

C05390170 Date: 10/20/2015

C05390170-MOU

**Abdalla, Alyce N**

**From:** Abdalla, Alyce N  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2012 4:19 PM  
**To:** Sidereas, Evyenia  
**Subject:** RE: draft email for your clearance: (SBU) Lack of Security Staffing at Benghazi undermining mission

**Categories:** Working  
**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**SensitivityCode:** Sensitive

Also, the Secretary asked last week if we still have a presence in Benghazi – I think she would be upset to hear that yes we do but because we don't have enough security they are on lockdown.

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**From:** Sidereas, Evyenia  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2012 3:25 PM  
**To:** NEA-MAG-LIBYA  
**Subject:** FW: draft email for your clearance: (SBU) Lack of Security Staffing at Benghazi undermining mission

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**From:** Sidereas, Evyenia  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2012 3:24 PM  
**To:** Roebuck, William V  
**Subject:** draft email for your clearance: (SBU) Lack of Security Staffing at Benghazi undermining mission

Bill,

Let me know if this works and whether you want to consult with Joan or EX before sending this to the FO. Another issue to keep in mind is Embassy Tunis' longstanding request for an A/RSO. If we ask JDF to present this to M, we might get asked which would be our top priority within MAG. (That's not a fair question of course, because Tunis is asking for a permanent A/RSO FTE, whereas we are looking for a solid commitment of 4 TDY DS agents through the end of the year.)

Thanks.

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We determined early on that it was important to us to maintain a presence in Benghazi to engage with the TNC and keep an eye on political and security developments in the east. The mission in Benghazi has also allowed PM and USAID to conduct periodic TDYs in the east to further develop their contacts and monitor progress on our MANPADS, elections

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and civil society assistance programs. The simmering protests in Benghazi and the east against the TNC and local councils over the last few weeks (along with violent unrest in Bani Wali in the west) have shaken the interim government, and illustrated the importance of maintaining a broad base of contacts and visibility outside of Tripoli.

Unfortunately, DS staffing is becoming a recurring problem in Benghazi. At the current security threat level, Benghazi needs a minimum of four agents to support moves out of town (3 to accompany the Principal Officer or TDY officer, and 1 to remain on compound with the IRM/management person). Post needs a minimum of three agents to facilitate one movement at a time in town, and one to remain on compound.

DS staffing has dropped to two agents several times over the last few months between rotations, which has prevented the PO from leaving the compound. DS tells post it is unlikely they can fully staff Benghazi due to broader staffing challenges across NEA, and has suggested we adjust our expectations about movements and outreach.

The fluid security situation makes it unlikely that RSO and EAC will decide to significantly ease the security profile in the immediate future. If DS cannot or will not allocate the right resources for Benghazi, we may want to push back with M to force a discussion about DS's decision. If there is no recourse, we should reconsider whether we keep the mission going. There is very little reason to maintain the expense if our people are going to be trapped on the compound and unable to get around.

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