security responsibility.

In August 2013, the former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Near Eastern Affairs for the Maghreb became an advisor in the Bureau of African Affairs. He retired from the Foreign Service at the end of November.

We hope you find this information helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact us again on this or any other matter of concern to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julia Frifield". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julia Frifield  
Assistant Secretary  
Legislative Affairs