

**Sent:** Fri, 30 Jul 2010 18:21:30 -0400  
**From:** "Gelman, Jeffrey D." <jeffrey\_d.\_gelman@nss.eop.gov>  
**To:** "Wong, Yvette M" <wongym@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Left over info

It was good to see you today and on Wednesday (And thank you very much for dinner on Wednesday, it was good to have a chance to talk then).

Thanks again for being a great boss and teaching me so much while I was in MNSA. I really appreciate it. See you soon I hope!

All the best,  
Jeff

FOIA-6
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**From:** Wong, Yvette M [mailto:WongYM@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 29, 2010 6:42 PM  
**To:** Gelman, Jeffrey D.; Sharp, Matthew K  
**Subject:** RE: Left over info

Jeff -- It was great to see you. Thank you so much for the excellent tour, and falso or the additional info below. Seems like we got to meet and talk to a pair of real White House celebrities! Yvette

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**From:** Gelman, Jeffrey D. [mailto:Jeffrey\_D.\_Gelman@nss.eop.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 29, 2010 10:54 AM  
**To:** Wong, Yvette M; Sharp, Matthew K  
**Subject:** Left over info

Good to see you both yesterday, I had a lot of fun. Now here is all the left over info from the tour, first the table from the painting, then the cat, then Heidi Avery.

The table I thought was one in the State Dining room now, but I was wrong when I looked it up. So I'm not sure where it's from, sorry.

## Meet Smokey the Cat

A few E.E.O.B. workers have Dining Mess privileges, a handful have Carryout rights, and most E.E.O.B. staffers simply eat at Ike's. There is, interestingly, one Eisenhower Executive Building member whose meals of fresh tuna are hand delivered by Secret Service. This associate does not work furtively in a SCIF, nor does he spend his days busily hammering out healthcare proposals. Smokey, a fourteen year resident of the E.E.O.B., is a cat.

Unlike Bo Obama, the official Administration Pet, Smokey is a relative unknown. The cat was not introduced at his own press conference and although Smokey maintains a customized residence under the Navy Steps, he has never gained access to the Lincoln Bedroom. From his stoop outside

the E.E.O.B. Smokey carefully watches over West Exec. Having learned well from his Secret Service affiliates, Smokey's temperament on guard is quiet and stern. One of the cat's associates Johnny Simon, a Photography Office Intern, notes, "you know...Smokey is not a particularly loveable cat."

Some have speculated that Smokey's disposition derives from his missing tail. Although there is no documentation detailing its severance, rumors about the cat's attitude abound. Josh Lipsky of the White House Visitor's Office suggests that Smokey may be a descendent of George Washington's cat, jealous that the family's lineage never lived inside the Residence. Other E.E.O.B. veterans maintain that Smokey was a running-mate of Ernie Bush, the orange-striped cat deemed too unruly for White House life.

In spite of significant research, WHO News was unable to conclusively resolve any questions about Smokey's foggy past. Anecdotal evidence suggests that Smokey has been on unusually well behaved since the adoption of Bo Obama. Although the two animals have yet to be introduced, this publication's in-house theory holds that Smokey has perked up to secure placement as the official Administration cat. Smokey is fully aware that the past three Administrations have had First Cats. The enterprising Smokey has identified this opening and officially started the Smoky 2010 campaign. There are rumors that the Printing Office has already received an order for yard signs.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/03/AR2010060304899.html>

## **NSC's Heidi Avery and Richard Reed run White House crisis response**

By Scott Wilson  
Washington Post Staff Writer  
Friday, June 4, 2010; B03

What happens inside the White House when a crisis occurs -- an oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, say, or an earthquake in Haiti?

Ask Heidi Avery and Richard Reed, who at such times set aside any pretense of having lives outside the office.

The two senior National Security Council staff members have sat at the center of many crises in recent months, from the Christmas Day bombing attempt on a Detroit-bound airliner to the gulf oil spill.

A recent conversation with them about balancing work and life outside the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, where the two have offices they often inhabit far more than home, opened a small window into some of the administration's busiest jobs.



The short answer to the work-life question is: What balance? Avery and Reed -- with more than 20 years of federal government experience between them -- are too diplomatic and devoted to their jobs to be so glib. But each also appeared to stifle a laugh. For Avery, being deputy assistant to the president means far fewer mornings in her single scull on the Potomac River, and when it is possible to squeeze one in, the rowing starts at the bleary-eyed hour of 5 a.m.

For Reed, a National Security Council senior director, his job means family birthdays spent in the rubble of Haiti's earthquake and the occasional weekend ride (into work, usually) on his BMW motorcycle.

"We're busy with our everyday policy work and then, bam, you shift gears into crisis," Avery said during the talk in her high-ceilinged office. "You just have to triage on the fly."

To summarize their roles in the various recent crises, Avery and Reed have helped begin the process of compiling information in the minutes and hours after an incident, mobilizing government agencies and pushing the information up through a national security apparatus that ends with [President Obama](#). It is complicated, high-stakes work that helps shape how the sprawling federal government responds to an airline bomb scare at home or a natural disaster abroad.

Avery is deputy to [John O. Brennan](#), President Obama's chief adviser for homeland security and counterterrorism. She is 43, studied political science at Wellesley College and modern history at Oxford University, and has worked in the federal government for seven years.

Brennan is among Obama's most trusted advisers, and Avery plays the same role for Brennan, whom she worked with during the Bush administration in "standing up" the National Counterterrorism Center. For a sense of how little her life is her own during a crisis, look at just a few afternoon hours in the White House Situation Room on April 27.

Brennan was traveling abroad that day, and Avery had a routinely busy schedule. She was preparing for a Situation Room meeting with senior government officials on a new strategy for the rapid development of new policies for medical countermeasures -- defenses against a bioterrorism attack or a fast-moving infectious disease. The issue took on greater importance for Obama after last year's H1N1 flu outbreak.

At the same time, she was monitoring an important meeting between national and homeland security officials and BP executives about the Gulf of Mexico oil rig that exploded and sank a week earlier. Avery said the meeting came just days after the administration learned that the well was still gushing oil 5,000 feet below the surface.

But her afternoon took a turn when reports began coming into the Situation Room of a bomb scare aboard an Atlanta-bound Delta Air Lines flight from Paris. Avery had been at the center of the administration's response to the Christmas Day bomb attempt, alongside Brennan, and she moved to gather what she could about the Delta flight then being diverted for a landing in Maine.

"We quickly set up an emergency VTC," Avery said, referring to a secure video

teleconference. "We always assume an event is terrorist-related until we rule it out."

Terrorism was later ruled out. But those few shifting hours in the Situation Room, touching on issues that endure today, typify the unpredictability of Avery's work, which she said she manages with help.

"We have an incredible group of professionals in these agencies," Avery said. "Because a crisis never comes at a predictable moment, you just take it as it comes."

Reed is one of those professionals. He is the National Security Council's senior director for resilience policy.

Reed, 46, spent most of his 15 years in the federal government doing clinical social work in the Department of Veterans Affairs. But he said the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks shifted his focus "from clinical work to operations." He has been at the White House since 2006.

Resilience policy involves national preparedness, and on Jan. 12, Reed was working on a more effective long-term approach to recovery in places hit by disaster. His calendar also included meetings with White House staff in preparation for Obama's State of the Union address.

Just before 5 p.m. -- after a senior directors' meeting in the morning, a staff meeting led by Avery in the early afternoon, and reports of punctured containers at a North Carolina port leaking explosive material -- Reed began hearing the first news from the Situation Room of a major earthquake in Haiti.

Over the next few hours, leading up to a 10 p.m. emergency "deputies meeting" led by Deputy National Security Adviser [Tom Donilon](#), Reed was in conference calls with the departments of State and Defense, the U.S. Southern Command, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, among others.

At 2:50 a.m., an e-mail updating Obama on the "chaotic situation" in Haiti, as Reed characterized it, went out, including information on the status of U.S. government employees and buildings. At 3 a.m., Reed began preparing for another interagency conference call to be held four and a half hours later.

The round-the-clock response started a weeks-long commitment to the earthquake aftermath. Reed spent the next five days at USAID headquarters, working alongside the recently appointed director, [Rajiv Shah](#).

"I walked in on the 19th and Raj said, 'I need you in Haiti,' " Reed recalled. For the next three weeks, he slept on a cot in the U.S. Embassy compound, helping coordinate the U.S. agencies involved in the relief effort along with the United Nations, Canadian security forces, the World Bank and the beleaguered Haitian government. He spent his wife's birthday in Port-au-Prince.

"It wasn't the first time I've missed it," he said. Avery added that Reed spent his own birthday there, as well.



Like Avery, Reed said the rest of the staff deserves much of the praise for carrying the load during times of crisis. Each speaks modestly of their roles, though others at the White House call them unflappable, experienced and highly capable.

"I always try to find the like-minded person to help me understand how government works and how it can work better," Reed said. "Each day we try to make that happen. And that's something worth working for."