



American Foreign Service Association

2101 E Street NW Washington, DC 20037 (202) 338-4045

FAX (202) 338-6820 E-mail afsa@afsa.org

August 9, 2015

The Honorable Beth F. Cobert
Acting Director
U.S. Office of Personnel Management
1900 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20415

Dear Acting Director Cobert:

As the newly-elected president of the American Foreign Service Association, I am writing to again request a briefing on the recent and significant cyber-attacks that resulted in the theft of extremely sensitive personal data of millions of Americans. An earlier request, part of our June 22 letter to your predecessor Ms. Katherine Archuleta, was denied via a June 26 electronic communication from Mr. Tim Curry, Deputy Associate Director, Partnership and Labor Relations, Employee Services, U.S. Office of Personnel Management

Our organization represents more than 16,000 members of United States Foreign Service – diplomats and development professionals working on behalf of the American people around the world. This cyber-attack presents unique challenges for our members, who spend the majority of their careers outside of the United States. Our members typically have multiple passports and multiple addresses over the span of a few years. Their addresses and other contact information do not always conform to formats used in the U.S. In addition to these practical concerns affecting notification and credit monitoring, our members are deeply concerned with how their safety – and that of their families – will be affected by this breach.

We, therefore, read with interest the recent Request For Quotation (RFQ) from August 14 soliciting services including website services, call center services, credit monitoring services, identity monitoring services, identity theft insurance, and identity restoration services. In Section 3.2.2.2, the RFQ states that the contractor shall forward and present special requests or issues collected from impacted individuals to the Government for further consideration. As both the professional association and bargaining unit of the Foreign Service representing active-duty and retired employees at the Department of State, USAID, Foreign Commercial Service, Foreign Agricultural Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG), AFSA requests that OPM grant us a meeting so that we can present specific issues unique to Foreign Service members and their families.

Please have someone from your staff contact our Director of Advocacy Javier Cuebas at 202-338-4045, ext. 515 or at cuebas@afsa.org so that we can arrange this briefing.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Stephenson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Ambassador Barbara Stephenson
President

cc: The Honorable John F. Kerry Secretary of State
cc: The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
cc: The Honorable Penny Pritzker, Secretary of Commerce
cc: The Honorable Alfonso E. Lenhardt, Acting Administrator, USAID
cc: The Honorable André Mendes, Interim C.E.O. and Director, Broadcasting Board of Governors