

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2011 6:14 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Conservative Hammond named as UK Defence Secretary -Sky (Reuters)

From: OpsNewsTicker
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2011 01:14 PM
To: NEWS-EUR; NEWS-Mahogany
Cc: SES-O
Subject: Conservative Hammond named as UK Defence Secretary -Sky (Reuters)

LONDON, Oct 14 (Reuters) - British Prime Minister David Cameron has appointed Conservative Philip Hammond as his new defence secretary, Sky News said on Friday, filling a gap left by the resignation of Liam Fox.

Hammond, regarded as a safe pair of hands who had held the transport ministry brief, will oversee Britain's military operations in Afghanistan and Libya as well as sweeping, cost-cutting reforms to the military.

Fox resigned on Friday following a scandal over his close ties to a businessman who posed as his unofficial adviser, dealing a blow to Cameron's Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition government.

NewsTickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.