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Pierson steps down as head of Secret Service

Series of security lapses eroded lawmakers' — and the president's — confidence in director

BY CAROL D. LEONNIG
AND DAVID NAKAMURA

Julia Pierson resigned as Secret Service director on Wednesday after just a year and a half on the job, following a series of major security lapses that eroded President Obama's confidence in her ability to run the agency tasked with protecting him.

Pierson's abrupt departure — one day after Obama expressed

full confidence in her — came as lawmakers from both parties were calling for her ouster after her halting performance during a House hearing Tuesday.

A decisive factor in the president's change of heart, aides said, was that he learned only from news accounts Tuesday that a private security guard with a gun and a criminal history had not been screened before being allowed to

PIERSON CONTINUED ON A4



Julia Pierson will be replaced on an interim basis by Joseph Clancy, head of President Obama's first protective detail after he took office.

Analysis: The Secret Service's struggles to protect the first family fuel a growing public anxiety that there may not be anyone to protect us. A4



Departure underscores systemic problems behind the embarrassing revelations

BY CAROL D. LEONNIG

The resignation of Secret Service Director Julia Pierson and the launch of a top-to-bottom review of the agency Wednesday are an acknowledgment by President Obama of what he has long denied: that the force charged with protecting him is in deep turmoil and struggling to fulfill its sacred mission.

The 6,700-member agency, long

an elite class of skilled professionals who prized their jobs, now suffers from diminished luster and historically high turnover rates. Officers in charge of protecting the White House say they have grown resentful at being belittled by their bosses and routinely forced to work on off-days. Some agents who have sworn to take a bullet for the president and his family have little faith in the wisdom or direction of

LEADERSHIP CONTINUED ON A4



Byron L. McDade, serving 27 years, was accused of being a low-level player in a drug ring.

Judge tries to forge redemption from regret

Calls drug term he gave D.C. man too long, urges clemency

BY ANN E. MARIMOW

The judge regretted it from the beginning. The 27-year prison sentence he gave Byron Lamont McDade was too long, he said, for a low-level player in an expansive cocaine enterprise. Years later, the punishment still nagged at him.

In two decades on the federal bench in the District, Paul L. Friedman has passed judgment on hundreds of people who committed crimes: murder, kidnapping, fraud.

The 324-month term — mandated by federal sentencing guidelines — was the longest the judge had imposed for a drug offense. More time than he gave a gang leader in a murder case. Three times as much as he gave any of McDade's more culpable comrades in the drug conspiracy.

Twelve years later, Friedman might finally be in a position to do something about McDade's sentence.

"The court has not lost hope, and presumably Mr. McDade has not either," Friedman wrote in an opinion this spring. The judge used his ruling on a procedural issue in the case to identify McDade as a "prime candidate for executive clemency."

McDade, who grew up two blocks from the Frederick Douglass Home in Southeast Washington, is one of tens of thousands of federal inmates who may benefit from a sweeping bipartisan movement away from historically harsh drug penalties in the U.S. criminal justice system.

This year, the Obama administration announced that it would

CLEMENCY CONTINUED ON A14

Ebola: Misstep in Texas, tough rules in Liberia



Berlinda Clark, who is under observation for Ebola after her mother died of the disease, stands isolated by a screen door while others talk outside in Monrovia, Liberia.

Infected man was allowed to leave Dallas hospital

BY MARK BERMAN
AND AMY ELLIS NUTT

An ill man who later tested positive for Ebola was not admitted to a Dallas hospital despite saying that he had traveled to Texas from Liberia, allowing him to continue interacting with people before he returned days later and was placed in isolation.

Dallas County health officials say they are continuing to monitor the patient's family members and are checking for symptoms twice each day. The state health department said it has no other suspected cases at this point.

"We've been on the lookout for this," said David Lakey, commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services. "Obviously, this disease is scary to a large number of individuals."

The man, a Liberian, was identified by friends as Thomas Eric Duncan. He is the first person to be diagnosed with Ebola in the United States and was in serious condition Wednesday, officials said. Public health officials continue to stress that they

EBOLA CONTINUED ON A4



MIKE STONE, REUTERS

"We've been on the lookout for this," David Lakey, commissioner of the Texas health department, said at a news conference.

Economic disparity: The different responses to the Ebola virus have served as a stark reminder of the consequences of global inequality. A7

DISPATCH | LENNY BERNSTEIN

In W. African virus zone, stand back to stay alive

MONROVIA, LIBERIA — I was goofing around with a small group of young children outside their home on a muddy, cratered road in the New Kru Town slum here. I made a scary face and the kids skittered, giggling, behind a low wall at the front of their shanty. Then they peeked out, hoping for more.

Finally, the boldest of the lot, a little girl perhaps 5 years old, approached and stuck out her hand. "Shake!" she offered excitedly.

"No touching," I responded, keeping my hands at my sides, trying to hide my sadness. "No touching."

You don't touch anyone in Liberia. Not kids, not adults, not other Westerners, not the colleagues with whom you arrived. It is the rule of rules, because while everyone who is able is taking precautions, you just can't be sure where the invisible, lethal Ebola virus might be. Once the virus is on your fingers, it would be frighteningly

DISPATCH CONTINUED ON A6

IN THE NEWS



PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU MEETS WITH PRESIDENT OBAMA, AP

Tension over settlements The Obama administration sharply criticized Israel over a planned housing project in East Jerusalem. A2

Alzheimer's risk? Middle-aged women who tend to be neurotic run a higher risk of developing the disease, a study suggested. A3

THE NATION

A two-star Army general accused of sexual assault was allowed to retire quietly with a demotion last year. A16

The number of African-born residents in the U.S. has doubled every decade since the 1970s, the Census Bureau said. A2

For the first time since January, 50 percent of Americans approve of how President Obama is handling an issue: Islamic State. A7

THE WORLD

Rebels in Ukraine appeared close to capturing the strategic Donetsk airport. A8

Leaders of Hong Kong protesters and the Chinese government strategized as they eyed the endgame. A10

Turkey's president criticized U.S. airstrikes in Iraq and Syria as a "temporary" solution. A8

THE ECONOMY

The public transit agency in Atlanta is running a pilot program that allows ads for alcohol inside stations and on buses and trains. A13

Movie theaters criticized Netflix's plan to stream its sequel to "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" at the same time it is released in theaters. A13

GOP strategists are divided over advancing a simpler U.S. tax code in a fully Republican Congress. A13

THE REGION

D.C. police said a shooting that left a 13-year-old boy dead appeared to have been accidental. B1

The infant mortality rate in Washington inched up in 2012. B2

The man suspected of abducting University of Virginia student Hannah Graham was twice accused of sexual as-

saults at other colleges and left both schools shortly after, university officials said. B1

Montgomery County police said they think a Cystic Fibrosis Foundation employee who was accused of workplace theft killed a foundation executive's wife in her Potomac home. B1

Virginia's health commissioner said the state should overhaul its strict hospital-style regulations of clinics that perform abortions. B2

SCIENCE

A giant basin on the moon's surface could have been formed by ancient magma flows, a report said. A3

INSIDE



BRICE HAPPER BY ALEX SPANOS/AP

SPORTS

Channel surfing Finding the Nationals on a screen near you might make earning a playoff spot look easy. Here's some help. D2

Who and when? The Nats will host the San Francisco Giants on Friday at 3:07 p.m. Get details at wpo.it/sports.

BUSINESS NEWS A12
CLASSIFIEDS D6
COMICS C7
ENTERTAINMENT B3
FOOD B5
OPINION A13
TELEVISION C6

Post **ints**
(DETAILS, B2)

DAILY CODE 5 6 2 4

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