War Dept.

Declines for reasons stated, to grant authority for Lieut. Pratt, 10th Cavalry, to remain on detached service, at Hampton School, for 3 or 4 months.

Received: Jan 28, 1879
Sir:

Acknowledging the receipt of your letter dated the 31st. ultimo, forwarding and Commanding request of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, that Lieutenant R.H. Pratt be granted authority to remain on detached duty at Hampton School for a period of three months, I have the honor to inform you that upon reference of the matter to the General of the Army, that officer reports thereon as follows:

"R.H. Pratt is a 1st Lieutenant.

10th of January, 1879."
10th. Cavalry serving in Texas.

"He is needed with his Company from which he has been absent four or five years on Indian duty."

"If his qualities be such that the Indian Bureau need him, he should be appointed to some office in that Bureau, and give place to some other who can perform the office for which he is commissioned and paid."

"His absence from his Regiment and Company imposes on other labors for which he is needed."
"paid, and his absence prevents the possibility of any other officer of his Company obtaining any favor or indulgence, because they ought always to be present with each Company of Cavalry, too officers."  
"I insist that Lieutenant Pratt should now join his Company, from which he has been absent too long, or give place to some one who will."

I concur with the views of the General of the Army.

Very respectfully your obedient servant,

The Honorable
The Secretary of the Interior.

Geo. M. McCranes,
Secretary War.