

TESTIMONY OF

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BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON WARTIME CONTRACTING

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COMMISSION ON WARTIME CONTRACTING**

Co-chair Shays, Co-chair Thibault, and Members of the Commission, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss improvements we have made with respect to the accountability and visibility of contractors in the Central Command (CENTCOM) area of operations (AOR), and our way ahead. I am prepared to provide you an overview of our current manual census procedures and our responsibilities as we transition to a SPOT generated system.

The requirement to track contractors in contingency operations now extends to other U.S. Government agencies as well. In July 2008, the Department of State (DoS), DoD, and USAID signed an MOU, required by section 861 of the 2008 NDAA, which established roles and responsibilities and identified SPOT (Synchronized Predeployment Operational Tracker) as the common database. We now work closer with our colleagues at DoS and USAID and, since last July, we have made steady and significant progress in our implementation of the MOU.

Prior to the advancement of SPOT, OADUSD (PS) (Office of the Assistant Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Program Support) directed the development of a quarterly contractor personnel census in June, 2007. This census provided data on contractors supporting the DoD in the CENTCOM AOR. Our contracting activities in the AOR provide data on contracts and associated numbers of contractors on a quarterly basis. We then manually compile over thirty reports, analyze and publish the data. This manual census is cumbersome, resource intensive, and a “snapshot in time.” The original intent was to transition to an automated census a year ago; however, this was impacted by the lack of confidence in the accuracy and completeness of the data in SPOT. Given that SPOT now provides extensive data on contracts and contractor personnel in support of the CENTCOM AOR and indicators and sampling show improved accuracy, we concur with Mr. Motsek and believe that it is an appropriate time to begin the transition from the manual census to an automated SPOT-generated report.

We are committed to improving our visibility and accountability of contractors supporting CENTCOM operations. We are implementing mandated changes to ensure we improve our contractor management and oversight for future operations as well. We will maintain our working relationship with the Commission and keep you informed of our progress. I thank the Members of the Commission for your ongoing support. At this time, I am prepared to answer your questions Thank you.