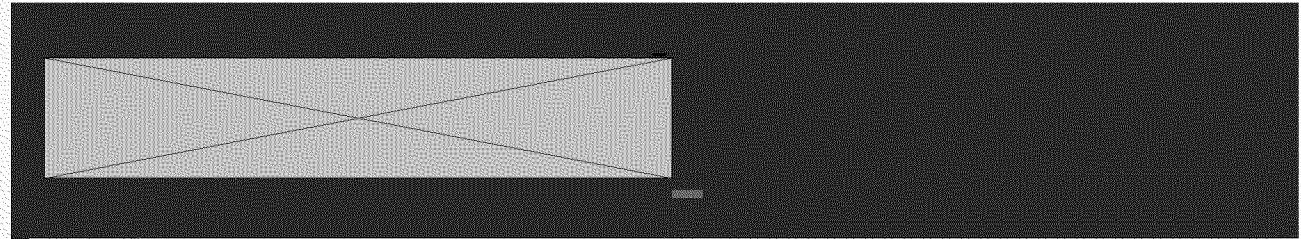


To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: The Washington Post
Sent: Fri 11/17/2017 5:07:02 PM
Subject: Federal Insider: Foreign Service leadership being 'decapitated' and 'depleted at a dizzying speed'



Foreign Service leadership being 'decapitated' and 'depleted at a dizzying speed'

By Joe Davidson

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. Alex Brandon/AFP/Getty Images

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When President Trump reported on his trip to Asia, he heaped praise on himself and said the nation's "standing in the world has never been stronger than it is right now."

Using "I" 42 times in his 23-minute speech Wednesday, he declared "NATO, believe me, is very happy with Donald Trump and what I did," as he touted previous accomplishments.

Trump's unmatched self-adulation might cloud his view of the hard work by foreign service staffers and their increased difficulties because of his administration's hiring freeze.

Noting a recent Time magazine cover "with its graphic of wrecking balls and warning of 'dismantling government as we know it,'" American Foreign Service Association President Barbara Stephenson is cautioning against "mounting threats to our institution — and to the global leadership that

With more than two dozen years serving around the world, she's had a "great, brilliant, fun career." But "when your expertise is not being viewed as valuable," she said, it's time to go.

She described a "tight circle of appointees" who leave career people feeling devalued, "very much on the other side of that divide." The morale in the Foggy Bottom headquarters is "pretty grim ... palatable bad."

That's just the opposite of what Tillerson said he wants.

During a September meeting with U.S. Embassy staffers and their families in London, he claimed "the most important thing I can do is to enable this organization to be more effective, more efficient and for all of you to take greater satisfaction in what you do day in and day out."

Tillerson hasn't accomplished his "most important thing" yet. In fact, he's going backward.

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