

RELEASE IN FULL

---

**From:** Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 10, 2011 3:03 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: Obama Middle East envoy Ross to step down-White House (Reuters)

---

**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 10, 2011 02:02 PM  
**To:** NEWS-Mahogany; NEWS-NEA  
**Subject:** Obama Middle East envoy Ross to step down-White House (Reuters)

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Dennis Ross, a senior aide to President Barack Obama on the Middle East, has decided to step down from his post, the White House said Thursday.

"Dennis Ross has an extraordinary record of public service and has been a critical member of the president's team for nearly three years," White House press secretary Jay Carney said in a statement.

Ross, a special assistant to the president, had initially pledged to work for Obama for two years, but extended his time at the White House by another year in light of the Arab Spring upheaval reshaping the Middle East, Carney said.

*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.*