

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** Sparrowgrove, David J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 7:38 AM  
**To:** Maniece, William W  
**Subject:** FW: Conversion of Benghazi Guards to PSA

RELEASED IN PART B6

Forgot to loop you in.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Clarke Ellis, Senior Reviewer

**From:** Sparrowgrove, David J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2012 12:50 PM  
**To:** Martin, Valerie J  
**Cc:** [redacted] Martinec, John B; Travers, Ricki L; Vlsintainer, Jan L; Cory, John R  
**Subject:** Conversion of Benghazi Guards to PSA

B6

Hi Valerie,  
Dave Sparrowgrove writing from DS/OPO. Our office funds the Local Guard Programs at Embassies worldwide. The local guard force protecting the US Mission to Benghazi is currently being provided by joint venture contractor named Blue Mountain Group UK, (BMG). To make a long story short, the two partners in this joint venture have been in dispute for some time. We received a letter yesterday from the Libyan partner stating that the two partners have dissolved their relationship. The other side of the partnership, Blue Mountain Group (BMG)UK runs all the operations in Benghazi. The dissolution of the partnership leaves BMG without a security license to operate in Libya and the Libyan partner has no capacity to manage the guards or the contract. As a result, we feel the best course of action is to terminate the contract in short order. I would estimate our time frame to be two to three weeks. (Jan V. please correct me if I'm wrong).

In the past, similar situations have left the RSO with no option but to convert the existing contract guards to embassy employees. There are currently approximately 20 guards that would have to be brought on as employees. Give the necessity for a seamless security transition and the urgent and compelling circumstances of this situation, we are seeking your office's support in a rapid conversion of the Benghazi contract guards to PSAs. As I mentioned, DS/OPO has had to do this before when contractors have failed to live up to the terms and conditions of the contract. Since Tripoli has a PSA guard force, all the position descriptions are on the books there in Tripoli. The idea would be to convert the Benghazi guards to the Tripoli FSN equivalent.

I have spoken with John Martinec and [redacted] about the situation so they are aware of the impending termination of the contract. I know this is a lot to digest, so I tried to call your cell phone but was unable make contact. Please feel free to contact me on my Mobile. I'm currently in Sanaa so the time zones are one hour apart. Please let me know if you have any questions. I've CC'd OPO Branch Chief Ricki Travers who has had the unfortunate pleasure of dealing with these types of emergency situations in the past. I look forward to working with you and please let me know if you have any questions.  
Dave

B6

Dave Sparrowgrove  
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B6

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 10, 2012 4:01 PM

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