



RELEASE IN PART
B1,1.4(G),1.4(E),B7(C),B6,1.4(C)

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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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MAR 6 2009

INFORMATION MEMO FOR CHERYL D. MILLS - S

FROM: DS - Eric J. Boswell

1.4(E)
1.4(G)
B1

SUBJECT: Use of Blackberries in Mahogany Row

We have worked closely [redacted] to review all options that would allow Secretary Clinton, you, and a small number of staff to use Blackberries [redacted]

[redacted] Our review reaffirms our belief that the vulnerabilities and risks associated with the use of Blackberries in the Mahogany Row [redacted] considerably outweigh the convenience their use can add to staff that have access to the unclassified OpenNet system on their desktops. [redacted]

1.4(E)
1.4(G)
B1

[redacted] We also worry about the example that using Blackberries in Mahogany Row might set as we strive to promote crucial security practices and enforce important security standards among State Department staff.

As an alternative, we suggest that DS work with S/ES-IRM to make access to the Secretary's OpenNet account on her desktop workstation as easy and convenient as possible. For example, we are happy to work with IRM to lengthen or even eliminate the time-out function to allow the Secretary's Special Assistant to log-on to review her emails and schedules.

While we cannot recommend using Blackberries inside the Mahogany Row [redacted] we do not want to stand in the way of issuing Department Blackberries to the Secretary and her senior staff for use outside Mahogany Row. These Blackberries can be synchronized with your OpenNet Microsoft Outlook accounts, provide full cellular, e-mail, and internet functionality, and provide unclassified mobile technology when you are away from Mahogany Row.

1.4(E)
1.4(G)
B1

I cannot stress too strongly, however, that any unclassified Blackberry is highly vulnerable in any setting to remotely and covertly monitoring conversations, retrieving e-mails, and exploiting calendars. I am attaching reports from DS's

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Classified by: DS - Eric J. Boswell

E.O. 12958, Reasons: 1.4 (c), (d), and (e)

DS 35

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- 2 -

Office of Computer Security's Cyber Threat & Analysis Division that give further background on those risks. [REDACTED]

1.4(E)
1.4(G)
B1

If, after considering the vulnerabilities that I describe above and the alternatives that I propose, the Secretary determines that she wants a limited number of staff to use Blackberries in the Mahogany Row. [REDACTED]

1.4(E)
1.4(G)
B1

Attachments:

Tab 1 - Excerpts from DS/CS/CTAD Reports on Blackberry Vulnerabilities

Tab 2 - [REDACTED]

Tab 3 - New York Times Article: "Obama's Phone Security and Yours"

Tab 4 - Washington Post Article: "Your Cell and Your Berry: Tools for the Enemy"

1.4(C)
1.4(E)
1.4(G)
B1

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Drafted: DS/SI/IS
DS/C/ST



B6
B7(C)

Cleared: DS/DSS - G. Starr (ok)
DS/SI/CS - M. Holland (ok)
DS/SI - D. Reid (ok)
DS/C - P. Donovan (ok)
INR - [redacted] (ok)
M - [redacted] (ok)
IRM - [redacted] (ok)
S/ES-IRM - J. Bentel (ok)
S/ES-IRM - M. Horowitz (ok)

B6
B7(C)