

The State Department's Entire Senior Level of Management Just Resigned

[Via The Hill](#):

The State Department's entire senior level of management officials resigned Wednesday, The Washington Post reported.

Patrick Kennedy, the agency's undersecretary for management who had served in the role for nine years, resigned unexpectedly along with three of his top officials.

Assistant Secretary of State for Administration Joyce Anne Barr, Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs Michele Bond and Ambassador Gentry O. Smith, director of the Office of Foreign Missions, resigned as well, the report said.

It's unclear at this point why Kennedy and his team abruptly resigned, since reports suggest that Kennedy (depicted) was angling to transition to the State Dept. under Tillerson, who was approved by a Senate panel on Monday, all but assuring he will become the nation's next Secretary of State. (Editor's Note: Other [reports](#) state Kennedy and company were fired.)

Breaking: Four top [@StateDept](#) Mgmt officials all fired by Trump admin, part of effort to "clean house" – officials tell [@eliselabottcnn](#)

– Jim Sciutto (@jimsciutto) [January 26, 2017](#)

The Washington Post's Josh Rogin, who appeared to break the news, opened [his story](#) by noting that "Secretary of State Rex

Tillerson's job running the State Department just got considerably more difficult."

That's certainly possible. Losing a massive amount of institutional knowledge all at once undoubtedly poses certain challenges.

On the other hand, the federal bureaucracy is prone to politicization. Princeton scholar David E. Lewis has written about [the negative effects that often occur](#) when an agency or department's preferences diverge from those of the White House.

It's unclear exactly what a Trumpian foreign policy will look like, but I suspect it will look vastly different from that which we witnessed the last eight years. So it's possible that Tillerson will have more success by working with a hand-selected team of professionals he brings in himself.

What do you think? Did Tillerson's job just get tougher or easier?

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