

**PREPARED STATEMENT OF**  
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**Before the Commission on Wartime Contracting**  
**Monday, November 2, 2009, 11:00 A.M. - 13:30 P.M.**

Chairman Thibault, Chairman Shays, distinguished members of the Commission: Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to appear before you. It is my pleasure to be here. I am RDML Tom Traaen, Vice-Director for Logistics on the Joint Staff. As Vice-Director for Logistics, I advise the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs for the entire spectrum of joint logistics; to include reviewing the logistics policies and processes that are guiding the drawdown strategy in Iraq, as well as the Joint Staff lead in the effort to equip the Iraqi Security Forces.

First, let me say thank you for your interest in DoD contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan. I think we all share the same concerns in ensuring the warfighters' needs are met and balancing operational necessity with the need to be good stewards of our national treasure.

I understand my roll on this panel is primarily to address the status of the Iraq drawdown. As I'm sure you know, the testimony on the drawdown given by Secretary Flournoy, Mr. Estevez, VADM Winnefeld and my Boss, LTG Gainey, on 21 October was very well received by the House Armed Services Committee. My testimony here will draw heavily from their insightful remarks.

Given the President's decision on troop strength reductions in Iraq, the Department of Defense has been proactive in establishing robust processes to ensure the responsible drawdown of troops, contractors, equipment, and material in a manner that addresses the needs of our own military and our obligations to the American taxpayer. We are at the same time ensuring the Iraqi Security Force can assume the responsibility of keeping Iraq secure for the Iraqi people. We are making satisfactory progress towards our overarching goals on the timeline laid out by the President, resulting in a green rating in this area.

The Department of Defense has been redeploying significant amounts of forces out of Iraq and Kuwait for each of the past six years and has been planning for and executing the mandated drawdown of forces from Iraq for over a year. The planning and execution have been a coordinated effort among Multi-National Force-Iraq, the Services, the Department of State, Central Command, and its components.

The Department has directed the departing units to follow a four-step disposition process for drawing down excess supplies and equipment. The four-step process being executed today is to consume, redistribute, transfer and dispose. The responsible

drawdown actions taken to date have been accomplished while retaining logistics flexibility to adjust to operational changes in mission requirements.

With respect to contractors in Iraq, their numbers will continue to decrease. While their numbers will not decrease as quickly as those of the military, the proportionally larger contractor presence will be critical to help us close Forward Operating Bases and redeploy equipment. The ratio of contractors to military has been about 1:1 for the past several years, but we predict this will increase to about 1.5:1 by next August. As the Forward Operating Bases close and equipment is redeployed, that ratio will also start to decrease. These numbers will be flexible, and there will be a continual decrease in both contractors and military as drawdown progresses.

We recognize throughout the Department that maintaining proper contracting oversight is crucial and has been challenging for a variety of reasons. DCMA tracks and reports the number of Contracting Officer Representatives (CORs) in Iraq on a regular basis. Right now, 86% of the required COR's in Iraq are in place, compared to 59% at the beginning of the year. Additionally, we anticipate the DCMA Joint Manning Document (JMD) will be sourced to about a 90% fill rate across the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility. That 90% fill rate covers the spectrum of contract administration services, to include Subject Matter Experts to assist with oversight. As a Department, we are committed to ensuring these critical billets are properly resourced throughout the drawdown and continually review processes to ensure proper oversight is maintained.

To summarize the drawdown in general, the Department is achieving logistics unity of effort in executing the President's directive to systemically and responsibly draw down the size of U.S. forces in Iraq. We are tracking drawdown progress against specific goals and will provide whatever policy assistance is required to meet the President's timelines. With continued support from Congress, the Department can execute all of the required drawdown tasks.

In closing, thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Commission. I firmly believe the description of the drawdown as a "responsible drawdown" is fundamental to this process. I understand the criticality of good stewardship and property accountability for all of our assets in Iraq; therefore we are diligently tracking drawdown progress against specific goals. At the same time, we are also focused on doing everything within our power and authority to enable the Iraqi Security Force to operate effectively once the drawdown is complete.

I would be happy to answer any questions that you and the Members of the Commission may have.