Respectfully,

Dan

Sent from my iPhone

> On Mar 28, 2017, at 2:55 AM, Roddy, Russell <russell_roddy@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
>
> Hi, Dan.
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> Though I was not included, I really would have appreciated being approached first with any issues regarding my travel to the Virgin Islands. Perhaps, I myself could have cleared up any questions or concerns before multiple parties became involved.
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> First off, I may not be good at a lot of things, but one thing I know I am good at is efficiently planning and executing events and advance. That includes determining the time needed to do so.
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> Per my travel to the Virgin Islands, I initially wanted to leave on Monday morning. However, flights to the USVI are few and far between. I wanted to fly into St. Thomas as early as possible on Monday and take care of events there on Monday and then head to St. Croix that evening. However, flying out at the crack of dawn on Monday morning still would not have gotten me to St. Thomas until 2:45 in the afternoon...and the last flight from there to St. Croix was 6:45 or so. That meant I would have had less than 3 hours to go thru everything on St. Thomas. As it turned out, I was picked up at 7:00 a.m. this morning at my hotel in St. Thomas and we were not done until after 3 in the afternoon (8 hours)...that included coordinating logistics for all St. Thomas official Centennial events with The Governors office, the Prime Minister of Denmark's office, multiple meetings, etc. The flight I ended up taking Sunday (mind you, a day that should have been a day off for me) left at 6:59 a.m....and why did I take it? Because it was the only way I could make the last connecting flight to St. Thomas thru Atlanta which left at 11:00 a.m. Thus, in order to take care of all details regarding RKZ's trip, I planned accordingly. Not knowing what to expect (and it is more than a bit unorganized here), I planned for handling St. Thomas official centennial events on Monday, St. Croix official centennial events on Tuesday, and then the rest of the Secretary's events on Wednesday. That left a half day on Thursday prior to the Secretary's arrival to handle any loose ends or issues regarding the events that may arise. As far as approval went, I thought all processes were followed to that end.
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> I can assure you that while I am in dire need of a vacation (after working 3.5 straight months on the campaign with 3 days at home...going straight into Inaugural...and straight into the Administration), I did not consider this as giving myself an extra day of rest and relaxation or leaving a day early. I am very sensitive to the appearance otherwise. I can assure you of that. I know how long it takes to do what needs to be done for such trips....and I will not present the Secretary in an amateur light.
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> For further rationalization, I am one person from our team coordinating the Secretary's participation in multiple high profile events (12 at last count) on two islands (that does not belittle Basil's participation because he played an important role...but a different role than I...and dealing with different issues...just as the security team deals with a different focus). The security detail sent two members in advance...one on each island...who will spend a total of 6 days in advance of the Secretary's arrival. They are pros and know how much time it takes to do their jobs. I will have spent 4 days here handling events on two different islands prior to the Secretary's arrival. Perhaps, I should have scheduled two of us to work on this...one on each island as the security detail did. But, on the outset, I was told that we wanted as few staff as possible to travel. Beyond that, I considered the additional costs involved of having two make the trip.
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> If I have not adequately supported why I am here, please advise.
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> Thanks.
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> Rusty