

COMEY SENDING OUT HIS ALLIES AS FERGUSON EFFECT TRUTHERS

When Chuck Rosenberg, the Acting EPA Chief, echoed Jim Comey's suggestion that increased surveillance of cops had led to a chilling effect leading them to stop doing their jobs ...

Chuck Rosenberg, head of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, said Wednesday that he agrees with FBI Director James Comey that police officers are reluctant to aggressively enforce laws in the post-Ferguson era of capturing police activity on smartphones and YouTube.

"I think there's something to it," Rosenberg said during a press briefing on drug statistics at DEA headquarters in Arlington. "I think he's spot on. I've heard the same thing."

... I reminded that Rosenberg is also Comey's former Chief of Staff, from when Comey was Deputy Attorney General in the Bush Administration.

Which is why I find it interesting that the White House has suggested President Obama raised the issue with Comey in a meeting this week.

Asked whether Mr. Obama would call in the two men to discuss the issue privately, Mr. Earnest noted that Mr. Comey met with the president last week, and he strongly hinted that the president chided his F.B.I. director on the subject.

"The president is certainly counting on Director Comey to play a role in the ongoing debate about criminal justice reform," Mr. Earnest said, suggesting

that Mr. Obama expected Mr. Comey to uphold the president's view on the matter.

While he was Comey's CoS, remember, Comey made sure he was in the loop on torture discussions he otherwise wouldn't be, as Comey made an effort to limit some of what got approved in the May 2005 torture memos. That was partly to make sure the torturers didn't use his absence to push through the memo, but also partly (it seems clear now) to lay out his own record of events.

Given the timing (and the distinct possibility Rosenberg endorsed Comey's Ferguson Effect views after Comey got chewed out by the President), this feels like a concerted bureaucratic stand. Of course, these two allies' role atop aggressive law enforcement agencies, Comey just 2 years into a 10-year term, stubbornly repeating police claims, is a pretty powerful bureaucratic stand for cops who want to avoid oversight.