# HOW CONVICTS AND CON ARTISTS RECEIVE NEW FEDERAL CONTRACTS 

HEARING

BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

FEBRUARY 26, 2009

## Serial No. 111-14

Printed for the use of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform


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## HOW CONVICTS AND CON ARTISTS RECEIVE NEW FEDERAL CONTRACTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2009

## House of Representatives, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:07 a.m., in room 2157, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Edolphus Towns (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Towns, Issa, Kucinich, Tierney, Clay, Watson, Lynch, Connolly, Norton, Davis, Cuellar, Foster, Driehaus, Burton, McHenry, Bilbray, Jordan, Flake, Chaffetz, and Schock.

Staff present: Ronald Stroman, staff director; Michael McCarthy, deputy staff director; John Arlington, chief investigative counsel; Leah Perry, senior counsel; Kwane Drabo, investigator; Jason Powell, counsel; Katherine Graham, staff assistant; Carla Hultberg, chief clerk; Linda Good, deputy chief clerk; Jenny Rosenberg, communications director; Miriam Edelman, special assistant; Lawrence Brady, minority staff director; John Cuaderes, minority deputy staff director; Jennifer Safavian, minority chief counsel for oversight and investigations; Frederick Hill, minority director of communications; Dan Blankenburg, minority director of outreach and senior advisor; Adam Fromm, minority chief clerk and Member liaison; Tom Alexander and Stephen Castor, minority senior counsels; Ashley Callen, minority counsel; and Glenn Sanders, minority Defense fellow.

Chairman Towns. The first thing I would like to do this morning is welcome our new Members on both sides of the aisle, of course, and Mr. Issa, the new ranking member, as well.

Today's hearing will kick off what I expect will be an exciting and interesting 2 years for this committee as we carry out our oversight responsibilities.

This committee has a long history of conducting vigorous oversight and investigations, and we intend to renew and continue that tradition in the 11th Congress as we continue to work together to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse.

Just a few days ago, Congress voted to approve billions of dollars in economic stimulus funding, much of which will be spent through government contracting. It will be a massive job to ensure that this money is spent effectively and wisely, and that Federal dollars do not go to the incompetent and the unproductive, the con artists and the frauds.

One of the ways the Federal Government prevents this from occurring is the suspension and debarment process to prohibit people
and companies with a poor record of integrity and business ethics from receiving Federal funds. After the Government has determined that a party is not a responsible business partner and is therefore ineligible for Government contracts, they are placed in a database called the Excluded Party List System [EPLS]. Government contracting officers are required to check the database to verify that a potential contractor is not on the list before they enter into a contract with the company.

Unfortunately, the Federal Government's attempts to prevent ineligible parties from receiving Government contracts have not always been successful.

Following an extensive investigation, the Government Accountability Office [GAO], found that businesses and individuals that have been excluded for the most serious offenses, ranging from national security violations to tax fraud, have improperly received Federal contracts and other funds.

The results are truly shocking. The Army continued to do business with a company even after they knew the company's president had been convicted of attempting to smuggle nuclear weapons equipment to North Korea. The Navy continued to do business with a company whose owner had fled the country to avoid prosecution for tax fraud. And the Navy gave new contracts to a company that had been suspended for replacing inspected fittings with low quality parts on an aircraft carrier, risking lethal burns to the crew.

This begs the question: What is the point of having suspension and debarment regulations if our own agencies disregard them?

I could go on and on and on, but let me stop here.
There appear to be numerous instances where Federal contracting agencies have failed to check the EPLS before entering into a contract, failed to enter exclusion information on a timely manner, and failed to terminate an existing contract with the excluded company.

Part of the problem seems to be that no single agency actively monitors the content and function of the database. Moreover, the EPLS database is not integrated with the main GSA Federal Supply schedule, making it impossible for a contracting officer to check a single database to verify the eligibility of a prospective contractor.

I think we can do better than that. We must do better than that.
As I begin my chairmanship of this committee, I must say that it is not enough for us to just identify the problems with the system; we need to fix them.

I am not against contracting. I am not against contractors. I am against weak management and poor contractor performance.

The flaws in the system are just as frustrating for responsible companies that do high quality work as they are for Congress and taxpayers.

I would like to thank the witnesses today who are here and, of course, I look forward to hearing your testimony. But, more important, I look forward to working with you to get a more effective system that really eliminates waste, fraud, and abuse.
[The prepared statement of Hon. Edolphus E. Towns follows:]

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT \& GOVERNMENT REFORM

## OPENING STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN EDOLPHUS TOWNS

"HOW CONVICTS AND CON ARTISTS RECEIVE NEW FEDERAL CONTRACTS"
February 26, 2009
Good morning. The Committee will come to order. The first thing I want to do this morning is to welcome our new Members on both sides of the aisle, and Mr. Issa, the new Ranking Member.

Today's hearing will kick off what $I$ expect will be an exciting and interesting two years for this Committee as we carry out our oversight responsibilities.

This Committee has a long history of conducting vigorous oversight and investigations and we intend to renew and continue that tradition in the $111^{\text {th }}$ Congress. I look forward to working with all of you.

Just a few days ago, Congress voted to approve billions of dollars in economic stimulus funding, much of which will be spent through government contracting. It will be a massive job to ensure that this money is spent effectively and wisely and that federal dollars do not go to the incompetent and the unproductive, the con men and the frauds.

One of the ways the federal government does that is the suspension and debarment process to prohibit people and companies with a poor record of integrity and business ethics from receiving federal funds. After the government has determined that a party is not a responsible business partner and is therefore ineligible for government contracts, they are placed in a database called the Excluded Parties List System
(EPLS). Government contracting officers are required to check the database to verify that a potential contractor is not on the list before they enter into a contract with that company.

Unfortunately, the federal government's attempts to prevent ineligible parties from receiving government contracts have not always been successful.

Following an extensive investigation, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that businessees and individuals that have been excluded for the most serious offenses, ranging from national security violations to tax fraud, have improperly received federal contracts and other funds.

The results are truly shocking. The Army continued to do business with a company even after it knew the company's president had been convicted of attempting to smuggle nuclear weapons equipment to North Korea. The Navy continued to do business with a company whose owner had fled the country to avoid prosecution for tax fraud. And the Navy gave new contracts to a company that had been suspended for replacing inspected fittings with low quality parts on an aircraft carrier, risking lethal burns to the crew.

This begs the question: what is the point of having suspension and debarment regulations, if our own agencies disregard them?

There appear to be numerous instances where Federal contracting agencies have failed to check the EPLS before entering into a contract; failed to enter exclusion information on in a timely manner; and failed to terminate an existing contract with an excluded company.

Part of the problem seems to be that no single agency actively monitors the content and function of the database.

Moreover, the EPLS database is not integrated with the main GSA contractor schedule, making it impossible for a contracting officer to check a single database to verify the eligibility of a prospective contractor.

Worse, EPLS's search engine is so obsolete that queries performed for an excluded company with just one error in punctuation will fail to reveal a suspension or debarment altogether.

I think we can do better than that. We must do better than that.
As I take over this committee, it is not enough for us to just identify the problems with the system. We need to identify the solutions.

I am not against contracting, or contractors. I am against weak management and poor contractor performance. I know that responsible contractors and the witnesses today share this view.

The flaws in the system are just as frustrating for responsible companies that do high-quality work as they are for Congress and the taxpayers.

I would like to thank the witnesses who are here today and I look forward to hearing how we can make this system really work.

Chairman Towns. At this time, I yield to the ranking member of the committee.

Mr. Issa. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank you, on behalf of all of us on the dais, for finding a way to facilitate the optimum way to address this hearing today.

As you and I have discussed, leading up to today's hearing, this is a new era for this committee. In the previous Congress, and one might say for many Congresses going back a decade, this committee has sometimes held high profile hearings in which "gotcha" politics occurred. I take the blame for the Republican side. I know the chairman feels that a new era implies that his side may have at times had the same problem. Those days are behind us.

Chairman Towns and I came to an agreement that the rules of the committee will change, the practices of the committee will change, because ultimately, for Government to change on this dais, we must work together. Our enemy is not the contractor; it is not the Federal work force. Our enemy is in fact not even the Senate in this case, but, in fact, a long history of politics getting in the way of consistent oversight and returning to issues until they are properly resolved.

Outgoing Chairman Waxman left us with a list of 13,000 unresolved issues by the Bush administration. Chairman Towns and I agreed that we are going to stay on top of that list until it has been exhausted by the new administration. But whether it is the 98,000 suggestions and findings in the last 8 years of the previous administration or the ones that will come, it is not enough simply to have an administration make a finding that they have done it, they haven't done it, they are working on it; we have to look at some systemic issues.

Today, looking at this exclusion list I think is a good start. It is not the finish; this is not a summit. This is in fact talking about an ongoing process in which we want to improve the accuracy of the list of who should be contacting and, by definition, who should not be. In viewing this list-and I think we will put just a pie chart up here-what we discovered is it is large, but it is not that large. A hundred-plus thousand records, even though some of them are lengthy, in this day and age, is not large.

What we did discover is there is very little linking between this database of 100,000 -plus excluded parties and the ongoing entry process that our 1101 and 1102 procurement personnel use every day. That is, in fact, inexcusable. We need to facilitate the ease and speed with which somebody preparing a contract, large or small, can know that they have ticked off by contractor, by person, a check to see whether or not a red flag comes up.

However, no amount of good software and good interface between databases makes up for a skilled work force doing their job with diligence. Ultimately, we on the dais will be talking today and asking you about specific instances in which someone was known, or should have been known, to have serious doubt as to whether they should be allowed, or their company should be allowed, to participate in Government contracting on an ongoing basis.

We are going to hear from, in a unique way, all of the parties: the accusers and, in fact, those who have to live with these findings, make changes, work together to improve our procurement sys-
tem. I am also pleased, as the minority, to have Mr. Levy, who will talk about, from a contractor representative standpoint, if you have made a mistake, how do you move beyond that mistake; how do you proactively admit to the mistake, make the changes, and the like.

I think this is a good balance. I thank the chairman for his cooperation in starting off a new era in a new way. If this committee is to be successful, this hearing, and all of our hearings, and all of our staff on both sides will have to present a united front. I believe today all of you will see we are presenting a united front.

This committee is going after waste, fraud, and abuse. We are also going after systemic problems that have long lingered in which each Congress has faced with a finding that DOD can't seem to get it right, DOD can't get this, or we need more funds in order to accomplish something that we needed more funds in the past to accomplish.

Mr. Chairman, I am going to ask unanimous consent to put some anecdotal examples of downloads from this database for the Army with 675 active listings on their exclusion list, the Navy with 284, GSA with 266, and an excerpt from the Annual Workforce Report of 2007, which cites a 20-year history of 1101, 1102, and other members of the procurement work force.

Chairman Towns. Without objection.
[The information referred to follows:]
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Mr. Issa. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, I look forward to a good bipartisan effort to reform our procurement process and yield back.
[The prepared statement of Hon. Darrell E. Issa follows:]

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

## Congress of the ©inited states

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COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
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Statement of Rep. Darrell Issa
Ranking Republican Member Committee on Oversight and Government Reform "How Con Artists and Convicts Get Government Contracts"

February 26, 2009

Thank you, Chairman Towns, for holding this hearing.
In the past six months, this Congress has approved a $\$ 700$ billion bailout of Wall Street, an $\$ 800$ billion economic stimulus and, just yesterday, a $\$ 410$ billion omnibus that significantly increases spending.

With increased government spending comes increased waste, fraud, and abuse - by political appointees, grant recipients, career government employees, and Federal contractors.

Today's hearing looking at instances where contractors who have not played by the rules continue to be trusted with taxpayer dollars is a good place for this committee to begin a bipartisan effort to identify and fix the waste of taxpayer dollars so that government waste doesn't grow at, or even exceed, the pace of spending.

Statement of Rep. Darrell Issa
February 26, 2009
Page 2
Government acquisition policy is a topic where, I believe, we will have extensive opportunities to collaborate in bipartisan fashion. Indeed, the issues that affect the government's procurement community are and should be non-partisan.

Contractors offer the Federal government unique flexibility and are invaluable avenues for bringing private sector innovations into government, which ultimately saves taxpayers money. Reprehensible examples of abuses by disreputable contractors and the failure to exclude these already known bad actors from getting new Federal contracts is a call for reform.

I look forward to being an active partner in rooting out abuses in the contracting process while preserving its key benefits for taxpayers.

I am pleased that today's hearing features witnesses from the Government Accountability Office, the General Services Administration, the Department of Defense - including both the Army and the Navy - as well as a distinguished outside expert in the field of government contracting. No comprehensive discussion of governmentwide acquisition policy can be had without the input of GAO, GSA, or the Defense Department.

Mr. Chairman, considering the state of our economy and as leaders of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, we have a singular obligation to ensure that all spending is necessary and done in a cost-effective manner that doesn't tolerate waste.

We must be proactive in our oversight, and be sure to look for ways to help our agencies get the best value for the taxpayer's dollar.

We must seek to continue to diversify our supply base - not with set asides and other non-competitive programs - but with innovative

Statement of Rep. Darrell Issa
February 26, 2009
Page 3
arrangements that allow the most competitive suppliers access to our acquisition system.

We must focus on ways to achieve the goal of a motivated, welltrained and professional workforce.

Today's hearing examines the Excluded Parties List System, a government-wide database maintained by GSA that collects information about contractors that have been suspended, debarred, or otherwise excluded from assuming new contract obligations with the federal government. Although the database is funded jointly by 24 federal agencies, 65 percent of EPLS's annual funds come from DOD.

According to the GAO Report, as a modern information portal, EPLS is behind-the-times. The excluded parties database suffers from fundamental flaws, such as missing corporate identification numbers, inadequate search functionality, and obsolete contact information. If EPLS's shortcomings are as bad as GAO's description of them, we must figure out a better way to organize this important information.

This hearing will explore how we got to where we are with the EPLS system. The GAO Report discusses several case studies showing egregious examples of just how flawed this system is. We are eager to hear from today's witnesses to better understand the full scope of the problem. What can be done to make it work? Who owns this problem, and what does it take to fix it?

If there is a better way for us to maintain and use information about excluded contractors, and I think there definitely is, we need to pursue that route.

Thank you again. We look forward to today's testimony.

Chairman Towns. In order to move things along, what I would like to do is have one person on this side of the aisle do a 5 minute statement and then one person on the other side provide a 5 minute statement. So I will just move on this side for 5 minutes, if anyone would like; and we can split it up.

Yes, the gentleman from Ohio, Congressman Kucinich.
Mr. Kucinich. I want to thank you for calling this hearing, Mr. Chairman. And I am thankful that the Government Accountability Office investigation has led to concrete steps that our Government can take to ensure that criminal contractors or contractors who engage in serious violations of their contracts are not able to receive additional Federal contracts. I regret that the U.S. Government continues to expend precious tax dollars on companies that lack integrity and should be, but are not currently, on the list of excluded parties.

As we get into this oversight, I just want to call one thing to your attention; it is a specific question about the standards for disbarment. Listen to this case, Mr. Chairman. The Kuwait and Gulf Link [KGL] Transport Co., is a Kuwaiti company that provides contract transportation services to our military in Iraq. They are required by contracts with the Department of Defense to maintain liability insurance coverage. As far as I can tell, they have never provided the Department of Defense with evidence that complied with this requirement.

Here is why this is significant. On May 19, 2003, an employee of KGL negligently jackknifed a tractor trailer, causing a collision with a Humvee of one of our service members, Lieutenant Colonel Dominic Rocco Baragona, and it cost Lieutenant Colonel Baragona's life. He was a 1982 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, served our country for 21 years.

The Baragona family has been trying unsuccessfully for years to get KGL to accept responsibility for the death. The family's attorney made three separate efforts to serve KGL with process; the company refused. The family's attorney sent a representative to Kuwait to meet with KGL officials. Here was their response, Mr. Chairman: we are a Kuwaiti company; we are untouchable. This is what they say to the family of a dead GI.

Now, if these rules for debarment can't protect our military, then who can they protect? I am going to be interested to hear what this panel has to say, because if these hearings mean anything, they ought to be able to at least protect one person.

Thank you.
Chairman Towns. Thank you very much. Does the gentleman yield back?

Mr. Kucinich. Yield back.
Chairman Towns. Mr. Flake, the gentleman from Arizona.
Mr. Flake. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate this hearing being called. This is a matter that should be of great concern to all of us. We are going to be spending a boat load of money here with the stimulus, with the omnibus that we just passed, and we need to make sure that it is spent wisely. I think a lot of us are concerned that there simply aren't enough qualified contractors out there to carry on this work.

A lot of us feel that there is simply too much Government money being pushed out at any one time, so it is extremely important that we have good oversight here, and that is why this committee is going to be important moving forward on this front. So I commend the chairman for holding the hearing.

I look forward to the testimony and also learning what your feeling is. Are there enough qualified contractors out there? I am glad that we are looking to make sure that those who have committed fraud and whatever in the past are not going to be eligible and aren't going to be getting these contracts, but I am concerned that pushing this much money out there this fast is going to be very difficult without lowering our standards considerably as to who gets these contracts. So I look forward to the hearing and thank the chairman for calling it.

Chairman Towns. Thank you.
The gentleman from Ohio yielded back 2 minutes, so if someone else on that side would like to. Yes, the gentleman from Illinois, Congressman Davis.

Mr. Davis. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Let me just thank you for calling this hearing. Also, I welcome your comments and those of the ranking member. It is amazing to me that we could be wasting and allowing so much money to go to waste without the kind of followup and follow-through that is necessary to prevent it. I am glad that you have opened our hearing process this year, and I look forward to getting to the depths of what is taking place with procurement, what is going on, why it is happening, and, again, I thank you for calling this hearing and look forward to working with this committee for the next 2 years. I yield back.

Chairman Towns. Thank you very much.
Mr. Chaffetz has 2 minutes.
Mr. Chaffetz. Thank you. I appreciate the chairman for calling this. This is of vital importance as we start to talk about spending literally trillions and trillions of dollars. Of particular concern, and one of the things I would appreciate that your address at some point, was our President's call to end no bid contracts. We just saw that Congress, yesterday, passed 9,000 earmarks in one of the most egregious and overspending bills I have ever seen, and I have only been here a few days as a freshman.

Chairman Towns. That explains it. [Laughter.]
Mr. Issa. Wait until you have been here a while, Jason.
Mr. Chaffetz. For some of you, this is not as critical an issue, but how are we going to deal with the call from the President to end no bid contracts? How are we going to deal with this with a lack of competition perhaps in some space, and balance that out with the needs to get the job done in areas that we need to get done? But please know how much the American people are counting on you to address their issues and spend their money wisely, and I appreciate hearing from you and participating in the panel today.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Chairman Towns. Thank you.
We will turn now to our first panel. It is committee policy that all witnesses are sworn in, so if you would all stand and raise your right hands.
[Witnesses sworn.]
Chairman Towns. Let the record show that all of the witnesses have answered in the affirmative.

You may be seated.
Today we have appearing before us Mr. Gregory Kutz, Managing Director of Forensic Audits and Special Investigations, FSI, in the Government Accountability Office. The mission of FSI is to provide Congress with high-quality forensic audits and investigation of fraud, waste, and abuse, and evaluations of security, vulnerabilities, and other requested investigative services. Mr. Kutz and his team have accomplished this mission today by providing our committee with the report before us, and we want to welcome you as well.

We also have Mr. James Williams, the Commissioner of Federal Acquisition Services within the General Services Administration, which includes management and oversight of the agency's Federal supply schedule. Previously, Mr. Williams was the designated acting administrator of GSA from August 30, 2008, until January 20, 2009. Welcome.

Mr. David Drabkin is the Deputy Chief Acquisition Officer and Senior Procurement Executive within the Office of the Chief Acquisition Officer of GSA. In this capacity, Mr. Drabkin oversees the agency's Excluded Parties List System [EPLS], amongst other programs. Welcome.

Mr. Ed Harrington, is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Procurement as of December 8, 2008. Mr. Harrington is a retired senior U.S. Army officer, having achieved the rank of Brigadier General. Mr. Harrington has 28-plus years of experience in weapons and information systems life cycle acquisition, contracting management, and military logistics operations. Welcome.

Mr. Michael Jaggard is Chief of Staff and Policy within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy's Acquisition Management. Prior to his retirement from the Navy in October 2001, Mr. Jaggard held the rank of Captain and served 30-plus years to our Nation. Welcome.

Mr. Frederic Levy is a partner with McKenna Long \& Aldridge. Mr. Levy has represented and advised numerous corporations concerning government contract negotiations, award performance, and contract terminations. Mr. Levy's specialty is the resolution of complex compliance and ethics issues. That is really good. Welcome.

Your entire statements are in the record for all of you, and let me just say that you all have 5 minutes to provide an opening statement, and of course, thereafter Members have an opportunity to raise questions.

So why don't we start with you, Mr. Kutz.

STATEMENTS OF GREGORY KUTZ, MANAGING DIRECTOR FOR FORENSIC AUDITS AND SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS, U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE; JAMES WILLIAMS, COMMISSIONER, FEDERAL ACQUISITION SERVICE, U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION; DAVID DRABKIN, ACTING CHIEF ACQUISITION OFFICER AND SENIOR PROCUREMENT EXECUTIVE, U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION; BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWARD HARRINGTON, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY FOR PROCUREMENT; CAPTAIN MICHAEL JAGGARD, U.S. NAVY, RETIRED, CHIEF OF STAFF/POLICY FOR THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY FOR ACQUISITION AND LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT; FREDERIC M. LEVY, MCKENNA LONG \& ALDRIDGE LLP; AND SCOTT AMEY, GENERAL COUNSEL, PROJECT ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

## STATEMENT OF GREGORY KUTZ

Mr. Kutz. Thank you. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to discuss the Excluded Parties List System. Today's testimony highlights the results of our investigation into whether excluded parties were improperly paid. My testimony today has two parts. First, I will discuss the problems that we identified and, second, I will discuss the key causes of these problems.

First, our testimony highlights 25 cases of individuals and businesses that received millions of dollars improperly after being suspended or debarred. As shown by the slides on the monitors, our 25 cases include companies whose owners illegally shipped parts to North Korea for its nuclear weapons program, substituted inferior parts on an aircraft carrier, illegally dumped chemicals into city sewers, made fraudulent purchases using stolen Government credit cards, and falsified records for required SEC filings. Additional activity for these 25 cases includes: mail fraud, wire fraud, tax fraud, false statements, money laundering, bribes, kickbacks, and bid rigging.

The individuals and businesses responsible for these acts were supposed to be prohibited from continuing to receive Government contracts and other payments. However, in these, and likely many other cases, the system failed. Let me briefly discuss two of these cases for you.

First, in July 2005, the Army debarred a German company and its owner for attempting to smuggle 22 tons of ultra strong aluminum pipes to North Korea. These pipes could have been used to make weapons-grade uranium sufficient for several bombs in a year. The monitor shows excerpts from the Army's debarment memorandum, which states: "The United States has a compelling interest to discontinue any business with this morally bankrupt individual, as continuing to do so would be irresponsible."
Unfortunately, one Army command paid this company over \$4 million for work ordered after this debarment. In total, the Army paid this company $\$ 20$ million after the owner was convicted of violating German law.

You might be thinking that this command was unaware of this debarment or, as they say, didn't get the memo. You would be
wrong. According to the Army, this command was aware of this debarment, but, contrary to the memo you see on the monitors, chose to continue doing business with this company.

Second, in April 2006, the Navy suspended a company for product substitution. Specifically, a company employee intentionally substituted non-conforming fasteners for steam pipes on an aircraft carrier. According to the Navy, these fraudulent acts endangered the lives of 3,117 Navy sailors aboard the USS John F. Kennedy. Despite the suspension, within a month, the Navy made three awards to this company for over $\$ 100,000$.

I am sure that by now you are wondering why the Federal Government continued doing business with these fraudsters and criminals, which leads to the second part of my statement, the key causes of these problems. Overall, we found a broken system and, in several cases, acts of deception by company owners.

Examples of the breakdowns include: missing data and errors in the system, inadequate system search functions, agencies not entering exclusions into the system in a timely manner, and contracting officers not properly checking the system. Although GSA and many agencies are involved, nobody appears to be responsible for making sure that exclusions are properly enforced.

As I mentioned, we also found acts of deception by several owners. For example, one owner simply set up a new company with a slightly different name and a new identifying number. In another case, the owner's wife operated the company during the debarment period using her maiden name. Given the lack of effective oversight, just about any scheme could be used to beat this system.

Finally, you are probably wondering why we have set this Dragon skid body armor at the table. Let me explain. We bought this body armor on the Federal Supply Schedule from a debarred Government contractor. This company was debarred by the Air Force for falsely labeling 590 of these vests as having been tested, when in fact they were not. However, rather than removing the company from the supply schedule, GSA listed it as an approved vendor, with no warning that the company was debarred.

In conclusion, I believe that the 25 cases I have described for you here today are in fact the tip of the iceberg. Further investigation would reveal dozens, and perhaps hundreds, of similar cases. The last time I was before you, Mr. Chairman, I testified that thousands of Government contractors, with billions of dollars of unpaid Federal taxes, continued to receive billions of dollars of new Government contracts.

Unfortunately, today's story is just as bad, or maybe it is even worse. Stories like this cause taxpayers to lose faith in their Government. How can we explain to taxpayers that millions of their hard-earned dollars are being paid to known fraudsters and criminals, including those that have violated our national security interests?

Mr. Chairman, I want to commend you and the ranking member for shining a spotlight on this important issue today. I look forward to continuing to work with this committee on matters related to fraud, waste, and abuse. I look forward to your questions.
[The prepared statement of Mr. Kutz follows:]

United States Government Accountability Office

| GAO | Testimony <br> Before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, House of Representatives |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | EXCLUDED PARTIES LIST SYSTEM |
|  | Suspended and Debarred Businesses and Individuals Improperly Receive Federal Funds |

Statement of Gregory D. Kutz, Managing Director Forensic Audits and Special Investigations


## Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the results of our investigation of the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS), a Web-based system maintained by the General Services Administration (GSA). To protect the government's interests, any agency can exclude, i.e., suspend or debar, businesses or individuals from receiving contracts or assistance ${ }^{2}$ for various reasons, such as a conviction of or indictment for a criminal or civil offense or a serious failure to perform to the terms of a contract. ${ }^{3}$ Agencies must report all excluded parties to EPLS within 5 business days after a suspension or debarment becomes effective. Before awarding funds, contracting officers and other agency officials are required to check EPLS to ensure that a prospective vendor is not an excluded party.

In July 2005, GAO reported that the data in EPLS were insufficient to enable agencies to determine with confidence that a prospective vendor was not currentiy excluded. ${ }^{4}$ In response, GSA agreed to modify EPLS's data requirements to include a mandatory provision that agencies enter a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number to facilitate the identification of excluded parties. ${ }^{6}$ Despite such modifications, recent allegations indicate that businesses or individuals that have been excluded for egregious offenses have been able to "resurface" under the same or a different business name or identity in order to continue to receive federal contracts and other funds. We described the results of our investigation confirming these allegations in our recently issued report. ${ }^{\text {T }}$ This testimony
${ }^{1}$ The database can be accessed at www.epls gov.
${ }^{2}$ Parties can be exciuded from receiving a wide range of federal funds including, but not limited to, Medicare and Medicaid provider payments, cooperative agreements, scholarships, fellowships, loan guarantees, subsidies, insurance, payments for specified uses, donation afreements, or contracts of assistance.
${ }^{3}$ A suspension is a temporary exclusion of a party pending the completion of an A suspension is a temporary exclusion of a party pending the completion of an
investigation, while a debarment is a fixed-term exclusion. Generally, the period of hebarment does not exceed 3 years, though some are indefinite.
${ }^{4}$ GAO, Federal Procurement: Additional Data Reporting Could Improve the Suspension and Debarment Process, GAO-05-479 (Washington, D.C.. July 29, 2005).
A DUNS number is a unique nine-digit identification number assigned to firms by Dun \& Bradstreet, Inc.
${ }^{6}$ GAO, Excluded Parties List System: Suspended and Debarred Businesses and Individuals Improperly Receive Federal Funds, GAO-09-174 (Washington, D.C.: Feb. 25, 2009).
will summarize our overall findings and will also describe the key causes of the improper awards and other payments we detected.

To conduct our work we first compared DUNS numbers appearing in EPLS with those appearing in the Federal Procurement Data System-Next Generation (FPDS-NG) for fiscal years 2006 and 2007. The FPDS-NG is the central repository for capturing information on federal procurement actions. Because not all records within EPLS contained DUNS numbers, we also compared vendor addresses available in EPLS with those in FPDS NG. From the matches we identified, we selected for further investigation parties that (1) were excluded governmentwide for egregious offenses such as fraud, false statements, theft, and violations of selected federal statutes and (2) received new awards in excess of $\$ 1,000$ during the period of suspension or debarment. We did not examine any federal award databases other than FPDS-NG, nor did we examine whether excluded parties continued to receive federal funds under subcontract
arrangements or from grants, loans, or subsidies. GAO's objective was not to determine, and GAO did not have data to determine, the number of businesses and individuals in EPLS that received new federal awards during their exclusions.

We conducted our audit work and investigative work from December 2007 through November 2008. We conducted our audit work in accordance with U.S. generally accepted govermment auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our objectives. We performed our investigative work in accordance with standards prescribed by the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency.

Excluded Parties Continue to Do Business with the Government

We confirmed the allegations that businesses and individuals that were excluded for egregious offenses were continuing to receive federal contracts. Specifically, we developed case studies on businesses and individuals that were awarded funds despite being suspended or debarred for a variety of offenses, ranging from national security violations to illegal dumping of chemicals to tax fraud. These excluded parties received funding in part because agency ofticials failed to search EPLS or because their searches did not reveal the exclusions as a result of system deficiencies. We also identified additional cases involving businesses and individuals that were able to fraudulently circumvent the terms of their
exclusions by operating under different identities and one case where the Army chose to continue doing business with an excluded party despite its debarment. Examples of our cases include the following:

- In July 2005, the Department of the Army debarred a German company and its president after the president violated German law and attempted to ship dual use aluminum tubes, which can be used to develop nuclear weapons, to North Korea. In the debarment decision, the Army stated that because the president "sold potential nuclear bomb making materials to a well-known enemy of the United States," there was a "compelling interest to discontinue any business with this morally bankmpt individual," Despite this debarment, the Army chose to continue to award the company task orders and paid it over \$4 million during fiscal year 2006. Although the Army toid us that it was legally obligated to continue the contract with the company, in fact several options were available for termination. It is not clear if the Army considered these options because the officials we spoke with were not sure of the exact circumstances surrounding the decision and there was no contemporaneous documentation related to the case.
- In April 2006, the Department of the Navy suspended a company after one of its employees sabotaged repairs on an aircraft carrier by using nonconforming parts to replace fasteners on steam pipes. If these pipes had ruptured as a result of faulty fasteners, those aboard the carrier could have suffered lethal burns. However, less than a month after the suspension, the Navy awarded the same company three new contracts because a contracting officer failed to check EPLS to verify the company's eligibility.
- GSA suspended a construction company in September 2006 after its president opened fraudulent GSA surplus-property-auction accounts using fictitious social security numbers so that he could continue to do business with GSA while his original account was in default for nonpayment. The Department of the Interior attempted to check the contractor's eligibility in EPLS prior to making several awards to the company, but the exclusion was not revealed because GSA did not enter the company into EPLS until October 2006 , more than a month after the suspension began.
- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) debarred an individual in April 2003 for 5 years after he pleaded guilty to Medicare fraud. Because HHS did not debar the individual's company, he transferred ownership of the company to his wife in an attempt to continue receiving Medicare reimbursements. After HHS objected to

> this arrangement, he then sold the company to a neighbor. Two years later, citing financial difficulties, the neighbor sold the business back to the original owner's wife. The wife admitted to our investigators that she then legally changed her last name to her maiden name to avoid "difficulties" in using her husband's name. Using this scheme, the couple received Medicare payments for the remaining 3 years of the husband's debarment.

## Ineffective EPLS <br> Management or <br> Agency Control Weaknesses Lead to Improper Awards and Other Payments

Recommendations for Executive Action

Most of the improper contracts and payments we identified can be attributed to ineffective management of the EPLS database or to control weaknesses at both excluding and procuring agencies. Our cases and analyses of EPLS data demonstrate that no single agency is proactively monitoring the content or function of the database and that agencies are not consistently inputting timely or accurate data related to the parties they exclude. Specifically, our work shows that EPLS entries may contain incomplete information, the database has insufficient search capabilities, and the listed points of contact for further information about exclusions are incorrect. With regard to agency control weaknesses, our investigation shows that (1) excluding agencies ignored the DUNS number requirement, (2) agencies did not enter exclusions within the required time frame, (3) contracting officers failed to check EPLS prior to making awards or adding new work or extensions to existing contracts, (4) agencies used automated purchasing systems that do not interface with EPLS, and (5) agencies made purchases from excluded parties that are listed on GSA's Federal Supply Schedule. Although agencies are still required to check EPLS prior to purchasing items through this program, the fact that excluded parties are listed on the GSA Schedule can result in agencies' purchasing from unscrupulous companies that continue to pursue business with the government notwithstanding their exclusions. To verify that no warnings exist to alert agencies that they are making purchases from excluded parties, we used our own GAO purchase card to buy body armor worth over $\$ 3,000$ through the supply schedule from a company that had been debarred by the Department of the Air Force in September 2007 for falsifying tests related to the safety of its products.

At the close of our investigation, we referred all the cases we identified to the appropriate agency officials for further action. We also made recommendations to GSA to improve the effectiveness of the suspension and debarment process. Specifically, we recommended that that the Administrator of General Services take the following five actions:

- issue guidance to procurement officials on the requirement to check EPLS prior to awarding contracts and to suspension and debarment officials on the 5-day entry and contractor identification number requirements;
- ensure that the EPLS database requires contractor identification numbers for all actions entered into the system;
- strengthen EPLS search capabilities to include common search operators, such as AND, NOT, and OR;
- take steps to ensure that the EPLS points of contact list is updated; and
- place a warning on the Federal Supply Schedule Web site indicating that prospective purchasers need to check EPLS to determine whether vendors are excluded and explore the feasibility of removing or identifying excluded entities that are listed on the GSA Schedule.

In written comments on a draft of this report, GSA agreed with all five of our recommendations. As part of its response, GSA outlined actions it plans to take or has taken that are designed to address our
recommendations. However, most of the actions described do not achieve the intent of these recommendations. In several instances, GSA simply restated its current policies and procedures instead of agreeing to take steps to oversee the completeness of EPLS and ensure that exclusions are properly enforced. For example, in response to our recommendation to issue guidance to procurement officials on the requirement to check EPLS prior to awarding contracts and to suspension and debarment officials on the 5-day entry and contractor identification number requirements, GSA did not plan to take any new actions and instead pointed to Federal Acquisition Regulation requirements and GSA policies that were already in place before we conducted our investigation. Similarly, GSA did not plan to take any new actions to ensure that the EPLS database requires contractor identification numbers for all actions entered into the system, nor did it plan to take additional steps to update the EPLS agency contact list. Based on our investigation, if GSA is not more proactive in its management of EPLS system, suspended and debarred companies will continue to improperly receive millions of taxpayer dollars. More detailed information on GSA's comments and our response can be found in our report.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions that you or other members of the committee may have at this time.

| Contacts and | For further information about this testimony, please contact Gregory D. |
| :--- | :--- |
| Acknowledgments | Kutz at (202) 512-6722 or kutzg@gao.gov. Contact points for our Offices of <br> Congressional Relations and Public Affairs may be found on the last page <br> of this testimony. In addition to the individual named above, the <br> individuals who made major contributions to this testimony were Gary <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br> Bianchi, Cindy Brown Bannes, Shafee Carnegie, Bruce Causseaux, Jenifer <br> Costello, Craig Fischer, Georgeann Higgins, Betsy Isom, Leslie Kirsch, <br> Robert Lowthian, Andrew McIntosh, and Kim Perteet. |


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Chairman Towns. Thank you very much, Mr. Kutz.
At this time we will hear from you, Mr. Williams.

## STATEMENT OF JAMES WILLIAMS

Mr. Williams. Good morning, Chairman Towns, Ranking Member Issa, and members of the committee. I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to discuss the U.S. General Services Administration's Excluded Parties List System [EPLS]. With me today is Mr. David Drabkin, the Acting Chief Acquisition Officer for GSA, who will detail specific actions GSA has taken to address issues raised by the GAO report regarding the EPLS.

The EPLS is a valuable tool that helps protect the Government's interest. Given the vast number of contract actions that take place each year in which the EPLS is used in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation, the system works today. However, we take all isolated incidents seriously regarding EPLS and we have made, and will continue to make, improvements to ensure the system works to continue to protect the Government's interest.

In this regard, we appreciate the work of the GAO in looking at the system and identifying the incidents set out in the report and their causes. On December 12, 2008, GSA received the GAO draft report setting out GAO's findings with regard to EPLS. The draft report identified a range of deficiencies in the maintenance, use, and operation of the EPLS. I am pleased to report that Acting Administrator Prouty signed GSA's response to the GAO draft report and agreed with the findings and recommendations of the report. In fact, GSA has already implemented many of the report's recommendations and GSA will use the report's findings to enhance the use of the EPLS.

As part of our agency role of providing the Government's centralized acquisition delivery systems, the Office of Management and Budget designated GSA as the lead agency to manage the Integrated Acquisition Environment [IAE]. The IAE is an e-Government initiative to help streamline and improve the Federal acquisition process. The IAE is composed of 10 acquisition systems that facilitate every phase of the acquisition life cycle, from market research to contract administration. Through the IAE, acquisition functions common to all agencies are now managed centrally as shared systems.

The EPLS is one of the 10 IAE systems. It is an electronic Webbased system that identifies parties excluded from receiving Federal contracts and certain types of Federal assistance and benefits. The EPLS keeps the Federal acquisition community aware of agency suspensions and debarments across the entire Government. While EPLS users are currently able to search, view, and download both current and archived exclusions, we intend to make the EPLS easier for them to use and with more reliable results.

GSA's Federal Acquisition Service understands how important our role is in the interagency contracting system. To that end, we regularly refine our systems and guidance to agencies when we become aware of issues, such as GAO's findings in its report regarding our Multiple Award Schedules Program. As a result, the Federal Acquisition Service is taking the following actions: No. 1, adding reminders to our customer-facing e-tools to ensure our prospec-
tive customers are aware of potential excluded parties prior to placing scheduled orders; No. 2, establishing and placing messages within our e-tools to remind purchasers to check the EPLS prior to placing a task order; and, No. 3, providing direct access links to the EPLS Web site within our system's GSA Advantage, eBuy, and eLibrary to allow for easy access to suspension and debarment information.

Moreover, the Federal Acquisition Service is currently evaluating all of our training and will ensure that our guidance directs the review of EPLS data at all appropriate times in the acquisition process. The guidance will also describe the steps necessary for removal of excluded entities from the Schedules Program, where appropriate.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Issa, and members of the committee, GSA looks forward to working with this committee, the GAO, and our Federal agency customers to make the EPLS a more user-friendly and reliable Web-based tool so that it remains a valuable acquisition tool. We thank the GAO and this committee for helping promote awareness of the EPLS system and its continued value as a tool that protects the Government's interest.

That concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any of your questions. Thank you.
[The prepared statement of Mr. Williams follows:]

## STATEMENT OF

JAMES A. WILLIAMS COMMISSIONER

FEDERAL ACQUISITION SERVICE
U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2009


Chairman Towns, Ranking Member Issa, and Members of the Committee, I would like to thank the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform for inviting me here today to discuss the U.S. General Services Administration's Excluded Parties List System (EPLS). GSA takes its role as the central management agency and the leader in interagency procurement very seriously. My testimony will discuss GSA's commitment to transparency and fairness in acquisition processes, the EPLS report issued by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and actions we are taking as a result of GAO's recommendations.

As Commissioner of GSA's Federal Acquisition Service (FAS), I oversee an organization that is a catalyst for over $\$ 50$ billion in federal spending including an interagency fleet of 200,000 vehicles, and commercial products and services ranging from office supplies to complex network systems costing more than $\$ 100$ million. The GSA Multiple Award Schedules program is one of the Federal government's best known and most popular contracting vehicles for customers to use in fulfilling their missions. Through GSA Schedules we offer 18 million commercial products and services available from over 17,000 contractors at a volume of approximately $\$ 38$ billion.

We see our role as providing a centralized delivery system for federal agencies to obtain commonly used goods and services from the private sector in a timely and efficient manner. In this role, we provide an interface allowing the private sector to have low-cost and effective market entry into the government marketplace. We offer e-systems to heip companies obtain GSA contracts, manage procurement transactions, and publicize business opportunities. These e-systems allow for faster and easier procurement and ordering processes, increase accessibility and transparency into the acquisition process, and minimize costs to businesses wanting to sell to the government.

As part of that role, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) designated the GSA as the lead agency managing the Integrated Acquisition Environment (IAE). The IAE is an e-Gov initiative streamlining the federal acquisition process, composed of ten acquisition systems facilitating every phase of the acquisition lifecycle, from market research to contract administration. Through the IAE, acquisition functions common to all agencies are now centrally managed as shared systems. Additionally, the IAE business structure provides a secure business environment that facilitates and supports acquisitions critical to all agency mission performance.

The EPLS, as part of the IAE, is an electronic, web-based system identifying parties excluded from receiving federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain types of federal financial and non-financial assistance and benefits. The EPLS keeps the federal acquisition community aware of administrative and statutory exclusions across the executive branch.. Users are able to search, view, and download both current and archived exclusions.

Recently the GAO completed a report "Excluded Parties List System: Suspended and Debarred Businesses and Individuals Improperly Receive Federal Funds" (GAO 09-174). In that report, GAO found that, due to a number of different reasons, businesses and individuals excluded from government contracting through suspension or debarment had been able to receive federal funds after their exclusion. Some of the reasons include officials failing to search EPLS as required by the FAR, the failure of searches to reveal the exclusions due to EPLS system limitations or user error, or, in some cases, unscrupulous contractors who were able to circumvent the terms of their exclusions by operating under different identities. GAO also found that some excluded parties were listed on GSA's Multiple Award Schedules.

GAO made five recommendations to GSA to strengthen controls over EPLS, including issuing guidance to agency officials on EPLS requirements, ensuring that the system requires the entry of contractor identification numbers, strengthening the search capabilities of the system, updating the EPLS points of contacts and adding warnings to GSA e-tools reminding users to check EPLS when making a Schedules purchase. Mr. David Drabkin, the Acting Chief Acquisition Officer for GSA, is here with me today and will detail specific actions GSA has taken to address issues raised by the GAO report regarding the EPLS.

The GAO report noted that there were instances where excluded parties were still listed on GSA's Multiple Award Schedules, potentially resulting in agencies making purchases from excluded parties if they did not check the EPLS. In fact, the GAO did make such a purchase and did not find adequate warnings in our systems to check EPLS.

FAS understands how important its role is in the interagency contracting system. To that end we regularly refine our systems and guidance to agencies when we become aware of issues such as those raised in the GAO report. In a letter to the GAO on behalf of GSA, we committed to take actions to mitigate against customers placing orders with Multiple Award Schedules vendors appearing on the EPLS. Specifically, FAS is taking the following actions: (1) add reminders to customer-facing e-tools ensuring prospective customers are aware of potential excluded parties prior to placing task orders; (2) establish and place messages within e-tools reminding purchasers to check the EPLS website prior to placing a task order; and (3) provide direct access links to the EPLS website within GSA Advantage, eBuy, and eLibrary to allow for easy access to suspension and debarment information.

Also included in the report was the recommendation to explore the feasibility of removing or identifying excluded entities listed on the Multiple Award Schedules. In accordance with FAR 9.405-1, "Continuation of current contracts," a GSA Contracting Officer may take such action as terminating a contractor's Schedules contract only after consulting with legal counsel and others. The appropriate GSA Contracting Officer works with GSA's Office of General Counsel on a case-bycase basis to determine what type of contractual action may be appropriate.

Finally, pursuant to FAR 9.405-1(b), unless an agency head determines that there are compelling reasons to order from a debarred, suspended, or proposed for debarment vendor, ordering activities should not take place. FAS is also reviewing the potential for marking excluded parties in its e-systems.

One of my initiatives as Commissioner of FAS was the establishment of the Program Office to provide management and support for the GSA Multiple Award Schedules Program. The Program Office is currently evaluating all internal and external training and will ensure that internal guidance directs the review of EPLS at all appropriate times in the procurement process. The guidance will also describe steps for potential cancellation of schedule contracts held by excluded entities. For all external training, the office will include reminders to review the EPLS prior to award of task orders by all ordering entities under the Schedules Program.

In closing, I have a strong commitment to ensuring transparency, fairness and accountability in our processes and ensuring that the Federal Government acts as a good steward of taxpayer dollars. Enabling customer mission success, while ensuring compliance with laws and regulations, is critical to achieving our vision of providing excellence in the business of government. Our ongoing ability to deliver great service, great value, and continuous innovation to help our customers better meet their missions is the core of GSA's and FAS' own mission.

I want to thank the Committee for its attention and would like to introduce Mr. David Drabkin, GSA's Acting Chief Acquisition Officer.

Chairman Towns. Thank you very much, Mr. Williams. At this time, Mr. Drabkin, we will hear from you.

## STATEMENT OF DAVID DRABKIN

Mr. Drabkin. Chairman Towns, Ranking Member Issa, members of the committee, thank you for inviting me to share with the committee information concerning the Excluded Parties List System [EPLS]; the rules governing suspension and debarment in the Federal Government; GSA's administration of its suspension and debarment program; and its leadership as managing partner for the Integrated Acquisition Environment [IAE], of which the EPLS is a part.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Issa, in addition to serving as GSA's Acquisition Chief Acquisition Officer and a member of the FAR Council, I have held numerous positions within the Federal Government and have served on a detail to the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, all focused on Government acquisition.

As is more fully described in my prepared statement, I have devoted much of my professional life to procurement policy, including serving as the head of a contracting activity, a trainer, as an agency debarment official. I have also advised contracting officers as a member of the Judge Advocate General's Corps, then as a civilian attorney with the Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps, a civilian attorney of the Office of General Counsel in the Defense Logistics Agency, and I was one of the Army's first fraud counsels and ran numerous fraud counsel program within the Department of Defense. Nobody is more committed to seeking out and reducing fraud in Federal contracting.

I was also part of the DOD organization when we worked with this committee in 1994 to write and pass the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act [FASA], and then I led the implementation of FASA in the Federal Acquisition Regulation. And all of that has bearing on some of the issues that are raised in this report on suspension and debarment.

Suspension and debarment are not tools for imposing punishment on contractors or individuals who have violated Federal procurement rules or, for that matter, any other rule or norm that reflects on the company or the individual's present responsibility. Punishment is left to those departments and agencies who oversee or regulate various aspects of commerce or who are responsible for the enforcement of the Nation's laws. Suspension and debarment are prophylactic measures designed to protect the Government from doing business with companies or individuals who are not presently responsible. Presently responsible is measured by many factors, which are all set forth in FAR Part 9.

We have developed tools over time to disseminate information about those companies or individuals who have been suspended or debarred. Those tools have evolved from written publications to online interactive tools. We continue to evolve those tools, making them more accurate and useful to Government contracting personnel, and ensuring that the Government does not do business with companies or individuals who have been suspended or debarred.

As Jim mentioned, we are pleased to say that EPLS and the suspension and debarment processes are working. And while the GAO report does identify several instances where mistakes were made, we do not believe the report demonstrates that any of these mistakes were the result of deliberate attempts by Federal contracting personnel to circumvent the rules or systemic failures in EPLS. The system itself, sir, is not broken.

Still, it gives those of us who devote our lives to purchasing on behalf of this great Government, no pleasure to learn that we make even one mistake. As GAO is aware, we have training for our contracting officers on the requirements to check EPLS before awarding a contract. We have changed the EPLS so that now we require the use of the DUNS number, a unique identifier to identify companies or individuals who are suspended or debarred; and we have added the DUNS number to all but 150 of our over 56,117 active records, and we are trying to address the 150 records which don't include DUNS numbers now.

When we suspend or debar a company, we tell that company what the consequences of suspension and debarment are in a letter suspending or debarring the company. And had the GAO representative shown you the full letter, it would have told them that they are not eligible for awards of contracts, tasks, or delivery orders in the base in the body of that letter.

We require contractors to certify, prior to submitting offers, that they are not suspended or debarred. We conduct reviews of our contracting offices to make sure that they are following our guidance, and when we find that they are not, we determine the reason and we correct it. And as you just heard from Jim, GSA's Federal Acquisition Service will add features to help make sure that our Schedule customers know that a contractor has been suspended or debarred.

Last year, our contracting officers across the Federal Government awarded over 11 million contracting actions. The year before, almost the same number. There were a little more than 28,700 of those individuals in the Government last year, and they awarded $\$ 456$ billion worth of contracts. In 1991, we had over 33,000 contracting specialists who awarded over $\$ 190$ billion. Last year, we did three times as much work with one-sixth less people. It is not an excuse for making mistakes, but it may well explain why, on occasion, mistakes are made.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Issa, the EPLS is not broken. Our rules are clear. Our contracting colleagues are trained. We review our work and we are committed to improving our process, and we do so regularly.

I am prepared to answer any questions the committee may have.
[The prepared statement of Mr. Drabkin follows:]

# STATEMENT OF <br> DAVID A. DRABKIN ACTING CHIEF ACQUISITION OFFICER <br> U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION <br> BEFORE THE <br> COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM <br> <br> U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 

 <br> <br> U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES}

FEBRUARY 26, 2009


Chairman Towns, Ranking Member Issa, thank you for this opportunity to appear before the Committee to discuss both the General Services Administration's (GSA's) Suspension and Debarment Program and GSA's management of the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS).

I assumed the position of GSA Senior Procurement Executive in June of 2000 after having served as the DoD Deputy Program Manager for the Pentagon Renovation. At that time my title was Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition and I was part of the Office of Governmentwide Policy in GSA. The Acquisition Office had both internal responsibility for managing GSA's Suspension and Debarment Program and external responsibility for managing the EPLS. Following the passage of the Services Acquisition Reform Act of 2003 (SARA), authored by this Committee, GSA established, in June 2004, the Office of the Chief Acquisition Officer (OCAO) and I assumed the duties of Deputy Chief Acquisition Officer and Senior Procurement Executive. All of the functions of the Acquisition Office transferred to the new OCAO. Because the Chief Acquisition Officer must be a political appointee under SARA, GSA's Chief of Staff was also designated GSA's first Chief Acquisition Officer. In February 2005, Ms. Emily Murphy was appointed by the President to serve as GSA's first Chief Acquisition Officer. In September 2005 I had the opportunity to assist Ms. Deidra Lee in developing and setting up the Information Technology Service in the newly created Federal Acquisition Service. In January 20081 returned to the Office of the Chief Acquisition Officer following a 6 month detail to the Senate Homeland Security Committee.

We note that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) Draft Report ${ }^{1}$ covers a multi-year time period. The database of GSA's EPLS records that GAO reviewed apparently extended from October 2001 to January 2008. See Draft Report, App. I Scope and Methodology. In its Report GAO cites only 15 instances where mistakes appear to have been made. In a number of cases the errors were the direct result of Contracting Officers not complying with existing explicit guidance to check EPLS prior to making awards. In several other cases, the identities of the companies were entered incorrectly and in one case the company in question failed to comply with the terms of their administrative agreement. Any mistakes are very serious but given that the Government, during that seven year period, awarded over 70 million contract actions, the failure rate was extremely low. But we will continue to strive to do better.

Suspension and Debarment is not a punishment. Instead, suspension and debarment is a prophylactic measure intended to prevent the Government from doing business with companies or individuals who demonstrate a lack of present "responsibility," a term of art in use in the government since at least the 1950s under

[^0]the Armed Services Procurement Regulation (ASPR) and the Federal Procurement Regulation (FPR), the forerunners of today's Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). We have, over time, expanded the definition of responsibility to include what a company does corporately, not just on government contracts. We have also adopted a government-wide policy prohibiting the placement of orders against contracts where the contractor has been suspended or debarred. We do not require the termination of existing contracts because a company has been suspended or debarred unless a proper determination is made under the FAR. ${ }^{2}$

The present responsibility of a company seeking to do business with the Government is determined prior to award. ${ }^{3}$ A contracting officer is required, among other things to check EPLS to determine whether a company has been suspended or debarred, one of a number of elements that make-up a responsibility determination. In addition, as a second check within the system, a company is required to certify that it is not suspended or debarred when submitting its offer to the government.

The methods by which we track and share information concerning the suspension or debarment status of a company have evolved over time. The EPLS was initially managed by GSA as a paper-based system. GSA then managed EPLS as an inhouse electronic system within GSA's network and entered data on behalf of other agencies. EPLS is now a part of an interactive website managed as part of the Integrated Acquisition Environment (IAE), with GSA as the managing partner for its customer agencies. To reiterate, GSA does not manage EPLS or IAE by itself. GSA manages these programs on behalf of all federal agencies and has an interagency group that decides what changes are to be made and what the budget for managing EPLS and IAE will be. The budget is then paid for by each agency out of its existing funds based on a pro-rata usage basis. This process ensures that both EPLS and IAE are responsive to the needs of its customer agencies.

Today, agencies enter data directly into EPLS concerning the companies they suspend or debar, and they are responsible for updating that information as appropriate. There remain a number of concerns about how to make the data more accurate. For example, companies can be identified in a number of ways: by name, address, taxpayer identification number, social security number, DUNS number, CAGE code, trading name, etc. As you can see, there are a number of ways a company or individual can be identified, and each poses its own limitations and difficulties. In order to address these concerns we did agree to use the DUNS number as a required means to identify companies. However, using a DUNS

[^1]number, does not present a universal solution because there will be situations where DUNS do not apply.

In 2002 IAE developed the Online Representative and Certification Application (ORCA), as an online database to ensure more accurate data in this area and others. IAE mandated the use of ORCA on or after January 1, 2005. As its name implies, ORCA stores certifications and representations by contractors seeking to do business with the Government as well as those currently doing business with the Government. One of the required certifications is that the contractor is not currently suspended or debarred. Contractors are required to update the information in ORCA at least annually or as the contractor's information changes, whichever comes first. Contracting Officers are required to check ORCA in all cases where they are awarding a contract. Contracting Officers are not required to check ORCA before placing orders against Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity contracts or Blanket Purchase Agreements. ${ }^{4}$ A contractor's failure to keep the certifications and representations current is a basis for finding that a contractor is not responsible and may also lead to a prosecution for making false statements to the Government.

FAR 9.105-2, requires a contracting officer to make a responsibility determination prior to making an award. Checking the EPLS is part of making that responsibility determination. FAR 9.105-1(c)(1).

When entering data into EPLS, existing guidance in EPLS Debar Manual Version 3.7, dated December 19, 2008, is linked to the online Debar Entry Form, which requires that certain information, including the name, address and DUNS number of the individual or company be entered into EPLS.

Federal procurement officials clearly have the responsibility to ensure that contractors and individuals suspended or debarred are not awarded any new business in accordance with the FAR, when those entities are suspended, debarred, or proposed for debarment. Individuals or entities that are the subject(s) of administrative action are provided clear written instructions. For example, the letters from the agency Suspension and Debarment Official tell them that when their name is placed on EPLS they: 1) may not submit offers on Federal contracts, 2) may not be awarded any Federal contracts, 3) may not conduct business with the Federal Government as an agent or representative of a Federal contractor, and 4) may not receive a subcontract from a Federal contractor equal to or in excess of $\$ 30,000$. Among other things, they are also told any affiliation or relationship to any organization doing business with the Federal Government will be carefully examined. This is clear and not subject to interpretation. If they violate these terms,

[^2]that is additional grounds for further independent administrative action by the Suspension and Debarment Official.

EPLS is scheduled to transition in 2010 to a new contract called Architecture and Operations Contract Support (AOCS). It is GSA's intent that AOCS will be awarded this year and will replace the individual contracts that currently exist for each program under the Integrated Acquisition Environment. AOCS will greatly simplify the information technology supporting these programs, which will make it significantly easier to share information between them and to provide automated alerts when a suspended or debarred contractor is being considered for a contract.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Issa, I wish I could tell you that in the future there will never be another instance where a company that is suspended or debarred will receive a contract or order during the period of suspension or debarment. I cannot. We are working with GAO to expeditiously implement their recommendations. However, it is worth noting that GAO did not find any systemic errors or problems.

We provide policy that is clear on the requirements both for entering the data and then on checking the EPLS before making contract awards. We provide training to all Contracting Officers on the requirements on a number of occasions during their training to be Contracting Officers. Many agencies conduct post award reviews where they check to make sure that applicable procedures, including checking the EPLS, were followed. In GSA, for example, we instituted Procurement Management Reviews in 2004 to sample our contracting offices to ensure compliance.

The system is not foolproof and there is no way to make it foolproof without stopping the contracting process altogether. For example, were we to have a governmentwide contract writing solution (including orders), such a system could be programmed to ensure that the check was made with EPLS before award. However, even this solution would not preclude an award to an individual or company who was suspended and debarred, if the data was not entered correctly, or if the individuals or company did not have a DUNS number at the time of its suspension or debarment, a contract might still be awarded to an individual or company that was suspended or debarred. In those cases where a company or individual is determined to "beat the system" by either not complying with the terms of an administrative agreement, by falsely certifying its status or by changing its name, etc., there is not much we can do except to catch them after the fact and institute appropriate action.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Issa, that concludes my prepared remarks, The work of the GAO and of this Committee in this area have helped raise awareness of the problems and will in turn promote the implementation of the Report's recommendations and future program enhancements. I and my GSA colleagues would be pleased to answer any questions the Committee may have.

Chairman Towns. Thank you very much, Mr. Drabkin. General Harrington.

## STATEMENT OF BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWARD HARRINGTON

General Harrington. Chairman Towns, Congressman Issa, distinguished members of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, thank you for this opportunity to testify on the Excluded Parties List System and the report on it by the Government Accountability Office. I have a written statement that I respectfully request be made a part of the record for today's hearing.

Chairman Towns. Without objection.
General Harrington. I appreciate the efforts of Congress and this committee to address this effective use of EPLS, and I thank the Government Accountability Office for alerting the U.S. Army to this very important issue.

Mr. Chairman, the Excluded Parties List System [EPLS], is an essential tool for our contracting teams. As a result of the GAO's findings, I released a policy alert to contracting officers Army-wide to re-emphasize the requirement for contracting officers to use EPLS. I reviewed the actions covered by the GAO report, and it is clear that mistakes were made. Contracting officers awarded contracts or orders to suspended or debarred firms because EPLS was not checked.

Upon learning of these errors, the Army took immediate action to retrain these contracting officers and implement changes and local procedures. I am pleased to report to you today that Department of the Army level procurement management reviews this fiscal year show a significant improvement over previous years in evaluating and awarding contracts to responsible firms. Mr. Chairman, I am also pleased to report that the Army is taking lasting and significant actions to improve contracting in expeditionary operations, as well as our institutional contracting functions. We are working to enable a contracting mission that is agile and responsive to our war fighters, while ensuring proper fiscal stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

A critical important issue for us is the size, structure, and training of the military and civilian acquisition work force. From 1998 to 2006 , the contracting work force declined by 20 percent, while the workload and the number of dollars associated with that workload experienced a fivefold increase. The Army, with the help of Congress and the Secretary of Defense, is making steady forward progress in addressing these workload work force issues. As a result, the Army has added more than 850 contracting professionals over the last 2 years. This holistic focus on Army contracting will ensure that we attract and retain additional military and civilian contracting professionals who are trained to meet the increasingly complex demands placed on them.

Mr. Chairman, Army contracting makes up 65 percent of total Army expenditures. As stewards of the taxpayers' dollars, the Army is doing a better job of managing and documenting contractor performance, and I agree that greater emphasis is rightfully placed on their management and oversight. We appreciate the efforts of this committee to address the effectiveness of the Excluded Parties List System.

This concludes my opening remarks, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to your questions.
[The prepared statement of General Harrington follows:]

## STATEMENT BY

MR. EDWARD M. HARRINGTON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (PROCUREMENT) OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (ACQUISITION, LOGISTICS AND TECHNOLOGY)

BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ON HOW CONVICTS AND CON ARTISTS RECEIVE NEW FEDERAL CONTRACTS

FEBRUARY 26, 2009

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
UNTIL RELEASED
BY THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

## Introduction

Chairman Towns, Congressman Issa, and distinguished members of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you to discuss the report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) on the Excluded Parties List System. It is my privilege to represent senior Army leadership, the military and civilian members of the Army acquisition workforce, and, most importantly, our warfighters who rely on us to provide them with weapon systems, equipment, training, and essential services to enable mission success.

Army contracting makes up some 40 percent of total Army budget expenditures. Since assuming my duties and responsibilities in December 2008, I have looked carefully at the size, structure, and training of the Army's contracting workforce. My concern is that the acquisition workforce, of which contracting officers are a critical part, has declined significantly in the last decade while the number of dollars that we are executing from a contract perspective has more than doubled. The number of largedollar contracting actions in the Army has increased by more than 80 percent. The Army, with the help of Members of Congress and the Office of the Secretary of Defense, is making steady and significant forward progress to address these workforce/workload issues for "expeditionary" contracting operations, highlighted by a special commission chartered by Secretary of the Army Pete Geren in August 2007. These actions are based on recommendations contained in the report, "Urgent Reform Required: Army

Expeditionary Contracting," dated October 31, 2007, by Dr. Jacques Gansler and Members of the Commission on Army Acquisition and Program Management in Expeditionary Operations.

While taking actions to improve contracting in "expeditionary" operations, the Army is also improving our "institutional" contracting functions. This holistic focus on Army contracting across the board is ensuring we attract and retain additional military and civilian contracting professionals, as well as provide them with career development opportunities and the proper training and tools required to meet the increasingly complex demands being placed on them. The appropriation of funds under Section 852 of the Fiscal Year 2008 National Defense Authorization Act has enabled the Army to begin hiring 260 additional contracting interns to foster improvements in contract execution and management, and we thank Congress for this action.

## Excluded Parties List System

The Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) is an essential tool for our contracting teams. EPLS provides a single comprehensive list of individuals and firms excluded from receiving Federal contracts or federally approved subcontracts (and from certain types of Federal financial and nonfinancial assistance and benefits). The Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) requires contracting officers to review EPLS after the opening of bids or receipt of proposals and again immediately prior to award to ensure that no award is made to a listed contractor. As a result of the findings by GAO, I released a policy alert to contracting offices Army-wide that re-emphasizes the requirement to use EPLS.

Regarding Army usage of EPLS, it is clear that mistakes were made in the 20062007 period reviewed by the GAO. Contracting officers have awarded contracts or orders to a suspended or debarred firm because EPLS was not checked. Upon learning of these errors, the U.S. Army took immediate action to retrain these contracting officers and implement changes in local procedures. A recent Headquarters, Department of the Army-level Procurement Management Review - in which a random sample of contract files are examined for completeness and regulatory compliance - showed a significant improvement in Fiscal Year 2009 ( 96 percent) over a similar period in Fiscal Year 2008 (53 percent). We find this very encouraging yet will continue to assess compliance and emphasize the requirement to use EPLS. The Army is committed to continuously improving contracting practices in expeditionary operations and across the force.

The U.S. Army is concerned about the efficiency and effectiveness of EPLS. Our contracting professionals experience difficulty using EPLS; contracting officers cannot be completely confident that they have adequately searched for the people, firms, and subsidiaries to which they award contracts. With regard to automated purchasing and contract writing, we have no systems that interact with EPLS to prevent award of a contract to a suspended or debarred firm.

We have initiated a proposal for development of an automated function establishing connectivity between EPLS and the DoD's contract writing system - the Standard Procurement System (SPS). Additionally, in March 2010, the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) System will electronically interface with EPLS which will provide an added safeguard. Firms registered in CCR, a requirement for all DOD
contractors, will be flagged if listed in EPLS. Contracting specialists will see this flag in CCR without having to search ELPS for it.

Other improvements worthy of action include:
(1) Expanded access to Dun and Bradstreet (D\&B) financial reports, with web linkage in EPLS to a suspended firm's D\&B financial reports and listing of all of a firm's subsidiaries and affiliates by the D\&B Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) numbers;
(2) Better definition of and linkage between a firm's corporate structure, DUNS numbers, and Contractor and Government Entity (CAGE) codes with the

CAGE codes being carefully maintained; and
(3) Electronic linkage to the U.S. Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control "Specially Designated Nationals" list and the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security "entity list," with full integration in EPLS for access to both at a single web location.

## Conclusion

Our Nation fields the best led, best trained, and best equipped Army in our history. Our Army will remain ever vigilant to meet the needs of our warfighters, with the urgency demanded by the life and death situations they face every day and around the clock. As they superbly execute the Global War on Terror, our Warfighters' success is linked directly to the success of our contracting workforce.

As stewards of the taxpayers' dollars, the Army is doing a better job of managing and documenting contractor performance. With contracts, whether in Iraq, Afghanistan,
the United States, or elsewhere in the world, representing an ever-increasing
percentage of our overall contract dollars, greater emphasis is rightfully being placed on their management and oversight. This includes documenting the contractor's performance in accordance with policy.

I look forward to your questions and thank you for the opportunity to address the Members of this Committee.

Chairman Towns. Thank you very much, General Harrington. Captain Jaggard.

## STATEMENT OF CAPTAIN MICHAEL JAGGARD

Captain Jaggard. Mr. Chairman, Congressman Issa, distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to discuss the Department of the Navy's use, regulations, guidance, and training concerning the Government's Excluded Parties List System. The Navy and Marine Corps are absolutely committed to conducting our business dealings only with responsible, ethical business partners.

The Federal Acquisition Regulation requires that purchases and contracts be awarded only to responsible prospective contractors, and it prohibits making a purchase or awarding a contract unless the contracting officer makes an affirmative determination of responsibility. One of the explicit elements of this responsibility determination is having a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics. The FAR goes on to say that contracting officers should use the EPLS in making this determination of responsibility.

As a general rule, the FAR does allow the continuation of contracts or subcontracts in existence at the time the contractor was debarred, suspended, or proposed for debarment, unless the agency head directs otherwise. However, unless the agency head makes a written determination of compelling reasons for doing so, the FAR explicitly prohibits placing orders or exceeding guaranteed minimum under indefinite quantity contracts, or placing orders under the Federal Supply Schedule contracts or basic ordering agreements, or adding new work, exercising options, or otherwise extending the duration of current contracts or orders with listed contractors.

In May of last year, in response to GAO's preliminary findings that some contracting officers may have been making awards without first verifying whether or not the prospective contractor was on the EPLS, our Department of the Navy Acquisition Integrity Office investigated and found out that, in some cases, what the GAO found was true. The circumstances varied, but in a few cases the EPLS search function required an exact match, so unless the firm's precise name was entered in its entirety, a negative report would result. We understand this has since been corrected.

Immediately upon learning of these errors, the AIO, in conjunction with my office, issued a fraud alert titled Required EPLS Verification Prior to Contract Award, and this fraud alert was distributed to all of the Department's contracting officers last year. Additionally, in order to ensure contracting personnel stayed aware and vigilant on this important matter, we followed up the fraud alert by disseminating a training package on EPLS to all of our Navy and Marine Corps contracting officers. The briefing contains a concise, but thorough, articulation of the regulatory requirements regarding EPLS, and it is an invaluable reference tool for our contracting officers today.

Mr. Chairman, Congressman Issa, the GAO clearly identified a few transactions that slipped through the cracks. However, rest assured that the Department of the Navy does not condone any violation as being acceptable. Through our fraud alert issued last May,
our targeted training initiatives and improvements to the EPLS software, we believe the weaknesses that allowed these actions to occur have been effectively addressed.

I thank you for the opportunity to work with this issue with this committee, and I welcome your questions, sir.
[The prepared statement of Captain Jaggard follows:]

NOT FOR PUBLICATION UNTIL RELEASED BY THE HOUSE OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT OF <br> MR. MICHAEL F. JAGGARD <br> CHIEF OF STAFF/POLICY FOR THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (ACQUISITION \& LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT) <br> BEFORE THE <br> HOUSE OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMITTEE

ON
THE EXCLUDED PARTIES LIST SYSTEM
FEBRUARY 26, 2009

NOT FOR PUBLICATION UNTIL RELEASED BY THE HOUSE OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, distinguished members of the committee, I am Mike Jaggard, Chief of Staff/Policy for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Acquisition and Logistics Management. Thank you for this opportunity to discuss the Department of the Navy's usage, regulations, guidance and training concerning the Government-wide Excluded Parties List System (EPLS).

The Navy and Marine Corps are absolutely committed to conducting our business dealings only with responsible, ethical business partners. The Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) requires that purchases and contracts be awarded only to "responsible" prospective contactors, and it prohibits making a purchase or awarding a contract unless the contracting officer makes an affirmative determination of responsibility. One of the explicit elements of being a responsible prospective contractor is having a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics. The FAR goes on to say that contracting officers should use the EPLS in making the determination of responsibility. In addition, the FAR requires that after the opening of bids or receipt of proposals, the contracting officer shall review the EPLS. Any bids received from any listed companies in response to an invitation for bids shall be rejected, unless the agency head determines in writing that there is a compelling reason to consider the bid. Similarly, proposals, quotations or offers received from any listed contractor shall not be evaluated for award or included in the competitive range, nor shall discussions be conducted with the listed offeror during the period of ineligibility, unless the agency head determines, in writing, that there is a compelling reason to do so. Finally, the FAR requires that immediately prior to award, the contracting officer shall again review the EPLS to ensure that no award is made to a listed contractor.

Notwithstanding the requirement to review the EPLS prior to award, as a general rule, the FAR allows the continuation of contracts or subcontracts in existence at the time the contractor was debarred, suspended, or proposed for debarment, unless the agency head directs otherwise. However, for those contractors who are debarred, suspended, or proposed for debarment, unless the agency head makes a written determination of the compelling reasons for doing so, the FAR explicitly prohibits the placing of orders exceeding the guaranteed minimum under indefinite quantity contracts; placing of orders under Federal Supply Schedule contracts, blanket purchase agreements, or basic ordering agreements; or adding new work, exercising options, or otherwise extending the duration of current contracts or orders.

On May 22, 2008, in response to perceived concerns that some contracting. officers may have been making awards without first verifying whether or not the prospective contactor was on the EPLS, the Department of the Navy's Acquisition Integrity Office (AIO), in conjunction with my office, issued a Fraud Alert titled, "Required EPLS Verification Prior to Contract Award". In that alert, we reiterated the regulatory requirement that listed parties are excluded from receiving contracts, and agencies shall not solicit offers from, award contracts to, or consent to subcontracts with these contractors, unless the agency head determines that there is a compelling reason for such action. In addition, as a "best practice", the Fraud Alert recommended that the EPLS computer screen, confirming that a prospective contactor is not listed on EPLS, be printed out and made part of the official contract file.

In order to address the general consensus that additional training is necessary to educate and periodically remind contracting personnel of the regulatory requirements and prohibitions associated with awarding contracts to contractors listed on EPLS, recently a training brief on EPLS was developed by one of our Department of the Navy contracting offices and disseminated to all of our Navy and Marine Corps contracting activities. The briefing contained a concise consolidation of the regulatory requirements regarding EPLS and is an invaluable reference tool for our contracting officers.

## SUMMARY

Mr. Chairman, the GAO has clearly identified a few transactions that slipped through and were awarded to firms who should not have received them. I firmly believe this was due, in every Department of the Navy case, to administrative oversight on small dollar transactions and misunderstanding among some on which transactions require EPLS verification prior to award. Through our fraud alert issued last May and our targeted training initiatives, we believe these weaknesses have been effectively addressed.

Chairman Towns. Thank you very much, Captain Jaggard. Mr. Levy.

## STATEMENT OF FREDERIC M. LEVY

Mr. Levy. Chairman Towns, Ranking Member Issa, members of the committee, thank you for inviting me to testify today on this very important topic. My name is Fred Levy. I am a partner with the law firm of McKenna Long \& Aldridge, where I have practiced Federal procurement law for more than 30 years, specializing in ethics and compliance issues, and particularly in the area of suspension and debarment.

While I am here today to testify on my own behalf, I note that for the past 3 years I have also served as co-chair of the American Bar Association Public Contract Law Section's Debarment and Suspension Committee; and in that capacity I have worked closely with a number of agencies, suspension and debarment officials, and Department of Justice representatives to review, analyze, and comment upon legislative and regulatory developments related to suspension and debarment.

Debarment and suspension from Federal contracts is an important tool that enables the Government to ensure that its contractors are presently responsible, and by that I mean that they have in place the requisite corporate culture, as well as the processes, procedures, and controls that are required to perform contracts in an ethical and compliant manner.

A contractor that is debarred or suspended by any agency is ineligible to receive not only new contracts, but any new work, including new orders, throughout the executive branch, unless an agency head determines in writing that there are compelling circumstances to make such an award. That is the only exception. Debarment and suspension also applies to subcontracts in excess of $\$ 30,000$.

The grounds for debarment or suspension are specified in the Federal Acquisition Regulation [FAR]. They are broad and provide agency suspension and debarment officials with wide latitude. The grounds include conviction or civil judgment for commission of a fraud in connection with obtaining or performing a contract, including misrepresentation of eligibility for award; commission of offenses involving theft, falsification of documents, bribery or false statements; and "any other cause of so serious or compelling a nature that it affects the present responsibility of the contractor or subcontractor."

It is important to remember, as Mr. Drabkin said, that debarment and suspension are not punitive measures. The Government has criminal and civil remedies by which it can recover damages and punish offenders. Their purpose is to assure present responsibility and compliant contracts performance going forward.

For that reason, the FAR requires that even if grounds for debarment exist, that is not the end of the inquiry. The suspension/debarment official must also consider 10 other factors to assess whether the Government is protected from similar wrongdoing in the future. Those factors include, for example, the disciplinary measures taken by the contractor, the corrective and remedial measures implemented, implementation of revised controls and
ethics programs, cooperation with the Government's investigations, and whether the Government has paid all liability and made restitution.

The suspension/debarment official's discretion in deciding whether to debar provides the Government with substantial leverage and it allows the suspension/debarment official to play a role in shaping a company's ethics and compliance culture. As a condition for continuing to do business, the suspension/debarment official can require the contractor to enter into an administrative compliance agreement that influences the contractor's disciplinary actions; requires the contractor to implement specific training processes, procedures, and controls; and may also impose reporting requirements and outside oversight. Such an agreement has significant benefits for the Government: it prevents innocent employees from losing their jobs because a company has to shut down or cut its work force to do the reduced work; it maintains competition, reducing no-bid contracting; and it maintains the industrial base.

The EPLS is the tool used by the Government to ensure that its acquisition personnel and other Government contractors know who is ineligible. It is publicly available. I have it earmarked as one of my favorites. The FAR requires contracting officers to check it twice, to check it after receiving bids or offers, and then again to check it before award. Today, it is easy to use; it is like performing a Google search, and it does allow use of some common search tools like "and" or "or."
I also note that the FAR places responsibility on contractors as well to identify whether they are suspended or debarred. All contracts in excess of $\$ 100,000$ require the contractor to certify whether it or its principals are suspended, debarred, or proposed for debarment. If, as GAO points out, there are situations where a listed contractor received an award and the proper procedure for making that exception was not followed, that is not appropriate, but it is also not due to lack of law or regulation.

Rather, in my experience, it would appear to be principally due to human error either in the listing process or because someone failed to check the list. In my view, that stems from a lack of training and an inexperienced and understaffed Federal acquisition work force. And if a contractor intentionally misrepresented their eligibility, there are numerous laws and regulations to address that situation.

I do believe, however, that there are ways to improve the suspension and debarment system. The ABA Committee on Suspension/ Debarment, which I co-chair, undertook a study last year and identified a series of recommendations. They include: strengthening the role of the Government's interagency suspension and debarment committee; combining the different rules governing suspension and debarment of contractors, and suspension and debarment from nonprocurement transactions such as grants into one common set of rules; formalizing the ability of suspension/debarment officials to enter into administrative compliance agreements, that is now done on an ad hoc basis, and making those agreements public; providing for a lead agency when multiple agencies have an interest in a contractor, and making a determination of responsibility, just like a determination of non-responsibility, binding.

I would be glad to share a complete set of our recommendations with the committee and to work with the committee. With that, I will conclude my remarks, and I would be pleased to answer any questions.
[The prepared statement of Mr. Levy follows:]

## STATEMENT BY

## FREDERIC M LEVY

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WASHINGTON, DC

BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HEARING ON<br>"HOW CONVICTS AND CON ARTISTS RECEIVE NEW FEDERAL CONTRACTS"

FEBRUARY 26, 2009

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Chairman Towns, Ranking Member Issa, distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear today to discuss the effectiveness of the Excluded Parties List System ("EPLS") and of the federal suspension and debarment process. I am a partner with the law firm of McKenna Long \& Aldridge LLP, where I have practiced federal procurement law for more than thirty years, specializing in ethics and compliance issues, and in particular suspension and debarment. I also have served for the past three years as the CoChair of the Debarment and Suspension Committee of the American Bar Association Public Contract Law Section. In that capacity, I have worked closely with the government community, including agency suspension and debarment officials and Department of Justice attorneys, to review, analyze and comment upon legislative and regulatory developments related to suspension and debarment. In fact, in a collaborative effort involving Committee members from both the government and private sectors, our Committee developed and published a set of draft recommendations to improve the suspension and debarment process that are further discussed below. ${ }^{1}$

## BACKGROUND

The federal government may only purchase goods or services from, and award contracts to, "responsible contractors." ${ }^{2}$ Suspension and debarment are discretionary actions available to the government to protect it from entering into business relationships with persons that are dishonest, unethical or otherwise not "presently responsible." A company or person that is suspended or debarred generally is ineligible to compete for or receive federal contracts, grants or assistance throughout the federal executive branch. The effect upon a company that does a significant volume of government contracting, including state and local contracting, and upon that company's employees, can be devastating. ${ }^{3}$

Different regulatory schemes govern suspension and debarment, depending upon the nature of the underlying business relationship. The rules applicable to suspension and debarment from federal procurement transactions, i.e., federal contracts, are set forth in the Federal Acquisition Regulation ("FAR"). ${ }^{4}$ Nonprocurement transactions, such as grants, loan guarantees, loans, insurance or

1 The draft recommendations are available at http://meetings.abanet.org/webupload/commupload/PC 403500/newsletterpubs/ABAREPORT.PDF.
${ }^{2} 48$ C.E.R. § 9.103.
${ }^{3}$ Many state and local government regulatory schemes provide that suspension or debarment by the federal government is grounds for debarment from local contracting.
${ }^{4} 48$ C.F.R. § 9.4.
federal assistance, are governed by the so-called Common Rule. ${ }^{5}$ While these rules are similar, they differ in certain respects. As the subject of this hearing is federal contracting, my statement will focus on the FAR rules. ${ }^{6}$

The FAR sets forth the grounds for suspension and debarment and provides agency suspension and debarment officials ("SDOs") with great latitude. The grounds include, among other things; conviction or civil judgment for commission of a fraud in connection with obtaining or performing a public contract; anti-trust violations; commission of offenses involving theft, falsification of documents, bribery or false statements; a history of failure satisfactorily to perform contracts, or "any other cause of so serious or compelling a nature that it affects the present responsibility of the contractor or subcontractor." ${ }^{7}$

A debarment is imposed upon the completion of legal proceedings for a fixed period, generally not to exceed three years. The SDO is given discretion to extend that period under certain circumstances, or to reduce the period if the SDO deems appropriate. ${ }^{8}$ A suspension is a temporary measure that the government may employ to protect its business interests pending the completion of an investigation or legal proceedings, if the SDO finds "adequate evidence" of grounds for suspension or debarment and also determines "that immediate action is necessary to protect the Government's interest." ${ }^{9}$

## DISCRETIONARY DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION ARE AN EFFECTIVE TOOL TO PROTECT THE GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS INTERESTS

Significantly, suspension or debarment are not to be used as punishment. The criminal and civil justice systems are designed to seek compensation for the harm to the government caused by contractor wrongdoing and to punish those responsible. The FAR expressly provides that these serious sanctions be imposed

[^3]only when necessary to protect the government "and not for purposes of punishment," ${ }^{10}$

In fact, the existence of a cause for debarment or suspension does not require that the contractor be debarred or suspended. Rather, the issue is one of "present responsibility." The FAR identifies ten factors that an SDO should consider when determining whether a contractor is presently responsible to perform current and future government contracts. These include:

- Whether the contractor had effective standards of conduct and controls in place;
- Whether the contractor self-disclosed the activity to the government;
- Whether the contractor has investigated the conduct and shared its findings;
- Whether the contractor cooperated fully with the government's investigation;
- Whether the contractor has agreed to pay all liability and made restitution for the conduct;
- Whether the contractor has taken appropriate disciplinary action;
- Whether the contractor has agreed to implement remedial measures;
- Whether the contractor has agreed to implement revised controls and ethics programs;
- Whether adequate time has elapsed to eliminate the causes for the improper conduct; and
- Whether management recognizes the seriousness of the misconduct and had implemented preventative programs. ${ }^{11}$

These factors task the SDOs with assessing contractor corrective and remedial measures and compliance programs in light of the wrongful conduct to determine whether they are sufficient to protect the government from similar wrongful conduct in the future. The SDOs' authority to exercise their business judgment whether to debar or suspend a contractor provides the government with a
${ }^{15} 48$ C.F.R. § 9.402.
" 48 C.F.R. § 9.406-1.
great deal of leverage. An SDO can play a significant role in reforming a contractor's ethics and compliance culture. As a condition for avoiding or retracting a debarment or suspension, the SDO can require the contractor to enter into an administrative compliance agreement that, among other things, influences the contractor's disciplinary actions, requires implementation of specific processes, procedures or controls, requires periodic reporting to the agency and may impose outside oversight of the contractor's ethics and compliance program.

This process has a number of significant benefits. It prevents innocent employees from losing their jobs as a result of a debarment stemming from the conduct of a misguided few. No matter how sophisticated and comprehensive a contractor's compliance program, there inevitably are employees who for personal reasons, a flawed perception of business goals, or a plain lack of understanding will circumvent or violate company policies and federal requirements.

Working with contractors to establish present responsibility, rather than mandating debarment, also enables the government to preserve the nation's industrial base and to enhance competition. The government thereby both preserves its sources and increases the likelihood it can obtain the lower pricing likely to result from more competitive purchasing.

## EFFECT OF LISTING ON THE EPLS

## Future Contracts and Work

A contractor that is suspended, proposed for debarment ${ }^{12}$, or debarred under the FAR is listed on the EPLS and is ineligible for the award of future federal contracts and work. That restriction extends to:

- Issuing new orders under indefinite quantity contracts;
- Placing orders under Federal Supply Schedule contracts, blanket purchase agreements or basic ordering agreements; and
- Adding new work, exercising options or otherwise extending the duration of existing contracts. ${ }^{13}$

[^4]${ }^{13} 48$ C.F.R. § 9.405 .

A suspended, debarred or proposed for debarment contractor also may not be awarded first tier subcontracts in excess of $\$ 30,000$ under a federal prime contract.

The listing on the EPLS is effective throughout the federal Executive Branch. If one agency suspends, proposes for debarment, or debars a contractor, no other agency may award that contractor work. ${ }^{14}$ The suspension or debarment extends to all divisions of the contractor, unless otherwise limited.

The SDO has the discretion to extend the suspension or debarment to affiliated entities. An affiliated entity includes a company that controls or is controlled by the contractor or is under common control, as evidenced by interlocking management or ownership, or shared use of equipment, facilities and employees. An affiliate also includes a business entity organized after the suspension, proposed debarment or debarment that has the same or similar management, ownership or principal employees as the contractor. ${ }^{15}$ Therefore, a contractor should not be able to evade a suspension or debarment by creating a new business entity to contract with the government.

## Compelling Circumstances <br> Exceptions to Suspension or Debarment

The FAR recognizes that there may be circumstances where it is in the government's best interests to award work to a debarred or suspended contractor. It provides the agency with the discretion to do so if the appropriate procedures are followed. In order to award a contract or other work to an entity on the EPLS, the agency head must find that there are "compelling circumstances" justifying the award of the work. The determination should be in writing and set forth the basis for the determination. ${ }^{16}$ Similarly, a prime contractor can make a compelling circumstances exception to award a first tier subcontract to a suspended or debarred contractor.

Several circumstances could justify such a determination. If there were no other source to satisfy the government's requirements, a compelling circumstances exception may be warranted. Alternatively, there may not be another source that could timely perform the required work; the need to avoid delay and the associated program impact could justify a compelling circumstances exception. However, in

[^5]1548 C.F.R. § 9.403.
1648 C.F.R. § 9.405.
either event, the determination should be in writing and the explanation of the compelling circumstances documented.

If an agency deems it appropriate to award work to a suspended or debarred contractor, it can contact the listing agency to determine the basis for that listing. If appropriate, the agency can then impose special conditions on the contractor or take other precautions to protect against the type of conduct that gave rise to the debarment or suspension.

## Continuation of Current Contracts

Termination of an existing contract could have both programmatic and cost consequences for the government. The government may not have an alternative source capable of providing the particular product or service, or of providing it within the time frame the government requires. Additional time and effort would be required to conduct a new procurement, and perhaps also for the existing contractor to wind down its efforts and for the new contractor to mobilize.

Further, in many instances the conduct underlying the debarment or suspension may be unrelated to the terminated contract, and any termination legally would be one for "convenience" and not for default. Under a termination for convenience, the government is obligated to pay the contractor the contract price for all completed goods or services, the costs incurred by the contractor plus a reasonable profit on the terminated portion of the contract, and the costs it incurs to wind down the contract. ${ }^{17}$ In the event of a termination for convenience, the government would be responsible for all of these costs in addition to the cost of any reprocurement.

The FAR recognizes this likelihood and provides agencies the discretion to continue existing contracts when the contractor is suspended or debarred, subject to the limitations on adding new work described above. In fact, there is a presumption that such contracts will be continued unless determined otherwise by the agency head, and no decision to terminate may be made until after a review by agency contracting and technical personnel and by counsel to ensure the propriety of the action. ${ }^{18}$ Factors the agency should consider are its ability to reprocure the goods or services, the impact of a termination on the agency's mission, how far along the contractor is in performance, whether the termination would be for default or convenience, and the potential cost impact of a termination.

[^6]Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) contracts present a somewhat different situation. Such contracts typically are awarded for a five year term. While new orders cannot be placed under an FSS contract held by a listed contractor absent a compelling circumstances determination, there is no need to terminate the contract. In all likelihood, the term of a suspension or debarment would expire or the contractor would enter into an administrative compliance agreement before the contract expires. There is no reason then to require the contractor to submit a new contract proposal, and the government to incur the effort and cost of evaluating and negotiating a new contract. The government's interests can be adequately protected if government acquisition personnel check the EPLS before issuing new orders under a schedule contract, as they are required to do before making any contract award.

## THE EPLS AND AWARDS TO LISTED CONTRACTORS

The EPLS is an on-line compilation of all entities and persons suspended, debarred or otherwise ineligible for participation in federal programs. It identifies the listing agency, the basis for the listing, the duration of the listing, the scope of the person or entity's ineligibility and all other persons or entities that are listed arising out of the same transaction. The EPLS also contains an archive feature that lists all persons and entities that previously had been listed. It is available to the general public as well as to the government, and can be found at www.epls.gov.

Federal contracting officers are required to review the EPLS both after receiving bids, proposals or quotations from contractors and again before issuing any contract awards to determine if the contractor is listed. ${ }^{19}$ The EPLS today is simple to use. It allows one to enter a name or combination of letters and, like a "Google" search, will identify all listings containing that name or combination of letters. One need not know the exact name of an individual or entity, for example the first name of a person or whether an entity is a "Co." or "Company," to identify a listed party. ${ }^{20}$

During my thirty years of practice, I am unaware of any situations in which a suspended or debarred contractor I represented was not listed on the EPLS, and of few instances where a listed contractor received an award without the agency first making a compelling circumstances determination. To the extent that the Government Accountability Office has identified such events, they stern primarily from human rather than system failure. Such error may include failure timely to

[^7]enter a listed entity on the EPLS, or failure on the part of a contracting officer to check the list before making an award. Recent studies have revealed that the federal acquisition work force today is inexperienced and understaffed, and would benefit from both additional training and increased support. Exigency contracting to support ongoing military operations may have further contributed to the urgency of certain procurements and the failure of procurement personnel properly to check the EPLS.

In addition, the EPLS is not the only basis for determining whether a contractor is suspended, debarred or otherwise ineligible. Contractors share in the responsibility of identifying whether they are listed. In conjunction with the award of any contract in excess of $\$ 100,000$ a contractor is required to certify, among other things, whether it or any of its "principals" are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or declared ineligible for the award of contracts by any federal agency, whether they have been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for certain enumerated violations within the past three years, and whether they currently are criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with commission of any such offenses. ${ }^{24}$ Review of this certification enables a government acquisition official to determine whether the contractor properly may receive a contract award.

Neither checking the EPLS nor reviewing the debarment certification will enable a government contracting officer to identify a listed contractor that fraudulently creates a new entity so as to avoid the consequences of a debarment or suspension. Neither, however, are any changes to the EPLS system likely to address this issue. Rather, detecting such conduct will stem from a combination of SDOs making sure that they list culpable individuals as well as the corporate entities, and government acquisition personnel making an effort to ensure that they know the companies with whom they are dealing, particularly in the case of small, recently established businesses.

## RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT SYSTEM

For the reasons set forth above, it is my view that the EPLS system is an effective and simple tool that readily enables contracting personnel to identify suspended, debarred or ineligible contractors. Any improper awards to ineligible contractors stem primarily from the failure of government personnel properly or timely to enter listed entities into the system, or failure of government acquisition personnel to use the EPLS as required.

[^8]However, I do believe that certain reforms would enhance the suspension and debarment process. As noted in my introduction, during 2008 the Debarment and Suspension Committee of the ABA Public Contract Law Section undertook a study of the suspension and debarment process to identify recommended improvements. The Committee, comprised of both government suspension and debarment personnel and private practitioners in the field, made ten recommendations. Changes recommended by the Committee include the following.

- Because a debarment or suspension by any agency is effective throughout the Executive Branch, any agency can have a substantial impact on the rest of the government's ability to fulfill its mission. Accordingly, there should be a comprehensive process by which all interested agencies have an opportunity to express their interests in the eligibility of a contractor, and there should be a process for the selection of a lead agency to act on behalf of the government. The determination of the lead agency not to debar or suspend should be given government-wide effect, as would its determination to debar or suspend.
- The FAR does not acknowledge the use of administrative compliance agreements and such agreements are now implemented by different agencies on an ad hoc basis. The FAR should adopt general terms and conditions for such agreements while preserving SDO discretion and flexibility. Such agreements should be publicly available and should be binding on all agencies.
- Whereas a find of non-responsibility by a debarring official is binding upon all agencies, a determination that a contractor is presently responsible is not. The Committee recommended that the FAR define "presently responsible" and a "finding of present responsibility," and provide that a finding by a debarring/suspending official that a contractor is presently responsible be binding upon contracting officers and grants officials.
- Some agencies have adopted an informal process of issuing "show cause" letters to contractors about whom it may have some concerns that do not rise to the level of issuing a suspension or debarment. Those letters invite the contractor to address the agency's concerns. The Committee recommended that the FAR implement this practice.
- The FAR provides that issuance of a Notice of Proposed Debarment immediately renders the recipient ineligible, while the Common Rule provides that such a Notice does not result in exclusion until after a determination has been made by the SDO. The Committee recommended that the Common Rule approach be uniformly adopted.
- The Committee recommended that the separate debarment and suspension regulations for procurement and non-procurement programs be combined into one program. The differences between the types of programs can be accommodated in one rule and there are significant advantages to be gained by creating a single, uniformly applicable rule.

The Committee's complete recommendations are available online at http://meetings.abanet.org/webupload/commupload/PC403500/newsletterpubs/ABA REPORT.PDF.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, as the federal government embarks on a cycle of increased acquisition activity and contracting in connection with the "stimulus" package, I do not believe that regulatory or system changes are needed to protect it from awarding contracts to non-responsible contractors. However, it will be critical that the federal acquisition workforce be properly trained regarding the need to check the EPLS, the significance of doing so, and the proper procedures for obtaining an exception permitting the award of a contract or other work to a listed contractor. It also will be important that the acquisition work force be properly sized to handle the impending increase in acquisition activity with the attention and care required to avoid procurement miscues.

Chairman Towns. Thank you very much, Mr. Levy.
At this time, we will start with the questions period, and, of course, I will start.

I think it was Mr. Chaffetz who mentioned the stimulus package, and it made me really think about it, and I want to ask you, Mr. Kutz, I want to know are there guarantees to ensure right now that none of the economic stimulus will go to excluded corporations. Just 2 weeks ago we passed a $\$ 787$ billion stimulus package, nearly a week ago, really, and a lot of people and a lot of companies want a piece of that action. In your opinion, are the loopholes in the system so big that they need immediate attention to make sure that stimulus funds aren't going to convicts or to con artists? And how do we ensure that they are going to where they are supposed to go?

Mr. KuTz. I believe on the contract side there still is a risk that this would happen, but probably the bigger vulnerability of GSA is moving forward with some of the proactive things is on the health care side. We are aware of Medicaid providers in the system right now that are suspended or debarred. So, for example, some of the stimulus money is going to Medicaid. It would appear pretty clear that they are going to get some of this money.

And I expect you also have other vulnerabilities we haven't talked about today. You have the whole subcontracting community. We didn't look at subcontracts. Subcontracts are another risk. But hopefully some of the efforts that GSA has taken over the last several years will pay fruit and there will be less vulnerability to this happening. But I think the bigger risk is on the part we haven't looked at yet.

Chairman Towns. Right. This question I would like to ask all of you except Mr. Levy. Time and time again, GAO's report highlights that taxpayer dollars have fallen in the hands of companies and business owners that should not have ever received even one contract with the Federal Government, let alone several. For instance, it goes without saying that Federal agencies should not contract with individuals convicted of attempting to smuggle nuclear reactor parts into North Korea.

Yet, the GAO exposed that the Department of the Army did exactly that. Further, Federal agencies should not contract with companies convicted of massive tax fraud or falsifying filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Nonetheless, the GAO discovered that agencies were actively contracting with such irresponsible and untrustworthy businesses.

What I can't seem to understand is why is this occurring. Why are agencies awarding contracts to those crooks when the Federal Acquisition Regulation specifically states that contracts must be awarded only to responsible prospective contractors, and even prohibits awarding a contract to a company unless the contracting officer makes an affirmative determination of responsibility.

Let's just run right down the line quickly.
Captain JAGGARD. The only thing I could say in answer to your question, sir, is the system is not perfect and people make mistakes. In a few instances where the contracting officer failed to check the EPLS because they mistakenly believed that issuing a modification to a contract didn't require doing so. We have taken
corrective action to train people better on how to properly use the system and not make those mistakes.

Chairman Towns. General.
General Harrington. Sir, a similar situation exists in the Army.
We made some mistakes; we had some misses. Not intentional errors of omission, but just missing having to perform that check. In other instances we found, as Mr. Jaggard suggested also, modifications, delivery orders, task orders, elements of a contract or in the process of a contract when they were issued, there was not a check of EPLS made. We have since strengthened the notice to the field that process has to be performed even when issuing a modification or a task order or delivery order.

Chairman Towns. Mr. Drabkin.
Mr. Drabkin. First of all, Mr. Chairman, let me assure you, as I said in my statement, both written and oral, that we do not want these mistakes to happen. Second, as Mr. Kutz noted and as Jim said, we are taking steps systemically to address the issues. Third, however, I just want to make sure that we are all clear. GAO found 25 instances. We then went back and did a search over the last 3 years-that would be about 30 million transactions-and we found 35 instances, including the 25 reported by GAO, where six companies who were suspended or debarred got awards.

In addition, there is some confusion not explained fully in the GAO report. For example, a number of their cases involved awards made under the micro purchase threshold. The committee may recall that when it passed FASA, when this committee drafted the language for FASA, we made some decisions about micro purchases, and one of those decisions was, because of their value and the cost of the transaction to make those kinds of purchases, we wouldn't require a host of the contracting requirements that we would require for purchases over $\$ 3,000$. So when an administrative assistant takes a purchase card and goes to a local vendor to buy $\$ 50$ worth of paper, pencils, or pens, they are not required to check the EPLS; and at least three of the examples in the GAO report involved micro purchases.

And the last thing I would say to is our office, working with OMB and with my colleagues on the FAR Council at DOD and NASA, are currently drafting the guidance to address how we are going to implement the ARRA, the stimulus package; and in our guidance we will again remind individuals to check the EPLS list before they make award.

But, Mr. Chairman, mistakes happen in the system. They are unfortunate. When we find them, we correct them. We are committed not to make mistakes, but we do a lot of work and we don't have a lot of people to do that work with.

Chairman Towns. Thank you very much. But remember, we are talking about waste, fraud, and abuse here. I want you to know that.

Yes, Mr. Williams.
Mr. Williams. Mr. Chairman, like everybody else in the room, I believe we are the greatest country in the history of the world and that our Government is based upon a system of trust. And like the gentleman to my left, I have spent my professional life trying to
earn that trust of the American people in spending taxpayer money wisely and effectively.

However, in these incidences, there are places where people have made mistakes. Also, some of these are incidents where people have actively tried to cheat the Government. And we take every one of these incidents seriously. It is something that chips away at that trust that we try to earn from the American people. And when we learn about these things and the causes, as GAO has pointed them out, we take steps to plug those loopholes, to provide better training, to enhance the system, to make sure that we can eliminate these. It may never be foolproof, because there will be people who may make mistakes and people who will try and cheat the system. It is our job and our passion to make sure we do everything we can to eliminate those mistakes and those people who try to cheat us.

Chairman Towns. Right. Mr. Kutz, you heard it, and I brought them down the line so you would be able to hear what was being said. Now I would like to get your response. Do you believe like Mr. Drabkin stated, that the incidents are just few and far in between and that they are so remote that we really shouldn't even discuss it?

Mr. Kutz. Can I agree and disagree? I would like to agree and disagree at the same time. I would agree, first of all, that if you add up the money in the dollars, it is not something that is going to be material. But I think the bigger point here is the safety and security issue and protection of the Government. We are talking about-let's use the North Korea case. One exception, but very important. You are dealing with someone that sold out to the North Korean government with respect to their nuclear weapons program. The Army debarment memo said that one instance put in jeopardy the lives of 37,000 troops in South Korea.

Look at this body armor here. This company sold 590 of these to the U.S. Air Force, mislabeled, subsequently found to not pass the tests. So materially wise, dollar-wise, yes, but 590 lives could have been jeopardized by the use of this.

Another example, the expired adhesives used on aircraft engines. Again, are we talking about big dollars? No. But people, U.S. soldiers and military people, flying these aircraft are at risk of having substituted parts.

So I think we are talking more about the issues such as the safety of our men and women in uniform than dollars here. So that would be my position, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Towns. Which is serious.
On that note, I yield to the ranking member.
Mr. Issa. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I will kind of pick up where you left off. I do want to ask one question to set a tone, though.

Mr. Levy, what would you say would be the risk if we were to have absolute zero contracting to any company immediately? In other words, if we take this step and we don't just pick up the 30, but we sort of make sure we catch them all, including the micro and so on, briefly, what would be the potential risk of, if you will, overuse of exclusion? Is there a risk there?

Mr. Levy. Well, I believe that there is a risk. I think that, unfortunately, there are lots of individuals who, for their own personal reasons or because of lack of training, make mistakes. There are people who do it intentionally, there are people that do it inadvertently, but that there are lots of companies that are out there that encounter problems.

If the Government were immediately to debar and suspend any such company, I think that you would put a lot of innocent workers on the street. Oftentimes, these events that have been discussed here are the working of a few individuals within a large corporation; and there are a lot of people in those companies who are well intentioned, who intend to comply with the laws and the regulations, and those are the people who would suffer when the company loses its work.

In addition, obviously, the Federal Government would lose its supply base and it would lose its competition, and at this particular time, when we are so worried about no bid contracts and competition, it would seem to me that would be a very unfortunate circumstance.

Mr. Issa. Well, Mr. Levy and Mr. Kutz, I think you both would be a good sparring here. Because there is, and this was not in your report as a wrongdoing, but there are in fact people who are suspended or companies, for one activity, are suspended while a theater commander or some other purchasing authority makes a written finding that they should continue on some other contract while that is remedied, etc.; in other words, a partial suspension. Would you both agree that is essential, that we not tell you to do to do absolute, but, in fact, to deal with some of the examples here today, while recognizing that there are valid reasons for the waivers?

Mr. Kutz, I particularly want to know from you because that is one of our concerns, is there is a procedure in place. Assuming these 30 or so exceptions are set aside for a moment, because we don't want to tolerate those, that the basic policy, the baseability for a purchasing authority to certify and thus continue purchasing for some reason, is in fact a tool in place. You are not suggesting we change that, are you?

Mr. Kutz. No, not necessarily. I think there are a lot of facts and circumstances involved. For example, if the company has been doing business with the Government for many decades, has a fine history of performance, and it is an isolated case or a lower level employee, that is one thing. If it is like this German case, where it was the actual person that signed the contract, owned the company, etc.; there were 3 years involved in that one where the Army had a chance to get out of it, basically. The guy was arrested 2 weeks after the contract was let. Nothing was done for 3 years, and that was an egregious case. I think there was a judgment involved and it was a facts and circumstances.

Mr. Issa. All right. I might note for the record that the gentleman who was convicted of being part of the bribing scheme of Duke Cunningham was a Government contractor, and some of his contracts went on for a period of time, fortunately, a short period of time.

Let me followup along this line in a couple of areas. First of all, can you tell us when this committee will receive the final report? We only have a draft report up until now.

Mr. Kutz. It is just being released today. Today it is being released.

Mr. IsSA. OK, so today is our day. Second, I want to get into the databases for a moment. These are Oracle databases. All of your procurement is on Oracle databases. This is a database that is in Oracle format, the EPLS, right? And it is apparently less than 100 gig of data, so small enough that people can go to Best Buy and buy a USB drive, download the entire database and carry it around, isn't that correct? Obviously, you are not carrying around an Oracle license, but we did some downloading and discovered that this 100,000 or so records is in fact that you could, overnight, update into other databases. Is that your understanding, Mr. Kutz?

Mr. Kutz. I couldn't answer that question.
Mr. IsSA. Well, let me ask everybody else here. Have any of you, in your procurement, looked at the idea of synchronizing this database and then integrating it so that it is a part of your basic, every day, every contract overnight is updating against that database and running it so that these 30 examples couldn't happen again? Is there anybody who has done is from the panel here? I saw a few heads shaking.

Mr. Drabkin. The answer, Mr. Issa, is no, and the reason is because we do not have a consistent set of transactional tools across the Federal Government. My colleagues in the Defense Department can talk to you about the numbers of transactional tools they have in GSA. We have three or four separate transactional tools, and not every agency has a set of transactional tools. So what you are asking, the linking of the transactional tool to the database so that it knows, before it gets ready to award a contract, that an individual company's DUNS number appears in the database, it can't happen if you don't have a system.

Mr. Issa. OK, so I am hearing about a self-inflicted wound. Mr. Kutz, in the GAO report, will you be speaking to the need to correct those self-inflicted wounds of databases that, in a sense, were designed not to take advantage of this database, which existed at the time of their latest revisions?

Mr. KuTz. Well, an example of integration of database, I believe, would be the Federal Supply Schedule, because one of the questions and one of the recommendations we had was that companies that are debarred should potentially be taken off of the GSA Supply Schedule. Apparently, data system issues and integration issues within GSA are a reason why that may be difficult. So that is an important aspect of the solutions.

Mr. Issa. OK, I don't want to take any more time than this last question. The last question simply is, when I reviewed the database, what I discovered, because it is a public database, there are no social security numbers for individuals. So an individual's unique identity is only as good as a common name and a home address at some point in time.

Can you in fact commit to us today that will be corrected, at least in a not-for-the-public database so that we can have unique identities, like a DUNS number, for human beings? Because it is
very clear that companies don't commit crimes; people in companies do. Is that something that is in your report? And can I get a commitment from people here that is on your priority?

Mr. Kutz. Well, I would just say 60,000 of the 70,000 active records are individuals, as you said, and individuals are the ones that commit the crime, and they do not all have social security numbers and they are not required fields at this point.

Mr. Issa. Thank you.
I yield back and I thank the chairman for his indulgence.
Mr. Towns. Mr. Kucinich.
Mr. Kucinich [presiding]. I thank the gentleman.
Unidentified Speaker. If I may, Mr. Chairman-
Mr. Kucinich. I am going to go on to my questioning, so you can take that up later.

Unidentified Speaker. Yes, sir.
Mr. Kucinich. Mr. Kutz, in your research and study, do you come across information that was raised, that was probative, but not acted upon to start procedures of suspension or debarment?

Mr. Kutz. We didn't weren't given any, no.
Mr. Kucinich. You didn't look into any of that.
Mr. KuTZ. Well, if we saw it, we would have had it, but we didn't see anything.

Mr. Kucinich. Excuse me?
Mr. Kutz. We didn't necessarily see that in all the cases, no.
Mr. Kucinich. So it is possible that there could be many more instances out there that haven't been acted upon.

Mr. Kutz. Well, we know there are other cases. I mentioned, for example, Medicaid providers. The scope of this job was contractors, so we are talking about companies. As Mr. Issa said, there are more people in the system that are individuals that committed crimes, for example, health care fraud. There are potentially many Medicaid providers out there at the State level.

Mr. Kucinich. Well, when you put that bulletproof or apparently bulletproof vest in front of-slightly bullet resistant vest, thank you-that really sends a chilling message out to everyone who serves this country, because your responsibility here to members who are representing the Armed Services is to protect the lives of our soldiers and those who serve. That is a very serious responsibility. And it is not enough to say, well, it just happens a couple of times that somebody slips through the system. No. You have to have zero defects. Otherwise, you are directly responsible for the deaths of our soldiers.

Now, the thing that I want to say to General Harrington, I read your statement saying that our Army will remain ever vigilant to meet the needs of our war fighters with the urgency demanded by life and death situations they face every day as they superbly execute the global war on terror. Our war fighters' success is directly linked to the success of our contracting work force.

I think you are absolutely right when you say that, but I am trying to square that with a record of a specific case, and that is the case that I mentioned in my opening remarks. On May 13, 2003, an employee of KGL Transport Co. negligently jackknifed a tractor trailer, causing a collision with a Humvee of Lieutenant Colonel Dominic Rocco Baragona that took the colonel's life. Here is some-
body who served the country for 21 years, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy. Do you know anything about that case, General?

General Harrington. Yes, sir, I do.
Mr. KuCinich. What do you know about it?
General Harrington. The recent information I have is that our Procurement Fraud Division served notice of suspension on KGL for failure to comply with the service of process.

Mr. Kucinich. And what happens as a result of that?
General Harrington. Later, sir, KGL complied with that service of process rule, so the suspension was stopped.

Mr. Kucinich. What does that mean, they complied?
General Harrington. As I understand it, sir, they responded to the service of process. I don't have any further information.

Mr. KUcinich. Are you familiar with a comment from KGL's representative, saying they are a Kuwaiti company and they are untouchable?

General Harrington. I am not familiar with that, sir.
Mr. KUCINICH. Are they untouchable? Are they untouchable?
General Harrington. Well, sir, I know what we have done with our Procurement Fraud Division.

Mr. KUCINICH. If you are responsible for the death of a U.S. serviceman, is that grounds for debarment? And if not, why not?

General HARRINGTON. Well, sir, I can tell you what has gone on since then, and we will take a question for record to get back with you with the full details.

Mr. Kucinich. I am just asking you generally speaking. Let's step away from this case for a moment.

General Harrington. Yes, sir.
Mr. Kucinich. If a U.S. contractor is responsible for the death of a U.S. service person and they were found to be negligible, would that be grounds for debarment? And if not, why not?

General Harrington. Well, sir, there would have to be an investigation of that incident to determine-

Mr. Kucinich. Have you investigated this incident involving Lieutenant Colonel Baragona?

General Harrington. Yes, sir. Procurement Fraud Division has carefully -

Mr. Kucinich. Do you think there was negligence?
General HARRINGTON. Well, sir, I can tell you what the Procurement Fraud Division found.

Mr. Kucinich. What did they find out?
General HARRINGTON. They carefully reviewed the matter, concluded that there was not sufficient evidence to support suspension at this time.

Mr. KUCINICH. I would like you to produce for this committee, of course, with the permission of the Chair, Mr. Towns, all records relating to this finding. How in the world a lieutenant colonel serving his country, just doing his job, driving a Humvee, can end up getting killed by a U.S. contractor and there not be negligence, I think the people of the United States and everyone serving this country would be interested.

General Harrington. Yes, sir.

Mr. Kucinich. So I am going to want to review this. I am also going to ask Mr. Kutz for you to look at this case as well.

My time is about to expire, but I can assure you, General Harrington, that on behalf of this one serviceman and his family, that this case is not going to go away and KGL is not going to be able to avoid any responsibility they may have under law. So I just am asking Mr. Kutz to look at it.

I have just been informed that we are going to recess for-we can take a few more questions, at least, on each side.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California for 5 minutes. Then, after that, we will go to Mr. Davis, we will take a 40 minute recess, and then we will come back with Mr. Tierney.

Mr. Bilbray. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, back in the late 1970's, we were both mayors together when we were young and spry. I think that any mayor will know, though, that this situation with the death of military personnel, there is this issue oflike we did with police officer fire; we may have a wrongful death, and you draw is it an individual action separate from the institution and separate from procedures, or is it procedural and an obligation by the institution itself. That is the kind of questions you want to address-

Mr. Kucinich. Would the gentleman yield?
Mr. Bilbray. Yes.
Mr. Kucinich. The information that was presented to myself and to my staff was that in this specific case the company refused to answer any questions and had taken a pretty arrogate position with respect to this. So that is why I brought it up. And I thank you for your observation.

Mr. BILbrAy. And we ran into that all the time in the good old days.

Let me just say, Mr. Williams, you were saying a system where trust was based on trust. The last time I checked, though, in this country, I looked at our money, in God we trust. Everybody else has to verify.

I think I would like to go sort of-you wanted to address the issue of social security numbers and personnel, the contractors' names. Do you have any reference to that now? I saw your eyes kind of flash on that thing, so I want to give you a chance to jump on that.

Mr. Williams. Thank you, sir. Yes, I just wanted to point out to the committee that we have in fact discussed the issue of using social security numbers as a unique identifier for people who are suspended or debarred.

But after consultation with a variety of agencies and departments, including the Department of Justice, it was determined that we could not use the social security number as the public identifier, unique identifier for people who we suspend or debar. That does create a problem for individuals who are debarred, because not every individual gets a DUNS number, which is usually done in the context of a commercial-

Mr. Bilbray. Is that because you are preempted by the social security legislation right now that says it can only be used for social security purposes?

Mr. Williams. I don't believe the current legislation was current at the time we had this discussion, sir.

Mr. Bilbray. OK. Is there any reason why we don't use eVerify on all our contractors to make sure they are who they are and so that you are not coming back?

Mr. Williams. Sir, eVerify, as you probably know, was promulgated as a rule. That rule has been suspended under the Emanuel memo and is being reviewed by the new Secretary of Homeland Security, and I don't know what the status will be of the rule after that review.

Mr. Bilbray. With a system that is 98.6 percent efficient, it seems like the one way to know people are who they are is eVerify is probably the fastest and most simple way of doing it.

Mr. Williams. Sir, I am unable to address whether eVerify works or doesn't work, or whether it will be our policy or not be our policy, until the Secretary of Homeland Security has completed a review in accordance with the Emanuel memo.

Mr. Bilbray. OK. Going back to is there a process right now that a contractor has to notify when they put in a bid or when they are procurement that they have been disbarred or they have suspended at any time? Is there any obligation for them to notify?

Mr. Williams. Yes, sir. They are required to certify and to maintain that certification as current in our system that is called, the acronym is ORCA. It is an online system and there is an absolute requirement for them to certify when they submit a proposal, and then to update that certification if it changes at any time.

Mr. Bilbray. What is the penalty for not following that procedure?

Mr. Williams. There are no penalties, sir. We don't apply penalties in the contracting process. But a false certification could result in a determination that the contract was void ab initio. It could result in the termination for default of the contract. It could result in the suspension/debarment of the contractor. The Justice Department could decide whether they wanted to proceed against the contractor for a false certification either civilly or criminally.

Mr. Bilbray. Could is open to interpretation. In other words, you say you could do this, could do that, and could do that. It seems to me there should be some minimum that says if you do this and it is found you have done this, you at least get this; you may get this, this, this, and this. What I am worried about is there doesn't seem to be a minimum that could happen from a direct violation of procedure. And any parent will tell you there should be some minimum repercussion for not playing by the rules.

Mr. Williams. But, sir, as you pointed out, when you were the major of a city before becoming a member, you take each case on its facts. You find out what happened and then you apply the appropriate response to those particular facts. There is no guaranteed result for any of these infractions; it all depends on the facts. We have a process that seeks out the facts, that conducts a hearing. We do have due process that is due to the contractor before we can take any of these actions

Mr. Kucinich. The gentleman's time has expired. Thank you.
Mr. Bilbray. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Mr. Kucinich. The Chair recognizes Mr. Davis.

Mr. Davis. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.
Mr. Kutz, I would like to focus in on what, in my opinion, is the most disturbing case GAO uncovered in its report. Specifically, I am referring to the case involving the Army's contract with the company called Optronics GmbH. As I understand it, Optronics, or, at the very least, its president, was convicted of attempting to smuggle nuclear bomb parts into North Korea. Even though the Army was aware of the conviction, it kept doing business with Optronics. Well, that is obviously troubling to me, and I suspect would be troubling to a lot of people.

The question that I have, and that I would like to know from you, given the seriousness of this matter, is whether or not the Army fully cooperated with GAO during the investigation.

Mr. Kutz. I would say no. They were very slow to get us the information. I have some of the notes here from my staff. We requested information on this case and a number of other cases in April 2008. It asked for data in several weeks. The first data we got was in July, and it was incomplete; it was really the debarment memorandum. We didn't get the actual memo that justified that they said they legally had done this transaction with this company until October, and we didn't actually get the contract and relevant e-mails until November 2008; and that was after committee staff finally had to call. So, no, I would say that they were slow, not just on this one case, but on about five cases.

Mr. Davis. It is also, then, my understanding that committee staff here has had some difficulty getting information from the Army. So I would like to ask you, Mr. Harrington, why did the Army stall on providing the GAO and committee staff with the information that they requested? Was there something that the Army did not want us to know?

General Harrington. Sir, there is absolutely no intent on the part of the Army to stall. We understood we provided the information as rapidly as we could. An awful lot of that information had to be researched and gathered from several different locations. If there are specifics on that, please, I would like to know, and we will go back and correct it. But we have done everything we could to faithfully provide the information that was asked for.

Mr. Kutz. Can I give you a specific?
Mr. Davis. Yes.
Mr. Kutz. There is a memo dated May 8, 2008. We got that memo in October. Is that specific?

Mr. Davis. I think that is pretty specific.
Would you consider that to be timely in any kind of way?
Mr. Kutz. It is one page, by the way.
General Harrington. Sir, I would just say we will look at the circumstances surrounding why it took that long.

Mr. Davis. Well, let me just ask you, Mr. Kutz, does GAO believe that the Army had an escape clause where they didn't have to keep doing business with this company?

Mr. Kutz. Yes, we do. In fact, we have a picture on the mon-itor-if you could just take a quick look at that-that shows the time line, which gives you a broad perspective of this. This contract was awarded and signed by the individual that was ultimately convicted in March 2003. Two weeks later he was arrested, and the

Army then extended his performance contract-it was a 3-year contract.

They did the first extension, then, in March 2004. He was then convicted in May 2004, and almost a year after that conviction they extended the contract for another year. Finally, the guy was debarred and the company debarred in July 2005. So there were several cases where they had outs, and I want to read to you information from the contract, actually, about one of those outs.

It was the contractors performing services in the Federal-this is out of the contract: "Contractors performing services in the Federal Public of Germany shall comply with German law. Compliance with this clause in German law is a material contract requirement. Noncompliance by the contractor or subcontractor at any tier shall be grounds for issuing a negative past performance and terminating this contract." That is out of the contract.

Mr. Davis. Let me just ask quickly, Mr. Harrington, could you tell us why the Army felt that it was obligated to continue doing business?

General Harrington. Sir, the contract was with Optronics, not Mr. Tripple. Mr. Tripple was arrested, convicted, and sentenced. He was removed as managing director on June 17, 2004. We feel his reach into the company was stopped at that point because he was jailed.

With regard to the comment about compliance with German law, if you read further into that clause, it is about making sure that they comply with German law with respect to work permits, identification requirements, and employee qualifications.

Mr. Kucinich. The gentleman's time has expired.
Mr. Davis. Let me just ask Mr. Levy, if I could.
Mr. Kucinich. Mr. Davis, we have 2 minutes to get to the vote. If you want, I will let you do a followup question when we come back.

Mr. Davis. All right.
Mr. Kucinich. Then we go to Mr. Tierney.
We are going to recess for 30 minutes. I would ask all the witnesses please return in about a half hour. We are in recess.
[Recess.]
Chairman Towns [presiding]. We have been joined by Mr. Amey, of course, who did not hear us when we combined the panel, so will you stand now and let me swear you in? Then we can have your statement.
[Witness sworn.]
Chairman Towns. Let the record reflect that he answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Amey is General Counsel of the Project on Government Oversight [POGO]. Mr. Amey currently directs POGO's contract oversight investigations, including review of Federal spending of goods and services, the responsibility of the top Federal contractors and conflicts of interests and ethics concerns that have led to questionable Federal contract awards.

So we welcome you. At this time we would have you make your opening statement and then we will have questions.

## STATEMENT OF SCOTT AMEY

Mr. Amey. Thank you, Chairman. And I apologize for not hearing the merger of the panel discussion.

Good morning, Chairman Towns, Ranking Member Issa, and members of the committee. The bio you just provided I won't add to, because I know I have limited time. But I thank you for allowing me to testify today.

Suspension and debarment has been a process that has been on POGO's radar for nearly 10 years. In fact, we released a report in 2002 entitled, "Federal Contractor Misconduct: Failures of the Suspension and Debarment System."

POGO requested that the Government review the suspension and debarment system, especially as it applied to large contractors with repeated histories of misconduct, including the award of contracts to entities that defrauded the Government or violated laws of regulations, that have had poor work performance, or contractors that had their contracts terminated for default.

That report, also in 2002, led POGO to release what we call our Federal Contractor Misconduct Database, which is a database of Federal contractors that have criminal, civil, and administrative instances against them that also includes fines, penalties, and settlements. We have over 800 actual and pending cases in our database, and the total is over $\$ 25$ billion worth of settlements, penalties, fines, or restitution paid to Federal, State, local, foreign governments, or private sector entities since 1995.

Last year, Chairman Towns, former Chairman Waxman, and Congresswoman Maloney spearheaded legislation to create a comprehensive Government-run contractor performance and responsibility database. I think today's hearing is showing that there are some errors and some problems with the current suspension/debarment system and that we need to consider how to consolidate a lot of this data together and make it work together, integrate it so that contracting officers and suspension/debarment officials all have the most relevant, accurate data in front of them to make contracting and suspension and debarment decisions.

POGO recommends that this committee provide public access to the Federal Contractor Responsibility and Performance Databasecurrently, it will not be publicly available-that they increase the scope of civil and administrative cases included in that database to include cases settled with no admission of guilt or liability. We feel that is still an indication of a company's integrity and satisfactory record of business ethics that needs to be highlighted for the Government as well as the public.

To require that all administrative agreements are shared among agencies and are made publicly available. This was a recommendation that came from GAO in 2005. I know the former head of OFPP, Mr. Dennett, was working on making those all public, but I am unsure of the current status of that and whether that plan has actually taken effect. And, again, it goes back to previous GAO reports. That you implement all the GAO's recommendations from today; that you also make terminations and justifications publicly available.

The first panel talked about the terminations and justifications, especially for continuing a current contract. That they mandate
that an offer or bidder that falsifies a certification regarding responsibility matters is immediately considered for suspension or debarment, and that those decisions are made publicly available; that you consider the use of background checks for company's principals, especially contractors involved with classified or sensitive information; and that you also take a look at this new pilot program for subcontractors and try to marry up how many subcontractors are out there currently working that may be on the Excluded Parties List or have long track records of misconduct.

With that, I will conclude my remarks. I thank you for inviting me to testify today. I look forward to working with the entire committee in trying to fix the problems that have been highlighted today. Thank you.
[The prepared statement of Mr. Amey follows:]


## Testimony of Scott Amey, General Counsel Project On Government Oversight (POGO) before the

## House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

"Protecting Taxpayers from Banned and Risky Contractors and Individuals"

## February 26, 2009

Good morning Chairman Towns, Ranking Member Issa, and Members of the Committee.
Thank you for inviting me to testify today about the state of the federal contracting system. I am Scott Amey, General Counsel and Senior Investigator with the Project On Government Oversight (POGO), a nonpartisan public interest group. Founded in 1981, POGO investigates and exposes corruption and other misconduct in order to achieve a more accountable federal government. ${ }^{1}$

Throughout its twenty-eight-year history, POGO has created a niche in investigating, exposing, and helping to remedy waste, fraud, and abuse in government spending. One of POGO's most celebrated investigations uncovered outrageously overpriced military spare parts such as the $\$ 7,600$ coffee maker and the $\$ 435$ hammer. ${ }^{2}$ Since that time, particularly in the 1990 s , many acquisition reforms have been implemented. The reforms, however, were not all they were billed. The problems created by the reforms became starkly apparent after the beginning of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, and after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast. Those events showed that contracting decisions were placing taxpayer dollars - and sometimes lives - at risk.

Those events also highlighted how drastically different the federal government's contracting landscape is now from what it was in past decades. Contracting dollars have increased to over $\$ 530$ billion in fiscal year 2008, oversight has decreased, the acquisition workforce is stretched thin, and spending on services now outpaces spending on goods. (And because the return on services is more difficult to quantify than on goods, contracting is even more vulnerable to waste, fraud, and abuse.) Reforms have reduced contract oversight, making it difficult for government investigators and auditors to find waste, fraud, and abuse, and have created contracting vehicles that often place public funds at risk. ${ }^{3}$ Additionally, as evidenced by the

[^9]Government Accountability Office's (GAO) report released today, contractor accountability has been lost.

## Contractor Accountability Failures

Government contracts are predicated on a basic principle - taxpayer dollars should be awarded to responsible companies. The Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 9.103 states that "[p]urchases shall be made from, and contracts shall be awarded to, responsible prospective contractors only" and that "[i]n the absence of information clearly indicating that the prospective contractor is responsible, the contracting officer shall make a determination of nonresponsibility." ${ }^{4}$ (Emphasis added)

Questions should be raised when contracts are awarded to risky contractors. Such contractors include those that have defrauded the government or violated laws or regulations, contractors that had poor work performance during a contract, or contractors that had their contracts terminated for default. Continuing to award contracts to such contractors undermines the public's confidence in the fair-play process and exacerbates distrust in our government. It also results in bad deals for the government and for taxpayers.

In addition, with the increase in outsourcing government work, contractors often have access to classified or sensitive government information. The government needs complete confidence that those contractors and their employees will protect this information. A contractor's responsibility record, including exclusions from government contracts, must be known and considered prior to awarding a contract.

To help ensure that excluded contractors do not receive new contracts during a period of exclusion, the FAR requires contracting officers to consult the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS), a list of contractors suspended or debarred from receiving future government contracts. ${ }^{5}$ Suspensions and debarments apply government-wide - one agency's suspension or debarment decision precludes all other agencies from doing business with an excluded party. These prohibitions also apply to subcontracts, but with little, to no, information about subcontractors, the problems highlighted today might be worse than expected. ${ }^{6}$

According to the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, there were only 4,296 suspensions or debarments of contractors and individuals in fiscal year 2007, which was down from the 7,300 in FY 2006 and the 9,900 in FY 2005. All federal agencies under-utilize suspension and debarment against large contractors that supply the majority of the $\$ 530$ billion worth of goods and services to the federal government each year. In fact, there have only been a handful of large contractors suspended since the 1990s - GE (for a period of five days), Worldcom, Enron, Arthur Anderson, Boeing (which received multiple waivers to receive new

[^10]contracts during its suspension), ${ }^{7}$ and most recently IBM (for a period of eight days in 2008). Overall, the government needs to re-emphasize the importance of preventing risky contractors from receiving future taxpayer dollars.

Since 2002, POGO has requested that Congress review the suspension and debarment system, especially as it has been applied to large contractors with repeated histories of misconduct. That year, POGO released a report titled Federal Contractor Misconduct: Failures of the Suspension and Debarment System, detailing large federal contractors that had been found to have repeatedly broken the law or engaged in misconduct but had not been suspended or debarred from doing business with the government. ${ }^{8}$ The report includes recommendations to improve the suspension and debarment system, including:

1. Creation of a centralized database of contractor responsibility information, including civil judgments, criminal convictions, administrative agreements, settlements, fines, and contracts terminated due to poor performance
2. Improved contractor disclosures to government officials so that contracting officers can make better contractor responsibility determinations
3. Fair and equal application of the federal acquisition regulations as to small, mid-sized, and large contractors
4. Amendments to the FAR to require that a suspension or debarment is mandatory for a contractor who is criminally convicted or has had civil judgments rendered against it more than once in a three year period
5. Empower the Interagency Suspension and Debarment Committee (ISDC) ${ }^{9}$ to coordinate which federal agency takes the leadership role in a suspension or debarment case and submit semiannual reports to Congress regarding the suspension and debarment system
6. Require the EPLS to archive past suspensions and debarments on its online database.

The good news is that some of those recommendations have been implemented (the EPLS archives) or are in the works (a government-wide responsibility database ${ }^{10}$ and improvements to

[^11]the $I S D C^{11}$ ). The bad news is that although a contractor responsibility database is being created, two major concerns still exist. ${ }^{12}$ The scope of misconduct that must be included in the database was significantly narrowed, which might create an incentive to settle cases in an effort to keep them out of the database, and the government's database will not publicly accessible. POGO is a fervent believer in the aphorism "sunshine is the best disinfectant" - the public has a right to know the responsibility histories of the contractors and grantees that receive hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars each year. Moreover, public review of the data might shine a light on contractors that are gaming the suspension and debarment system.

POGO's 2002 report was supported by the creation of the first publicly available Federal Contractor Misconduct Database. ${ }^{13}$ Since its release, POGO has compiled the track records of over 100 federal contractors - some of which have long rap sheets. POGO's database includes over 800 instances of contractor misconduct and documents over $\$ 25$ billion in financial settlements, penalties, fines, or restitution paid to federal, state, local, or foreign governments and private sector parties. Therefore it is essential to look at risky contractors that have long nonresponsibility track records in addition to those avoiding detection in the EPLS.

## Improving the Suspension and Debarment Process

Despite some movement to improve contractor accountability processes, POGO is deeply troubled by today's GAO report that shows even the most basic task (consulting the EPLS) isn't being performed, or, due to flaws in the data and the search engine, isn't accurately reflecting which contractors have been excluded.

Today, the GAO details major problems with the EPLS, the government's first line of defense against risky contractors. It is outrageous to think that contractors know their way around the system and often reorganize under a different name so as to avoid detection. The result is that suspended and debarred contractors are receiving new contract awards.

To address these problems, the GAO recommended that the General Services Administration (GSA) take the following actions:

1. Issue guidance to procurement officials on the requirement to check EPLS prior to awarding contracts, and to suspension and debarment officials on the fiveday entry and contractor identification number requirements
2. Ensure that the EPLS database requires unique contractor identification numbers for all actions entered into the system
3. Strengthen EPLS search capabilities to include common search operators, such as AND, NOT, and OR
4. Take steps to ensure that the EPLS point of contact list is updated

[^12]5. Place a warning on the Federal Supply Schedule website indicating that prospective purchasers are required to check EPLS to determine whether vendors are excluded and explore the feasibility of removing or identifying excluded entities that are listed on the GSA Schedule.

Most troubling is that some of the recommendations in today's report are identical to those in previous GAO reports detailing problems with the suspension and debarment system. In 2005, GAO found that
about 99 percent of records in EPLS for the 6 agencies we reviewed in depth did not have contractor identification numbers-a unique identifier that enables agencies to conclude confidently whether a contractor has been excluded. In the absence of these numbers, agencies use the company's name to search EPLS, which may not identify an excluded contractor if the contractor's name has changed. Further, information on administrative agreements and compelling reason determinations is not routinely shared among agencies. Such information could help agencies in their exclusion decisions and promote greater transparency and accountability. ${ }^{14}$

That GAO report resulted in a White House memorandum directing agency suspension and debarment officials to share administrative agreements with the ISDC. ${ }^{15}$ This Committee and the ISDC should inquire as to the guidance that was to follow and the status of the administrative agreement sharing program.

In a January 12, 2007, report and briefing to the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the GAO stated that "[t]he contracting officer should check the EPLS to determine whether the contractor is prohibited (suspended, debarred, proposed for debarment, or otherwise ineligible) from receiving an award."16 (Emphasis added) The report also stated, "Procedures vary among agencies, but contracting officers reported that in general, they check EPLS for debarments or suspensions." "7 (Emphasis added) These non-mandatory terms for using the EPLS might have been a precursor to the GAO's finding that contracting officers do not always check the EPLS.

[^13]Having reliable data on contractors is becoming more vital because of the growing reliance on them at all levels of government. The National Procurement Fraud Task Force has recommended establishing a National Procurement Fraud Database and requiring background checks for contractor principals. ${ }^{18}$ The database would be created with federal funds and be "utilized by federal, state, and local procurement officials prior to the authorization of contract actions." 19 The Task Force found that " $[\mathrm{m}]$ obility permits fraudulent contractors and service providers to move between levels of Government and across jurisdictions with little fear of detection since a national database does not exist." ${ }^{20}$

## POGO's Recommendations

POGO urges this Committee to further investigate the suspension and debarment system and make the necessary improvements to ensure that taxpayer dollars are not at risk.

1. Provide public access to the federal contractor responsibility and performance database. The database should become the one-stop shop to find all information about a contractor's performance, responsibility, ethics, and integrity track record.
2. Increase the scope of civil and administrative cases included in the federal contractor responsibility and performance database. Cases should include civil, criminal, and administrative proceedings resulting in the payment of a monetary fine, penalty, reimbursement, restitution, damages, or settlement of $\$ 5,000$ or more to a government - even when there is no admission of guilt or liability.
3. Require that all administrative agreements are shared among agencies and are made publicly available.
4. Implement GAO's past and recent recommendations, including training the acquisition workforce about entering information into and using the EPLS, or its successor; requiring unique identifiers; strengthening EPLS search capabilities; updating EPLS points of contacts; ensuring that government ordering websites are tied into the EPLS so that contracting officers are aware that suspended or debarred contracts should not be given new contracts; and sharing of administrative agreements.
5. Mandate that an offeror or bidder that falsifies a certification regarding responsibility matters be immediately debarred. ${ }^{21}$
6. Consider the use of background checks for companies and principals, especially for contracts involving classified or sensitive information.
7. Investigate the pilot program requiring contractors to report specific information about their subcontractors for suspension and debarment violations as a way to uphold the ban on contracting or subcontracting with suspended or debarred contractors or individuals.
[^14]POGO urges this Committee to think big when creating a new and improved suspension and debarment database - especially in light of the passage of the federal contractor performance and responsibility database that will include civil, criminal, and administrative cases, including contractors and individuals who have been suspended or debarred. ${ }^{22}$ The consolidation of information will not only assist contracting officers and suspension and debarment officials, it will also provide a public forum to further identify instances highlighted by the GAO today. Moreover, it will assist in weeding out risky or banned contractors and potentially increase competition in federal contracting.

## Conclusion

POGO remains concerned with the award of taxpayer dollars to contractors with long rap sheets. Today's GAO report further erodes POGO's confidence in the current process to weed out risky contractors - especially those contractors who have been excluded from doing business with the federal government.

Thank you for inviting me to testify today. I look forward to working with Chairman Towns, Ranking Member Issa, and the entire Committee to further explore how the government can improve the suspension and debarment process and better protect taxpayers.

[^15]Chairman Towns. Thank you. Sorry about the confusion.
At this time, I yield to Mr. Tierney.
Mr. Tierney. Thank you. I thank the gentleman for his consideration.

Gentlemen, thanks for your testimony, but I have to tell you I am a little bit troubled on this, and maybe it is a misunderstanding. If I sit back and look at this, I think as general people might look at it, I hear everybody saying it is the system's fault, you know, we have this electronic list system and it isn't working or whatever.

But I think there is a lot of human error involved here, and I am hoping that it isn't sort of a cultural thing, that it isn't just a casual attitude or sloppy attitude about making entries. When you see 27 percent of the time DUNS numbers aren't put in, I wonder where is the management in all this.

So let me ask what agency is taking responsibility for making sure that all of this is going properly, that the database is monitored and that we know when things aren't going right?

Mr. Drabkin. Sir, that would be GSA. We are the managing partner for the integrated acquisition environment, of which EPLS is a part, my program manager and the director of that program, sitting right behind me. We do have the responsibility for managing the database on behalf of our other Federal agency partners. We are checking the database. And as I mentioned in my opening testimony, I am able to report today that only 150 of the current active 51,117 records lack DUNS numbers, and we are in the process of getting those 150 records updated.

Mr. Tierney. You know, it is also a bit of an issue of vigilance here. It is interesting to know that GAO went out there and found 25 incidents, and then either you or somebody else said, we found 35 ; and that is a small number compared to all the numbers out there.

But why wasn't the check before GAO had to get involved? Why wasn't that a regular course of business and who was responsible for it not having been a regular course of business? And what action was taken with respect to their inability or unwillingness to do their job?

Mr. Drabkin. Sir, it is the responsibility of every single contracting officer. That responsibility is laid out in the regulation; it is laid out in the training that I provide them-

Mr. Tierney. Because I have limited time, somebody is the boss of all those people and somebody ought to have been monitoring that to make sure, on a regular basis, that was being done. Now, if somebody did that after the GAO put out their report, I want to know why didn't somebody do it before it got to the point the GAO did the report. Why wasn't it a regular practice that somebody did the kind of scrub that GAO did on this and made the corrections as you went along?

Mr. Drabkin. Sir, that is a good point, and I will take it back to the FAR Council and we will look at what type of guidance we can issue to see if there is a way to run a check periodically to make sure

Mr. Tierney. Well, there obviously is; somebody at the GAO did it.

Mr. Drabkin. That is true, sir.
Mr. Tierney. It has been proven it can be done. GAO proved it could be done and you proved it could be done.

Mr. Drabkin. That is correct, sir.
Mr. Tierney. So, I mean, it is just not very edifying to sit up here and say, well, we read GAO's report and, gee, you know, they are right, they got us, we made some mistakes, mea culpa, whatever. It goes deeper than that. This never should have happened. Either you want to try to minimize the number of incidents and say it is only 35 and it is not a lot of money. There are a lot of lives involved.

When the Truman Commission was in place, there were two measures: one was how much money was saved; the other was how many lives were saved. And I think that point was made by Mr. Kutz earlier on that.

So I expect and I hope that you will go back and then report to this committee exactly what the process is going forward for that to be done on a regular basis and what you are going to do about what might be a cultural problem out there, either laziness or sloppiness or people not thinking. There is a price to pay when they don't put the DUNS number in on a regular basis.

Mr. Drabkin. The only issue I take, sir, with your comment is obviously 35 errors out of 30 million transactions is not a cultural problem. But I take your point.

Mr. Tierney. But 27 percent of the time not having a DUNS number entered in may well be a cultural problem.

Mr. Drabkin. It took in a period of time when we were transitioning to adding the DUNS number to the database, sir.

Mr. Tierney. Whatever. Twenty-seven percent is 27 percent, and vigilance is vigilance.

Mr. Drabkin. Yes, sir.
Mr. Tierney. And the consequences are serious on that.
Mr. Drabkin. Yes, sir.
Mr. Tierney. So I expect that everybody is going to do something on that.

I am still troubled by this Optronics case. General Harrington, let me tell you the president of Optronics is arrested 3 weeks after he gets a contract and the Army doesn't disbar him or suspend him. Time goes on, he is convicted, he is sentenced, and they are still doling out money to this guy, to this company.

Now, you said something about, well, gee, he was in jail, so we thought he was off the street, so we kept doing business with the company. So is the idea here that as long as you form a corporation, any agent of that corporation can commit a bad act and the company still does get contracts with the Government? Is that the deal?

General Harrington. Sir, the company was performing more than satisfactorily in its contract obligations to the Army. It was rated excellent in its performance.

Mr. Tierney. Tell me the excellent part about making sure the Koreans got parts they weren't supposed to get.

General Harrington. They didn't get any parts, sir. Those parts were confiscated before they ever got-_

Mr. Tierney. Well, very good point. So if you want to pick nits, let's go this way. What is the good contract part about having it get to the point where they had to be confiscated, and that this individual was responsible for that, his company continues on getting money from the Government and from the taxpayer?

General Harrington. Sir, the company was providing civilian actors on the battlefield for Army training for a major training event for two combat brigades entering combat into Iraq. It was a deliberate set of decisions made to assess whether or not that company ought to go on. Its performance was rated as excellent. They were a capable company, irrespective of the fact that the managing director had been jailed. He had also been removed from the company.

Mr. Tierney. Does anything sound bizarre to you about that? Maybe I am the only one hearing this oddly or whatever. There are other companies that do this kind of work. There are other companies now doing this work, in fact. And the Army makes a decision to deal with somebody who has this kind of a background, their principal officers? I just don't get it.

What is the reason for that? I mean, there has to be some price to pay for people stepping out of line like this, not saying, well, it is a little inconvenient for us to go find somebody else, even though there are other qualified people out there who can do it.

General Harrington. There is, likewise, sir, a process to go search for other companies to perform that type of work at the major training area. At that point, Optronics had over 500 people engaged in the performance of this contract at the training area. An assessment was made to determine whether other companies were available right then and there to continue on with this work to be able to move these brigades into Iraq. They were a part of a flow of combat brigades in and out of Iraq and a part of the buildup going in. The critical element here is that these soldiers get trained in actual realistic scenarios before they have to enter into combat with terrorists.

Mr. Tierney. Well, the inference that you are trying to draw there is that nobody else could have done it and stepped in there, and I think that simply is not accurate. Certainly, at least you are acknowledging that it is not something you didn't know about; there was a headline in the Washington Post in August 2003, so you guys knew it and you consciously made the decision to not go to other qualified people to do it, but to let this company carry on.

General HARRINGTON. That is exactly right, sir.
Mr. Tierney. I think that is short of astounding.
General Harrington. That is exactly right. We made a deliberate decision to continue on.

Chairman Towns. The gentleman's time has expired.
Let me say, Mr. Drabkin, we will keep the record open to hear what happened, when you go back and you talk about the suggestion that was made by Congressman Tierney in reference to discussion. We will hold the record open for that, because I view this as being very serious.

And I want you to know this hearing is about the possibility of legislation because any time you place troops in jeopardy when you sell vests, bulletproof vests that don't block bullets, and when you
attempt to sell things to the enemy, you just can't ignore those kinds of things. Now, we want to try to see what we can do in terms of you fixing it. But if you cannot fix it, then this is what this committee is about. We want to get rid of waste, fraud, and abuse, but we are also abut security as well.

Mr. Chaffetz.
Mr. Chaffetz. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Captain Jaggard, you alluded, in your impromptu testimony, that there were instances where they didn't actually use or tap into the system. How often does that happen? And is it normal protocol to actually use or not use the system?

Captain Jaggard. In the 25 cases that are the subject of the GAO report, for the Navy there were 7 of them. There were two instances where the list was not properly checked by the contracting officer.

Mr. Chaffetz. So is it common practice to use the system?
Captain Jaggard. It is required that they use the system, and that is why we issued the fraud alert as soon as we found out, to remind everybody that they are required to use the system.

Mr. Chaffetz. So in this case the employee didn't use the system that was in place?

Captain JAGgard. She mistakenly thought that you didn't have to use the system for a modification to a contract, which was the action which was involved, and she was wrong.

Mr. Chaffetz. Mr. Kutz, help me here with the math and the understanding of what you found in your perspective. My understanding is that, over the last 7 years, there have been something like 70 million transactions, is that right, contract actions? Does that sound right?

Mr. Kutz. I will trust Mr. Drabkin's numbers in that respect.
Mr. Drabkin. Roughly.
Mr. Chaffetz. And that there are 70,000 either entities or individuals that are listed within the system? How many different contractors does that represent? If there are some 70 million transactions, or contract actions, I guess, how many different vendors does that represent?

Mr. Drabkin. I will have to get back to you with an exact number, but it averages about 250,000 to 300,000 vendors a year, and across the years there are some vendors who remain the same and there are some vendors who are added or deleted to the base of vendors who do business with us; and that does not take into account those vendors who sell to us through the micro purchase program, because we don't report-we only recently started that reporting process.

Mr. Chaffetz. So you are telling me there are 250,000 or so different vendors, but, yet, we have 70,000 that are listed on this?

Mr. Drabkin. That is 70,000 companies or individuals are listed. There are a lot of individuals who are listed who have never done business with us at all. For instance, there are Congressmen who were convicted, there are citizens who were convicted, never done business with us before, but we suspend or debar them. There are individuals from companies who are suspended or debarred, and the company may itself not be suspended or debarred.

So 70,000 does not represent the number of companies, and there is no direct correlation between that number and the 250,000 to 300,000 vendors we do business with on a day-to-day basis across the Government.

Mr. Chaffetz. I guess at some point I would like to clarify-our time is short here-how pervasive this problem is. Are we dealing with 2 percent, 1 percent, a fraction of a percent, 10 percent of the vendors are individuals that we are having trouble with along the way, actually, at some point run, into trouble where they have not met the criteria and end up in this database?

I would ask you each-our time is so brief here-how in the world are we going to deal with literally trillions, trillions of new dollars going into the system with the resources that you have within your own departments in terms of personnel and the database. How in the world is that going to work? Anybody want to take a stab at that one?

Mr. Williams. I will be glad to. We are concerned about that, concerned about the capability and the capacity to be able to spend that money wisely and effectively, and I will tell you most of the major acquisition agencies are trying to hire right now. What we are concerned about is the labor pool we are trying to hire from that we are all trying to

Mr. Chaffetz. How long does it take you to train somebody to get up to speed to actually become an acquisition officer?

Mr. Williams. Well, to become a contracting officer, usually about 5 years or so of training and working.

Mr. Chaffetz. Five years of training?
Mr. Williams. Five years of training. They start at the lowest level, as a contract specialist, and then once they have received all their training and the experience, and in the judgment of a senior official that they have the training, the business skills, the right ethics, then they are awarded a contracting officer warrant.

Mr. Chaffetz. I have only got seconds here. Let me also ask 10 separate systems, is that correct? Is that what we are dealing with here? The integration of the systems so that you all can communicate with each other, how pervasive is that problem and challenge, and what are we doing to rectify it?

Mr. Drabkin. There are 10 separate systems that make up IAE. There is only one system for EPLS. That system and the integration discussion I had with Mr. Issa was about integrating that database with transactional systems that actually award contracts. There are multiple transactional systems throughout the Government. It is a tool that we lack. Had we that tool, the instances of mistakes would be further reduced.

Mr. Chaffetz. What are we doing to solve that? I know my time is up here.

Mr. Drabkin. I am sorry, sir?
Mr. Chaffetz. Is there a plan to actually solve that challenge?
Mr. Drabkin. No, sir.
Mr. Chaffetz. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
Chairman Towns. Thank you very much.
Mr. Davis, I understand that you were short-changed, and I would like to correct that.

Mr. Davis. Mr. Chairman, you know I don't ever want to be short-changed, especially being from Chicago. [Laughter.]

Chairman Towns. We yield to you 2 minutes.
Mr. Davis. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.
I would like to revisit the Optronics situation that we were discussing when we left. Mr. Harrington indicated that the Army had an obligation to continue doing business with Optronics, and I will give them the benefit of the doubt on that one. But then one reason I understand for continuing to do business with a debarred company or individual is that there is no other contractor that can provide specialized goods or services.

Mr. Kutz, do you know what Optronics was selling or providing to the Army?

Mr. Kutz. Yes, it was called Civilians on the Battlefield, role play actors. They were acting as mayors, refugees, villagers. The qualifications according to the contract were they needed to understand English, for example, be willing to work 10 hours a day, be properly clothed, overshoes, extra socks, thermal undergarments, and they were not allowed to have consumed any alcohol before becoming actors.

Mr. DAVIS. Role playing actors?
Mr. KUTZ. Role play actors, yes, making probably $\$ 10$ or $\$ 15$ an hour, something along those lines.

Mr. Davis. Mr. Harrington, is that correct?
Colonel Harrington. Yes, sir, it is.
Mr. Davis. In your opinion, Mr. Kutz, was this a unique service that could not have been done by another company?

Mr. Kutz. No. I believe someone was doing it before and someone is doing it now, from what I understand.

Mr. Davis. Mr. Levy, could I ask you a question, if you would comment? Do you think that there is-as an expert in procurement, as a practicing attorney, do you think there was any escape clause or any way that the Army could have escaped or gotten out of this contract?

Mr. Levy. Gotten out of the contract altogether?
Mr. DAvis. Yes.
Mr. Levy. Well, without having seen the contract, I think the first thing-

Mr. DAVIS. Or not continue to do business at this juncture.
Mr. Levy. Well, that is two different questions, Mr. Congressman. One is could they have gotten out of the contract and two was did they need to award additional work. With regard to the additional work, they had to make a compelling circumstances determination, and that is what is being discussed, and that would go not only to whether or not there was another source, but whether there was another source that could timely provide that particular service, or if it would have impeded the Army's mission.

I don't know the answers to those questions, but those would have been the questions to ask. And what would have been the cost of standing down this particular contractor and bringing in another company in the short-term. So those are, I believe, the questions to ask in a compelling circumstances determination.

With regard to whether they could have gotten out of the contract altogether, without having seen the contract, but typically-
and assuming that the impropriety here did not relate to the actual performance of that award-and as I heard General Harrington say, they were performing excellently-then typically within the Government contracts there is what is called a termination for convenience clause, and that clause permits the Government, for any reason, to terminate a contract of its own volition so long as it is not done in bad faith.

But there are consequences to the Government of exercising that clause, because the Government then is liable to the contractor for all the costs it has incurred not only for liquidated products and services delivered under the contract, but for all the costs that are incomplete, has to pay the contractor, make them whole. Whatever they have incurred in terms of costs, they get reimbursed those costs plus a profit; they get reimbursed the costs of putting together their settlement proposal. So the Army would have had those costs plus whatever costs it would have incurred to re-procure.

But as a technical, legal matter, they probably could have gotten out of the contract.

Mr. Davis. Thank you very much.
Mr. Chairman, if I could just ask my last question.
General Harrington, if the president of Optronics was arrested for violating German law nearly 3 weeks after having been awarded the contract with the Army, why did the Army not suspend the contract at that time or why did it take nearly a year before the debarment of the company or the individual took place?

General Harrington. Sir, the Army continued on with the contract because the contractor personnel were performing satisfactorily. There is a due process with regard to going through the legal processes to debar. The Army recognized the offense Heir Tripple had committed; it made a deliberate decision to continue to engage the company because of the criticality of the functions it was performing to help prepare American soldiers to go directly into combat in Iraq.

When Mr. Tripple was jailed, there was a determination made that his reach into the company was nil and that he had been removed as managing director. And, again, the assessment was that other companies that would have to come in to do that would have to be issued solicitations, and that would be a 5 - to 6 -month period where they would have to consider awarding a contract to another offeror.

So the type of contract issued was what is called a requirements contract. It is essentially an assurance by the Government to the contractor that all requirements that have to be performed are guaranteed to that contractor for that period of performance. Were we to terminate for convenience, we would have been held in breach of contract, and that was a proceeding that we did not want to have to handle.

Mr. Davis. Thank you very much.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will just note that between the time of the arrest and the conviction, the Army paid Optronics $\$ 11.5$ million. That seems to be a lot of money to me.

I thank the gentlemen for your answers, and I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Towns. Thank you very much. Let me just sort of pick up on that.

Mr. Kutz, do you agree with the statement made by General Harrington?

Mr. KuTz. Some of the things we agreed on. I mean, I think that they had opportunities to get out. Again, as Congressman Davis said, the individual was arrested in 2003 and the debarment didn't happen for several years, but he was convicted in May 2004. Ten months after that they extended his performance for the third year of the contract. If there was any time they could have gotten out, it was right there they could have actually gotten out of it.

Plus, we believe the language in the contract that I read earlier for the record meant what it said, that a violation of German law was a condition where they could have terminated. They wanted to take the route that was more expeditious for purposes of the role players on the battlefield rather than deal with what the Army themselves had said was a morally bankrupt individual, and doing what the Army did was irresponsible. The Army said it was irresponsible, yet the Army still did it.

Chairman Towns. Let me ask you, Mr. Amey. You have a database as well. What is the difference between yours and EPLS's database. Is there any difference?

Mr. Amey. Yes, sir.
Chairman Towns. What is the difference?
Mr. Amey. The EPLS is only a list of the suspended or debarred contractors or proposed debarred contractors. POGO's list includes companies that may have settled with or been involved in litigation with another private party, a State government, a foreign government. It also may be instances of violations of Federal law and regulations that have not yet put them on the EPLS.

So our database will incorporate EPLS into it. The actual legislation requires criminal convictions, civil cases where there is an admission of liability or a finding of liability, and then administrative cases in which there is an admission of liability. So it also includes suspended or debarred contractors and contractors terminated for default. So it is kind of three steps or four steps passed what is currently in the Excluded Parties List.

Chairman Towns. Do you have any idea how much it costs to maintain your database?

Mr. Amey. Our database currently is only the top 100 Federal Government contractors, and we will have a new list come out because we saw that usaspending.gov just updated their fiscal year 2007 data. But our list probably cost us $\$ 20,000$ or $\$ 30,000$ to upkeep. Obviously, the way that it is implemented based on the legislation that it will include contractors receiving a certain threshold of money, so at that point it will be a little more extensive than what we have, to say the least. But I think it is a vital invest-ment-and due to the problems that we are hearing today-in protecting the taxpayer, protecting the Government, and protecting war fighters.

Chairman Towns. What lesson should GSA learn from your database and what you are doing?

Mr. Amey. Well, first of all, that it is possible. We were told for many years it is not possible. What is the purpose? We have gotten
a lot of criticism from the contractors and the contracting associations that it is not necessary, but I think today shows us that it is. We need a better system. Somebody earlier said the system isn't broke. I think it is. Twenty-five instances may not be a lot, but it is also how many other contractors are out there getting Federal money that are in the risky side.

There have been policy shifts, as Representative Tierney asked about, that we are going after more individuals than we are companies, and that needs to be looked at. So we need to restore contractor accountability, and all these systems integrated together would provide a wonderful tool for the Government to make better contracting decisions and hold contractors accountable, and I think both those things are missing.

Chairman Towns. Thank you very much.
At this time, I yield to the gentlewoman from Washington, DC, Congresswoman Norton.

Ms. Norton. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I must thank you for this hearing. The GAO report is stunning. I have come to ask a question, though, concerning what gets contracted out after we have already discovered issues. This question should go to Mr. Williams and Mr. Drabkin, I believe.

On the screen you will see, perhaps, if you can, the basis for the question. The Inspector General of GSA, apparently, in December 2007, reviewed the suspension and debarment program, and the yellowed-out section reads: "The Office of the Chief Acquisition Officer should make every effort in the future to avoid utilizing contractors to perform suspension and debarment work" is what the subject was.

I would like both of you to consider that advice from GSA and I would like to ask you why is the responsibility of maintaining EPLS contracted out to Information Sciences Corp. How is contracting out the previous backlog-well, first of all, let me ask you why is that first contract done.

Mr. Drabkin. I will address that issue; all of those matters fall within my office. During the 2005 timeframe, when Ms. Emily Murphy became our Chief Acquisition Officer, there was a lack of attention paid to the suspension and debarment function. When the IG brought to her attention that there was a backlog of suspension and debarment cases, and when her office had been basically decimated as a result of a reassignment and retirement, every member of the office, Ms. Murphy decided to help some existing Government employees catch up the backlog of suspension and debarment cases. At no time

Ms. Norton. Rather than hire somebody to do what the Government was supposed to do.

Mr. Drabkin. She was in the process of hiring people, Madam, but she had not finished the hiring process. I will tell you that I would never have done that, and our office will not do that in the future. But she was trying to eliminate the backlog. None of the contractors perform decisionmaking functions, but, nonetheless, this is the most sensitive thing we do in GSA, and it is something that should not have involved contractors and will never involve contractors in the future.

As to the management of the database, the database is managed by a Government employee, has always been managed by a Government employee. There is a contractor that provides support, technical support in terms of operating the servers, refreshing the software, but there is no contractor who enters data into that database. There is no contractor who quality controls the data in that database, but there is a contractor who keeps the lights turned on, adds the software, the things that our Government employee is not competent to do.

I hope that answers your question. But I want to assure you in the strongest terms GSA, as long as I am there, will never ever use a contractor to support any function in our suspension and debarment office.

Ms. Norton. How many Government employees are actually maintaining EPLS at this point?

Mr. Drabkin. We have one program manager who is responsible for the maintenance of the program. Understand when I say maintenance, I mean she is responsible for making sure that the systems run. Every agency is individually responsible for entering the data into the database.

So within GSA I have a program manager who manages the database, but then I have a suspension and debarment office which has six individuals in it currently, and we are about to add more, who enter the data; and the Justice Department has an office and the Agriculture Department and the Department of Defense has several offices. So I don't have a total number of people who actually enter data, but each department and agency is responsible for entering its own data.

Ms. Norton. I am trying to understand what the Government is paying for. The Government employees, I can find out easily. As I understand it, GSA is charging Federal agencies upwards of $\$ 1.5$ million for fiscal year 2009, and there is only one person maintaining EPLS?

Mr. Drabkin. And there is a contractor supporting the actual maintenance of the servers, the software, etc., By the way, we don't charge agencies

Ms. Norton. Wait a minute. ISC, then-
Mr. Drabkin. We do not charge people for this service. The ACE, which is a committee of the Chief Acquisition Officers Council, annually meets, determines what work is going to be done, develops a budget, and then assesses each member of the Federal Government a share of that budget. But we do not charge people for this service; this is a pass-the-hat-

Ms. Norton. So what are you charging people for?
Mr. Drabkin. We aren't charging for anything, Madam, we are collecting a portion of the budget that is determined by the committee of the Chief Acquisition Officers Council.

Ms. Norton. To be used for what purpose?
Mr. Drabkin. To be used for managing the EPLS database, which includes one Federal employee and the contractor who keeps the lights on on the system.

Ms. Norton. And ISC, as we understand it, provides the following level of support. If this is not the case, I wish you would let us know. One full-time project manager, one full-time software de-
veloper, one full-time database administrator, one full-time help desk attendant, one part-time system administrator. There may be additional responsibilities that they are not able to perform that could be subcontracted to other entities. That is our information.
Mr. Drabkin. That and the hosting function of actually hosting the database on equipment that they either own or lease.

Ms. Norton. They have one full-time database administrator. What in the world does he do if he can't get into the database?

Mr. Drabkin. He has no authority to enter data; he looks over the database, but he is not a database-he doesn't enter any data into the database. If you are asking me is it possible that he or anybody else in the contractor's staff could play with the data, the answer is I think it is possible. We have not received any information, we have no reason to believe that has ever happened.

Ms. Norton. I am counting 15 people that he dedicates to this.
Mr. Drabkin. Yes, ma'am.
Ms. Norton. How many do you dedicate to it?
Mr. Drabkin. One. One Federal employee.
Ms. Norton. Do you see my problem there? You got 1, they have 15 , and yet they really don't have any major responsibility.

Mr. Drabkin. I am sorry, I disagree. They have a very major responsibility of keeping the database up and running. That is different than adding the data.

Ms. Norton. And you believe that, in fact, that is really all that is necessary for the Government to do, is to have that single person dedicated to that task, as long as they have these 15 people contracted to do most of the work.

Mr. Drabkin. I don't make the appropriations decisions on how many people I can have in my agency.

Ms. Norton. Contracting decisions are not made by the appropriators.

Mr. Drabkin. Ma'am, they decide whether I am going to get personnel money or contracting money. I don't make those decisions. When I get those decisions on whether I have personnel money or contracting money, I then decide what to contract for.

Ms. Norton. So you are saying that your budget, as sent by the President or at least the prior President, forces you to contract out these functions, because that is where the money was?

Mr. Drabkin. I am saying that we follow the budget guidance that we receive from both the Congress and the President, and that this has not been an issue that we looked at, as to whether to bring that function back in-house. It may very well be that this administration asks us to look at doing that, but that is not a matter that we have considered or studied.

Ms. Norton. What would it cost to bring it back in-house?
Mr. Drabkin. I have no idea, ma'am.
Ms. Norton. I would like you to provide to the chairman what would be the cost of bringing those who are providing you this outside service, what would be the cost if the Government itself was providing that service.

Mr. Drabkin. We will do our best, of course, to respond to any question you ask, but you need to take into consideration that we are on a plan right now to consolidate the 10 databases that we have in IAE into a single platform, which will create greater effi-
ciencies and, we hope, actually reduce the overall cost of operating IAE by about half. It is a 3 -year plan-

Ms. Norton. So what effect would that have on the
Mr. Drabkin. We would not increase Federal employees.
Ms. Norton [continuing]. Difference between people contracted out and people who in fact have responsibility in the agency?

Mr. Drabkin. We would not, in this plan, increase Federal employees. We would decrease contractor employees by achieving efficiency.

Ms. Norton. So even though you are consolidating, you only need one person? Even though you are putting all of this together and one person is doing it now for far less, you still would only have one person who is a Government employee?

Mr. Drabkin. Yes, ma'am. The program manager, the functional director, the person who understands and makes the decisions about how the program operates. And what we would buy or continue to buy are people who perform non-discretionary functions, essentially administrative functions.

And what we are looking for is the efficiencies by combining our 10 databases into one over the next 3 year period to actually reduce the number of contractors we need and the dollars we pay contractors for providing the foundation, if you will, the servers, the database

Ms. Norton. Mr. Drabkin
Chairman Towns. The gentlewoman's time has long expired.
Ms. Norton. Mr. Chairman, can I ask only that since he said that there is going to be a consolidation, and seemed to imply that, therefore, if he provides that data for the present operation, it would not be valid because they are about to consolidate, then I ask that he provide the data to the chairman that I asked for the consolidated operation. What would be the cost of bringing the people back into the Government.

Chairman Towns. Without objection, we will hold the record open for that information.

Mr. Drabkin. Thank you, sir, and we will take care of it.
Chairman Towns. Talking about holding the record open for information, the Congressional Research Service did a very extensive report on termination for convenience under the Federal Acquisition Regulation, and I would like to also include that in the record, because it appears that the Army could have ended the contract with Optronic GmbH. Really, you could have. But, anyway, we will put it in the record.
[The information referred to follows:]


## MEIMORANDUM

February 20, 2008
To: House Oversight and Government Reform Committee
Attention: Jason Powell
From:
Kate Manuel
Legislative Attorney
7-4477
Subipet: Termination for Convenience under the Federal Acquistion Regulation

This memorandum responds to your request for a brief overview of termination for convenience under the Federal Acquisition Regulation suitable for use as background material in preparing for a committee hearing. This memorandum provides this brief overview below, inchading citations to the authorities for your reference. More information on terminations for convenience can be obtained from the cited sources, as well as from Chapter 11 of the Administration of Government Contracts ( $4^{4 \mathrm{~m}}$ ed.), by John Cibinic, Jr., Ralph C. Nash, Jr., and James F. Nagle. The memorandum also summarizes the potential basis for the Army's possible belief that it "could not" terminate the contract in question for convenience because it was a requirements contract.

## Brief Overview of Termination for Convenience

The Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) allows federal agencies to terminate contracts, for either default or convenience, "when it is in the Government's interest."' A termination for default is one based on the contractor's actual or anticipated failure to perform its contractual obligations, ${ }^{2}$ while a termination for convenience is one made for any other reason. The FAR does not define "the govemment's interest." However, decisions of the agency boards of contract appeals and the federal courts have held that terminations for convenience in the following circumstances can qualify as in "the government's interest": (1) the government no longer needs the contracted work;' (2) a contractor refuses to accept a modificution to a contract; (3) there are questions concenning the propriety of an award or its continued performance; ${ }^{5}$ (4) the contractor has ceased to be eligible for the contract awarded; ${ }^{6}$ (5) the business

[^16]relationship between the agency and the contractor has deteriorated; ${ }^{7}$ or (6) the agency decides to restructure multiple contractual arrangements. ${ }^{8}$ The FAR also sets no limits on the government's right to terminate, and courts have held that, "when there [is] no bad faith or abuse of discretion, the government [can] terminate for convenience unless it had entered into the contract with no intention of fulfilling its promises." ${ }^{9}$

A contract can only be terminated by written notice to the contractor stating that: (1) the contract is being terminated for the convenience of the govermment under the contract clause authorizing the termination; (2) the effective date of termination; (3) the extent of termination; (4) any special instructions for the contractor; and (5) the steps the contractor should take to minimize the impact of the termination on its employees if the termination would result in a significant reduction in the contractor's work force. ${ }^{10}$ Upon receipt of this notice, the contractor should, among other things, promptly stop work on the terminated portion of the contract and any subcontracts thereunder."

Contractors' monetary claims under contracts terminated for convenience may be settled by: (1) negotiated agreement; (2) a determination of the Termination Contracting Officer, in cases when settement cannot be reached by agreement; (3) costing out, in cost-reimbursement contracts; or (4) a combination of these methods. ${ }^{12}$ When a contractor has performed under a terminated contract, the contractor can generally recover from the government "profits on preparations made and work done by the contractor" under the terminated contract. ${ }^{13}$ However, contractors generally cannot recover anticipatory profits (i.e., profits that the contractor expected to realize on portions of the contract not yet performed) or consequential damages (i.e., losses, injuries, or damages that the contractor incurs from some consequence or result of the termination). ${ }^{14}$ Nor is the government generally liable to the contractor for breach of contract because of its termination of the contract. ${ }^{15}$

Agencies may generally allow existing contracts, which they intend to terminate for convenience, to remain in place to meet their ongoing needs until a new contract is in place. ${ }^{16}$

## Potential Basis for the Army's Claim That It "Could Not" Terminate the

 Contractor in QuestionAssuming it believes it cannot terminate the contract for convenience because it is a requirements contract, the Army may be relying on cases like Torncello $v$. United States. ${ }^{17}$ A requirements contract is one in which one party (the government, in the case of government contracts) agrees to purchase all of the supplies or services that it needs that are covered by the contract from the contractor during the term of

[^17]the contract. In Torncello, a contractor had a contract with the Navy to provide "on call" pest-control services at naval housing facilities in San Diego. ${ }^{18}$ Under this contract, the Navy was to pay the contractor $\$ 500$ per gopher for each gopher disposed of. ${ }^{19}$ The Navy did not use the contractor's gopher-removal services, even when the contractor lowered its price to $\$ 35$ per gopher. ${ }^{20}$ The Navy instead used the services of a company that had been a competing bidder on the contract that Tomcello had won. ${ }^{21}$ The contractor claimed that, because the Navy had agreed to purchase all the gopher-removal services it needed from the contractor, the Navy breached the contract by diverting work to the contractor's competitor. ${ }^{22}$ The Navy countered that it should not be liable for breach, even if it purchased no gopherremoval services from the contractor, because it could have terminated the contract for convenience at any time. ${ }^{23}$

The Torncello court found that the contract (1) was a requirements contract and (2) had been breached by the Navy. Although the agreement was not explicitly designated a requirements contract, the court found that it was one because the Navy agreed to obtain all the gopher-removal services it needed from the contractor. ${ }^{24}$ The court further found that this requirements contract was breached because the Navy obtained gopher-removal services from another contractor. ${ }^{25}$ The key to the court's finding of breach was its holding that the government "may not use the standard termination for convenience clause to dishonor, with impunity, its contractual obligations." ${ }^{26}$ In so holding, the court "restrict[ed] the availability of the [termination for convenience] clause to situations where the circumstances of the bargain or the expectations of the parties have changed sufficiently that the clause serves only to allocate risk."27

Although Torncello is sometimes read as precluding agencies from terminating requirements contracts, this is arguably an over-expansive reading of the case. In fact, Torncello's holding about when the government may terminate contractors for convenience was subsequently limited by the decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Krygoski Construction Co. v. United States. ${ }^{28}$ While not addressing a requirements contract, the Krygoski court read Torncello as holding only that the government cannot terminate for convenience in bad faith, as would be the case if the government did so to acquire a better bargain from another source: "When tainted by bad faith or an abuse of contracting discretion, a termination for convenience causes a contract breach." ${ }^{29}$ The Krygoski court could reach this holding, in part, because of two questions that the Torncello court did not address. First, the facts of Torncello were such that the government had arguably breached the contract, by procuring services from another company, before considering termination. Because of these facts, the Torncello court had no need to address whether the government could ever terminate a requirements contract prior to its breach. Second, in Torncello, the government was seemingly motivated by a desire to obtain a better deal on
${ }^{18} \mathrm{Id}$. at 758.
${ }^{19} 1 d$.
${ }^{20} l d$.
${ }^{21} 1 \mathrm{~d}$.
${ }^{22}$ Id.
${ }^{23}$ Id. at 759.
${ }^{24} \mathrm{ld}$. at 761.
${ }^{25}$ ld. as 772.
${ }^{26} \mathrm{Id}$.
${ }^{27} \mathrm{Id}$. at 771.
${ }^{28} 94$ F. 3 d 1597 (Fed. Cir. 1996).
${ }^{29}$ id. a 1541 . The Krygoski court further said that a contractor alleging an improper termination mast overcone the presumption that the Tempination Contrncting Officer terminted the contract in good faith. Id. at 1544.
gopher-removal services when dealing with the contractor's competitor. Because the government apparently intended to repudiate its contract, the Torncello court also had no need to address whether the government could ever have proper grounds for terminating a requirements contract.

In short, in addition to reflecting the more current law on terminations for convenience, the Krygoski decision seems to correspond more closely to the facts at hand than the Torncello decision does. While Torncello involved a termination made in "bad faith" because the government sought a better bargain, termination here would arguably be in "good faith" because the contractor's president was reportedly convicted under German law for violating (1) the German Federal Foreign Trade Act and (2) the Federal Weapons of War Control Act by atternpting to smuggle aluminum tubes used in making nuclear bombs to North Korea. Because of this conviction, even if the Army re-procured the training services that the contractor provided after or while terminating the contractor, the contractor could have difficulty in asserting that the Army terminated it merely to obtain a better deal on training services.

Chairman Towns. Let me just say, before I yield to the ranking member, you know, these hearings really are for trying to stop waste, fraud, and abuse, and we want to work with you and we want you to work with us, because I think you are concerned about waste, fraud, and abuse.

Also, we want to look at maybe as a result of the present structure we need to examine prospective legislation. I don't know. But I want you to understand that is what we are talking about here.

Mr. Drabkin. Mr. Chairman, let me assure you that we all would love to be able to work with your respective staffs to look at ways to improve the process, because that is what we are all interested in doing.

Chairman Towns. I yield to the ranking member, Congressman Issa.

Mr. Issa. Thank you, Chairman. On that note, the chairman and I were at the White House on Monday, and, in a sense, these issues came up, including the whole fact that we limit head count throughout Government, while not necessarily limiting money. So we give you money and X amount of people. What are you going to do with the money? We are going to make up for the shortage of the people.

I might note, Mr. Chairman-I am sorry the gentlelady from Washington, DC, has left, because, as you recall, we went before House Administration and we asked for 30 more slots. No more money, just authorization if we could find people who wanted to work nearly as interns. Obviously, within a very lean budget, if we could have those slots, and I haven't heard back that we got them yet. So perhaps the gentlelady will join us in trying to get more Government employees, rather than us contracting out, because I too enjoy outsourced computer services from Lockheed Martin and a number of others here in the House, as the gentlelady from the District.

Taking a little off of that, because I don't know that we can beat that horse any more right now, Mr. Drabkin, I was out. I apologize. I serve on another committee, so I have been going back and forth. I understand that Mr. Bilbray asked about eVerify and you were aware of a letter from Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel that said that, in fact, that is in hiatus. Is that roughly what you said? I wasn't here.

Mr. Drabkin. No, sir. I said pursuant to the Rahm Emanuel memo, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security had decided that she wanted a period of time to review the new rule which we had published, but had not yet been implemented, requiring contractors to use eVerify. And I believe Mr. Bilbray's point to me was that if we used eVerify, that it would reduce the instances of cases where contractors who were debarred or suspended got contracts. I never engaged with him on that issue because I, quite frankly, don't know.

Mr. Issa. Well, it came to my attention, and it was interesting that an unelected, appointed individual writes a memo and a confirmed cabinet officer stops a program that is more than a decade old and has been quite a success.

But I want to bring it back to the issue here today. eVerify is a system in which you don't get to see the social security numbers,
but you do put the social security numbers into a database that has the social security numbers to see if in fact the name and social security number you are putting in match the individual, if the data that are in your procurement contracts, including key individuals, officers, directors, and so on, if that information, including social security-since we have an obligation to only hire legal people in Government contracting. And I have Camp Pendleton, so, trust me, we have had to push a few off the base in San Diego over the years when we discovered it wasn't true. So when we use that system, that system has unique identity.

And I go back to my question earlier, particularly for the GAO, why wouldn't we have a database in which the Web, to the public, didn't show the social security number, but in fact somebody entering that information from a database would be sure of the person? Because I go back to the confusion of the woman using her maiden name or, for that matter, the woman who I think is in jail right now, who was part of the scandal on the tankers some years ago, the refueling tankers.

A person's name, or surrogate name, or surname, or married name, or alias, and a home address are both very easily changeable, so isn't there a fundamental flaw in this database unless we have a unique identity number for every corporation and a unique identity number for every individual and the system polls them both?

I will start with the GAO, since it is your study.
Mr. Kutz. Yes, and particularly the SSN right now is the problem. So there needs to be some sort of a position taken as to what are the options to move forward. I mean, if the option is we are just not going to deal with it, that wouldn't necessarily be acceptable. There has to be several alternatives, and maybe something like you are talking about here would be a valid option, because we do SSN checks in criminal cases all the time and we give the social security number, but we only get back hits. So we are not allowed access into the system, for example.

Mr. Issa. Of course.
Mr. Kutz. So we do that all the time with the Social Security Administration and agencies across the Government. So I think that has merit.

Mr. Drabkin. And, Mr. Issa, I don't want to leave you with the impression that the issue on social security number is dead. What I meant to convey to you earlier was there had been a Governmentwide policy discussion on this matter. There had been a decision not to adopt it Government-wide, although some agencies are entering social security numbers. Most notably, right now, HHS is not. And we have not had a Government-wide decision, and I look forward to the new administration, when they are settled in, to revisiting this matter for us, and it may solve the problem. And we will be sure to report back to you on our progress on this matter.

Mr. Issa. OK, we had two quick questions, because the time is over. One is, is there anyone here that considers themselves kind of a techie?
[No response.]
Mr. IsSA. Well, then I will be the techie here for a moment. Can any of you, in this day and age, not envision the ease with which
an individual could enter a social security number-it could go into an encryption key that is not available to anybody except the key holders-it then creates a different number? That different number then checks against looking for the identical not social security number, but number created by the key that in fact then tells you whether you have a match. So do any of you have a problem understanding, in this day and age, you don't have to have a plain view of a social security number that could lead to bad conduct, and you don't have to ever even have it transmitted?

So are we talking about social security numbers as though it is the old days and it is written on a piece of paper and somebody might xerox it, or do we all understand that unique identity number, for both a corporation and an individual, is certainly within the grasp of the technology you already have paid for?

I am seeing heads wave yes.
My closing question is just an anecdotal one, if the chairman will indulge me, and it is for the Navy, because I represent Camp Pendleton and the naval weapons stations. I had to take note, when I downloaded the exclusion list, that GSA had 266, the Army had 675 , the Air Force had an almost identical number, the Navy had 284. Is that because you do a so much better job selecting your contractors? Because you are a fairly large service. I was just interested to see how many were on the active list of disbarred or suspended.

Captain Jaggard. If I understand your question correctly, Mr. Issa, I think my answer to that question would be because our new Acquisition Integrity Office is doing a much better job of keeping up with the workload that they are required to handle.

Mr. Issa. OK. And because I am a former Army officer, I will ask the General is there a reason that 675 for the Army means that you simply more aggressively go after these people, so more are on the list?

General Harrington. Sir, I think it relates to the numbers of transactions that are involved in our-it is really our workload has increased fivefold and there is just that much more solicitations, offers, and exposure to the contracting arena.

Mr. Issa. I appreciate it. I just needed a little bit multi-service-

Mr. Drabkin. Mr. Issa.
Mr. Issa. Yes, sir.
Mr. Drabkin. If the chairman will indulge me, just to fill out the answer, part of this also has to do with our practice of suspension and debarment. We have an unwritten rule amongst us that the agencies with the most contacts with a contractor, whether the suspension or debarment is brought to them initially, is referred to them to determine whether they want to take jurisdiction.

So the numbers themselves may not tell the whole story. It could be that lots of contractors who do business with the Navy had more contracts with the Army and the Army took jurisdiction, and that is why the Army numbers-I know many cases come to my office that I refer to my colleagues in the services because they are our biggest customers. They take those cases from us, which is why our numbers are lower, and they handle it because they have the most contact with those contractors.

Mr. Issa. Well, I want to see you the next time Army-Navy play, because I need an honest referee. Thank you.

Mr. Drabkin. Sir, I wouldn't be honest. I bleed Army green. [Laughter.]

Chairman Towns. Let me thank you for coming and, of course, all the witnesses for attending today.

Before we adjourn, I remain extremely concerned that the Federal dollars provided in the recently passed economic stimulus package will fall into the hands of criminals and con artists posing as legitimate business owners in light of the GAO's findings. Therefore, I have addressed a letter to the Acting Administrator of GSA, Mr. Paul Prouty, outlining the key changes that must be implemented to ensure adequate management, monitoring, and search capabilities of EPLS.

Mr. Drabkin and Mr. Williams, providing you with this letter acts as an official notice to your Acting Administrator that the recommendation of GAO and this committee should not be taken lightly, because we are seriously trying to get rid of waste, fraud, and abuse, and we want your help in that regard. So, without objection, I enter this letter into the committee record.
[The information referred to follows:]

## ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

## Congress of the $\begin{aligned} & \text { alnited } \\ & \text { Sates }\end{aligned}$

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## COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 Rayburn House Office Bulloing
Washington, DC 20515-6143
Majority (202) 225-5051
Minority $\mathbf{| 2 0 2 0 )}$ 225-5024
February 26, 2009
The Honorable Paul F. Prouty
Acting Administrator
U.S. General Services Administration

1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405
Dear Mr. Prouty:
Today the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform held a hearing entitled, "How Convicts and Con Artists Receive New Federal Contracts." At the hearing, the Committee received a report from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) on the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS), a database maintained by the Government Services Administration (GSA) which is intended to prevent ineligible parties from receiving federal contracts or other federal funding. According to GAO, businesses and individuals that have been placed on the EPLS due to egregious offenses, ranging from national security violations to tax fraud, have improperly continued to receive federal contracts and other funds.

The GAO's tindings exposed significant failures by GSA. For example, GSA has failed to diligently maintain the EPLS so as to ensure the insertion of accurate contractor identitying information in the form of Data Universal Number System (DUNS) numbers; accurate information on points of contact for excluding agencies; and modern online search capabilities. Furthermore, GAO discovered that GSA's own Federal Supply Schedule included a number of excluded companies, which creates a greater likelihood that contracting officers will unknowingly purchase goods from irresponsible companies.

GAO recommended, and I concur, that GSA expeditiously implement the following:

1. Issue guidance to procurement officials on the requirement to check EPLS prior to awarding contracts and to suspension and debarment officials on the $S$-day entry and contractor identification number requirements;
2. Take all immediate steps to ensure that the EPLS database requires contractor identilication numbers for all actions entered into the system;

The Honorable Paul F. Prouty
February 26, 2009
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3. Strengthen the EPLS online search capabilities to include common search operators, such as AND, NOT, and OR;
4. Take immediate steps to ensure that EPLS points of contact are updated; and
5. Place a warning on the Federal Supply Schedule website indicating that prospective purchasers need to check EPLS to determine whether vendors are excluded.

In addition, I simply do not understand why there are multiple databases dealing with contractor eligibility. It seems to me that many of the problems that GAO found could be resolved if the EPLS database were integrated with the main GSA contractor registry and other contractor databases.

Finally, GAO concluded that EPLS has no single entity that proactively monitors the system or provides guidance to federal agencies. I agree with GAO that if GSA is not more proactive in its management of EPLS, suspended and debarred companies will continue to improperly receive millions of taxpayer dollars. In my view, GSA is by law the agency tasked with management of the EPLS. For that reason, I request that GSA repor to this conmmittee within six months from the date of this letter on the steps it has taken to implement these recommendations and report annually thereafter on the management, maintenance, and effectiveness of the EPLS.

In the coming months, 1 look forward to GSA making these needed changes to EPLS in order to safeguard taxpayer dollars from continued waste, fraud and abuse. Should you have any questions about this request, please contact Leah Perry or John Arlington of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

cc: Rep. Darrell Issa
Ranking Minority Member

Chairman Towns. And, without objection, this committee now stands adjourned.
[Whereupon, at 1:05 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]
[The prepared statements of Hon. Diane E. Watson, Hon. Gerald E. Connolly, Hon. Paul W. Hodes, Hon. Dan Burton, and Hon. Brian P. Bilbray, and additional information submitted for the hearing record follow:]

Good morning, and let me begin by thanking
Chairman Towns for holding this morning's hearing on the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) database, which is responsible for maintaining the most up-todate and accurate information on the eligibility of contractors government-wide to conduct business with the Federal Government.

As the incoming Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization, and

Procurement, I look forward to working with Chairman

Towns, Ranking Member Issa, and Congressman Bilbray this Congress to ensure that we are getting the most effective and efficient services for our government's contracting dollars. Obviously, the importance of this issue is underscored by the upcoming expenditure of billions of dollars in economic stimulus funding.

With roughly $\$ 450$ billion in contracting expenditures made in the last year alone, it is critical that our agency contracting community works to ensure that all recipients of federal contracting dollars are both in good standing and have demonstrated responsible behavior in their previous work. This requires timely and accurate information to be provided by agencies for the database, that Government departments and
agencies properly utilize the EPLS, and that effective oversight mechanisms be put in place to ensure that debarred or suspended contractors are not rewarded for their past misuses of federal dollars.

The Excluded Parties List System is meant to provide an efficient one-stop resource for agency officials to review participants as part of the contract awarding process. Nevertheless, GAO indicates that the database is often neglected or mismanaged by agency staff, includes inaccurate or untimely information about contractors, and lacks an oversight mechanism to ensure that debarred or suspended contractors cannot game the system through subsidiaries or front organizations. Such problems undermine the entire purpose of having EPLS and result in the awarding of
billions of dollars in contracts to companies that have failed to be effective stewards of government resources and assets.

I'm hopeful that our witnesses today will offer us a blueprint for moving forward in remedying the inherent problems facing the EPLS database, and provide some guidance as to how the new Obama Administration can better utilize or improve upon such tools. Furthermore, I intend to proactively monitor this issue through the Management Subcommittee and look forward to working with all stakeholders in reaching our common goal of a more effective and efficient government-wide contracting system.

## Once again, I thank the Chairman for his attention

 to this matter and I yield back.Opening statement of Congressman Gerald E. Connolly at meeting of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

Date: February 26, 2009
Hearing topic: "How Convicts and Con Artists Receive New Federal Contracts"

## Opening Statement:

Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding this important hearing, which is a timely reminder of the perils of anti-government ideology applied carte blanche. Because of a lack of contracting oversight, the malfeasance of a few contractors has tarnished the image of the industry as a whole. In Fiscal Year 2000, there were approximately 56,000 federal employees, known as 'acquisition personnel,' to manage contracts worth $\$ 208$ billion dollars. In 2007, 61,000 acquisition personnel were responsible for managing contracts worth $\$ 517$ billion dollars. The federal workforce devoted to managing contracts increased a mere $9 \%$ while the value of contracts they manage increased $248 \%$.

The case studies cited in today's hearing had contracts totaling approximately $\$ 2.5$ million in value, compared to some $\$ 500$ billion in current annual value of contracts. It would seem that most contracts are being awarded to companies that are indeed law abiding. The fact that a relatively small proportion of contracts have been awarded improperly would suggest that the current lack of contracting management and oversight can be corrected. Mr. Chairman, I look forward to using the lessons we learn from today's hearing to identify strategies to enhance oversight and management so that the vast majority of law abiding contractors can continue to serve the government without fear of being tainted by the actions of a few.

## Statement for the Record - Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Hearing, Thursday, February 25, 2009 <br> Congressman Paul Hodes

Chairman Towns, Ranking Member Issa, thank you for holding this important hearing today on the federal government's Excluded Parties List System (EPLS). This Committee did excellent work last Congress in discovering and working to eliminate problems with the federal contracting process, and this hearing demonstrates that the Committee will continue this important work in the $111^{\text {th }}$ Congress.

Companies and individuals are placed on the Excluded Parties List due to a criminal or civil conviction, or if they have shown "a lack of business integrity or business honesty that... affects the present responsibility of a Government contractor or subcontractor." However, the Government Accountability Office report released today on the EPLS tells a alarming story of companies and individuals that continued to receive federal contracts while on the list. In some cases, these awards were the result of neglect by the awarding agency, by not performing due diligence in using the EPLS.

The GAO's report found that there is no single agency that is proactively monitoring the list, and that agencies are not updating the list to keep information accurate, are startling considering the amount of money awarded via federal contracts. It is critical that we as a committee work to fix these problems before more criminal or corrupt businesses receive federal funding.

President Obama's address to Congress earlier this week underscored his resolve to not award government funds to corrupt or irresponsible businesses, as well as the need to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent carefully and efficiently. I am pleased that this Committee is working to address these issues in Congress.

# Opening Statement of Dan Burton Committee on Oversight and Government Reform "How Con Artists and Convicts Get Government Contracts" <br> February 26, 2009 

Thank you Mr. Chairman. With the Federal government spending approximately $\$ 350$ billion a year on goods and services, our Federal government's acquisition laws, programs, and polices must be effective, efficient, fair, and transparent. No question about it. Today's hearing examines the Excluded Parties List System, it's an important issue, and I commend both Chairman Towns and Ranking Member Issa for their leadership on this issue. I look forward to hearing from the distinguished witnesses we have before us.

Since billions of dollars are awarded annually in Federal contracts, the Federal acquisition system, from beginning to end, has caught the attention of watchdog groups, the press, Congress, and the general public. The system itself is complex and reaches every Federal agency. The Federal acquisition system works despite its flaws. I do not believe the Federal acquisition system, as a whole, fails in its mission to be fair, transparent, effective and efficient, but I do believe it can be improved. Questions into what works and what does not work are needed.

Today, we are taking a snapshot look at the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS). The purpose of the EPLS is to provide a single comprehensive list of individuals and firms excluded by the Federal government from receiving future government contracts. The individuals or firms listed in the EPLS are either temporarily suspended or debarred. Generally, the suspension or debarment is rescinded once a contractor enters into an administrative agreement with an agency.

Every instance the EPLS fails to prevent an excluded contractor from receiving a new government contract, confidence in the integrity of the Federal acquisition system is lost. A weak EPLS is not in our interest. The Federal government and taxpayers benefit from having a wide selection of companies competing for our business. It is in our interest to have the suspended or disbarred contractor remedy any violations and resume competing in the Federal acquisition system. At the same time, the EPLS should never fall short in its mission of preventing fraudulent contractors from receiving new government contracts.

Today, we will hear testimony from the Government Accounting Office, the Navy, the Army, Co-chair of the ABA Committee on Debarment and Suspension, and the General Counsel from the Project on Government Oversight. All are experts in their fields and can speak knowledgeably on the strengths and shortcomings of the EPLS. I look forward to their testimony and their recommendations for how to improve the EPLS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

| ERIAN P. BELBAAY 50fm D.stmet, Caitroanda |  | COMMITTEE ON OVEASIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM |
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| Solana Beach, CA 92075 (858) $750-1150$ fax 6858$) 3500750$ |  | mmigration afor |

Statement of Rep. Brian P. Bilbray (CA-50)

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform<br>"How Con Artists and Convicts Get Government Contracts"

February 26, 2009

First, I would like to thank Chairman Towns for holding this hearing. With the President announcing today a federal budget that for the first time exceeds $\$ 4$ trillion it is more urgent than ever that government ensure that taxpayer funds are going to contracts that are a "responsible source" and that have and "satisfactory performance records" and "satisfactory records of integrity and business ethics" as required under the Federal Acquisition Regulations.

The U.S. taxpayer is trusting the Congress with their money and we must ensure that we have in place a system that guarantees their money is being used wisely, creating value for their investment and is being handled with the highest level of transparency and ethics.

At this Committee's direction, the General Accounting Office (GAO) has discovered a number of abuses in the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS). The problems with the system appear to range from lackadaisical compliance with FAR requirements by federal contracting officers a search database that lacks the flexibility to overcome small errors in data entry to outright fraudulent behavior by some nefarious contractors.

It is important to note that the U.S. taxpayer benefits from a robust contractor corps that creates value from competition. Whatever steps we may take in the future to address the problems with the EPLS and the GSA Schedule must not unduly limit the U.S. Government's pool of contractors or make contractor compliance prohibitively difficult. Whatever acquisition system the federal government establishes must be welcoming and user
friendly to small businesses and large corporations alike, while maintaining the highest level of transparency and cost effectiveness for the taxpayer.

I look forward to hearing the testimony of our witnesses and listening to their suggested solutions. Mr. Chairman I am confident that this is an area where our Committee can work together effectively on behalf of the American people. As always, I stand ready to partner with you to implement good public policy that protects taxpayers, ensures value for the government and promotes transparency.


> DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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The Honorable Edolphus Towns
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

## Dear Chairman Towns:

This submission of documents responds to a request for documents made during the Committee's hearing of February 26, 2009 on the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS). During the hearing, Representative Kucinich asked that documents concerning the suspension and debarment proceedings against the Kuwait Gulf, Link \& Transport Company (KGL) be provided to the Committee.

Enclosed is the administrative record obtained from United States Army Legal Services Agency (USALSA).

The Army provides these documents with a full reservation of rights and with the understanding and intent that such provision is not a waiver to assert any applicable privilege. The Army respectfully requests that these documents be shared only with those who have an official need for the information, that the documents not be disclosed to the public, that appropriate steps are taken to safeguard these documents, and that the documents are destroyed after use. If your office wishes to disclose these documents to the public, prior coordination with the records custodian is requested so that the documents can be reviewed and publicly releasable versions of the documents provided.

I trust that this information is helpful. Thank you for your continued support of our Soldiers and Army.

Sincerely,


CF: The Honorable Darrell Issa
Ranking Member


## EXHIBIT 1

HCOGR-27 Feb 09-3

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HCOGR-27 Feb 09-7
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## EXHIBIT 2

HCOGR-27 Feb 09-8

## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY <br> UNITED STATES ARMY LEGAL SERVICES AGENCY <br> gO1 NORTH STUART STREE <br> ARLINGTON VA 22202-1837 <br> September 22, 2006 <br> VIA INTERNATIONAL express mall

SUBJECT: Show Cause Letter
Ahmed Afifi
Director, Legal Affairs
Kuwait and Guif Link Transport Company
Shuwaikh Industrial Area, Block A
Building No. 14-3rd
Shuwaikh, Kuwait
Tel: 011-965-888-700
Dear Mr. Afifi:
This is to advise you that the United States Army is considering Saeed Esmail Dashti and Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company for debarment from future contracting with agencies of the Executive branch of the United States Government under the authority of Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) section 9.406. The FAR is published at Title 48, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1.

The Army is considering this action because of Mr. Dashti's and Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company's alleged failure to accept international service of process in a civil matter before the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia (Encl. 1). Specifically, Mr. Dashti, acting in his capacity as Chairman and Managing Director of Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company, is accused of purposely taking steps to frustrate delivery of court documents for the sole purpose of avoiding participation in lawsuits brought by the survivors of LTC Dominic R. Baragona. Copies of these documents, along with the determination by the District Court for the Northerm District of Georgia that valid service was made on Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company on March 14, 2006, as well as supporting documents, are attached (Encls. 2, 3 and 4).

This conduct has cast doubt on Mr. Dashti's and Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company's present responsibility as a United States Government contractor and could provide a basis for debarment of both Mr. Dashti and Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company under the provisions of FAR 9.406. The purpose of this letter is to solicit your response before we make any recommendations to the Army's Suspension and Debarment Official. No recommendation or decision has been made regarding present responsibility at this time.

You may take advantage of this opportunity to demonstrate that Kuwait and Guif Link Transport Company is a responsible contractor by responding in writing within thirty calendar days and providing any information you believe is relevant to this matter. Your submission may include affidavits, certified records, letters, or other documents bearing on this issue. We will

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consider all timely submissions. All statements made must be true and accurate; false statements are punishable under Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001.

You should address your written submissions to: U.S. Army Legal Services Agency, Procurement Fraud Branch, ATTN: Brian A. Persico, 901 North Stuart Street, Suite 513, Arlington, Virginia, 22203-1837, USA.

Should you fail to respond to this letter within thirty calendar days of receipt, we will evaluate the case based on the information currently available to us. We may also consider your failure to respond as a factor affecting your present responsibility as a Govermment contractor.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Persico at 011-1-703-696-1550.
Sincerely,
Chistine 1. MeCommas

Christine S. McCommas
Chief, Procurement Fraud Branch

## Enclosures:

1) Complaint (with Arabic Translation), Dominic F. Baragona, et. al.
v. Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Co., et. al.
2) Motion Regarding Service of Process, dated June 20, 2006
3) Order Regarding Service of Process, dated July 19, 2006
4) Letters from FEDEX Customer Relations, dated April 6 and 13, 2006


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DOMINIC F. BARAGONA as the Personal Representative of the Estate of LIEUTENANT COLONEL DOMLNIC R. BARAGONA
and

DOMINIC F BARAGONA in hys personal Capacity

VILMA D. BARAGONA, . COMPIAINT
plauntiffs,
v.

XUWAIT GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY
PO EOX 24565
Safat 13106
Kuwait
and

MAHMOUD MUHAMMED HESSATN
SEROUR,
c/o Kuwait Gulf Link Transport.
Company
PO Box 24565
Safat 13106
Kuwait
Defendants

COMPLATNT
Plaintiff, Dominic Baragona, in his personel capacyty and
as the Personal Representative of the Eatate of Luextenant


PFB-0014
seeking damages for the personal injuries and wrongful death of Let. Col. Domanc Baragona as hereinafter set forth

This action arises out of the negligent operation of a
tractor tramer truck on the highways of Iraq, as described below, owned by the defenciant Kuwait Gulf Link Transport

Company ("KGL") and operated by defendant Mr Mahmoud Muhammed Hessain Serour ("Mr Serour"), KGL's employee and agent. KgL. is vicariously liable for the negligent actaons of its agent and employee. Plaintiffs state in support of thear Complaint and allege as follows.

## TURIGDICTION AND VENUE

1. Subject matter jurisdiction over the subject matter of chis case arises undex 20 U.S.C, 551332 . The matter in controversy exceeds the sum of $\$ 75,00000$, exclusive of interest and costs.

2 The court has personal furisaiction over the Defendant pursuant to O.C G.A. S 9-10-91 (1). The Defendant has contanuous and systematic minmmum contacts with the forum state, such that constitutional due process $1 s$ not denied by the mantenance of a suit against the Defendant in this forum
3. Venue is proper in this form pursuant to both 28 U.S.C $\$ 1391(a)(3)$ and (d)

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## THE PARTIES

4. Rlaintiff, Dominic Baragona is the Personal

Representative for the Estate of Lt. Col Dominic Baragona and brings this action in both his representative capacity as such as well as his personal capacity. Lt. Col Dominic Baragona died on May 19, 2003 At all times relevant hereto, Dominlo Baragona was the father of Dominac Baragona and 19 a citizen of the State of Florida. Plantiff Dominuc Baragona and the Estate of Dominic Baragona can sue and be sued in this Court

5 Plaintiff Vilma Baragona is the mother of Le. Col. Dominic Baragona at all times relevant hereto, Vilma Baragona was the mother of Le. Col. Dominic Baragona and is a citizen of the state of Florida. Flaintiff Vilma Baragona can sue and be sued in thas court
6. The Estate was opened by the United States Army in the State of Oklahoma with Dominic Baragona as the admanastrator of the Estate. Lt. Col garagona was based in Fort sill, oklahoma at the time of his death
7. Defendant KGL is a privately owned public joint stock company Kgle was incorporated on May, 11.982 as a jount stock company and was Ilsted on the Kuwait Stock Exchange in 2000.
8. KGL contracts with the USA Army Central Command component that 1 a headquartered, in Atlanta, Georgya, at Fort McPherson

9 KGI has executed dozens of contracts worth tens of millions of USD with the USA Ammy Central Command, going back at least until 1997
10. Defendant Mr. Serour was identified as the employee who drove the KGL truck on the day of the accident by KGL in response to queries regarding the accident by the United gtates Army. Mr. Serour is an Egyptian cıtazen

FACTUAI ALEEGATIONS
11. On May 19, 2003, Lt. Col Baragona was traveling south through iraq in a convoy of three American military venicles on his way to Kuwait. Lt. Col Baragona had fought with the Onited States Army in Operation Iraqi Freedom, was mustering his men out of Irag, and was now preparing to go home on leave 12. The weather was hot, sunny, and clear.
13. A tractor trailer truck was traveling on the same road. The truck was owned and operated by ket The truck was driven by an employee of kew, who acted at all time relevant to thas claim as KGL's agent The truck was painted orange and the cab

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of the truck was clearly marked with KOL logos and the full
name of the company
    14. The road was three lanes wide. There was not a lot of
traffic on the road that day.
    15 Members of the convoy noticed the KGL truck speed past
them and then fall behind several times
    16 Upon information and belief, Mr Mahmoud Muhammed
Hessain Serour, an older Egyptian man in his sixties, was
driving the KGL truck. Mr Serour was ideritified as an
employee of KGL by KGL in response to queries regarding the
accadent by the United States Army.
    17. Eye witnesses stated that Lt. Col Baragona was wearing
his seat belt at all times.
    18 The three vehicle convoy approached what looked like a
pile of debris on the far raght lane. The pile turned out to
be dried concrete that had spilled from another truck prior to
the accadent involving Lt Col Baragona
    19 The draver of Lt. Col Baragona Jr.'s Humvee told the
Army anvestigators that he notuced the debris and moved the
Humvee nnto the far left lane The driver further told the
mnvestigators that he kept his eyes on the debris and the
    tractor tramler as they neared the debris pile.
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20. The tractor trailer was in the far right lane. At the last minute the draver of the tractor trailer truck tried to change lanes, but hit the debris pale once the truck hit the debris pile, it jackknifed and crossed two lanes of traffic and collided with Lt. Col. Baragona's Humvee with disastrous consequences
21. Upon impact both the Humvee and the tractor trasler akidded together into the median that divided the northbound and southbound traffic. The vehzcles came to a stop
22. The draver of the Humvee exited the vehicle and noticed fuel spilling from the tractor trailer.

23 The driver saw Lt Col. Baragona lying on his back next to the passenger aide of the Humvee
24. Lt. Col. Baragona had suffered a massive cardiothoracic diaruption to the chest and a head injury as a result of the impact of the tractor trailer truck upon the side of his Humvee Lt Col. Baragona was pronounced dead at the scene of the accıdent.
25. The devastating impact had crumpled the Humvee and rendered it useless junk, beyond repair.

26 Lt Col. Baragona had tread marks on his Kevlar vest and helmet. There was also a bit of orange paint on his helmet
27. Mr Serour, the KGL employee and draver violated the applicable standard of care when operating the kGL tractor traslex truck on the day of Lt. Col. Baragona's death By driving. in an unsafe manner and collading with the clearly vasible pile of debris, the driver breached the duty he owed to the vehicles also on the road This breach of duty caused the tractor trailer to jackknife, collide with the Humvee, and ut Col. Baragona's tragic death. As such, he shares liability with his employer for Lt. Col. Baragona's wrongful death.

28 The official Army 15-6 Accident Investigation Report concluded that the accident was caused by the actions of the KGL draver
29. Mr serour was medivaced to a Coalition hospital and received care for has injuries there
30. During an April 3, 2004 conversation between the Army 15-6 investigator and Mr. Adel Kohry, the Overland Cargo Transport Department Managex for KGL, Mr Kohry revealed that Mx . Serour had returned to his home country of Egypt, according to the KGL representative. We do not have a current address for Mr. Serour

31 Mr. Kohry also saxd that he zemembered the accident like it was yesterday and that kgl had conducted an internal investigation regarding the accident.
32. During the conversation, Mr. Kohry clamed that the KGL truck that was caused the accident was never recovered.

33 Mr , Kohry also made clear that Mr. Serour was an employee of KGL and not an independent contractor.
34. Under the principles of respondeat superior, KGL 19 liable for Mr. Serour's negligent actions.
35. The Baragonas were and are an extremely tight knit
family. The loss of Lt. Col Baragona, whose accomplishments and outstancing career advancement provided enormous satisfaction and pride to hus parents and siblings, has been emotionally devastating.

36 The estate of Lt. Col. Baragona has suffered severe damages, including, but not lamited to, lost potential lifetime earnings, income, and services, and lost $2 n t a n g i b l e ~ i t e m s ~ w h o s e ~$ value cannot be precisely quantified, such as a parent's soclety, advice, example and counsel.

37 Before his death, Lt. Col Baragona suffered extreme mental anguish and suffered immediate apprehension of his imminent death, entiting his estate to compensatory damages
38. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful and negligent operation of KGL's truck by ats employee and draver, the estate of Lt . Col. Baragona has Euffered severe damages,

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Including, but not limited to, lost potential lifetime
earnings, income, and services.
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39. Wherefore planntifes pray that they have judgment against Defendant as follows.
(a) that plantiffs recover the full value of the life of It. Col Baragona in an amount to be determined by the court, in excess of $\$ 75,000$,
(b) that plaintiff Domanic Baragona, Sr , as
admunistrator of the estate of

I, Col Baragona, recover damages for conscious pain and suffering in an amount to be determaned by the court, in excess of $\$ 75,000$;
(c) that Plaintiff Dominic Baragona, sx., as
adminastrator of the estate of
Lt. Col. Baragona, recover for the cost of the
Euneral, burıal, and other expenses in an amount to
be determxned by the court, in excess of $\$ 75,000$;
(d) that planntiffs recover for the cost of thas
ixtigation,
(e) that plaintiffs recover such other and further relief as is just and proper.

## JURY DEMAND

Plantıffs hereby make a demand upon the court for a trial
by jury.

Respectfully submitted this $\mathbb{Z Z X}^{\underline{X}}$ day of May, 2005.


The Barnes Law Group, LLC
P O. Box 489
Marietta, GA 30061
Telephone. 770.419 .8505
Telefax. 770.590.8958
BY: Atevet, A Alet whexpled

Perles Law Firm, PC
$114619^{\text {th }}$ Street, NW Fifth Floor
Washington, DC 20009
Telephone: 202-955-9055
Telefax: 202-955-3806

JULIA SEGALL. $181517^{17^{\text {² }}}$ Street NW \#816
Washington, DC 20009
(734) 709-8631

Certificate of Translation

## March 3, 2006

I, Julia Segall, hereby certify that I am competent in bath Engllsh and Arabic languages.
I further certify that under penalty of perjury translation of the aforementioned documents:
[AR SUMMONS kgl GE.doc]
[AR SUMMONS serour GE.doc]

From the English language into the Arabic language is accurate and correct to the best

## of my knowledge and proficiency.


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## محكمة الولايايت اللمتحدة الاقليمية <br> 

وفبلماد، بالزباونا
ومحمود محمد حسين سربرا

05CV1267 دعوى

 شوريغ الصناعي A
الالبإية) رتم :

ستيان ز. برلس مؤبسة الحمّوق برلسن
1146 بك وشنطنْ: دي سي 20036 تكلفون - 202.955.9055


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لوثـثـد د. تومس
اللألـإِ التالتا

Unted States District Court

an answer to the complaint which is served on you with this summons, within_ twenty (20) days after service of this summons on you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. Any answer that you serve on the parties to this action must be filed with the Clerk of this Court within a reasonable period of time after service.
CLERK DATE


## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

Dominic F. Baragona, et al. :

## Plaintiffs, :

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v. $:$ CIVIL ACTION NO:: 05-cv-1267(WSD)

Kuwait Gulf Link Transport :
Company, et al.
:
:

Defendants :
:

## MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR ORDER

 REGARDING SERVICE OF PROCESSPlaintiffs, by counsel, hereby file this Memorandum in Support of
Motion for Order that service has been perfected upon Defendant Kuwait
Gulf Link Transport Company ("KGL"). ${ }^{1}$ KGL has engaged in a facile and
futile attempt to avoid service and place further obstacles before Plaintiffs. ${ }^{2}$
Plaintiffs however delivered the summons and complaint via international-

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signed-receipt delivery, as this Court approved in its February 10, 2006

Order, to KGL, where it was accepted, signed for by KGL's Chairman and Managing Director and reviewed. That is valid service. The subsequent retum of the service documents to the courier by KGL's Chairman can not undue prior valid service.

In support of their Motion for an Order Regarding Service of Process, Plaintiffs state as follows:

## SUMMARY OF THE FACTS

Plaintiffs list below the events regarding the service of process.

- After the filing of the two complaints, now consolidated into this one case, Plaintiffs attempted to serve Defendants under the Hague

Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial
Documents, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. $4(\mathrm{f})(1)$, which provides for service by any internationally agreed means reasonably calculated to give notice.

- The Kuwaiti government failed to serve the complaints within the six month parameter required by their treaty obligations under the Hague Convention.
- On February 10, 2006, this Court entered an order approving of Plaintiffs' request to serve Defendants through the alternative mechanism of overseas delivery with return receipt. "Plaintiffs now seek the entry of an order authorizing service by international courier through the clerk of the district court, as authorized by and in compliance with Fed. R. Civ. P. $4(\mathrm{~h})(2)^{3}$ and $4(\mathrm{f})(2)(\mathrm{C})(\mathrm{ii})$." $(05-\mathrm{cv}-$ 01267-WSD - Docket Entry \#3, Plaintiffs' Motion for Service through Alternative Means - p. 3).
- On March 3, 2006, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama entered an identical order approving of Plaintiffs' request to serve Defendants through the alternative mechanism of overseas delivery with return receipt.
- On March 7, 2006, the Complaint, Summons and consent to proceed before a Magistrate Judge were sent from the clerk's office of the Northern District of Alabama to Kuwait in Plaintiffs' prepaid Federal Express International Air Envelope, marked airbill \#8546 54474490. The clerk noted such on the docket.

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- On March 10,2006 , the Complaint, Summons and consent to proceed before a Magistrate Judge were sent from the clerk's office of the Northern District of Georgia to Kuwait in Plaintiffs' prepaid Federal Express International Air Envelope, marked airbill \#8546 54474479. The clerk noted such on the docket.
- On March 12, 2006, the Federal Express mailer airbill \#8546 5447 4490 arrived at KGL. The package was accepted and signed for by a receptionist named Miriam. Then the package was returned to the driver and refused.
- Federal Express returned on March 14 to attempt another delivery. Saeed Dashti, KGL's Chairman and Managing Director, signed for the package, opened it and after reading the papers, which included an Arabic translation, returned it to the courier. Federal Express records note that the package was opened by KGL before it was refused and returned to the driver. (See Exhibit 1 - April 13, 2006 letter from Federal Express).
- Federal Express International Air Envelope, marked airbill \#8546 54474479 arrived at KGL on March 15, 2006. By March 15, K.GL had been forewarned by the earlier attempted delivery of Federal

Express International Air Envelope, marked airbill \#8546 54474490. Najwa, Mr. Dashti's secretary, refused the package marked \#8546 5447 4479. Najwa refused the delivery with the excuse that Saeed Dashti was not in the office. Najwa told the courier KGL would contact him when Mr. Dashti was in the office. KGL never contacted the courier. (See Exhibit 2-April 6, 2006 letter from Federal Express).

- Both Federal Express International Air Envelopes have been returned to the Perles Law Firm, PC. Federal Express mailer airbill \#8546 54474490 arrived opened, exactly as Federal Express had described it, while Federal Express mailer airbill \#8546 54474479 remained sealed.


## MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT

 OF PLAINTIFFS' REQUEST FOR AN ORDERKGL can not thwart service by simply returning the summons and complaint to the courier service after KGL's Chairman and Managing Director accepted the papers and signed the courier service's form that serves as proof of delivery and return receipt. Service is valid. KGL's subsequent attempt to invalidate service by returning the summons and
complaint to the courier service is futile. Plaintiffs have complied with the Court's February 10,2006 order granting Plaintiffs the right to proceed to serve Defendants via an international mailer with return receipt under Federal Rule 4(f)(2)(C)(ii).

The service of process in this case meets the explicit requirements of the Federal Rules. Federal Rule $4(f)(2)(C)(i i)$ provides for international service in "any form of mail requiring a signed receipt, to be addressed and dispatched by the clerk of the court to the party to be served". The literal rule therefore does not require anything beyond the court dispatch of the documents and the verification of their delivery by a signed return receipt. ${ }^{4}$ "Where the defendant receives actual notice and the plaintiff makes a good faith effort to serve the defendant pursuant to the federal rule, service of process has been effective." Ali v. Mid-Atlantic Settlement Servs., 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 582 at *8 (D.D.C. 2006) (citing Frank Keevan \& Son, Inc. v. Callier Steel Pipe \& Tube, Inc., 107 F.R.D. 665, 671 (S.D. Fla. 1985)). The Clerk of the Court dispatched the complaint and summons in this case, (05-cv-01267-WSD - Docket entry - "Remark", noted March 10, 2006), and

[^21]6

Plaintiffs have provided evidence of the signed return receipt (See Exhibit 1

- April 13, 2006 letter from Federal Express). Plaintiffs have complied with every requirement listed by Rule $4(f)(2)(C)(i i)$.

Once Plaintiffs have complied with the requirements of Federal Rule
4 , their obligations have been fulfilled. The defendant can not retroactively
cancel the effect of the service. In Beech Aircraft Corp. v. National
Aviation Underwriters, the agents of the defendant corporation deliberately
avoided several attempts to serve process. 1984 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 24862 at
*20-23 (D. Kan. 1984). After the defendants' secretary threw the papers
back into the car of the process server, he tied them to the fence of the
secretary's house. Id. at 22.
Since she [the secretary] was the right person, and in the right place, and did actually receive the papers, service ought not be defeated because of her transparent attempts to evade it. As Wright \& Miller put it: If defendant attempts to evade service or refuses to accept delivery after being informed by the process server of the nature of the papers, it is usually sufficient for the Marshal to touch the party to be served with the papers and leave them in his presence or, if a touching is impossible, simply to leave them in defendant's physical proximity. It is not crucial in these circumstances that defendant does not take the papers into his custody. Since this procedure satisfies the objective of giving notice to the party to be served, it seems to be entirely sufficient to satisfy [the Federal Rules]. 4 Wright \& Miller, Federal Practice \& Procedure § 1095, at 362. It strikes the Court that the basis for this rule is pragmatic: if a person lies about who she is and refuses to accept service, how could one
possibly serve her? Simply said, Flight Technology and the Davies, its principals, were properly served since Maureen Davies, the wife of William Davies and also the secretary of the corporation, was properly served at the Davies house.

Id. at *20-24 (emphasis added). The Beech Aircraft Corp, plaintiffs met the service requirements of the applicable rule and the evasive and disruptive tactics employed by the defendants during and after the service had been effected could not retroactively cancel the service.

In our case, Saeed Dashti, the Chairman and Managing Director of KGL, was the correct person to serve, and he accepted the papers, signed for them on the return receipt form that serves as proof of delivery and reviewed the papers. Service ought not be defeated because of his subsequent, transparent attempts to evade it by returning the complaint and summons.

Plaintiffs arranged for the complaint and summons to be placed in the hands of the Chairman, this -- combined with the Chairman's signature on the return receipt -- created effective service. See Fed. R. Civ. P.
$4(f)(2)(C)(i i)$. It is enough that the papers were put into the Chairman's
hands. "If the defendant attempts to evade service or refuses to accept delivery after being informed by the process server of the nature of the papers, it usually is sufficient for the process server . . . simply to leave them in the defendant's physical proximity' . . [n]umerous federal courts have
applied this principle and held personal service to be sufficient in the absence of in-hand delivery." Gambone v. Lite-Rock Drywall Corp., 2005 U.S. App. LEXIS 102 at *3 (3d Cir. 2005) (quoting from 4A Charles Alan Wright \& Arthur R. Miller et al., Federal Practice and Procedure § 1095 (3d ed. 2002)). The summons and complaint were both in the physical proximity of the Chairman -- in his hands for his review.

The suspicious behavior of Najwa, the Chairman's secretary, on March 15, 2006, further attests to KGL's knowledge of the contents of the mailers and their attempts to derail service. Ali v. Mid-Atlantic Settlement Servs., 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 582 at *8-9 (D.D.C. 2006 ) ("Good faith efforts at service are effective particularly where the defendant has engaged in evasion, deception, or trickery to avoid being served."). On March 15, Najwa refused delivery of one of the international mailers and told the courier she could not accept service because the Chairman was not in his office. There is no multi-national corporation that could refuse to accept international mailers for their chairman and managing director unless he was in the office to personally take receipt, without compromising their business. KGL is not an insignificant corporation. According to its website, KGL's market capitalization is over 1 billion USD, it is traded on the Kuwaiti stock
exchange, and employs over 5000 employees. ${ }^{5}$ Najwa's refusal to take delivery of the mailers because the Chairman was out of the office is at best, extremely suspect.

The critical determination under Federal Rule 4( $(\mathrm{f}(2)$ (C)(ii) is whether the defendant signs for and receives the summons and complaint, not what the defendant does with it afterward. To be sure, the Chairman eventually returned the papers to the courier, which resulted in the return of the papers to Washington, D.C. KGL continually refused delivery of the papers thereafter. This point however should not distinguish this case from the decisions recited above. Those decisions held the process server need only leave the papers with the defendant once the defendant is aware of their content. Gambone, 2005 U.S. App. LEXIS 102 at *3. The defendants in the decisions above could simply have thrown the papers in the fire without examining them after the process server left. That situation would not materially differ from this case where the Chairman became aware of the papers' content, by examining them, and then rid himself of the papers. To find service has not been affected would be to reward KGL's evasion and trickery. ". . . [A] defendant should not be able to defeat service simply by
${ }^{5}$ Kuwait \& Gulf Link Company, http://www.kglq8.com/welcome.htm (last visited May 3, 2006).
refusing to accept the papers or by instructing others to reject service."
Gambone v. Lite-Rock Drywall Corp., 2003 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 13916 at.*9
(D. Pa. 2003) (affirmed by Gambone v. Lite-Rock Drywall Corp., 2005 U.S.

App. LEXIS 102 at *3 (3d Cir. 2005)). The Chairman and Managing
Director, an appropriate officer of KGL, received the papers, signed for them, reviewed them, and at that point service was effective. What the

Chairman did with the papers after that point could not retroactively thwart service, which had already been achieved.

The Defendants' return of the documents after viewing them should not be an obstacle to effective service. "The intent of the Rule [4] 'was motivated by a concern that defendants be assured of actual notice of the pendency of a lawsuit, not by a desire to impose rigid formalities to be followed strictly on pain of a finding of defective service." A.I.M. International, Inc. v. Battenfeld Extrusions Systems, Inc., 116 F.R.D. 633, 638 (N.D. Ga. 1987) (citing to Perkin Elmer v. Trans Med. Airways, S.A.L., 107 F.R.D. 55, 58-59 (E.D.N.Y. 1985)). The Chairman of KGL received the service of process, signed for it and opened the package.

## CONCLUSION

Plaintiffs therefore respectfully request the Court enter an order that valid service on Defendant KGL has been perfected.

Dated: June 20, 2006


## CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL RULE 5.1B

I hereby certify that the MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF
MOTION FOR ORDER REGARDING SERVICE OF PROCESS has
been prepared using one of the font and point selections approved by the
Court in Local Rule 5.1B, N.D. Ga. Plaintiffs prepared this document using
Times New Roman 14 point font.

Dated: June 20, 2006
Respectfully submitted,
/s/Steven R. Perles Steven R. Perles
Pro Hac Vice
D.C. Bar No. 326975

Perles Law Firm, PC
$114619^{\text {th }}$ St., NW
$5^{\text {th }}$ Floor
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 955-9055
(202) 955-3806 (Fax)

Email sperles@perleslaw.com

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA ATLANTA DIVISION 

## DOMINIC F. BARAGONA, et al.,

Plaintiffs,
v.

KUWAIT GULF LINK
TRANSPORT COMPANY, et al.,
Defendants.

ORDER
This matter is before the Court on Plaintiffs' Motion for Order Regarding Service of Process ("Motion") [9]. In the Motion, Plaintiffs set forth the steps they have taken to serve Defendant Kuwait Gulf Link Transport Company ("Kuwait Gulf')' in this action. The Kuwaiti government has failed to serve the Complaint in this action pursuant to the Hague Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents, as provided under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure

[^22]4(f)(1). Accordingly, Plaintiffs requested to effect service pursuant to Rule 4(h)(2).
On February 10, 2006, this Court entered its Order approving Plaintiffs' request to
serve Defendants through the altemative service process allowed under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure $4(\mathrm{~h})(2)$ and $4(\mathrm{f})(2)(\mathrm{C})(\mathrm{ii})$. Following entry of the Court's February 10, 2006 Order, on March 10, 2006, the Summons, Complaint and Consent to Proceed before a Magistrate Judge (the "Pleadings") were sent by the Clerk of Court in this district to Kuwait using the Federal Express ("FedEx") International Air Envelope Service. FedEx was responsible for delivering the Pleadings to Kuwait Gulf. The information submitted in support of the Motion indicates the Pleadings were tendered to an individual at Kuwait Gulf in Kuwait on March 14, 2006. Specifically, the Motion supports that the Pleadings were accepted, opened and reviewed by Saeed Dashti, Kuwait Gulf's Vice Chairman and Managing Director, who, after his review, refused the Pleadings and returned them to the driver. ${ }^{2}$

[^23]2

Based on the Motion and it appearing to the Court that service has been made on Kuwait Gulf by service on its Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Saeed Dashti, ${ }^{3}$

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Plaintiffs' Motion for Order Regarding
Service of Process ("Motion") [9] is GRANTED.
SO ORDERED this 19th day of July, 2006.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Winime } \frac{1}{2 / 2} \\
& \text { UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE }
\end{aligned}
$$

[^24]
## FedEx. <br> Express

VIA FACSIMILE

April 6,2006

Mr. Edward McCallister
The Perles Law Firm
$114619^{\text {th }}$ Street NW, $5^{\text {th }}$ Floor
Washington, DC 20036
Facsimile 202-955-3806
Dear Mr. MeCallister:
This is in follow up to ny letter of March 23, 2006, regarding your March 11 shipment to Mr . Saeed Dashti, with Kuwah and Gulf Link Transport in Shuwarkh, Kuwait. The shipment traveled on air waybil 854654474479 .

An unsaccessful delivery attempt was recorded at 11:30 AM on March 15, at which time Mr. Dashti's secretary, Najwa, refused the delivery, advising the courier that the consignee was not in the office and that the consignee would contact FediEx when be returned. The shipment was returned to the sender on March 30 because the reciplent had not contacied us to provide delivery instructions. It was returned on air waybill 650939586314 , with dalivery completed on April 3.

We appreciate your business and hope that this information is helpful.
Sincerely,

## Omelfo lonanom <br> Janetta Hooper

Customer Relations
jh/253360
*revised letter of 032306
turranx Patadian


## FedEx.

## VIA FACSIMILE

Aprll 13, 2006

Mr. Edward McCallister
The Peries Law Firm
$114619^{m}$ Street NW, $5^{\text {th }}$ Fioor
Washington, DC 20035
Facsimile ${ }^{2} 202$-955-3806
Dear Mr. McCallister:
This correspondence concerns your March 9, 2006 shipment to Mr. Saeed Dashti, with Kuwalt and Gull Link Transport in Safat, Kuwait. The shipment traveled on alr waybill B54654474490.

This package was dellvered at 10:55 AM on March 12, at which tlme the courler documented that Marlam, at the receptionistfront desk area, had signed for receipt of the shipment. At 10:59 AM on the $12^{\text {th }}$, the shipment was returned to cur courier, and he noted in the tracking file that the shipmont was rafused end that It was an unclammed package. The parcel was dellvered again at 11:00 AM on March 14, at which time the package. The parcel was delvered again at 11:00 AM on Marche 14, at which time the
courier entered comments that Saeed Dashty, in shipping and recelving, signed for the courier entered comments that Sazed Dashty, in shipping and recelving, signed for the
stilpment. At 11:02 AMi on the $14^{\text {min }}$, the package was given back to the courier, and he shlipment. At $11: 02$ AM on the $14^{\circ \pi}$, the package w
was advised that the shipment was "nol for him".
The parcel was returned to our office in Kuwait Clly and placed in the area designated for packages requiting additionai research. On March 27, our agent in Kuwail City updated the tracking record with a code deslonating package damage. Our agent clarified that this code was used to reflect that the parcel had been opened by the consignee before it was retumed to our courter. Also on March 27, our employee entered a selivery exception scan in the tracking record that reflected the reciplent's refusal of the shlpment. The parcel wes returned to the sender on March 30 , on alr waybill 650939586314 , and was delivered on April 3 .

If you should require addllional information or assistance with this matter, please contact Camilla Mathows, the tracing speciallist assigned to this case, st 1-800-247-4747, Camila Malthows, the racing specialist assigned io this case, at 1-800-247-4747,
extersion $344-3069$. Ms. Mathews is famillar with the tracking file and will be able to extenilon $344-3069$. Ms. Mathews is fam willar with the tracking
provide the most current data associated with the shipment.

We appreclate your business and hope that this information is helpful.
Sincerely,
Onello fooperz
$O$ Janetta Hooper
Customer Reiations

## $\mathrm{j} / 254144$

LO/LO LOG*ON 70 : 21 90, £L/カO


## EXHIBIT 3

HCOGR-27 Feb 09-51



Ocrober 18, 2006

Mr. Brian A. Persico
Chief, Procurement Fraud Branch
Departinem of the Arny
United Staiss Amy
Legal Services Agency
901 North Swart StreetArlington, VA 22202-1837

Dear Mr Persico:

RE: Show Cause Letter, Dated September 22, 2006

Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company ("SGL") has received the abovereferenced tetter requesting KGL to show cause why the U.S. Army shoutd not consider debarment proceedings against KGL and Mr. Saeed Esmail Dashti ("Mr. Dashi"). This response is subwitted on behalf of both KGiL and Mr. Dashti.

KGL and Mr. Dashti strongly disagree with allegations made by the plaintiffs lawyers in connedion with the divil lawstil fled by the representatives of LTC. Dominic R Batagont. KoL and Mr. Dasthti have neither failed to aceept lawful servies of process nor have taken steps io fustate the lawlut delivery of court documents in conmention wilh tha hawstit.

As an intial mater, KGL and Mc, Dashli and providing a response to the abo referned leter withou prejudice to or waiver of any legat defense in comection wht the lawsuit. If addition, KCh. would like to assure your offte of its full cooperation and sappon for the government of the United States of America.



Contrary to what the legal counsel for the plaintilfs have represented to the Coun and apparently to your office, KGL has not refused to accepl lawful service of process. Ninder Kuwaiti law, all service of process must nccur through the Kuwait Ministry of Justice. According to a letter from the Kavait Ministry of Justice, dated June 28, 2006 (a copy of the letter in both Arabic and English are included as Aftachment 1), the plainiffs' first almmpt to serve the documents faited because the plaintifs supplied an incorrea name for the company when submining translated copiss of the cour documents to the Ministry of lustice as required by the Kuwati Law.

The planiffs corrected their mistake and provided the Ministry of Justice with revised documents. In accordance with Kuwaiti haw; the Ministry of Justiec thereafter served the court documents on KGL aud KGL accepted such documents on or about luly 11,2006 (a copy of the leter in both Atabic and English are included as Attachment 2)

Kuwait law does not recognize service of process by international mail curter. Al service of process must oecur throtgh the Kuwait Ministry of fustice. When adopting the Hague Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extraudicial Docament in Civil or Commercial Matters (the "Convention"). Kuwait objected to and did not adopt Articles 8 and 10 as permitted by individual signateries to the Convention. Ser Convention, Article 10 (sProvited the State of destination dees not object . . . .). Absent such an objection, Article 10 allows judicial documents to be sent. among other mothois. by "postal channels, directly to persons abroad. . . " The State of Kuwair objected to Articte 10 when it enacted Law No. 7 of 2002 In Respect of Approval to toin the Comvention of Serying and Notifying the Instuments Abroad in the Commerctal and Civil lawsuits (a copy of the law in bot Arabic and English are included as Attachment 3). Therciore, the attempi by the plaintifis' to serve the cour documents by inernational mail curtier (e, g. FedEx) was in viotation of Kuwath and international law. While KOL and Mr. Dasiti disagree with he plainiffs' factulallegations made in connection with


their improper attempt to serve the court docunents by intemational mail, Kol. and Mr. Dashi conformed their conduct at all time with applicable international haw as lawfuly adopted by the State of Kuwait. The order by the United States Federal District Cout for the Nothern District of Georgin regarding service of process by international mail carier, which was entered before service of process was bawfully performed under Kuwait law, does not comply with appliable international law as adopted by the Stete of Kuwait.'

In conelusiom, KGL would like to assure your office that KGL , did not frustrate ow deiay the lawful service of the relevant court documents. Should the plaintifis continue to pursue this matter, KGI. intends to assert the proper defenses, as pernited and recognized under United States law, at the appropriate time based on advice of legal connsel. KGL and Mr. Dasiti respectully assert that conforming their conduct to its national and interational law regarding service of process is not a basis wo consider debarment proceedings and request that your office close this matter without any farther action. If your office bas any further questions, please contact Mr. Richard J. Bednat ((202) 624-2619) at the law firm of Crowell \& Moring LLP, who we have rataned to help close out this matter. fin the meantime, KOL whl continue to suppon the government of the United States of America and its representatives overseas.

Sincerely,


ee: Richand S. Bedmar: Esy.

The plamitits who med their lawsuit in a United States Fodent Distion Court it A abama. We andersiand that the pluintilfs transferred that case to the cout in Georgia vather than replying to the At Whana juthe's sua sponte request to show cause why the casa should not be dismissed for hadi of personal juridiction uver the deferdans.


# Translation <br> Attachment (1) 

## State of Kuwait <br> Ministry of Justice

Date: 28.06.2006
Ref. 146/A/D/Kh
Mr. Ali Musaed Al-Dubaibi, Chancellor, Chief,
General Department of Enforcement

## Dear Sir,

In pursuance of our letters Nos.13/A/D.Kh and 91/A/D/Kh dated 30.01.2006 and 20.07.2006 respectively enclosed with the documents received from the United States of America (Northern Region of Georgia and Alabama) at the request of Pirlis and Edward B. Mester, lawyer (Business Rights Firm) in respect of notifying a Notice of Action to the Defendants, Transportation Gulf Kuwaiti Connection Company and Mr. Mahmoud Mohamed Hussein Sorour at the following address:

Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company owned by Mr. Ismail Ali
Dashti and Co., C.R. No.33203, Civil Information No.3028/10
Business phone No.4849355-4842104, Residence Phone No.
5386833, with its address at Shuwaikh Industrial, Al-Ghazali/ Al-
Jahra Intersection;
Such action was not taken by yourselves for the incorrectness of the Arabic Translation of the Defendant Company's name as indicated in your letter No.1141/2006 dated 18.03.2006

Please be advised that having contacted the requesting authority in the United States, the Ministry found that the correct name of the Defendant Company was "Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company"

Therefore, we return all the enclosures for notifying the Defendant Company, Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company and Mr. Mahmoud

## Translation Attachment (1)

# Mohamed Hussein Sorour again of copy of the enclosed documents. Please return the original to the Ministry after the notification is completed to enable us to return the same to the submitting authority. 

Best regards.

## For/Director,

International Relations Department
(Signed)
Mohamed Abdulla Al_Ansari


# Translation <br> Attachment (2) 

## State of Kuwait <br> Ministry of Justice <br> General Department of Enforcement

Date: 11.07.2006
The Director,
International Relations Department
Dear Sir,
Reference is made to your letter No.146/A/D/Kh dated 28.06.2006 and its enclosures with respect to notifying Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company with the judicial papers received from the United States.

We herewith return to you the enclosures of your letter referred to above after the required action had been taken.

Submitted for information, review and necessary action.
With due respect.
Chief,
General Department of Enforcement

## CC:

Registration Section Notification Section


# Translation Attachment (3) 

Law No. 7 of 2002
In Respect Of Approval To Join the Convention of Serving and Nottifying the Instruments Abroad in the Commercial and Clvil Lowsuits.

- After reviewing the Constitution.
- Parliament agreed on the Law the provision of which is set out below. Aind we approved and passed it.


## First Article

Agreeing on cansing the State of Kuwait join the Convention made in relation to Serving and notifying the instruments abroad in the commercial and civil lawsuits drawn up in Lahai on 15.11.1965 and its complementaxy appendixes the provisions of which are in accordance with this Law, along with an Explanatory Announcement sball be issued in relation to nomination of the Central Pauel haxdling the tasks set forth in Articles 2, 6 and 9, the right of nominating other authorities as per Article 18, concept of third clause of Article 165, objection to adopt methods of service nad sending the documents referred to in both Articles 8 and 10 and make reservation on the second clause of Article (15).

PFB-0055

# Translation Attachment (3) 

## SecondAxtlele

Ministers shall, as far as he/she concerns, put this Law into effect and it shall be applicable as of the date it is published in the Official Gazette.

Amir of Kuwait<br>Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah

Issued at Bayan Palace on: Zul Qaida 21, 1422
Corresponding to: Febmary 3, 2002

PFB-0056













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PFB-0057
HCOGR-27 Feb 09-62


SUBIECT: Intent Not to Recommend Suspension or Debarment
Ahmed Afifi
Director, Legal Affairs
Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company
Shuwaikh Industrial Area, Block A
Building No. 14-3rd
Shuwaikh, Kuwait
Tel; 011-965-888-700
Dear Mr. Afifi:
We have reviewed the information provided to this office in response to our letter dated September 22, 2006. Based upon that response and a review of the information available to us, this office does not intend to recommend suspension or debarment proceedings against Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company ("KGL"). This decision is based on the fact that the initial attempts to serve KGL. with documents regarding a civil matter in the Federal District Court for the Northern District of Georgia were not accomplished in accordance with the procedures for service of process consistent with Kuwait's exercise of reservations to the Hague Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters. These documents were later properly served on KGL via the Kuwaiti Ministry of Justice on 11 July 2006 in a manner consistent with these reservations. Additional delays in service of these documents can be attributed to an improper translation of KGL's corporate name in the service of process documents.

We will continue to monitor the progress of this case in the future and may revisit this determination should additional information come to our attention regarding KGL's present responsibility as a Government contractor. Should you have any questions, you may contact Brian A. Persico, Attorney, Army Procurement Fraud Branch at (703) 696-1545.

Sincerely,


SAMUEL I. ROB
Colonel, U.S. Army
Chief, Contract and Fiscal Law Division
Copy Furnished:
Richard J. Bednar, Esq., Crowell \& Moring LLP

## EXHIBIT 4

HCOGR-27 Feb 09-54

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY UNITED STATES ARMY LEGAL SERVICES AGENGY

01 NORTH STUART STREE
ARLINGTON VA 22202-8837
December 19, 2007
REPLYTO
ATENTION
Contract and Fiscal Law Division
Procurement Fraud Branch
VIA INTERNATIONAL

Ahmed Afifi
Director, Legal Affairs
Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company
Shuwaikh Industrial Area, Block A
Building No. 14-3 ${ }^{\text {td }}$
Shuwaikh, Kuwait
Tel: 011-965-888-700
Subject: Request for Information
Dear Mr. Afifi:

On September 22, 2006, the United States Army Procurement Fraud Branch sent a Show Cause Letter to your company, Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company ("KGL"), for the purpose of determining its present responsibility as a United States Government contractor. Specifically, this letter requested that your company address accusations that it had failed to accept international service of process in a civil matter before the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia regarding the May 19, 2003, death of LTC Dominic R. Baragona, USA (Encl. 1). Subsequently, on October 18, 2006, KGL provided a response detailing the reasons for initial refusal of international service of process in this matter and acknowledged that, notwithstanding prior procedural erors, it actually accepted these docurnents "on or about July 11,2006" (Encl. 2) As a result of this response, and the fact that there was an ongoing civil case in the Northern District of Georgia, on December 15, 2007, the Procurement Fraud Branch determined that a recommendation of suspension or debament was not appropriate at that time (Encl. 3).

On November 26, 2007, the attomey for the Baragona family provided the Procurement Fraud Branch with a copy of the default civil judgment in Donthic F. Baragona, et. al. v. Kuwait Gulf Link Transport Company, et. al, dated November 5, 2007. This default judgment provides for a lump sum award of $\$ 4,907,048,00$ to the Bargona fanily as compensation for the wronght death of LTC Barggona (Encl. 4).

hat 1 provide 1 : Amy Procmement Faud Brumh with infomatio regarding the mamer is which it intands to satisfy the judgment against it o derer by ibe Nort em District of seogia. "k ithas detemined that it interds to appeal the judgnent aganst it, I ask that yo: provde the Proummet F as Branch wit confmation that this is the con any's inemded coust of action. Yalso ask that you clanify the meaning of yotr satemeni in KGL 's October 18 , 2006, response, that "Shotid the plamilfs conime to pursue this mater, KOL intends to assent

the proper defenses, as permitted and recognized under United States law, at the appropriate time based on advice of legal counsel" in light of the default judgment in this matter (Encl. 2).

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) 203.7000 states Government contractors must conduct themselves with the highest degree of integrity and honesty. The purpose of this letter is to solicit your response regarding KGL's knowledge of the above referenced civil judgment and any actions taken by KGL in response to it.

Please respond in writing not later than February 15,2008 , and provide any information that you believe is relevant to this matter. Your submission may include affidavits, certified records, letters, or other documents bearing on this issue. I will consider all timely submissions. All statements made must be true and accurate; false statements are punishable under Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001.

You should address your written submissions to: U.S. Army Legal Services Agency, Procurement Fraud Branch, ATTN: Mr. Brian A. Persico, 901 North Stuart Street, Suite 500, Arlington, Virginia 22203-1837.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Persico at (703) 696-1500.


4 Enclosures:

1) Show Cause Letter, dated 22 Sep 07
2) Show Cause Response Letter, dated 18 Oct 07
3) Intent Not to Reconmend Suspension or Debarment, dated 15 Dec 07
4) Opinion and Order, Dominic F. Baragona, el. al. v. Kuwait Gulf Link Transport Company, et. al., dated 5 Nov 07

Copy Furnished:
Richard J. Bednar, Esq.
Crowell and Moring LLP
1001 Pemsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004-2595

## Enclosure 1


DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY LEGAL SERVICES:AGENGY
901 NORTH STUART STREE
ARLINGTON VA 22202-1837
September 22, 2006
VIA INTERNATIONAL
EXPRESS MAIL

REPYTO
attention or
Procurement Fraud Branch

SUBJECT: Show Cause Letter

## Ahmed Affif

Director, Legal Affairs
Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company
Shuwaikh Industrial Area, Block A
Building No. 14-3rd
Shuwaikh, Kuwait
Tel; 011-965-888-700
Dear Mr. Afif:
This is to advise you that the United States Army is considering Saeed Esmail Dashti and
Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company for debarment from future contracting with agencies of the Executive branch of the United States Govermment under the authority of Federal
Acquisition Regulation (FAR) section 9.406. The FAR is published at Title 48, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1.

The Army is considering this action because of Mr. Dashti's and Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company's alleged failure to accept international service of process in a civil matter before the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia (Encl. 1).
Specifically, Mr. Dashti, acting in his capacity as Chairman and Managing Director of Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company, is accused of purposely taking steps to frustrate delivery of court documents for the sole purpose of avoiding participation in lawsuits brought by the survivors of LTC Dominic R. Baragona. Copies of these documents, along with the determination by the District Court for the Northern District of Georgia that yalid service was made on Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company on March 14, 2006, as well as supporting documents, are attached (Encls. 2,3 and 4),

This conduct has cast doubt on Mr. Dashti's and Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company's present responsibility as a United States Govermment contractor and could provide a basis for debarment of both Mr. Dashti and Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company under the provisions of FAR 9.406. The purpose of this letter is to solicit your response before we make any recommendations to the Army's Suspension and Debarment Official. No recommendation or decision has been made regarding present responsibility at this time.

You may take advantage of this opportunity to demonstrate that Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company is a responsible contractor by responding in writing within thirty calendar days and providing any information you believe is relevant to this matter. Your submission may include affidavits, certified records, letters, or other documents bearing on this issue. We will
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consider all timely submissions. All statements made must be true and accurate; false statements are punishable under Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001.

You should address your written submissions to: U.S. Army Legal Services Agency, Procurement Fraud Branch, ATTN: Brian A. Persico, 901 North Stuart Street, Suite 513, Arlington, Virginia, 22203-1837, USA.

Should you fail to respond to this letter within thirty calendar days of receipt, we will evaluate the case based on the information currently available to us. We may also consider your failure to respond as a factor affecting your present responsibility as a Government contractor.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Persico at 011-1-703-696-1550.
Sincerely,
Chistinus. MeCommas
Christine S. McCommas
Chief, Procurement Fraud Branch
Enclosures:

1) Complaint (with Arabic Translation), Dominic F. Baragona, et. al.
v, Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Co., et. al.
2) Motion Regarding Service of Process, dated June 20, 2006
3) Order Regarding Service of Process, dated July 19, 2006
4) Letters from FEDEX Customer Relations, dated April 6 and 13, 2006

## Enclosure 2



October 18,2006

Mr. Brim A. Persico
Chief, Procuremen Fratd Branch
Dopanment of the Amy
United States Amy
L.egal Servicex Agency

901 North Stuat StreetAntinglon. VA 22202-1837

Dear Mr. Persico:

RE: Show Cause Letter, Dated Septernber 22, 2006

Kuwat and Gulf Limk Tralsport Company ("KGI) hats received the above-referenced leter requescing K GL to show cause why the U.S. Army shoold not consider debarment procecdings ayminst KGL and Mr. Sased Eswail Dashti (eMr. Dashtir), This response is submitted on behalf of both KOL. und Mr. Dashti.

KGL and Mr. Dasbli strongly disugtee with ablegations made by the plantiffs lawyers in connection with the civid lawsuit filed by the pepresemtatives of LTC. Dominic R. Baragona. KGh and Mir. Dashti have neither failed to accept lawful servies of procosi nor have taken steps to frutrate the lawlat delivery of comt doxments an comechion with than lawsuit.

As an inital mater, KGL and Mt. Dashit are providing a response to the above referenced letter withou prejudice to or wher of any fogad defonse in connection with the lawsut. In adthon, KOL. wedalike to assure vour office of its full cosperasion and support for the goverment of the United States of America.



Contrary to what the legal counsel for the plaintiffs have represented to the Court and apparently to your offue, KGL has not refused to accept lawful service of process. Under Kuwait law, all service of process must ncour through the Kuwait Ministry of Hustice. According to a letter hrom the Ktwait Muntry oflustice, dated June 28, 2006 (a) copy of the letter in both Arabic and Engish are included as Athachment 1), the phantiffs' firyt attempt to serve the documents failed because the plaintifs supplied an incorrect mane for the company when subriting tanshted copies of the court docoments to the Ministry of Justice as requifed by the Kuwatit Law.

The plaintiff corrected their mistake and provided the Ministry of Justice with revised decuments. In accordanee with Kirwaiti law, the Ministry of Justice therenfer served the court docments on KGL and KCL accepted such documents on or about hlyly 11, 2006 (a copy of the letter in both Arabic and Engtish are moluded as Atachment 2).

Kuwait law doss not recogrize service of process by international mait curtier, All service of process must occur through dee Kuwail Ministry of Justice. When adopting the Hague Convention on the Service Abrond of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercisl Maters (the "Convention"), Kuwait objected to and did not adopt Aticles 8 and 10 as permitted by individual signotories to the Convention. See Convention, Alricle 10 ("Provided the State of destivation daes not object . . . "). Absern sued an objection, Article 10 allows judicide documents to be sent, among other mellotis, by "postal channels, direetly to persons abroad. . . ." The State of Kuwait objected to Article 10 when it enacted Law No. 7 of 2002 In Respeet of Approval to Join the Convention of Serving and Notifying the lastraments Abroad in the Commerobil and Civil Lawsuits (a copy of the law in both Arathe and Engfish are maluded as Atachment 3). Therefore the atternpt by the plantifs' to serve the cont documents by intemational
 and Mr. Dashla disagrec wits the phantiff' Getual athegations made in connection with
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their improper attempt to serve the coutt docmbots by international mail, KCh. and Mr. Dashti conformed their conduct at all time with applicable international law as fawfully adopted by the State of Kuwait. The oxder by the United States Federal District Cant for the Nomhem District of Georgis megarding setvice of process by international mail cartier, which was entered bafore service of process was lawfilly perfomed noder: Kuwait how, does not comply with applicable intenational latw as adopted by the State of Kuwait.'
 the lawful service of the relevan coun docmmens. Shoud the plaintiffs contime to pursuc the matter, Koh intends to assent the proper defenses, as pentited and recognized under United States law, at the approptiate time based on advice of legat. counsel. KGL and Mr. Dashti respectity asvert that conforming the fonduct to its hational and internatonal law regading service of process is not a basis to consider dobament procedings and request that your offios close this matter without any forther action. If your office has any further questions, please contact Mr, Richand I. Bednar ( 202 ) 324 -2619) at the faw firm of Crowell \& Moring LIJP, who we have retained to belp close out this matter. In the memtime, KGL well continue to support the govenment of the United States of America and its representutives overseas,

Sincerely,
Nr. Ahmed AtM,
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 over the defordants.

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## Enclosure 3



Repryo
Contract and Fiscal Law Division
Procurement Fraud Branch
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NITED STATES ARMYY LEGAL SERVICES AGENCY
909 NORTH STUART STREET
ARLINGTON VA $22202-1837$
December 15, 2006

## VIA international EXPRESS MAIL

## SUBJECT: Intent Not to Recommend Suspension or Debarment

Ahmed Afifi
Director, Legal Affairs
Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company
Shuwaikh Industrial Area, Block A
Building No. 14-3rd
Shuwaikh, Kuwait
Tel: 011-965-888-700
Dear Mr. Afifi:
We have reviewed the information provided to this office in response to our letter dated September 22, 2006. Based upon that response and a review of the information available to us, this office does not intend to recommend suspension or debarment proceedings against Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company ("KGL"). This decision is based on the fact that the initial attempts to serve KGL with documents regarding a civil matter in the Federal District Court for the Northern District of Georgia were not accomplished in accordance with the procedures for service of process consistent with Kuwait's exercise of reservations to the Hague Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters. These documents were later properly served on KGL via the Kuwaiti Ministry of Justice on 11 July 2006 in a manner consistent with these reservations. Additional delays in service of these documents can be attributed to an improper translation of KGL's corporate name in the service of process documents.

We will continue to monitor the progress of this case in the future and may revisit this determination should additional information come to our attention regarding KGL's present responsibility as a Government contractor. Should you have any questions, you may contact Brian A. Persico, Attorney, Army Procurement Fraud Branch at (703) 696-1545.

Sincerely,


SAMUEL J. ROB
Colonel, U.S. Army
Chief, Contract and Fiscal Law Division
Copy Fumished:
Richard J. Bednar, Esq., Crowell \& Moring LLP

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## Enclosure 4

## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA atlanta division

## DOMINIC F. BARAGONA, et al.,

Plaintiffs,
v.

1:05-cy-1267-WSD
KUWAIT GULF LINK
TRANSPORT COMPANY, et al,
Defendants.

## OPINION AND ORDER

This matter is before the Court on Plaintiffs' Motion for Order Allowing the Submission of Affidavits [29] and Plaintiffs' Memorandum Regarding the Iraqi

Law Report [36]. ${ }^{1}$

## 1. BACKGROUND

This is a tort action brought by the parents of Lieutenant Colonel Dominic F. Baragona ("Lt. Col. Baragona"), seeking damages arising from the death of their son, who was killed in an automobile accident in Iraq while serving as an officer in the United States Army. The Defendants are Kuwait Gulf Link Transport

Company ("KGL") and Mahmoud Muhammed Hessain Serour ("Serour"). The

[^25]accident occurred when the Army Humvee in which Lt. Col. Baragona was a passenger collided with a truck owned by KGL and driven by Serour, a KGL employee.

Plaintiffs have asserted an action for wrongful death based on the accident. This Court has determined in prior orders that it has subject matter jurisdiction over the action, and personal jurisdiction over Defendant KGL. At a hearing held on April 25, 2007, Plaintiffs presented evidence and expert testimony on damages. In an order entered on July 16, 2007 ("July 16 Order"), the Court required Plaintiffs to submit briefing on the laws of Iraq as they relate to this case. The Court's purpose was to determine: (i) whether, under Georgia's conflicts of law rules, Georgia or Iraqi law applies to this action; (ii) whether, under the applicable law, Plaintiffs stated a viable cause of action sufficient to obtain default judgment; and (iii) what measure of damages, if any, is appropriate.

In light of the unique requirements of obtaining Arabic translation services and expert opinions on Iraqi law, the Court granted Plaintiffs a substantial amount of time to complete this briefing. On October 11, 2007, Plaintiffs filed the memorandum requested by the Court. Plaintiffs obtained the aid of Judge Raid Juhi Hamadi Al-Saedi, a former Iraqi judge, and Dr. Abdullah F. Ansary, a Saudi
professor of law with degrees from Harvard and the University of Virginia. Judge
Al-Saedi and Dr. Ansary jointly drafted an expert report on Iraqi law, which
Plaintiffs submitted pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 44.1. ${ }^{2}$ After reviewing this report, and for the reasons set forth below, the Court finds: (i) Iraqi law applies to this case; (ii) Plaintiffs' complaint states a cause of action under Iraqi law; and (iii) Plaintiffs are entitled to damages of $\$ 4,907,048$ under Iraqi law.

The Court grants default judgment in this amount.

## II. DISCUSSION

## A. Georgia's Conflicts Rules

Federal courts sitting in diversity apply the forum state's choice-of-law principles. Klaxon Co. y. Stentor Elec. Mfg. Co., 313 U.S. 487 (1941). Under

Georgia law, "the lex loci delicti determines the substantive rights of the parties." Bisdon Enterprises, Inc. V. Colemill Enterprises, Inc, 324 S.E. $2 \mathrm{~d} 738,740$ (Ga. Ct.

App. 1984). Georgia's lex loci rule is subject to a public policy exception if the harm occurred in a foreign state and the foreigu state's rule "[c]ontravenes our

[^26]established public policy, or the recognized standards of civilization and good morals . . " Alexander y. General Motors Corp., 466 S.E.2d 607, 609 (Ga. Ct. App. 1995), rev'd on other grounds at 478 S.E. 2 d 123 (Ga. 1996). The public policy exception applies where "the foreign statute is designed to redress an injury, but prescribes a form of redress which is radically dissimilar to anything existing in our own system of jurisprudence." Id. If the otherwise applicable forum law violates Georgia public policy, Georgia applies its own law. Id.

## B. Georgia and lragi Law at the Time of the Accident

The accident in which Lt. Col. Baragona died occurred on May 19, 2003, in Iraq. Because Iraq is the place of the harm, Iraqi law govems under Georgia conflicts law unless it contravenes Georgia public policy. The Court has evaluated four principles of law that are necessary to determine the outcome in this case: liability for negligence resulting in wrongful death; respondeat superior; standing; and wrongful death damages. The Court concludes that Iraqi law does not contravene Georgia public policy in any of these areas, Iraqi law thus applies.

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## 1. Liability for Negligence Resulting in Wrongful Death

Georgia law provides for recovery for wrongful death caused by negligence.
O.C.G.A. § 51-4-1. Recovery for wrongful death is available "in all cases in which the death of a human being results from a crime, [or] from criminal or other negligence . . . " Id (emphasis added). This includes cases where the wrongful death is caused by negligent unsafe driving. See, e.g., Banks v . AJC Intern. Inc, 643 S.E. 2 d 780 (Ga. Ct. App. 2007).

Iraqi law similarly provides for a cause of action for wrongful death. Article 203 of the Iraqi Civil Law provides, " i ]n case of murder and in case of death resulting from wounds or any other injurious acts renders the perpetrator liable to pay compensation to the dependant of the victim who have been deprived sustenance on account of the murder or death." Negligent unsafe driving is a source of injury that can give rise to a cause of action if it results in harm. Iraqi Civil Code No. 40, Article 227, provides that "every person has the right of passage on the public road provided he (observes) the safety (precautions) so that he will not cause injury to a third party or to himself in the cases where (safety) precautions may be taken."

## Plaintiffs allege that Serour violated Lt. Col. Baragona's right of safe

 passage on a public road by negligent driving that ultimately resulted in Lt. Col. Baragona's death. Because Serour's negligence resulted in death, a cause of action exists under Iraqi law. Iraqi law on this issue is thus not inconsistent with Georgia public policy.
## 2. Respondeat Superior

Georgia law provides for employer liability if an employee, acting within the scope of his employment, negligently causes harm in an auto accident. Bedford v . Awod, 545 S.E. 2 d 162 (Ga. Ct. App. 2001). Respondeat superior liability is presumed if the employer owns the vehicle involved in the collision. Id.

Iraqi law provides for vicarious liability in master-servant relationships. The Iraqi Court of Cassations has held that "every person who exploits an industrial or commercial enterprise [is] responsible for the damage (injury) caused by their employee if the injury resulted from an encroachment committed by them in the course of their service." Decision 33, Court of Cassations, January 27, 1982 (Iraq). This principle is also embodied in Article 219 of the Iraqi Civil Code. The complaint alleges that a KGL employee, in the course of his service to KGL, caused Li. Col. Baragona's death. Georgia and Iraqi law both provide for 6
respondeat superior liability under the facts present in the complaint: Iraqi law on this issue is not inconsistent with Georgia public policy.
3. Standing

Under Georgia law, the parents of an aduit child have standing to bring a wrongful death action "iiff the deceased child does not leave a spouse or child .... . O.C.G.A. § 19-7-1(c)(2).

Under Iraqi law, a civil action for wrongful death may be brought by any heirs of the decedent. Article 5 of the Iraqi Code of Civil Procedure states, "[i]t is legally valid that one of the heirs can be an adversary in the lawsuit for ... the dead . . . ." Article 89 of the Iraqi Law of Personal Status defines parents as "heirs."

Georgia and Iraqi law both provide for standing on the part of the Plaintiffs in this case. Iraqi law on this issue is not inconsistent with Georgia public policy.

## 4. Wrongful Death Damages

Under Georgia law, damages for wrongful death can be recovered in the amount of "the full value of the life of the child." O.C.G.A. § 19-7-1(c)(1). The full value of the wrongfully ended life "consists of both the economic value of the deceased's normal life expectancy as determined by his expected lifetime
earnings," as well as intangible non-economic factors "incapable of exact proof," or even exact definition. Dept. of Human Resources y. Johnson, 592 S.E.2d 124,

131 (Ga. Ct. App. 2003) (quotation and citation omitted).
Under Iraqi law, Article 207 of the Iraqi Civil Code requires the court to determine damages "commensurately with the injury and the loss of gain sustained by the victim provided that the same was a natural result of the unlawful act. . . . Deprivation from (loss of benefits of things will be included in the estimation of damages and the liability may cover the wage (fee/remuneration)." (PIs. Mem, at 7.) Assessing wrongful death damages under Iraqi law "involves a purely computational approach, related to the victim's present and future career, work, and profits. Estimates are based on the deceased person's age, as well as on work and economic variables that could affect his social and economic progress," as well as "additional intangible value" (e.g., various positive attributes and hopes for the victims future." (Pls. Mem. at 7-8.) Under Article 133 of the Iraqi (Prove) Law (No. 107) of 1979, the Court may, but is not required to, rely on expert opinions in estimating damages. Article 209 of the Iraqi Civil Code states that the Court must also "deternine the method of payment of damages."

Georgia and Iraqi law provide for similar, if not identical, measures of
damages in wrongful death suits. Georgia's "full value of the life of the decedent" standard is substantially similar in result to the Iraqi standard of "loss of gain sustained by the victim." Both theories consist primarily of two components: (i) a calculation of an economic value of the victim based on his age, life expectancy, qualifications, and career; and (ii) an estimation of "intangible value." Although the briefing provided suggests that Georgia's law of damages might not be based on precisely the same theory as the Iraqi law of damages, the Court is satisfied that damages in this case would be calculated in a substantially similar manner under either set of laws. Iraqi law on this issue is thus not inconsistent with Georgia public policy.

## C. Damages

In default proceedings, "damages may be awarded only if the record adequately reflects the basis for award via a hearing or demonstration by detailed affidavits establishing the necessary facts." Adolph Coors Co. Y. Movement Against Racism and the Klan, 777 F. $2 \mathrm{~d} 1538,1544$ (11th Cir. 1985) (quotation and citation omitted). A hearing is required if the damages claimed are not readily ascertainable from the pleadings and the record. United Artists Corp. V. Freeman, 605 F.2d 854, 857 (5th Cir. 1979).

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On April 25, 2007, the Court held a hearing on damages in this case. At that . hearing, Plaintiffs presented expert reports and testimony on the loss sustained as a result of Lt. Col. Baragona's death. At the damages hearing, Plaintiffs provided testimony by Dr. Charles Sodikoff, an expert on career management, and Pia Giralamo, a statistician and economist. The testimony at the hearing established the total economic loss from Lt. Col. Baragona's death to be in the range between $\$ 3,907,048$ to $\$ 8,097,326$. The expert reports and testimony presumed that L. Col. Baragona would have a life expectancy of 78 years, and would wotk until age 65.

The economic damage amount of $\$ 3,907,048$ was arrived at by assuming that Lt. Col. Baragona's income would remain consistent with his military salary until his retirement. The economic damage amount of $\$ 8,097,326$ was arrived at by assuming that Lt. Col. Baragona would enter the private sector in 2009 at a salary of approximately $\$ 144,000$ per year, and would enjoy salary increases to $\$ 273,000$ per year by 2014 and $\$ 800,000$ per year by 2019. ${ }^{3}$ The Court finds that the estimates of Lt. Col. Baragona's potential salary in the private sector used to

[^27]calculate the higher damages figure is based primarily on speculation. Plaintiffs have not presented sufficient evidence for the Court to find that Lt. Col. Baragona would be likely to obtain a six-figure salary immediately upon leaving the military.

Having carefully considered the expert reports and testimony in this case, the Court finds that the record supports a computation of damages based on the "victim's present and future career, work, and profits" and "additional intangible value" in the amount of $\$ 4,907,048$.
III. CONCLUSION

Accordingly,
TT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Plaintiffs Motion for Order Allowing the Submission of Affidavits [29] is GRANTED.

The Court enters JUDGMENT in the amount of $\$ 4,907,048$, to be paid by KGL in a single lump payment.

## SO ORDERED this 5 th day of November, 2007.

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## EXHIBIT 5



Febiuary 12,2008
Brian A. Persico, Esq.
U.S. Army Legal Servlces Agency

Procuremient Fraud Branch
901 North Stuart Street, Sulte 500
Alington, Virginia 22203-1837

## Re: Army Request for Information from Kuwalt \& Gulf Link Transport Company (KGL//Baragona Matter

Dear Mr. Persico:
We are pleased to respond to Mr. Kittel's December 19, 2007 letter, even though we do not understand the basis of official Army Procurement Fraud Division Interest in this litgation between two private parties regarding a fatal highway accident in Iraq.

As we explained to you in our October 18,2008 letter, we strongly disagree with the plaintiff's allegations in the civil suit flled. As we further explained, the plaintiff's lawyers attempted service of process on our company in Kuwait by international mail carrier, but Kuwaitt law does not recognize service of process by international mall as valld service. Later, the plaintiffs did follow Kuwaitt law and provided the Ministry of Justice with revised documents. The Ministry of Justica theneafter served the court documents on our company and our company accepted such documents on or about July 11,2006 . Thus, with respect to service of process and in all respects thereatter, KGL. has acted fully within the requirements of Kuwaitt law. However, by the time our company was property served under Kuwaltl law, the Federal court in Georgia had already found - incorrectly - that the prior attempt at service of process was sufficient and it was too late for KGL to make an appearance to contest jurisdiction.

The Plaintiffs chose to file this action not In Kuwait, but in the State of Georgla, which is a foreign juriscletion in which KGL has no business, no assets, no agents and no business ties. Nelther KGL nor any of its agents have ever visited Georgla. The Plaintiffs could have sued in Kuwait, and KGL. would have defended itself on the merits there. While it is very tragic that Lieutenant Colonel Baragona died in the highway

accident, thls case could have been lilgated as an ordinary auto accident in the place where KGL is located.

Because the plaintiffs chose to bring suit in a foreign venue in clrcumstances where the court lacks personal jurisdiction over the defendant, any judginent against the defendant is vold. For the court to require the defendant to go to Georgia to defend Itself would be offensive to the fundamental nolion of falr play and substantial justice. Therefore, KGL has instructed its attomeys to file a motion to vacate the defaut fudgment, and thls is what was meant in the letter dated $18^{\circ}$ Oct 2006, which is the clariflcation requested in your letter. Enclosed is a copy of that motion and the supporting memorandum of law.

The record is unessailable that KGL' at all times in this matter has acted within the law and with the highest integrity. We believe there is no basis for the Army Procurement Fraud Division to insert liself into this private litgation. We trust that the Information provided will enable the Procurement Fraud Division to conclude its interest in this matter.


هالتف + Tal.: 888700-2240019 - Fax: 4845926 - P.O. Box: 24565 Salat - 13106 Kuwaft www.kglq8.com

## EXHIBIT 6

HCOGR-27 Feb 09-92

PERLES LAW FIRM PC<br>114619 Th Street, NW<br>FIFTH FLOOR<br>WASHINGTON, DC 20036<br>202.955 .9055<br>FAX: 202.955 .3806<br>www.perleslaw.com

*June 20, 2008 :

## VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Brian Persico
United States Legal Services Agency
Procurement Fraud Branch
901 North Stuart Street
Room 513
Arlington, VA 22203-1837
RE: Baragona v. Kuwait Gulf. Link \& Transport Company
Brian:
The United States Federal Court for the Northern District of Georgia issued an important order on June 18, 2008 in the proceeding initiated by the parents of Lt. Col. Baragona, Jr., deceased, against KGL on November 5, 2007. We have included a copy for your records.

The order deferred KGL's motion to vacate the final judgment to allow the parties to engage in jurisdictional discovery on the issue of jurisdiction, requires KGL to post a bond equal to the amount of the final judgment and sets forth a schedule for discovery culminating in an October 31, 2008 evidentiary hearing. This turn in the case was caused by the Court's lack of patience with KGL's bad faith conduct, which compelled the bond requirement. A bond requirement is highly unusual in the context of a motion to vacate as we have in this case. The Court ordered the placement of the bond as a result of KGL's "troubling" conduct in the proceeding. (Order at p. 20). KGL's behavior has not been that of a responsible contractor.

We have written to your office on a number of occasions to highlight KGL's irresponsible conduct vis-à-vis the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia and the Baragona family. Now even the Court has issued an order that echoes our assessment of KGL's conduct. The Court found that 'KGL's conduct in this matter has been somewhat troubling, evasive and disruptive to the Court's consideration of a significant jurisdictional issue." (Order at 20). We stand here today because of KGL's arrogant refusal to meet with the Baragonas or enter into arbitration or mediation.

## Brian Persico

June 20, 2008

The debarment proceeding should proceed immediately. A federal judge has entered a finding that KGL has conducted itself in an entirely inappropriate manner in the lawsuit in U.S. federal court. KGL has also refused to honorably respond to the Baragona family's queries regarding its responsibility for the death of their son, a Lieutenant-Colonel in the US Army. KGL's disgraceful conduct is squarely at odds with the code of conduct required of responsible contracting partners with the United States government.

Of equal importance, the Court has not stayed its final judgment, which remains fully enforceable unless and until it is vacated. For that reason the debarment process should also go forward now. The Baragona are entitled at law to the full benefit of their final judgment. We request an immediate hearing on KGL's misconduct in the judicial proceeding.

Please let us know if any further information is required.


Enclosures: As stated.
CC: Brigadier-General Richard Bednar, (retired), counsel for KGL.

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## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA ATLANTA DIVISION

## DOMINIC F. BARAGONA, et al., Plaintiffs, <br> v. <br> 1:05-cv-1267-WSD <br> KUWAIT \& GULF LINK <br> TRANSPORT COMPANY, et al., <br> Defendants. <br> OPINION AND ORDER

This is a wrongful death action brought by the parents of Lieutenant Colonel Dominic F. Baragona, who was killed when the United States Army vehicle in which he was riding collided on a highway in Iraq with a truck owned by defendant Kuwait \& Gulf Link Transport Company ("KGL") and driven by defendant Mahmoud Muhammed Hessain Serour ("Serour"), a KGL employee. The matter is before the Court on KGL's Motion to Vacate Default Judgment [40], Plaintiffs' Motion to Require Defendant KGL to Post a Bond [49], and Plaintiffs'

Motion for Bill of Costs [39].

## I. FACTUAL AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

On May 19, 2003, the United States Army vehicle in which Lt. Col.
Baragona was riding collided with a truck owned by defendant KGL and which was driven by defendant Serour. Lt. Col. Baragona died of injuries sustained in the accident.

On May 12, 2005, Plaintiffs filed this negligence action against Serour and KGL. KGL is incorporated under Kuwaiti law and has its principal place of business in Kuwait. Defendant Serour is an Egyptian citizen. Plaintiffs assert that the Court has diversity jurisdiction over this action, 28 U.S.C. §1332(a), and personal jurisdiction over the Defendants pursuant to Georgia's long-arm statute, O.C.G.A. § 9-10-91(1).

Pursuant to the Court's February 10, 2006 Order [4], Plaintiffs served KGL pursuant to international mail courier.' On March 15,2006 , KGL refused delivery

[^28]of the Complaint and summons. ${ }^{2}$ On July 28, 2006, Plaintiffs moved for entry of default against KGL for KGL's failure to appear and failure to accept service [13]. Fed. R. Civ. P. 55(a). On August 21, 2006, the Clerk of the Court entered default against KGL .

On October 26,2006, Plaintiffs moved for a second entry of default against
KGL [15]. Plaintiffs had learned, with the assistance of the Procurement Fraud Branch of the Department of the Army and others in the United States government, that on July 11, 2006, KGL had accepted service from the Kuwaiti Ministry of Justice pursuant to the Hague Convention. The Clerk of Court entered a second default against KGL on January $10,2007[17] .{ }^{3}$

On January 30,2007 , the Court held a hearing to determine whether it has personal jurisdiction over KGL under the Georgia long-arm statute and the Due

[^29]$-3$.

Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Although given notice of the hearing, KGL elected not to appear. At the hearing, the Court ordered further briefing from the Plaintiffs on whether it has personal jurisdiction over KGL.

On March 2, 2007, Plaintiffs submitted a memorandum addressing whether the Court had personal jurisdiction over KGL [22]. Plaintiffs attached to its memorandum the declaration of retired Army Lieutenant Colonel Paul Winston Schwartz, a former United States Army contracting officer and contracting expert. Lt. Col. Schwartz explained the contracting process of the Third Army, headquartered at Fort McPherson, Georgia. Lt. Col. Schwartz explained that the Third Army is the Army Component of U.S. Central Command, the joint forces command responsible for the Middle East. Also attached to the Plaintiffs' memorandum was a list of over one hundred contracts between KGL and the "U.S. Army Central Cmd - Kuwait." Lt. Col. Schwartz explained that each of those contracts would have been administered by the Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting ("PARC") stationed at Fort McPherson. A Contracting Officer stationed at Fort McPherson or elsewhere would have been responsible for day-today administration of the contracts.

On April 9, 2007, the Court determined: "Plaintiffs submitted an affidavit setting forth a number of contacts between Defendants and the state of Georgia, including contracts formed between Defendants and government entities located at Fort McPherson, Georgia. Plaintiffs have shown a prima facie case that the Court has personal jurisdiction over the Defendants in this case." April 9, 2007 Order [24] at 2 ; see also Delong Equipment Co.v. Washington Mills Abrasive Co., 840 F.2d 843, 845 (11th Cir. 1988), cert, denied, 494 U.S. 1081 (1990).

On November 5, 2007, the Court entered default judgment against KGL in the amount of $\$ 4,907,048$ [37].

On December 5, 2007, Plaintiffs filed a motion for bill of costs seeking a total of $\$ 3,483.35$ in court reporter, translation, filing, and printing and copying fees incurred in this action [39]. KGL has not responded to the Plaintiffs' motion. On February 15,2008 , KGL for the first time appeared in this action by filing its motion to vacate the judgment entered against it on November 5, 2007. KGL claims the judgment is void because the Court lacked personal jurisdiction over it [40].
-5.

On March 21, 2008, Plaintiffs moved for KGL to pay a bond in the amount of $\$ 4,907,048$ to secure its judgment against KGL pending a resolution of KGL's motion to vacate [49].

## II. DISCUSSION

The pending motion to vacate requires the Court to evaluate further, and on a different record, whether the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment permits the Court to exercise in personam jurisdiction over a Kuwaiti corporation on the basis of contracts between the corporation and the United States military, where the cause of action is not related to those contracts. This question is of significant importance in light of the role foreign contractors play in the United States' ongoing military operations worldwide, particularly in the Middle East, and because of the increasing globalization of commerce.

## A. Motion To Vacate For Lack Of Personal Jurisdiction

## 1. Governing Law

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure $60(\mathrm{~b})(4)$ permits a defendant to move for relief from a final judgment on the grounds that the judgment is void. Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(b)(4). A final judgment is void against any defendant over which the Court lacks personal jurisdiction. Sloss Indus. Corp. y. Eurisol, 488 F.3d 922, 924 (11th

Cir. 2007). "Rule $60(\mathrm{~b})(4)$ allows a litigant - even one who does not initially appear - to collaterally attack a judgment on the ground that it is void due to lack of personal jurisdiction." Id. "Unlike motions pursuant to other subsections of Rule 60(b), Rule 60(b)(4) motions leave no margin for consideration of the district court's discretion as the judgments themselves are by definition either legal nullities or not." Id. at 925 (internal quotation marks omitted).

This litigation has been ongoing since 2005. KGL elected not to participate in this action until judgment was entered against it. KGL now decides to weigh in by moving under Rule 60(b)(4) to contest the Court's exercise of personal jurisdiction over it. Because this Court's judgment is valid only if it may exercise jurisdiction over KGL, the Court necessarily should review whether the additional information provided by KGL impacts the Court's ruling that it may exercise jurisdiction over KGL. In conducting this evaluation, the Court considers Plaintiffs' request to be allowed to conduct discovery on the jurisdictional issue.
"Personal jurisdiction generally entails a two-step inquiry." Sloss, 488 F.3d at 925 . In the matter before it, the Court must first determine whether the exercise of jurisdiction is appropriate under Georgia's long-arm statute. Id. Second, the Court must examine whether exercising jurisdiction over the defendant would
$-7$.
violate the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, which requires that the defendant have minimum contacts with the forum state, id., and that the exercise of jurisdiction not offend "traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice." Int'l Shoe Co. v. Washington, 326 U.S. 310,316 (1945).

In the context of a motion to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction where - such as here - defendant KGL failed to appear and contest personal jurisdiction, Plaintiffs bore the burden of establishing a prima facie case of personal jurisdiction over KGL. Morris v. SSE Inc., 843 F.2d 489, 492 (11th Cir. 1988); Delong, 840 F.2d at 845. "A prima facie case is established if the plaintiff presents sufficient evidence to defeat a motion for a directed verdict. The district court must construe the allegations in the complaint as true, to the extent they are uncontroverted by the defendant's affidavits or deposition testimony." Morris, 843 F. 2 d at 492 (internal citations omitted).

On the basis of the Plaintiffs' briefing and the affidavit of Lt. Col. Schwartz, the Court previously determined that Plaintiffs had shown a prima facie case of personal jurisdiction over KGL. April 9, 2007 Order [24] at 2. The Court necessarily determined that Georgia's long-arm statute, O.C.G.A. § 9-10-91(1), "'grants Georgia courts the unlimited authority to exercise personal jurisdiction
-8.
over any nonresident who transacts any business in this State," id. (quoting
Innovative Clinical \& Consulting Servs., LLC v. First Nat'I Bank, 620 S.E.2d 352,
355 (Ga. 2005)), and that Plaintiffs had shown a prima facie case that the Georgia long-arm statute permitted the exercise of jurisdiction over KGL. KGL does not contest the Court's determination that the exercise of jurisdiction over it is permitted by the Georgia long-arm statute. Def.'s Mot. to Vacate [40] at 5.

KGL does challenge whether the Court's exercise of jurisdiction over it violates the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. "The Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment operates to limit the power of a State to assert in personam jurisdiction over a nonresident defendant." Helicopteros Nacionales de Columbia. S.A v. Hall, 466 U.S. 408, 413-14 (1984). When a controversy is related to or arises out of the defendant's specific contacts with a forum, a State is said to be exercising "specific jurisdiction" over the defendant. Id. at 414 n .8 . "When a State exercises personal jurisdiction over a defendant in a suit not arising out of or related to the defendant's contacts with the forum, the State has been said to be exercising 'general jurisdiction' over the defendant." Id, at 414 n 9 . Because Plaintiffs in this case do not allege that this action arises out of
-9.
or is related to KGL's alleged contacts with the State of Georgia, the question here is whether the Court has "general jurisdiction" over KGL.

To exercise general jurisdiction over a person, the Supreme Court requires that person to have "minimum contacts" with the State seeking to exercise jurisdiction over the Defendant. Helicopteros, 466 U.S. at 416. "Minimum contacts" is a requirement that necessitates "a showing of continuous and systematic general business contacts between the defendant and the forum state." Consol. Dev. Corp. v. Sherritt. Inc., 216 F.3d 1286, 1292 (11th Cir. 2000), cert. denied, 534 U.S. 827 (2001); accord Helicopteros, 466 U.S. at 416. Whether a defendant's general business contacts are sufficiently continuous and systematic to justify the exercise of general jurisdiction must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The Supreme Court has offered some guidance on what contacts are and are not sufficient to justify an exercise of general jurisdiction. For example, sending a corporate officer to a State for contract negotiations, accepting checks drawn on a State's banks, purchasing goods from the State, and sending personnel to the State for training purposes do not together constitute sufficient "continuous and systematic" general contacts to support an exercise of jurisdiction. Helicopteros, 466 U.S. at 416-17. The Supreme Court has reasoned that intentional contacts with
a forum State are what are required to be sufficient to justify the exercise of jurisdiction in that particular State. That is, unilateral activity by a plaintiff or a third-party will not suffice to establish continuous and systematic general contacts between the defendant and the forum state. Id. at 417.4, 5 In each case the Court must determine on the record in that case whether the contacts are sufficient for general jurisdiction to be exercised over a defendant.

If the plaintiff shows that the defendant has sufficient minimum contacts, the Court must next consider whether the assertion of personal jurisdiction over the defendant would comport with "traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.'"Morris, 843 F.2d at 492 (quoting Int'l Shoe, 326 U.S. at 316). In
${ }^{4}$ In Helicopteros, the Court stated: "Common sense and everyday experience suggest that, absent unusual circumstances, the bank on which a check is drawn is generally of little consequence to the payee and is a matter left to the discretion of the drawer. Such unilateral activity of another party of a third person is not an appropriate consideration when determining whether a defendant has sufficient contacts with a forum State to justify an assertion of jurisdiction." Helicopteros, 466 U.S. at 416-17.
" KGL argues that it must have "purposely availed" itself of the privilege of conducting activities in the forum State, such that it could "reasonably anticipate being haled into court there." See Hanson v. Denckla, 357 U.S. 235,253 (1958); World-Wide Volkswagen Corp. V. Woodson, 444 U.S. 286, 297 (1980). Those standards most commonly are applied in specific jurisdiction cases. Consol. Dev. Corp., 216 F.3d at 1291 . General jurisdiction actually is a stricter standard, requiring continuous and systematic general contacts. Id. at 1292.
evaluating whether "fair play and substantial justice" permit the exercise of jurisdiction, the Court should consider the burden on the defendant in defending the lawsuit, the forum State's interest in adjudicating the dispute, the plaintiff's interest in convenient and effective relief, the interstate judicial system's interest in efficient resolution of controversies, and the shared interest of the States in furthering fundamental substantive social policies. Madara, 916 F.2d at 1517 (citing Burger King Corp. v. Rudzewicz, 471 U.S. 462, 477 (1985)).
2. Analysis

Having now decided to participate in this litigation, KGL has submitted evidence it claims supports its argument that it does not have sufficient contacts with the State of Georgia for the Court to exercise personal jurisdiction over it. Specifically, KGL submitted the declarations of its Chairman and Managing Director. Accordingly, the Court must consider whether the Complaint's allegations are controverted by KGL's declarations, keeping in mind that even when the evidence submitted by the parties conflicts, the Court still must construe all reasonable inferences in favor of the Plaintiffs. Morris, 843 F.2d at 492;

Madara v. Hall, 916 F.2d 1510, 1514 (11th Cir. 1990).
-12.

With the submission of KGL's declarations, the Court is confronted with a competing set of factual allegations. KGL alleges that it conducts its business, including its contracting activity, entirely outside of the United States. KGL has submitted a copy of one of its military contracts, which KGL argues shows that this and all other of KGL's contracts were with the Third Army's regional contracting office in Kuwait, not Fort McPherson in Georgia. This apocryphal evidence suggests that KGL engaged in its contracting activity outside of the United States.

Plaintiffs allege that KGL is a major contractor of the Third Army and that each of over one hundred contracts KGL entered into with the Army is or was administered by contracting officials at Fort McPherson in Georgia. Plaintiffs submitted the affidavit of Lt. Col. Schwartz to connect KGL's Army contracts to Fort McPherson. The Court has reviewed the Affidavit in detail. Unlike the evidence submitted and the generalizations made by KGL, Plaintiffs' evidence suggests that KGL's contacts with Georgia are substantial. Lt. Col. Schwartz explains that the contracts were administered out of Fort McPherson because the Third Army maintains its permanent headquarters there and because the PARC was stationed at Fort McPherson in Georgia. KGL, however, now asserts that it
-13-
negotiated and communicated with the Third Army's regional contracting office in Kuwait and that later the Army unilaterally choose to administer the contracts out of Fort McPherson. ${ }^{6}$ KGL further alleges that it has no shareholders in the United States, is not licensed to do business in the United States, does not perform any business services in the United States, maintains no bank accounts in the United States, does not recruit from the United States, has never sent an employee to the United States, and has never contracted with anyone in Georgia. KGL also provides evidence that for at least one Army contract its communications were with the Third Army regional contracting office in Kuwait, not Georgia.

What neither party does is provide the detailed facts necessary for the Court to properly evaluate in this case the nature and scope of KGL's contacts with

Georgia. The Court does not know who KGL communicated with for each
${ }^{6}$ Lt. Col. Schwartz also asserts that KGL voluntarily submitted itself to federal law through the government contracting process, which mandates the resolution of disputes in the U.S. Court of Claims, located in Washington, D.C. Even if those contractual provisions could render KGL subject to United States jurisdiction for claims brought by a third party not related to the contract, venue for those disputes would be in Washington, D.C., not this district.
contract, where that person was located, to whom its bids were submitted, or where the Contracting Officer for each contract was stationed. ${ }^{7}$

The Court acknowledges that where the parties submit conflicting evidence, it should construe all reasonable inferences in favor of the Plaintiffs. The problem here is that the evidence submitted presents substantially different and controverted accounts of the relationship between KGL and the Third Army, and KGL's contacts with Georgia. There simply is insufficient detail for the Court to determine what, if any, inference should be made in Plaintiffs' favor.

The jurisdictional issue here is important, and to address this important jurisdictional issue thoroughly and responsibly, the Court needs more detailed information. A more developed record would aid the Court in evaluating the scope and nature of KGL's contacts, if any, with the State of Georgia. The jurisdictional issue here is important, and it could have broad impact on federal court jurisdiction over foreign entities in cases like the one before the Court.

The Court thus elects to exercise its discretion to allow discovery on the issue of jurisdiction in this case and conduct an evidentiary heating in this matter.
${ }^{7}$ KGL also does not adequately explain the relationship between it and Kuwait \& Gulf Link Transportation Company ("KGLTC"), a KGL subsidiary that sent workers to the United States on at least two occasions.
$-15$

Delong, 840 F.2d at 845 ; Consol. Dev, Corp., 216 F.3d at 1291; Central States, Se. \& Sw. Areas Pension Fund v. Reimer Express World Corp., 230 F.3d 934, 946 (7th Cir. 2000), cert. denied, 532 U.S. 943 (2001): Because "[floreign nationals usually should not be subjected to extensive discovery in order to determine whether personal jurisdiction over them exists," id., discovery necessarily must be constrained to the issue of personal jurisdiction.

Accordingly, the parties shall be allowed up to and including September 19, 2008 to conduct discovery on the nature of KGL's contacts with the State of Georgia. To ensure the discovery anticipated to be conducted is limited to the issue of jurisdiction, the Court requires the parties to submit, on or before June 30, 2008, a specific plan for the discovery they intend to conduct. In the plan the parties shall state the date when written discovery should be served, the specific individuals or entities to be deposed, what specific topics are intended to be addressed with each deponent, and the dates on which each such deposition will be conducted. The plan shall provide for the completion of all jurisdictional discovery on or before September 19, 2008. Discovery shall be limited to the jurisdictional issue the Court will consider at the evidentiary hearing. Specifically,
-16.
the Court directs that discovery and the evidentiary hearing be limited to the
following issues:
(1) Contracts between KGL and the United States Army that have been entered into from January 1, 1998 to January 1, 2008, and for each contract:
(a) Where KGL directed its pre- and postcontract communications, contract bid, and administrative documents.
(b) Where the contract was negotiated and executed.
(c) Where the contract was administered.
(d) Ainy other contact(s) with Georgia during the performance of each identified contract.
(2) The communications and contacts between KGL, its officers, directors, employees, and representatives and any person in the State of Georgia.
(3) Each visit by any officer, employee, or representative of KGL to the United States and the location(s) visited.
(4) The relationship between KGL and Kuwait \& Gulf Link Transportation Company ("KGLTC") and the contacts, if any, between KGLTC and its officers, directors,
-17.
employees, or representatives and the State of Georgia.
(5) Each occasion within the past ten (10) years in which KGL or KGLTC ordered equipment or service from any person or entity in the State of Georgia. ${ }^{8}$

The Court will conduct its evidentiary hearing on October 31, 2008.

## B. Motion For Bond

Plaintiffs moved for an Order requiring KGL to post bond in the amount of the $\$ 4,907,048$ judgment against it because of Plaintiffs' alleged concern that KGL will attempt to evade enforcement of the judgment. Plaintiffs argue a bond is appropriate pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 64(a), Georgia Farm Bldgs, Inc. v. Willard, 299 S.E.2d 181 (Ga. Ct. App. 1983), and O.C.G.A. § 5-6-46(b).

Federal Rule 64 provides: "At the commencement of and throughout an action, every remedy is available that, under the law of the state where the court is located, provides for seizing a person or property to secure satisfaction of the potential judgment. But a federal statute governs to the extent it applies." Fed. R.
Civ. P. 64(a). Georgia law permits the Court to require payment of bond, not to

[^30]exceed $\$ 25$ million, as security "during the pendency of all appeals or discretionary reviews of any judgment . . . " O.C.G.A. § 5-6-46(b).

Rule 64(a) provides plaintiffs with a way "to restrain a defendant's assets with an eye towards satisfying a potential money judgment." Rosen v. Cascade Int'l. Inc., 21 F.3d 1520, 1530 (11th Cir. 1994); e.g., Ga. Farm Bldgs. Inc. v . Willard, 299 S.E.2d 181, 182-83 (Ga. Ct. App. 1983) (affirming trial court's discretionary order requiring bond where defendant tried to vacate default judgment). Trial courts commonly require a bond from the losing defendant during the pendency of the defendant's appeal of judgment. E.g., Poplar Grove Planting \& Refining Co., Inc. v. Bache Halsey Stuart, Inc., 600 F. 2 d 1189 (5th Cir. 1979); Fed. R. Civ. P. 62(d). Whether to grant relief pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 64(a), even if a state's statutory requirements are met, is within the discretion of the Court. Gen. Textile Printing \& Processing Corp. v. Expromtorg Int'l Corp., 862 F. Supp. 1070, 1073 (S.D.N.Y. 1994).

The Court determines in its discretion to grant the Plaintiffs' motion and require a bond in this case. The purpose of a bond requirement is to assure a defendant's satisfaction of a judgment. A bond would serve that end here. Plaintiffs have few remedies available to them to prevent KGL from refusing to -19-
comply with its judgment if the Court denies KGL's motion to vacate. Indeed, KGL's conduct in this matter has been somewhat troubling, evasive, and disruptive to the Court's consideration of a significant jurisdictional issue. It simply has elected for almost three years to refuse to participate in this case. Under the unusual circumstances here, bond is appropriate to secure the Plaintiffs' judgment if KGL's motion to vacate is not successful. A bond will not impose any burden on KGL. KGL already owes Plaintiffs a $\$ 4,907,048$ judgment, which, unless it is void, will have to be paid. If KGL prevails on its motion to vacate, the judgment itself will be void, and the bond will be dissolved. The Court determines, considering the scope of KGL's businesses, that a bond will not burden KGL. Thus, Plaintiffs' motion for bond is granted in the amount of $\$ 4,907,048$. KGL shall have the bond in place on or before June 27, 2008.

## C. Plaintiffs' Motion For Bill Of Costs

Plaintiffs have moved for an award of costs incurred by them in pursuing this action. KGL has not responded to the motion, and the Court deems the motion unopposed. LR 7.1B, NDGa. The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provide that, "[u]nless a federal statute, these rules, or a court order provides otherwise, costs other than attomey's fees - should be allowed to the prevailing party," Fed. R. Civ.
-20-
P. 54(d)(1); see also LR 54.1, NDGa (procedures for filing bill of costs). Federal Rule 54(d) "establishes a presumption that costs are to be awarded to a prevailing party, and that to defeat the presumption and deny full costs, a district court must have and state a sound basis for doing so." Holton v. City of Thomasville School Dist., 425 F.3d 1325, 1355 (11th Cir. 2005) (internal quotations omitted). The Court may only impose costs as authorized by statute. E.E.O.C. V. W\&O, Inc., 213 F. $3 \mathrm{~d} 600,620$ (11th Cir. 2000).

Plaintiffs submitted receipts for the following categories of costs: photocopying fees, filing fees, translation fees, and court report expenses. The Court may impose the cost of "[f]ees for exemplification and copies of papers necessarily obtained for use in the case." 28 U.S.C. $\S 1920(4)$. Based on the Court's inspection of the submitted receipts, Plaintiffs incurred a total of $\$ 423.83$ in photocopying costs in preparing for the hearings in this action. Because these expenses were necessary for use in the case and authorized by statute, the Court taxes these photocopying costs on KGL.

The Court may impose fees of the clerk against the losing party. 28 U.S.C. § 1920(1). These fees include filing fees and other administrative fees required in an action. Plaintiffs seek a total of $\$ 680.00$ in filing fees. However, Plaintiffs request
$-21-$
reimbursement of filing fees incurred not only in this action, but also in the action Plaintiffs filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama. See Baragona, et al. v. Kuwait Gulf Link Transport Co, et al., $05-\mathrm{cv}$ -01049-CLS (N.D. Ala. May 19, 2005). The Alabama action was transferred to this District and consolidated with this action because the Plaintiffs conceded that personal jurisdiction over KGL did not exist in Alabama. Accordingly, Plaintiffs did not "prevail" in the Alabama action, and costs incurred in that action should not be reimbursed. The filing fee for the Alabama action was $\$ 250.00$. The Court therefore determines to tax only $\$ 430.00$ in filing fees.

Plaintiffs seek $\$ 1,717.32$ in translation fees incurred in this action and in the Alabama action. Translation expenses have been held to be "fees for exemplification . . . of papers" within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § $1920(4)$ if necessary for use in the action. Studiengesellschaft Kohle mbH v. Eastman Kodak Co., 713 F.2d 128, 133 (5th Cir. 1983). Plaintiffs incurred a total of $\$ 1,717.32$ in translation costs for translating the summonses and complaints in this and the Alabama action into Arabic for service, as is required by Fed. R. Civ. P. $4(f)(1)$ and the Hague Convention, and in translating Iraqi law treatises and decisions into English for use in this action. Plaintiffs' receipts evidence a total of $\$ 93.45$ was
incurred in translating materials for the Alabama action. The Court therefore determines to impose only $\$ 1,623.87$ in translation fees.

Plaintiffs also seek $\$ 662.20$ as costs incurred as fees of the court reporter in this action. Court reporter fees are reimbursable pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1920(2) if necessary for use in the case. Plaintiffs assert the transcripts of hearings in this action were necessary for preparation of subsequent court filings. The Court allows $\$ 662.20$ in Court reporter fees.

Plaintiffs' motion for bill of costs is granted in the total amount of $\$ 3,139.90$.
III. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons,
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Defendant KGL's Motion to Vacate [40] is DEFERRED. Discovery is allowed into the contacts between KGL and the State of Georgia. Discovery shall be completed on or before September 19, 2008. The parties shall submit their jurisdictional discovery plans on or before June 30, 2008. The issues on which discovery may be conducted are the issues specified in Section II(A) of this Order.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiffs' and Defendant's counsel shall appear before this Court for an evidentiary hearing on the Motion to Vacate. The hearing shall be held on Friday, October 31, 2008 at 10:00 a.m., in Courtroom 1705, United States Courthouse, 75 Spring Street, SW, Atlanta, Georgia, 30303. The parties shall present evidence relating to the issues set forth in Section II(A) of this Order.

## IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiffs' Motion for Bond

 [49] is GRANTED. KGL shall, on or before June 27, 2008, post a bond in the Northern District of Georgia in the amount of $\$ 4,907,048.00$, in accordance with the requirements of LR 65.1.1, NDGa.IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiffs' Motion for Bill of Costs [39] is granted in the total amount of $\$ 3,139.90$.

SO ORDERED this 18 th day of June 2008.


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## EXHIBIT 7

## Jeme: 20, 2008

1. Gen. Peter Chimeth

Vice Chef of stafl of the thited States Army
200 Army Pemagon
Washimem, De matoram
L. Gen Charcll:

On Nay 10.2008. I hat he homor of lave a weat at the fomb of the thkown Soldicr, I did this on the Fiffe Anniverary of my son's death. My som. L. Col Dominiz "Rocky" Baragona died on May 19. 2003 on a road in Lrat. We was the Bation Commater of the Ioth Mantenance and extremely proud to answe our Nation's call to the mission in fray and did so with grat pride and enthosiem.


 Enomunaly, I don' thath the Amy has bea there for Rocky since twis dean.


 HoMvet: The official Army accident investigation fomd that accident was K (il's that. K (it is the lapest trueking company in the Midelte fast and eamed humbeds of millions of US doflars fom contracts with my govemment.













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Junc ?0. 20 m

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 antimues th reeve huge contracs for the US Ambs. How em this be?
sucered.


Dominic Bameona

## EXHIBIT 8

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY UNITED STATES ARMY LEGAI SERVICES AGENCY OPI NORIH STUARTSTREET
ARLINGTON, VA 22203-1837

Juiy 11, 2008
REPLYTO
ATEETION OF
Office of the Commander

Mr. Dominic Baragona
7085 SE 173 rd Arlington Loop
The Villages, Florida 32162
Dear Mr. Baragona:
Your letter to Lieutenant General Chiarelli, dated June 26,2008, was referred to my office for tesponse.

First, please accept my heartfelt condolences on the loss of your son. You are rightfully proud of his service and what he did for his country.

As you know, the government is not a party to the lawsuit against Kuwait \& Gulf Link Transport ("KGL") that is pending in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. Army policy in litigation in which the Army is not a named or real party in interest is one of strict impartiality, notwithstanding the natural sympathies we feel in cases involving a fallen comrade in arms. Although the Army is not a party, attomeys in the Army's Litigation Division are actively monitoring this private litigation. Consistent with Army policy, our Litigation Division will continue to make unclassified and non-privileged Army information, such as Army documents and witnesses, available to the court and the parties in this litigation.

Since August 2006, when it first became aware of the allegations against KGL, the Army Procurement Fraud Branch (PFB) has maintained a case regarding the company and its participation in the lawsuit against it. PFB continues to monitor the progress of your case against KGL and the company's responses to the court's opinions and orders. Our understanding is that on June 18,2008, the court issued an opinion and order giving the parties the ability to conduct discovery through September $19^{\text {th }}$ regarding KGL's contacts with the State of Georgia with a hearing scheduled at the end of October on KGL's motion to vacate for lack of jurisdiction. In addition, the court ordered KGL to post a $\$ 4.9$ million bond to secure any judgment against the company. On June 24,2008 , PFB received confirmation from KGL's counsel that the company intended to post the bond in accordance with this order.

The Army Suspension and Debarment Official is not empowered to make a determination regarding KGL's tort liability in the death of your son. Such a determination is properly left to the Federal District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, or any other venue where action may be brought if jurisdiction does not exist in Georgia. I note that your letter contains new allegations regarding human trafficking that have not previously been brought to the attention of PFB. I invite you or your attomey to bring specific information on these allegations to the
attention of PFB's Mr. Brian Persico. If KGL has acted, or intends to act, in a manner inconsistent with sound business integrity or honesty, PFB will reexamine the case to determine if KGL is a presently responsible Government contractor and, if warranted, provide a recommendation for action to the Army Suspension and Debarment Official.

Sincerely,
Clupote es Be, usA
Clyde J. Tatell
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Commanding
Copy Furnished: Steven R. Perles, Esq., Perles Law Firm, 1146 19th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036

## EXHIBIT 9

HCOGR-27 Feb 09-125

# PERLES LAW FIRM PC <br> 1146 19TH STREET, NW <br> FIFTH FLOOR <br> WAshingron, DC 20036 <br> 202.955 .9055 <br> FAX: 202.955.3806 <br> www.perleslaw.com 

July 18,2008

## VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY AND FIRST CLASS MALL

Brian A. Persico
Attorney, Procurement Fraud Branch
Contract and Fiscal Law Division
US Army Legal Services Agency
901 N. Stuart Street, Room 513
Arlington, VA 22203-1837
RE: Baragona v. KGL
Dear Mr. Persico:
We attach a copy of a letter Mr. Dominic Baragona received from Brigadier-General Clyde J.
Tate II of the United States Army Legal Services Agency regarding the ongoing debarment
process. Mr. Baragona appreciates that the debarment decision will tanscend the sole question of whether the United States Court for the Northem District of Georgia mules that it has personal jurisdiction over KGL.

Referencing the concerns raised in the letter regarding KGL's conduct in India, we have retained the services of an Indian law firm to research the issues and to acquire the adruinistrative record underlying KGL's ban from India. We are informed that such a process should be completed in less than 45 days. Once the process has been completed, we will analyze the findings and forward to your office the accumulated record with our comments.

Mr. Baragona wanted me to ponvey to you that aside from the negligence that caused his son's tragic death, he is convinced that KGL does not deserve the benefits of U.S. government contracting in light of KGL's callous and arrogant disregard for his family, questionable conduct during the legal proceeding and the emerging evidence of overseas misconduct.


SRP/
Enclosures: As stated.
CC: Brigadict-General Riohard Bednar, (retired), oounsel for KGL. Clifford Zatz, counsel for KGL

## EXHIBIT 10

Persico, Brian A Mr OTJAG


You have requested that we forwaxd to you all available information regarding kGL's blacklisting in India for human trafficking. We recently received a report from india regarding this subject. KGL was placed on the inaian government's prior Approval isist "( $\mathrm{PAC}^{\prime}$ ), which functioned as a blacklist for any emigration by fndian nationals overseas based upon employment with KGL. This blacklisting was predicated upon KGi's hiring Indian nationals to work in Iraq upon the "pretext of deploying them to Kuwait."

Please find attached the following documents:

* Exhibit $A$, a letter from V.K. Bhatia Indian Ministry of Overseas Affairs to our consultant Shri $C$. Srikant in response to our inquiry as to the cause and meaning of KGL's placement on a Prior Approval List "(PAC").

Exhibit B, a copy of hetter dated July 3, 2001 sent by Ministry of habor, Govt. of India, to Kuwait Embassy for India regarding the PAC status of KGL.
Exhibit $C$ - a second letter from V.K. Bhatia Indian Ministry of Overseas Affairs to our consultant Shri C. Srikant dated September 3, 2008 by Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, which explains why KG; was blacklisted for the second time in 2006 - because kgL was luring workers to Iraq on the "pretext of deploying them to Kuwait."
Exhibit D - Letter sent by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs to all
Protectors of Emigrants, containing the reason for blackilisting KGL in 2006, because KGL was luring workers to Irag on the "pretext of deploying them to Kuwait" and signed by the Uncersecretary of the Indian Government

Please let us know if you have any further questions or if there is any further information you would like us to acquire through our Indian consultants.

In light of the emadi transmission problems we have had in the past, please kindly confirm your receipt of this email

Thank you.

Edward

Edward MacAllister

Perles Law Firm, PC
1146 19th Street, NW
Suite 500
Washington DC 20036
www. perleslaw.com
Telephone 202.955.9055
Facsimile 202.955 .3806

Admitted to practice in Maryland
Admitted to practice in the District of Columbia

## Annexure A

## BY SPEED POST

RTI Act Matter

No. Z-11011/62/2008-PGE-1<br>Govermment of India<br>Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs ****

Akbar Bhawan, Satya Marg, Chankyapuri
New Delhi, Dated $2 g^{\prime \prime \prime}$ Augusi, 2008
To
Shri C. Srikant,
Director,
Epitome Consulting \& Information Tecnology Pvt. Ltd., if $7.17^{\text {th }}$ Cross: K. R. Road, Ranashankar IInd Stage,
Benguluru-560070
(SRIKANTH EPITOMEcsrokanth@epitomeltd.com)
Subject: Regarding information under Right o Information Act, 2005
Sir,
I am directed to reler to your letter dated $29^{\text {h }}$ July, 2008 addressed to the Ministry of External Affairs on the above subject and to say that -...

1\& 2: M/s Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport (KGL) was placed under the Prior Approval Category (PAC) in 2001 vide letter No. Z-11C25/ 23/ 2001 Emig. Dated 11-10-2001. Placing some foreign employer in PAC list means blacklisting them.
3. M/s Kuwais and Gulf Link Transport (KGL) was removed from PAC liss vide letter No. C-11011/3/2001-PGE-It dated 30-11-2004 on the basis of decision taken in the meeting held under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Labour \& Employment) on $10^{\text {th }}$ November, 2004, but was again placed in PAC list in 2006.
4. KGl. is in PAC list as on date.
5. For emigration clearance for deployment for KGL, prior approval of the Mimistry of Uverseds matan Ahate is :cqumod.

(V.K. Bhatia)

Deputy Sccretary to the Gove of Indiat Central Public information Officer

Governuent of Ladiefmhazas Smhat
Mristy of LabourStram Mantmaya
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## (Annexure D)

BY SPEED POST RTI Act Matter<br>\section*{No. Z-11011/62/2008-PGE-I}<br>Government of India<br>Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs<br>****<br>Akbar Bhawan, Satya Marg, Chankyapuri New Dethi, Dated $3{ }^{\text {md }}$ Sept:, 2008

Shri C. Srikant,
Director,
Epitome Consulting \& Information Tecnology Pvt. Lid., \# 7, $17^{\text {th }}$ Cross, K. R. Road, Banashankari IInd Stage,
Benguluru-560 070
(SRIKANTH EPTTOMEcsrokanthoepitomeltd com)
Subject: Regarding information under Right o Information Act, 2005.
Sir,
I an directed to refer to your letter dated $29^{\text {th }}$ August, 2008 on the above subject and to inform you that --.

M/s Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport (KGL) was again placed in PAC. list vide letter No. C-11011/18/2006-PGE-I dated $14^{\text {th }}$ March, 2006 as the Embassy of India, Kuwait had recommended to place M/s Kuwait and Gulf Link Transpon (KGL) in PAC list as the foreign employer was recruiting Indian workers for IRAQ on the pretext of deploying then to Kuwait.
1.

A copy of this Ministry's letter No. C-11011/18/2005-PGE-1l dated $14^{\text {h }}$ March, 2006 is enclosed.
$\qquad$
(V.K Bhalia)

Deputy Secretary to the Govt of Lndia/
Central Public Information Officer

## (Annexure E)

## FAX

ROTECTOR GENERAL OF EMIGRANTS, WNISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS, NEW DELHI

ALL PROTECTORS OF EMIGRANTS
… $\because 1$, $1 / 182005-\mathrm{PGE}-11$ DATED $14^{4}$ MARCH, 2006 () EMBASSY OF WDIA, KUWATT HAS REPORTED THAT SOME COMPANLES BASED in KUWAIT INCLUDING MIS KUWAIT AND GULF LINK TRANSPORT FOMPANY (KGL) ARE RECRUITING INDIAN WORKERS TO IRAQ IN THE PRETEXT OF DERLOYING THE WORKERS TO KUWATT AND EMBASSY HAS RECOMMENDED THAT THIS FOREIGN COMPANY SHOULD BE PLACED IN PRIOR APPROVAL CATEGORY (PAC) LIST ()AS SUCH ALL TROTECTORS OF EMIGRANTS ARE DIRECTED NOT REPMEAT NOT TO GRANT EMIGRATION CLEARANCE TO M/S KUWART AND GULF IINK TRANSPORT COMPANY (KGL) () KINDLY ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIFT AND ENSURE COMPLIANCE (.)

(A.A. CHALAD)

UNDER SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA FAX NO. 26874233
copy To

1. EMBASSY OF INDIA, KUWAIT FOR INFORMATION (KIND ATTN: SHRL AK. CHANDEHOKE, FIRST SECRETARY, (CONS \& INF) (w.I Fax Message No. Kuw/Lab/227/5/2001 dated 1/2/2006 (FAX NO.965 2525811/2571192/2573910)
2. IS / CPV, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFARS, PATIALA HOUSE, NEW DELHI
3. JS (GULF), MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFATRS, SOUTH BLfCK, NEW DELHI
(a. Chalad)
under secretary to the govt of inda


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## EXHIBIT 11

## PERLES LAW FIRM PC

1146 19Th STREET, NW

> FIFTH FROOR

Washinaton, DC 20036
202.955.9055

FAX: 202.955.3806
www.perleslaw.com

## October 14, 2008

## VIA ELBCTRONIC DELIVERY

## Brian A. Persico

Attorney, Procurement Fraud Branch
Contract and Fiscal Law Division
US Army Legal Services Agency
901 N. Stuart Street, Room 513
Arlington, VA 22203-1837
RE: Baragonay KGL
Dear Mr. Persico:
A few issues have arisen as a result of information provided to us by KGL in court-ordered jurisdictional discovery.

KGL has produced a few of their contracts with the US Army, but they have refused to produce copies of any of the insurance contracts that US law requires that they carry on US government transportation contracts. KGL of course is required to certify the purchase of this insurance. If KGL bought these insurance policies, they should be able to produce them. Unless these insurance policies exist, each act of certification performed by KGL that they were submitting a conforming and responsive bid is a felony false certification and necessarily an act of procurement fraud. I respectfully suggest that this is an issue that you should examine in light of the fact that KGL continues to bid on and win US government contracts.

Also, during recent depositions of a KGL operations manager and a fomer lawyer, we leamed that one can determine what particular contract the KGL truck was operating under when it killed LTC Baragona -- by matching the KGL truck's license plate to the bill of lading. We also leamed that Kuwaiti law requires that a truck have a license plate on the front and the back of the truck when the truck begins its route. A photograph taken by US Arny CDD of the KGL truck after the accident shows that the front license plate was missing at the time of the accident. (see photos attached to email). We also know the truck couldn't have cleared the northbound Kuwait-Iraq

## Brian A. Persico <br> October 14, 2008

crossing without proper license plates. The license plate therefore must have been taken off after the truck crossed the Kuwait-Iraq border. The only reason to run a truck without plates is to engage in illicit activity. This becomes important from the perspective of criminal penalties-if the truck was on a smuggling run when it killed LTC Baragona, then the negligent death becomes a possible felony homicide. The US Army should investigate the reason for the missing license plate to determine whether the death of LTC Baragona was a felony murder.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.


SRP/



## EXHIBIT 12

Persico, Brian A Mr otjag


I have attached to this email all of the insurance documents sent to us by KGL. I have also pasted below the specific requests that we posed to kGr regarding the production of this insurance information:

1. Provide a copy of every contract between KGL or KGLTC and the United States Army and any other entities of the United States government, including any amendments or modifications thereto, that have been entered into from January 1, 1998 to January 1 , 2008.
2. Provide a copy of any common carrier insurance applicable to any of those contracts referenced in plaintiffs document request \#1.
3. Provide a copy of the contract of insurance which was in effect on the KGL or KGLTC venicle that was in the traffic accident that caused lt. Col. Baragona's death on May 19 , 2003.

KGL refused to produce the insurance documents requested by requests $\$ 2$ and 4 , which forced Plaintiffs to file a Motion to Compel. The Court consequently ordered production of contract insurance agrements entered into by kGL that were required for performance of US army contracts. $K G L^{\prime} s$ response, which is in fact inadequate and in violation of the Court's order for failing to have produced the actual insurance contracts, was ordered by the Court. The insurance documents provided make it clear that while KGL maintained insurance coverage for the carriage of goods into Iraq under its UN contract,
KGL-1355-1360, KGL did not maintain insurance for the carriage of goods into Iraq under its US Army contracts. Their insurance for the carriage of goods under US Amy contract specifically disclaims any liability for accidents that occur outside the state of kuwait. KGL1353-1354.

I have also attached a copy of the un world food program ("WFP")-KGL contract, which also includes a provision that mandates third party liability insurance for KGL's carriage of goods into Iraq. KGL maintains that the truck that killed LTC Baragona was operating under the WFP programe but offers no proof thereof and did not make an offer based upon the required insurance contract. KGL argues that a kGL truck with license plate number 12557 delivered good to Al Nassaria during the time of the accident but the photo of the crime scene shows a KGI truck that does not have a license plate. The insurance
information produced by KGL (KGL 10356) shows that KGL carried insurance for the KGL truck with license plate number 12557 peration in Iraq under the wFP programme contract and therefore we presume that this insurance was for the carriage of goods under the WFP contract and have no way of knowing this to a certainty.

Lastly, do you have an estimate at this point as to the issuance of the Army's show cause letter to KGL?

As always, please feel free to contact us at any time for whatever information you might require.

Thanks.

Edward

## Edward MacAllister

Pexles Law Firm, PC
1146 19th street, NW
Suite 500
Washington DC 20036
www.perleslaw.com
Telephone 202.955.9055
Facsimile 202.955 .3806
Admitted to practice in Maryland
Admitted to practice in the District of Columbia


## 1 COMMENCEMENT AND DURATTON

 period of four (4) montis froca the date at which the provision of the Sorvices (as defined in classe 2) commence.
1.2 WFP has an option to verew the Agreement for any further leagtion of tirne by giving the Carriex notice in writing of its intertion to rentw.

## 2 PROVISION OE TRANSPORT SERVICES

2.1 The Carrien shall upon activation of this Agremeat by WFP, make available for the use of WFP 3000 MT trucking capacity per day in the form of truckitruok and trailer/semi-trailer urits (refored to in this Agreement as "vehicles"). The Canrie: shall we the vebicles to turnsoxt WFP rellief cargo direetly to the WFP destination Warehouse in accondance with WFP instructions (fis "Scrvices"):
2.2 The Cantier shall transpont WFP relieforgo from FOT ex Shawaikh port nud/or Por of Shusibah to desigsted warchouses in the 9 Iraqi Govemorates indicated below in Clause 3. WFP sball within a pariod of four months from the date of this agreement give the Carrice 15 days notice for the activation of Servioss.
23. The Carrier stanl tronspoxt mancod and etow the relief cargo at the WFP destination warchouses. Under no circunstances shall the Carnier allow intermedifet storage, unless prior witter consent from WFP head of .logistics has been abtalined.
2.4 WFP shall infom the Carrier with 5 days notiee as to the setwal trucking capacity required at any time. WFP shall with 5 days notice, call forward or release thi annouri of trucking capacity as roquired from the committed capacity of the Catrier described in Article 2.1 abova.

## payment

3.1 This Agreement is confititocal upon the Carrier providing a performance bond in the amount of US $\$ 1,000,000$ valid for the period of fliss agreement and its extensions, in favor of WFP issued by a first class finarcial institution acceptable to WFP. This performance bond shall be forftrited to WFP, in full or in part at WrP discretion, in the event that Carrier fails to fulfill uny of its contractual obligations ater a written notice. WFP shall have the right to call the performante bond if the Carrier is notice. WFP stall have the tight to call the perfemante bond if the carner vs
unable to provide the capacity indicated above for 5 consecutive days from the duef date. Upon satisfactory completion of the Agreement and final settement of accounts, the boud shall be retumed to Carier.


32 WFP shall pay the Catrier the following rates, for the Services, which shall be inclusive of all salaries, fuel costs, insurancen tolls, taxes inchuding VAT, handimg charges incluting unloading and stowage, intermedint storage if aceded by the carrier and acecpted by WFP and all other exponses whatsoever relating to the carrers and af WFP relief cargo.


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| Muthana | Semawa | 22 |
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3.3 If WFP requerts firther tracking capacity or renews the contract pursuant to clause 1.2, the same rates shati apply to the Servicea.
3.4 Paymeat annill be made bagei on deliverci weight, acconditig to the WFP waybilis singed by the carriex and by WFP at dispatch rud receipt points, and no payment shall be mede ngainst the weight of cargo lost or leaked in transit. Whe shill defuot from payments owing to the Canier such amowns as requirea to tover any losses or darnage to the commodities as ortined in clause 5.1 below.
3.5 WFP shanl pay the Cantier the mount of US\$ 100.00 per day per vehicle nfter the first 24 hours for any cielays in losding/tuloading the tracks which are not the fuyt of the Camitu.
3.6 The Carrict will invoice WFP bi-weeidy, such invoices supported by relevart WFP. whybllls duly executed and accompanied by a delivery report listiag quantities dalivered, shont and damaged as per WFP standard format WFP shall effect delivered, shont and damiged as per WFP standard format WFP shall effect payment by bank transier to the Camier's bank sccount in Kapait within 21 days
from receipt of invoice, it being agreed that no interest will be charged on any late paymeat.


## 4 TERMDNATION

4.1. WFP may teminate the Agreement by giving the Carrier 5 days notice in writing.
4.2 In the event of termination of this Agreement, the Carrier shall promptly deliver all WFP relief cargo in transit to the relevant destination stated in clause 2.1 and all outsonding invoices will be tetied secording with the payment provisions in clause 3 albove.

## 5 CARGO LOSS AND DAMAGE

5.1 The parties agree that all missing or damaged commoditias and any excess apillage or leakage during the period under the control of the Carier will be debited agatust trinsport invoices based on the arived conmodity value or the market value at the frual destination, whichever is greater. The arrived valoe at destination is calculated by adding all transpont costs to the value of commodity at soarce:
5.2 For the prupose of this clause, leakage is defined as a shortage in the weight of bagsipackages upon delivery at destination compared to ther weight as declared on the relevant WFP waybill, signed by the carriter and by WFP at dispatoh and rectipt.
5.3 The Carrier ahall not be obliged to load damaged cargo unltss instructed by WFP or its agents and indicated on the WFP waybills.
S.4 The Carrier shall take all necessary precantions to safeguard WFP relief oargo Ionded on hls vehicles, including covering all commodities, with intact trypaulins, which shall be adequately secured.
6. THE CARRIER'S OBLIGATIONS

## During the course of this Agreememt the Carrier shall:

6.1 Make available to WFP a sufficieat number of roadworthy vebicles as necessary for the required daily off take trucing capacity, and ensure that vehicles and persoanel carry all valid liceuses and permits requited to carry out the journeys lawfully and without hindrance and in this raspect arrange promptly for local or Governmental whorizations and clearances for his vebicle and divers and make all paymerth required. The Carrier shall pay WFP demumage at the rate of US $\$ 100.00$ per day per vehicle after the first 24 hours if the Carriec fails to provide the capaoity requested by WFP, in accondarce with the call forward as defined in olause 2.4 above.

6.2 Take all necessary measures to ensure that tho vehtieles are at all times in good operational condition and unfertake any xepans neessary during the transportation of WFP neliaf cargo.
6.3 Ensure that all transporation is carried out safely and as expeditiously as possible The Carrier aball bo responsible for recovering any vehicle and WhP relief cargo loaded on the vebicie in case of accident or meshanical failure of the vehlele.
6.4 Shall receive arid deliver relief esrgo based on WFF waytills accepted by certified WFP and the camiex which conform to the stipulations herein and the format of which is approved by WFP.
6.5 Ensure that only WFP cargo is carcied in the vehicles made available under this Agrement No other curgo or passenger may be cantied without WhP's written consent.
6.6 Indemiify, hold and save haroless, and defond, at its ofn expense, WFP, its ofyicials, agents, strvants aud euployecs from and aguinst all suits, claims, demands, and likitity of my nature or kind, inchuding any claims arisiag from injuries, disability, denth or lass and any tasseciated costs and experises, arising out of acts or omissions of the Camier, or the Carier's employees, officens, agents or subcontuctors, in the performance of this Agretrient. The obligations tinder this Article do not lapse upon temination of this Agretaent:
6.7. Maintain adequnte civil insmance cover on his vehicles mad his employees and/or servants at all times inchuding imsurance against thin party liabilities,
6.8 Report to WFP in writing on the progress of delivories us per WHP standma format,

7 FORCEMAYOR
If at my time during tie course of this Agrecment it shall beconce inpossible for any of the parties hereto to perform any of its obligstions for reason of force major, that party shsll promptly notify the other in writing of the existenee of fuch force major whereupon the panty giving notice shatl be relieved from suoh obligations as long as force major persists.

8 LTABLLTY
WFP shall not accept any Habllity whatsotere to the Carnier or to thint parties in respect of loss or injury or damage sustaired for any reason whatsoevor inchuding any defect in the vobicles or negligent use thereof while the vehicles are being used to provide Servioss under this Agreoment.

Ary notice to be given under this Agreement shall be validy semt if sent by facsimite or delivered by kand to the registered office of the party to be notifed.

## ARBITRATION

Any dispute arising from this Agreement that.is not setiled by amicable discussion betweta the parties shall be referred to arbitration under UNGTRAL artitration pules. The atfitration ahall be conducted in London in the English langrage. The parties sorete to be boumd by any arbitration award rendered in accorcance with the tbove, as the final adjutication of any suich dispito.
In any arbitration, one adbitrator is to be nominated by WFP and the other by the Canier. In asse the arbitrators shall not agree, then the decision of an uropire to be appointed by tha two axbitutore stall bo final and binding upon both parties. If one pasty fails to 4ppoint an arbintetor for 14 (fomeren) elear days after the other party, having appointed his arbitrator, has stryed the party making default with notice to make the appointoxent, the party who has appointed an arbitator may appoims that orbitator to act ns tole arbitritor in the referecee and hisher awnard shall be binding on botio paties as if feate hid bet appointed by consent

11 IMMUNITY Clatuse
Nothing in this Agrement shall fmply a waiver by United Nations World Food Program, the United Nations or any of tos Agencies or Organizations of my privileges or immanity enjoyed by them or their acceptance of the jurisdiction of the courts of ary comntry over'tisputes arising out of this Agrement.

ENTORE AGREEMENT
This Agresment contains the entire agreement of the parties, which cannot be yaried. or amminded except with the written consent of both parties

SYGNED BY THE PARTIES DULY AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVES

| FOR WER: | FOR TEE CARRIER: |
| :---: | :---: |
| Name - A L $D$ Mopton | Name: SAEED DASHT |
| Signature: $\qquad$ | Signature: |
| Place: Rowre | Yace: Cuwact |
| Date: 4 Apini 2003 | Date: Apri, 1, 2003 |
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& \text { خاصة بالمركبات المملوكة لشركة رابطة الكويت والخليج للنقل ، وذلك في المقترة من عام } \\
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## To Whom It May Concern

Upon the Kuwait \& Gulf Link Transport Company's request, Kuwait Insurance Company (K.S.C.) hereby certifies that it has issued a specified number of compulsory insurance policies (Third Party) for the vehicles owned by the Kuwait \& Gulf Link Transport Company during the period from 1991 till the present date.
As it is known and established by the law, the purpose of this insurance is to cover the Insured's civil liability against the accidents that may be caused by the insured vehicles if occurred in the State of Kuwait within all its geographical borders, provided that the Insured or any of its subordinates shall not violate the Traffic Law and its Executive Regulation and the conditions of the insurance policies issued for the same.
This is a certification from us to be submitted To Whom It May Concern without any responsibility or obligation on the Company.

For/ Kuwait Insurance Company
Signature \& Stamp

# KUWAIT INSURANCE COMPANY S.A.K. 

Established 1960
Authorised and paid up Capital K.D.19.404 Milion
Hegeterete in actoidance with the Insurance Compatios and Ageni
L.aw No. 24 tor 1961

Insurance L.kence No. 1 C.R Na. 7645

## $26^{\text {th }}$ October 2008

## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCER

We "KUWAIT INSURANCE CO." hereby certify that "KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT CO" is one of our Clients and we have issued for them General Liability and Workmen's Insurance Policies as per Kuwait Labour Law No. 38/1964, since the year of 1996, till now.

This Certificate is given to client upon his request without any prejudice.


Postral Address: P.O. Box: 769 Safal. i3008, Kuwail, Telephone: ( 965 ) 884433 - Fax: 2428530 \& 2461855
$t$-mail infoekic kw com . Wetb - wwuvhie - Kw.com

Confidential: Under


## KUWAIT INSURANCE COMPANY S.A.K.

## Extabllshed 1960 <br> Authorised and paid up Cipital K.Dy9.404Million 



## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

We, Kuwait Insurance Company, hereby declare that vehicles stated owned by the insured, (Mastery/ Kuwait \& Gulf Link Transport Co. ) are insured with our company for third party auto liability insurance as per the Kuwaitl law and our insurance policy terms \& conditions from $17^{7 H}$ APR 2003 up to $16^{\text {TH }}$ APR 2005. Bg (1) $\mathrm{Sx}(1-9)$.

The certificate was given to the insured up on his request without holding our company liable to any party in giving such certificate.

For / Kuwait insurance company ( SAK )


Head Office: Kuwait fisurance Honse, Abdulla Ai Salem Suce


Confidential: Under

List of Trucks

| SR | Type | Model | Plate No. | Chassi No. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Mercedes | 2003 | 12561 | 808448 |
| 2 | Mercedes | 2003 | 12551 | 807987 |
| 3 | Mercedes | 2003 | 12557 | 808456 |
| 4 | Mercedes | 2003 | 12533 | 808000 |
| 5 | Mercedes | 2003 | 12640 | 803925 |
| 6 | Mercedes | 2003 | 12562 | 808363 |
| 7 | Mercedes | 2003 | 12648 | 803425 |
| 8 | Mercedes | 2003 | 12553 | 808886 |
| 9 | Mercedes | 2003 | 12649 | 803476 |





|  |  |
| :--- | ---: |
| Confidential; Under | KGL 0010359 |
| Protective Order. | PFB -0142 |



Confidential: Under
Protective Order.
KGL0010361
PFB-0143


Explosive Exclusion Clause


Subject otherwise to the same terms, conditions and limitations of the said policy.
for, KUWAIT INSURANCE COMPANY S.A.K.


For, Kuwait Insurance Company S.A.K

## Kuwait Insurance Co. s.a.k. <br>  <br> C.R. No. 7645 <br>  <br>  <br> Nuclear Chemical \& Biological Exclusion Clause

Notwithstanding anything contained in the policy, or in any extension thereof, it is hereby declared and agreed, that an exclusion over-riding all other terms, this insurance does not cover any "bodily injury or death; loss destuction of; or damage to any property" resulting there from, caused by, or happering directly or indirectly through, or in consequence of Nuclear, Chemical \& Biological Weapons.

For the purpose of this exclusion;
(I)

Utilisation of Nuclear weapons of mass destruction maans the use of any explosive nuclear weapon or device or the emission, discharge, dispersal, release or escape of fissile material emiting a level of radioactivity capable of causing incapacitating disablement or death amongst people or animals.
(I)

Utilisation of Chemical weapons of mass destruction means the emissions, discharge, dispersal, release or escape of any solid, hiquid or gaseous chemical compound which, when suitably distributed, is capable of causing incapacitating disablement or death amongst people or animals.
(III) Utilisation of Biological weapons of mass destruction mone mission discharge, dispersal, release or escape of any pathogenic (disease padidy yicro-organism(s) and/or biologically produced toxin(s) (including geneticallugdified organisms and chemically sysnthesised toxins) which are capable of cext mastacitating disablement or death amongst prople or animals.

Also excluded tereon is any loss or expenses of whatsoever nature directly or indirectiy arising out of, contributed to, caused by, resulting from, or in connection with any action taken in controlling, preventing, or suppressing any, or all of (I) to (III) above.

For, Kuwait Insurance Company (S.a.k)

Confidential: Under

## 326

## Kuwait Insurance Co. s.a.k. <br> Aw <br> C.R. No. 7645 <br>  <br> War and Terrorism Exclusion Enmorsement

Notwthstanding any provision to the contrary within this insurance or any endorsement thereto it is agreed that this insurance exctudes loss, damage, cost or expense of whatsoever nature directly or indirectly caused by, resutting from or in connection with any of the following regardiess of any other cause or event contributing concurrently or In any other sequence to the loss;

1. war, Invasion, acts of toreign enemies, hostlltfes or warlke operations (whether war be dectared or not), civil war, rebellion, revolution, insurrection, civil commotion assuming the proportions of or amounting to an uprising, military or usurped power; or
2. any act of terrorism

For the purpose of this endorsement an act of terrorism means an act including but not limited to the use of force or violence and/or the threat thereof, of any person or group(s) of persons, whether acting, alone or on behalf of or in connection with any organisation(s) or geventionent(s), committed for pointical, religious, ideological of 5 injlat puposes including the intention to influence any goverantor
public, or any section of the public, in fear
This endorsement also excludes loss, damage fespor oxpense of whatsoever nature directly or indirectly caused by, resulting from of inpermection with any action takan in controling, preventing, suppressing or in any way relating to 1 and/or 2 above.
If the Underwiters allege that by reason of this exclusion, any loss, damage, cost or expense is not covered by this insurance the burden of proving the contrary shall be upon the Assured.

In the event ary portion of this endorsement is found to be invall of unentorceable, the remainder shall remain in full force and effect.
for, KuWait insurance company s.a.k.

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Kuwait Insurance Company (S.A.K.)
Kuwait Insurance Company (S.A.K.)



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 Fax: : (1965)-2428330-2461855
 mat : inforgkie.kw com

## Workmen's Compensation Policy

No: $\quad 1 \quad 1$
 insurance any employee in the insugd's immediate service shall sustain bodily injury by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment by the Insured in the Business and if the insured shall be liable to pay compensation for such inury under the Law(s) set out in the schedule.

Then subject to the terms, exclusions and conditions contained hetein or endorsed hereon, the Company will indemnify the Insured against all sums for which the insured shail be so liable and will in addition be responsible for all costs and expenses incurred with its consent in defending any claim for such compensation.

Provided always that in the event of any change in the law(s) or the substitution of legislation, this policy shall remain in force bu the liability of the company shall be limited to such sum as the Company would have been liable to pay if the Law(s) had remained unaltered.

## EXCLUSIONS

The company shall not be liable under this poficy in respect of:

1. Any injury by orresuling from:'
(a) War, Invasion, Act of foreign anemy, Hostifites or War the operatlons (whether warbe declared or not), Civil War, Mutiny, Riots, Strikes, Civil Commotion assuming the proportions of or amounting to a popularrising, Military rising, Insurrection, Rebellion, Revolution, Military or Usurpedpower.
(b) Acts of Terrorism committed by a person or persons aoting on behalf of or in connection with any organisation. For the puppase of this insurance "Terrorism" means the use of violence for the purpose of putw phe pubtic or any section of the public infear.
(c) Nuclear Weapon or Material, tonizing. R/ditiqny or Contamination by radioactivity from any nuclearfuelorfrom any nucleayugts fom the combustion of nuclearfuel.

2. Any employee who in not a workman' withon thef meaning of the law(s).
3. Any liability of the insured which attached by virtue of an agreement but which would not have attachedin the absence of such agreament.
4. Any sums which the insured would have been entitfed to recover from amy party buf for an agreoment betweenthe insured and such party.
5. Medical Expenses however arising.
6. Hernia and Sun/Heal Stroke \& first day of Disablement.
7. Death or Disability due to any disease inciuding hdustrial Diseases.
8. The hnsured will lose the right for compensation, if he did not enforce the reasonable precautions to prevent accidents and comply with the statulory obligations governed by the ministerial order nos. 43 for the year 1979 and 114 for the year 1996, regarding the necessary precautions and condifions required at the work sites to protect his employees from the risk of work. Parficularly to protect the employees from electric shocks, siding, harmful gasses and all other risks of work by all protection means specially in respect of dangerous parts of the machines, and not to perform maintenance while in operations, supporing, digging edges, provide side fences to scaffolding to prevent their falls and ensure training for unskilled labour prior fo assign them for work which they are not fit to do.


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## KGL0010370

PFB-0150


SPECIAL ENDORSEMENT

It is hereby understood and agreed that the poiicy Exclusion No.2- Damage to property caused
by fire or explosion' is hereby deleed.

is hereby extended to cover the Insured's liability which ornhorys out of the use of the 'liting equipment".

Subject otherwise to the same terms, condtions and limitations of the said policy.

For, KUWAIT TNSURANCE COMPANY, S.A.K.


## Explosive Exclusion Clause



Subject otherwise to the same toms, conditions and timitations of the said polley.
for, KUWAIT INSURANCE COMPANY S.A.K.

KGL0010372 PFB-0152

## Kuwait Insurance Co. s.a.k. <br>  <br> CR. No. 7645 <br>  <br> , <br>  <br> Cross liabillty clause

It is hereby understood and agreed that otherwise subject to the terms, exclusions, provisions and conditions contained in this policy or endorsed thereon, cover under this policy shall apply to the Insured parties named in the schedule, as if a separate policy had been issued to each party, provided that the Insurers shall not indemnify the Insured under this endorsement in respect of liability for :-

Fatal or non-fatal injury or ilnness of employees grow wanen, who are
or could have been hasured under 'Workmen'g Contatyation and/or
Employers' Liability Insurance except favsiche toy or illness caused to the employees
Contractor shall be legally Hiable

The Company's total liability in nspett of the Insured parties shall not however, exceed in the aggregate, for any one ascialent or series of accidents arising out of ane event, the limit of indemnity, stated in the schedule.

Subject otherwise to the same terms, conditions and limitations of the said policy.

For, KUWAIT INSURANCE COMPANY S.A.K.

Cross-2TPL

KGL0010373 PFE-0153


The Insurers shall not be liable under this policy to indernify the Insured for loss or
dimage to existing underground propeties of any kind uniess ptior to the commencement
of works, the Insured has been notified by the relevant authorities in writing of the exact
position of such properties.
The indemnity shall in any case be restricted to the actoal repair gesso of such underground


- Deductible : $20 \%$ (twenty percent) of each perg tos Subject to a minimum of KD2, 500. - Each and every loss

Subject otherwise to the same terms, conditions and limitations of the sald policy.
for, Kuwait Insurance Company S.A.K.


Nuclear Chemical \& Biological Exclusion Clause
Notwithstanding anything contained in the policy, or in any extension thereof, it is hereby dectared and agreed, that an exclusion over-riding all other terms, this insurance does not cover any "bodily injury or death; loss destruction of, or damage to any property" resulting therefrom, caused by, or happening directly or indirectly through, or in consequence of Nuclear, Chemical \& Biological Weapons.

For the purpose of this exclusion;
(1) Utilisation of Nuclear weapons of mass destruction means the use of any explosive nuclear weapon or device or the emission, discharge, dispersal, release or ascape of fissile material emitting a level of radioactivity capable of causing incapacitating disablement or death amongst peopic or animals.
(II) Utilisation of Chemical weapons of mass destruction means the emissions, discharge, dispersal, release or escape of any solid, liquid or gascous chemical compound which, when suitably distributed, is capable of causing incapacitating disablepront or death amongst people or animals.
(III) Uiilisation of Biological weapons of mass difratity mans the emission discharge, dispersal, release or escape of any pathogenic forspytepodacing) microorganism(s) andor biologically produced toxin(s) (including, repeghity modified organisms and chemically sysnthesised toxins) which are capable ofghidsing incapacitating disablement or death amongst people or animals.

Also excluded hereon is any loss or expenses of whatsoever nature directly or indirectly arising out of, contributed to, caused by, resulting from, or in comnection with any action taken in controlling, preventing, or suppressing any. or all of (I) to ( m ) above.

For, Kuwait Insurance Company (S.ak)

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Protective Order.


Notwithstanding any provision to the contrany within this insurance or any endorsement thereto it is agreed that this insurance excludes loss, damage, cost or expense of thereto it is agreed that this insurance excuudes loss, damage, cost or expense of
whatsoaver nature directly or indirectly caused by, resulting from or in connection with any of the following regardiess of any other cause of event contibuting concurrently or any of the following regardess of
in any other sequence to the loss:

1. war, invasion, acts of foreign enemies, hostllities or warlike operations (whether war be declared or not), civil war, rebellion, operations (whetter war be declared of not), civil war, rebelion,
revolution, insurrection, civll commotion assuming the proportions revolution, insurrection, civil commotion assuming the propo
of or amounting to an uprlsing, military or usurped power; or
2. any act of terrorism

For the purpose of this endorsement an act of terrorism means an act including but not llmited to the use of force or volence and/or the threat thereof, of any person or group(s) of persons, whether acting alone or on behalf of or in connection with any organisation(s) or government(s) committed for political reigious, ideological oy milar purposes
Including the intertion to mifiunce any govergnent givor to put the Including the intertion to infuence any go
public, or any section of the public, in fear.

This andorsement also excludes loss, dampde ses expense of whatsoever nature directly or Indirectly caused by, resulting trom Nh contiection with any action taken in


If the Underwiters allege that by reason this exclusion, any losa, damage, cost or expense is not covered by this insurance the burden of proving the contrany shall be expense is not cal
upon the Assured.

In the event any portion of this endorsement is found to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder shall remain in full force and effect.
for, KUWAIT INSURANCE COMPANY S.A.K.

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NMAR97B

Confidential: Under


## Third Party Liability Policy

Where as the insured carrying on the Business mentioned in the Schedule and no other for the purpose of this Insurance has by a Proposal and Declaration which it is hereby agrest shall be the basis of this contract and be considered as incorporated herein applied to the Kıwait insurance Company S. A. K. (hereinatter catledutie, Company) for the insurance hereinatter contained and has paid or agreed to partion 4 ody the sum shown as the Initial Premium as consideration for such insumen
Now this Policy witnesseth that thron 0 , with indemnify the insured against all sums which the Insurad shall become legally lible to pay in respect of:
(a) accidental bodily injury to any person fnot being either a member of the insured's family or a person angaged in and upon the service of the msured at the time of the occurrence giving rise to such injury)
(b) accidental direct damage to property (not being property belonging to or in the custody or under the control of the insured of any person in the service of the insuted or upon which the insured or any such person is or has been operating
happening during the Period of Insurance and caused in the course of the Business at the Premises or elsewhere within the Tertitorial Limits
Provided that the liability of the Company for all claims for compensation payable to any claimant or any number of claimants in respect of or arising out of any accident (which word "accident" shall be held to inctuce a seties of accidenls occuring in connection with or arising out of one event) is lunited to the limit of indermity shown in the Policy Schedste.
The Company, will in addition where legal proceedings have been detended with is consent. pay atl tegal expenses for which the lnsuted may be liable.

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KGL0010377
PFB-0157
9. Liability arising from technical or protessional advice.
10. Any legal liability of whatsoever nature directiy or indirectly casued by or contributed to by or arising from:
a) nuctear weapons mataria!
b) ionising, fadiations or contamination by radioactivity from any waste from the combustion of nuclear tuel for the purpose of this Exchusion Combustion shall inchude any self sustaining process of nuclear fission.
11. Consequential loss of any kind or description whatsaover inoluding panatties

## CONDITIONS

This Policy and the Schedute shall be read together as one coniract apt y y word or expresston to which a specific meaning has been attached in any part of this Folicy or g the 8 ghtcule shall bear such meaning wherever it may appear.

1. The due observance and futiment of the terms, provisions, coptay aydd endarsements of this Policy insofar as they retate to anything to be done or complied wist by ye insured and the truth of the statements and answers in the proposal shall be condjog ofepedent to ary hatility of the the statements and answers in the proposal shall be condy $\quad$ gy Company to make any payment under this Policy.
2. Every notice or communication to be given or made undeptrad blicy shall be delvered in writing al the Head Oftice or Branch Ofice of Agency of the Comproverfo which the Insured has been in communication.
3. The Company shall not be llable if after the insurance has been effected the risk be increased from any cause whatscever unless the Company has signified its assent thereto in wirting.
4. The insured shall exerclse reasonable care that only competent employees are employed and shall take all reasonabie precautions to prevent accidents and shat comply with all statutory or other regulations and shall take reasonabie steps to malntain all premises, furnishing, filings, appliances, and piant in sound condition. Th the event of the discovery of any defect or danger the insured shal forthwith cause such defect or danger to be made good of remedied and in the meantime shall cause such additional precautions to be taken as the circumstances may require.
5. It the first premium has been caiculated on estimates furrished by the insured, an accurate recorc shall be kept by the insured of all matters for which Estimates have been furmished an the Insured shall at all times allow the Company to inspeot such record within one month, of the expity of each period of insurance. The Insured shall supply the Company with a correct account of the particulars necessary for assessing the premium and if the actual particulars shall differ from the Estimates upon which premlum has been paid the difference in promiam shall be met by a further proportionate payment to the Company or by a relund by the Company as the case may be.
6. The insured shall give notice to the Company of any accident within three days after the acciden comes to the knowiedge of the insured or the insured's represontative tor the time being and shall


## TO WHOM SO EVER IT MAY CONCERN

This is to confirm that we have issued Group Life Poltces, including Workmen's Compensation Insurance Coverage as per Kuwait Labor Law and Employer's Llability to $\mathrm{M} / \mathrm{s}$. Kuwait \& Gulf Link Transport Company., covering all their employees as per policy term \& condition.

These Polices are subject to walver of Subrogation and Notice of cancellation clauses,

Yours sincerely,


Attached:
Copies of Policies Specimen

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GROUP LIFE INSURANCE POLICY
POLICY NO.: GRP /
T HERE THE GRANTEES described in the first schedule have made to the WARBA INSURANCE COMPANY S.A.K. (hereinafter called the company) a written proposal and declaration whiehtogether with any information or particulars from time to time supplied to the Company be the basis of this contract and be considered as incorporated herein.
It is hereby agreed that in consideration of the payment of the first premium and on condition that the subsequent premiumsiare palidin accordance with the provisions of the Second Schedule the Companyagrees to provide the insurance cover as described in the Third Schednte or in any Endorsements attached hereto, provided that this Policy shall remain subject tothe conditions stated in the Second Schedule hereto and any conditionis and provisions endorsed or written hereon and signed for the Coupany as being relative hereto.
The due observance and fulfitment of the terms, provisions and conditions hereof or attached hereto by Insured insofar as they relate to anything to be done or complied with by the Insured and the trath of the statements and answers in the propósal, shatilhe conditions precedent to any liability of the Company to makeorany payment thder this policy. No waiver of any of the terms, provisions or limitations contained in this policy or attached hereto shall be valid unless in writingby the Company.

Signed on behalf of
Signed on behalf of Warba Imsurance Company S.A.K.

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Protective Order.
 WARBA IOSURANCE COMPANY к.s.c.


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## KGL0010383

PFB-0161



In this Policy, where the context admits, the masculine gender includes the feminine gender and the singular number includes the piurat and vice versa.

## POLICY CONDITIONS

1. A Member is included in the Policy from the commencement Date, or from the Normal inclusion Date if later, and increases in sum insured for an existing Member are included from the date of increase without medical or other evidence of insurability being requircd, provided that:
a) Any sum insured on the life of a member in excess of KD. + ghet (the free Cover Limit) or in excess of the normal life insurance benefit applicate if the Nember in accordance with the provisions of the Third schedule, shall be subject to underwriting assessment by the Company.
b) Any increase in sum insured over the free cover limit for th existing Member who has been accepted by the Company on nomfintems ts subjeot to underwiting
 assessment by the Company when the sum insurd werease exceeds a
defined as $\mathrm{KD} .13,000 /$ in excess of the sum insuited lastundervitten.
C) If any Member is, due to illhealth, not ictivelar Aork or is on normal leave on the Nomal Inclusion Date the sum insured on his hitevill not come into force until he has retumed to work and has, beentactively smployed for a continuous (excluding periods of normal leave) petion of two weeks. Similarly, if an existing Member is not actively at work or is on nomal leave, on the day his sum insured is due to increase then such increase will not come into force until he has retumed to work and has been activoly employe for a period of two weeks.
d) If a Member's Dite of Entry instuptze Normal Inclusion Date, ariy sim insured on his life will be subjecturto widerwiting assessmeat by the Company.
2. Any Member not accepted by the Company for insurance on normal terms in respect $\delta$ the whole or any part of the cover on his life may be included in this Lolicy onjany special terms that may be agreed between the Grantees and the Company.
The Company will require satisfactory evidence of age before any benefit is paid to any clamant under this Policy. If after commencement of the cover date of birth of any Member proves to have been incorrectly notified to the Company, the company shall notify the Grantees of the adjustments to be made under the Policy as a result of the incorrect notification. In the case of a member whose age has been understated the Company shall not be liable

to pay any greater benefit under this Policy than that which would have been secured pro rata by the premiums paid for each benefit had his date of birth been correctly stated at the outset. In the event that the age of the Member has been understated and it actually exceeds the Normal Retirement Date, the Company shall not be liable to pay any benefit.
3. The contract and policy conditions for a Member whose date of birth has been misstated, as described in item 2 above, will otheyehisespapion the normal way.
4. At inception and on each Scheme Anniversary ${ }^{\text {Date a a a annual premium }}$ shall be calculated by the Company for the Stheme odinually after the expiry of the one year. The method is to apply the 3 (ipropriategrate(s) set out in the Fourth Schedule to the sum insured at the chimencentent of each Scheme Year of each Member whose bife ishaged under the policy at that time. The appropriate premium rateds determitiondiay reference to the age next birthday of the member at the conomencentent of the scheme Year. The total annual premium for any Stheme Yeat will be payable annually in advance on the Commencement gate or on the SCheme Anniversary Date.
For any Member for whom the Date of Entry into the Scheme (or date of increase in bendit) is not Schene Anniversary Date a pro rata premum calculated bythe Company will be payabe for the period between the Date of Entry (gridate onacrease) and the next Scheme Anniversary Date.
If a Meftimer cesses to tecovered by the Scheme prior to Normal Retirement Dateother than as a result of an event involving payment of a benefit under this Policy, thergmpany shall make a pro rata refund to the Grantees for tifetiefiod between the Date that the member left service and the next Scheme Anfiversary Date.
The extra premium payable for any Member accepted by the Company on special terms shall be as determined by the Company.
Thirty days of grace are allowed for the payment of premiums under this Policy. If any premium is not paid within the thirty days of grace or any extended time that the Company might allow, the amount of the premium shall be increased by as much as the Company considers appropriate, tlaving

regard to the period from tho due date until the date of payment. If any premium remains outstanding after the expiry of the time allowed by the Company, it has the right to cancel the policy with effect from the due date of such premizm. The Grantees shall pay a proportion of the premium to cover the period until the date of cancellation.
5. The premium rate(s) specified in the Fourth Schedule shall apply until the Revision Date. On each Revision Date the Company will advise Grantees of the premium rates to apply during the following year, subject always to item no. 6 below.

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6. The Company reserves the right to vary the termis and provisions of this Policy on any of the following occurring:
a) There is a change in the basis used for calculatigg the benefits under this scheme.
b) There is a change in the eligibility conditions fortpembership of the Scherne.
c) An additional company is admitted ox an employery company ceases to be an employer or there is a change of conpativating is the pincipal employer.
7. a) The cover on a Member termindege on the date on which he ceases to be actively employed by the Employefexcept that, subject to the continued payment of premiums the cover in respect of a Member shall continue:
i) In the event of temporary ${ }^{3}$ guspension or if leave of absence has been grented for reason other thanill halith exisability, or
in) If the absenctachas chatised by ili-health or disability, so long as the Member is regarded as an eniyyee of the Enployer for a maximum period of one year,
b) The insurance on thetufe of a Menber terminates on the date on which:
i) He ceasesto be in active employment with the Employer (employment) means being in refigt of a regular salary from the Employer and carrying out sormal being in reteipt of a regular salary from
dutietsethe dfection of the Employer).
ii) He serves in any capacity for any Navy, Amy or Air force.
iii) The cover in respect of any Member will in no event continue after the Mernber's Normal Retirement Date.
8. All money payable to or by the Company under this Policy shall be paid at the principal office of the Company as set out above and the payment by the Company to the Grantees of any sum due under the policy shall be a complete discharge to the Company in respect of that sum.
9. The Grantees shall hold the policy and receive all sum payable under it for the benefit of the Members or their beneficiaries.
10. The Company reserves the right, at any time, to require that the age of any Member included in the Policy is proved to its satisfaction.
11. The Grantees shall provide the Company with any date, information and evidence that the Company may reasonably require uponthergaufinence of any event relating to this Policy.
12. In the event of any claim arising under this paticy oryany of the attached Endorsements, it shall be notified to the Campanyth soon as possible, but in any event not more than 90 days afterthe occutpence of the incident giving rise to the clam. To enable processing the claim without correspondence and delay thereonfledinsufed required is to submit the following documents:

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a) Birth ecrtificate of the life assiged or thy other offieinl document that proves the age.
b) In case of death, death cextificate and a nimdical report giving the cause of death
c) In case of disablement of the life assured, the "Employer" shail notify the "Insurance Company" within thiree megths of his knowledge thereof and submit all the relevant


- the presenceverthe permanent disability
- that athe vimptons of the permanent disability which caused it were

$\rightarrow$ that the tife assured was totally unaware of such disability at the time of comurndement of the insurance cover.
In case of total and permanent disablement as a result of incurable diseases it is a condition that the disease contimes for at least six months without cure or improvetient. The period of six months commences from the date at which the insure ascertains the total and permanent disablement.
d) Any other document the "insurance Company" deems necessary for the setticment of the claim.

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13. Any difference or dispute between the Grantees and the Company in respect of the Policy including its validity shall be referred to three arbitrators, one to be chosen by the Company, the second to be chosen by the Grantees and the third to be chosen by the first two arbitrators. The decision of the majority of the arbitrators shall be binding on both the partied,
The costs of the arbitration shall be at the discretion of the arbitrators, who shall have the power to establish all aspects of thegrexecediresfor the arbitration.
14. This Policy is subject to and shall be construed iffaccordance with the Law of Kuwait.
 referred to herein as "Kuwaiti Dinase"*
16. This policy does not cover any claidt as tatesulf of auclear weapons or devices or chemical or bological agents. $\because$
17. This policy does not coyer any clainssas a result of accident or otherwise



## THIRD SCHEDULE

## beneetis

The life benefits provided by the Policy are as follows:-
---Months salary for all Members earning monthly salaries.
Any ancillary benefits provided by the Policy will be as speciffedititany attached Endorsement(s).

SCHEDULE OR EXCLUSIONS APPLYING TO LIFEBENETHET
A) Notwithstanding anything contained in any of the sudposements attached to the policy, no benefit will be payabie if digth ocedey eithef directly or indirectly as a result of any of the following cautses:

1. Active participation in war or in warlige operation
"Active participation " in warlike potetations means being an active member of the of the military forcess e.g. Army, Novy, Air Force, Territorial Army or of the Police fotec or ayy other special forces activated by Government or other pubific authorities to defend law and order in case of a warlike operation, or any other person who takes up arms in an active or defensive role.
"Warlike operations "meanshostities, mutiny, riof, civil commotion, civil war, rebellion, 衣evolution, insurrection, conspiracy, military or usuped power and spatialay or state of siege.

Passive war eover ${ }^{\prime}$ s excluded if an insured person is temporarily or permanently assignedito a country after war has been declared in that country or after it has been. recodnized as a Whr zone by the United Nations or where there are warlike operations, as teseribed above


## FOURTH SCHEDULE

The rate(s) of premium applicable under the policy are as set out below:

1. Ancillary Benefits


Rate: As Agreed
SCHEDULE OF EXCLUSLONS APPLYING TO ANCILLARY BENEFTS
Notwithstanding afyhing fontainet 4 h any of the Eudorsements attached to the Policy, no benefit willege payable under any of those Endor3ements if death or disability occiurs elither directly or indirectly as a result of any of the following causes:

1. War, theasioniact of foreiga enemies, hostilities or warlike operations (whether War bededaredor not), civil war, mutiny, civil commotion assuming the proportions for or anounting to a popular rising, military rising, iasurrection, rebellion, military or usurped power or any act of any person acting on behalf of or in connection with any organisation actively directed towards the overthrow by force of any Government or to the influencing of it by terrorism or violence.

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KGL0010391
PFB-0169

2. Attempted suicide or self-infticted injury whilst sane or insane.
3. Any breach of the law by the Member or any assault provaked by him.
4. Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs other than in aecordance with the directions of a registered medical practitioner.
5. Aviation, gliding or any other form of flight other than as a fare paying passenger of a recognised airline or charter service.

6. Particpation in, or training for, any hazardous sportor comipetifion or tiding or driving in any form of race or competition.
7. Lnvolvement in any underwater activity.

8. Injury caused by nuclear fission, nuclear fusiofor radionctiveconfamination.
9. Serving in any capacity for any Navy, 登my or Airforge
10. Meatal illuess or disease.
11. Pregnancy, childbirth or abortion ontyy complieations arising therefrom.
12. Any disease or medical impairment from, which the insured was suffering or had a setious past historyat the comnenement of the cover or his date of entry if later.
13. Infection frometity Hupian trmintio Deficiency Virus (HIV), Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syadrofid (ADS) or any AIDS related conditions.
14. Any injury caysed insifuthe territorial limits of fraq.

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## ANCILLARY BENEFIT ENDORSEMENTS

## ACCIDENTAL DEATH BENEFIT (Outside Work)

It is hereby declared that if the death of a Member occurs as the result of an accident the Company shall pay an additional amount equivalent to the basic life sum insured under the Policy for that Member, provided that:

1. The Policy is in force on the date of the accident and the deceased is a Scheme Member on that date.
2. The accident occurs prior to the attainment by the Member of age 65 .
3. Death results solely, directly and independently of all other causes fibint fodiky injury effected through external, violent, visible and accidental means or from a surgical operation necessarily consequent thereto, within 90 days ors suchzaccident.
This Endorsement is subject to the special conditions centained in the Schedule of exclusions applying to anclliary benefits.
PERMANENT TOTAL DISABILTY (ACCIDEATGBENEMY (Outside Work) It is hereby dectared that in the event of a member"being tetally and permanently disabled as a result of an accident, to the extent ofteling unable ever again to follow his own occupation or any other occtuation for which he is reasonably fitted by reason of training, education orexperience the cotipany shall, following 12 months continuous disability as herefin defined, pay'the twice basic life sum insured under the Policy, provided that:
4. The Policy is in forde and the isabled gerson is a Scheme Member on the date of the event resulting indye claim:
5. The accident gccurs $\mathrm{p}+\mathrm{ibit}$ to the attainment by the Member of age 65 .
6. The disability restits solely, directly and independently of all other canses from bodily injury effeged through exiternal, violent, visible and accidental means or from a surgieal operation necessarily, consequent thereto, within 90 days of stuch accident.
7. Acceptance by hie Company of a claim under this Endorsement will automatically teftuliate the life cover in the Policy and all benefits applying under any other Endorsement thereto in respect of the Member:
8. If the Metmber qualifies for payment under this Endorsement and under any Permanent Partial Disability Endorserment the total payment shall not exceed the greater sum insured under the Endorsements. Any payment made under this Endorsement will be reduced by the sum of Total Temporary Disability beuefit payments already made.
This Endorsement is subject to the special conditions contained in the Schedule of exclusions applyiug to ancillary benefits

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PERMANENT TOTAL DISABILTTY (SICKNESS) BENEFIT
It is hereby declared that in the event of a Member being totally and permanently disabled through sickness, to the extent of being unable ever again to follow his own occupation or any other occupation for which he is reasonably fited by reason of training, education or experience the company shall following 12 months continnous disability as herein defined, pay the sum assured equivalent to the basic life sum assured nuder this policy, provided that:

1. The Policy is in force and the disabled life is a Scheme Memberen the date he first becomes disabled.
2. The first day of disability occurs prior to the attainment byithe Momber of age 60 .
3. The disability results solely and directly from sieknesstyand fidependentity of bodily injury arising from external, violent, visible and aceitertal intans. F
4. Acceptance by the company of a claim under this Budrosendeat will autonatically
 Endrosement thereto in respect of the Member ${ }^{2} \mathrm{~S}_{4}$,
5. If the Member qualifies for payment uiger this Endrosement and under any Permanent Partial disability Endrosement-ficis total paymentshall not exceed the greater sum assured under the Endrosemeints. Any payment made under this Endorsement will be reduced by the sum of Total/ emporary Disabikity benefit payments already madc.
This Endorsementis' subject to the special conditions contaned in the Schedute of exdilisions kpplytige to ancillary benefit.
PERMANENTRARTIG MISABILITY(ACCOENT BENEFITS (Outside Work)
It is berchy declared that of the event of a Member suffering, as a result of an acciderit, the loxtby physical separation, or the total loss of use of, any limb or orgat or the body of the total and irrecoverable loss of sight as set out in the attachedscale; the Company shall pay the respective percentage of double basic life sum insured, provided that:
6. The Policy is in force and the disabled person is a Scleme Member on the date of the event resulling in the claim.
7. The accident occurs prior to the attainment by the Member of age 65 .
8. The disability results solely, directly and independently of all other causes from bodily injuy effected through external, violent, visible and accidental means or from a

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surgical operation necessarily consequent thereto, within 90 days of such aceident.
4. The Member survives the accident and is afive 30 days thereafter or when payment of the claim is effected by the Company, whichever is later.
5. Acceptance by the Company of a $100 \%$ claim under this Endorsement will automatically terminate the benefis applying under any other Endorsement to the Policy in respect of the Member.
Any subsequent claim made under any Accidental Death or Permaneht Total Disability Endorsement to the Polloy in respect of death or disability arising from the same accident as gives risc to the claim under this Endorsement/4 amount already paid hereunder. If the Mermber qualifics for pamment under this Endprsement and under any Temporaty Total Disabjty Endgrsement the combined payment shall not exceed the sum insured under this Effensenêtit:
6. In no circumstances will the total amount payable fader this fienefit in respect of any one Member exceed $100 \%$ of the sum insured whethe 榷发 a restitof one accident or a number of aceidents.

This Endorsement is subject to the Siecial condifiobs contained in the Schedule of exclusions applying to ancillaty betofits.

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KGL0010395
PFB-0173


## PERMANENT PARTIAL DISABILITY(SICKNESS) BENEFITS (Outside Work)

It is hereby declared that in the event of a Mernber suffering, as a result of a sickness, the loss by physical separation, or the total loss of wse of any limb or the total and irrecoverable loss of sight as set out in the attached scale, the Company shall pay the respective percentage of basic life sum insured, provided that:

1. The Policy is in force and the disabled person is a Scheme Member ont the date of the event resulting in the clain.
2. The first day of disability occurs prior to the attainnent by the Mcyber of wat 60 .
3. The disability results solely, directly from sickness and independentky of bodily injury arising from external violent, visible and accident meand
4. Acceptance by the Company of a $100 \%$ claim under his Enderdement willatomatically
 the Member.
Any subsequent claim made under any P家manent Total Msability Endorsement to the Policy in respect of disability arising from the stane sickness as gives rise to
the claim under this Endorsement 等ll be feduced by any amount already paid hereunder. If the Member qualifes for paydent under this Endorsement and under any Temperary Total Disability windorsement the tembined payment shall not exceed the sum insured under this Endotement.
5. In no circumstancesswill the tot fanomptayable under this benefit in respect of any one Member exceed $100 \%$ vof the stintinsured whether as a result of one accident or a number of accidents",
This Endorsementis subjecto the special conditions contained in the Schedule of exclusions apelying to ancillary bencitis.

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SCHEDULE OF
PERMANENT PARTIAL DISABILITYCACCIDENT \& SICKNESS
BENEFITS
COUTSIDE WORK ( $\%$ of basic Sum Insured)


## KGL0010397



| torsion cradle | 40\% | 35\% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| -Total paralysis of the forearm radial uerve | 30\% | 25\% |
| -Total paralysis of the hand radial nerve | 20\% | 15\% |
| -Total paralysis of the cubital nerve | 30\% | 25\% |
| -Anchylosis of the wrist in favourable position (straight and in pronation) | 20\% | 15\% |
| -Anchylosis of the wrist in unfavourable position |  |  |
| (flexion or straised extension or supine position) | 30\% | -25\% |
| -Total loss of thumb | 20\% | 15\% |
| -Partial less of thumb (ungual pralanx) | 10\% | $5 \%$ |
| -Total auchylosis of thumb |  |  |
| -Total amputation of forefinger | 15 | 10\% |
| - Amputation of two phalanges of forefinger | 10\% | 8\% |
| - Amputation of the ungual phalanx of forefinger | 58\% | 3 ym |
| Simultaneous anputation of thumb and forefinger | 35\% | 25\% |
| Amputation of thumb and a finger other than forefinger | $25$ | 20\% |
| -Amputation of two fingers other than thumb gad forefinger | $12 \%$ | 8\% |
| Amputation of three fingers other thatsthamband forrfinger | 20\% | 15\% |
| -Amputation of four fingers includitig thumb; | 45\% | 40\% |
| -Ampuation of the median finger | 10\% | 8\% |
| -Amputation of a finger otherthan thumb, |  |  |
|  | 7\% | 3\% |
| -Amputation of four firger exclofing thumb | 40\% | 35\% |
| LOWER LIMBS |  |  |
| mpatation of |  | 60\% |
| mpatationeff thigh (lowerthatf and leg |  | 50\% |
| -Total loss of tet (ibio-tersal) disarticulation |  | 45\% |
| -Particluss of foeqt(Sub-ankle-bone disarticulation) |  | 40\% |
| -Parifal loss of foot (thedio-tarsal disarticulation) |  | 35\% |
| -Parthlorsidempt (fatso-metatarsal disarticulation) |  | 30\% |
| -Total paralysis of lower limb(incurable nerve lesion) |  | 60\% |
| - Complete pargysis of the external poplitic sciatic nerve |  | 30\% |
| -Complete paralysis of the internal poplitic sciatic nerve |  | 20\% |
| -Complete paralysis of two nerves(poplitic sciatic external and internal) |  | 40\% |
| -Anchylosis of the hip |  | 40\% |
| Anchylosis of the knee |  | 20\% |
| Loss of osseous substance from the thigh or both bones of the leg (incurable conditions) |  | 60\% |

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KGL 0010398 PFB-0176

-Loss of osscous substanee of the knee-pan with considerable separation of the fragments and considerable difficulty of
movemenis in stretching the leg

- Loss of osseous substance of the knee pan while the
-Less of osseous substance of the knee pan while the
movements are preserved
Shortening of the lower limb by at least 5 cm
Shortening of the lower limb by 3 to 5 cm
-Stortening by 1 to 3 cm
-Total amputation of all the toes
-Amputation of four toes including big toe
-Amputation of four toes
-Anchylosis of the big toe
-Amputation of two toes
-Amputation of one toe, other than the big tow
This Endorsement is subject to the special condidns confaned in othe Schedule of exclusions applying to ancillary benefits.
TOTAL TEMPORARY DISABILITY(AGCIDENVT) BMAEFTT OUTSIDE WORK
It is hereby declared that in the eventad a Mexaber being totally unable to follow his normal occupation as a resifitof bechg conithioasly and totalty disabled by
 1st day) of the Member for ${ }^{\text {知 }}$ long as such disablity contiuues. The payment of benchits shall not in any eventhontinuefor more than 52 consecutive weeks and

Benefu is payably
 resulting ifthe ofaim.

2. THe accident occurs prior to the attainent by the Member of age 65 .
3. The digatidety resuldis solely, directly and independently of all other causes from bodily injuy efecte through external, violent, visible and accidental means or from a surgical operation necessarily consequent thereto, within 90 days of such accident.
4. If the Member qualifies for payment under this Endorsement and under the Permanent Total Disability andfor Permanent Partial Disability Endorsements the total payment shall not exceed the greatest sum insured under any one of the Endorsements.
This Endorsement is subject to the special conditions in the schedule of exclusions applying to ancillary benefits.


## REPATRIATION BENEMITS

It is hereby declared that in the event of death of a Member, the Company shall reimburse the actual expenses incurred in transportation to his country of origin, subject to a maxium of $\mathrm{KD} 500 /$.
This Endorsement is subject to the special conditions in the schedule of exclusions applying to ancillary benefits,
WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION COVER
THIS BENEFIT IS RESTICTED TO THE MEMBERS WHS
EMPLOXEES OF THE COMPANY WHLLE THEY ARE ON DEYTY WTUKN THE
TERRITORIAL LIMYTS OF KUWAIT. THIS BENEFITHILL NOT THEREFORE BE NOT AVIALABLE TO THE MEMBERS OF THEBOARI COVERED UNDER BE NOT AVLA
THE POLICY
It is hereby declared and agreed that if duridy dutyent any fime including Fridays, Public Holidays \& Overtime during the theriod fifinsurance any life assured (as per list attached to the policy) in the likured immediate service shall sustain bodily injury by acciderre ayditugotity of arid in the course of his employment by the Insured in the/fosiness and $\mathrm{m}_{\text {fot }}$ the Insured shall be liable to pay compensation for such inhery fatider:-The, Kuwait Labour Law 1964 as amended by Order No. 8 of $14^{3 / 4}$ Novembert $965^{2}$ and Order No. 66 of 1983.
Then subject to the terms 娄exceptions and conditions comtaned herein in the policy or endorsements, wade will indemnify the Insured against all sums for

Provided always thating fine event of any change in the Kuwait Labour Law or the substitution 0 , thethe Legislation this coverage shall remain in force but the liability of WARBA shallfelimited to such sums as WARBA would have been liable tohay if tie law had remained unaltered.
It isturther declaredand agreed that in respect of any one occurrence any claim payablektinderyis endorsement will be reduced by any amount that has been paid or will be paid or is payable under the Group Life Plan and/or the Personal Accident flans as detalled in this policy and applicable endorsements.
It is hereby declared and agreed that this policy does not cover any bodily injury directly caused by missiles and/or bombs and /or other explosives.
This Endorsement is subject to the special conditions in the schedule of exclusions spplying to ancillary benefits.

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|  <br> warbe insurance company x.s.c. <br> Notwithstanding the above WARBA slall not be liable in respect of:- <br> 1. Any injury caused by or resulting from:- <br> a. War, invasion, act of foreign enemies, hostilities or war-like operations (whether war be declared or not ). Civil war, mutiny, civil commotion assuming the proportions of or amounting to a popular rising, military rising, insurrection, rebellion, military or usurped power or any act of any person acting on behalf of or in connection with any organisation actively directed towards the overthrow by force of its Government or to the influencing of it by terrorism or thilence. <br> b. Acts of Terrorism committed by a person or persons agting on beanif or in connection with any organisation. For purpose of this jaturnate means the use of violence for the purpose of putting the fitiblic or any section of the public in fear. <br> c. Nuclear weapon or material, ionising radiationgar coikatinationgy radioactivity from any auclear fuel or from any nuclear waskerw tity fuel. <br>  service. <br> 3. Any employee who is not a 'workning' within the meaning of the Law(s). <br> 4.Any liability of the Imsured which had witached by virtue of an agreement but which would not hage attached in 锝e absence of such agreement. <br> 5.Any sums which thedusungd would have been entitled to recover from any party but for a magrentehbetwein the Insured and such party. <br>  <br> 7.Hernia and Syn/ted Strok <br> 8.Death of wisabity dued any disense including Industrial Disease. <br> 9. Fistazy of wablement. <br> Signed on behalf of Warba Insurance Company S.A.K. |  |
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KGL0010401
PFB-0179

It is hereby declared and agreed that for the work related accidents for which compensation becomes payable under Workmen's Compensation Cover, and if the amount of compensation works out to less than that payable under the Group Life Scheme, then the latter shall be applicable and the Insured person is entitled to only one payment either under Group Life Benefits or under Workmen's Compensation Benefits.
Subject otherwise to the same terms and conditions of the Policy.


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KGL0010402
PFB-0180


## WARBA INSURANCE COMPANY KS.C.



A foreas the Insured carrying on the Business described in the Schedule and no other for the purpose of thls Insurance by a propesal and declaration which shall be the
basis of this contract and is deemed to be incorporated herein has applied to the WARBA INSURANCE COMPANY S.A.K (hereinafter called "the Company") for he Insurance hercinafter contained and has peid or agreed to pay the premium as consideration for such Insurance.

NOW THIS POLICY WINEESSETH that the Company will, subject to the texms, conditions and exetusions contained herein or endorsed hereon, Indemnify the Insured against all suans which the insured shall become legally liable to pay by final Court Judgement and pays to any employee in his immediate service (ox to employees legal heirs) because of Occupational disease or Accidental Bodily Injuzy arising out of and in the course of his employment by the Insured and happening during the Insurance period

The Company will, in addition, pay all costs and expenses incurred with its writen consent in The company will, in additon, pay all costs and expenses incurred with
defending any claim for obtaining a compensationerpp the lnsured. PROVIDED ALWAYS that the habiffy for hoompany for all clams for compensation payable to any employee or any fund accident is limited to the limitg hatheyuth sotown in the Policy Schedule

SMRCIALCONDITIONS

1. WARRANTED that the Insured shall buy a Workmen's Compersation Insurance from the Company and shall maintain such Insurance as long as the Employers Liablity Insurance
2. Indemnities under Workmen's Compensation and Employers Liability Insurances are not curnutative in respect of same disease or accidental bodily injury and tha Company shal onty be liable to inderanify the Insured either under the Workmerts Compensation Insurance or the Employers Liability Insurance as the case may be.
3. In the event of the expiration of this insurance by reason of non-renewal and/or cancellation, this insurance shall extend to apply to clains made against the Insured and submitted to the Compariy during the three calendar months following immediately upon such expiration or cancellation but only for occupational disease or the accidental bodity injuries which may have been contracted or happened during the insurance pexiod provided such diseases or injuries are not excluded from the coverage provided herein.

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#### Abstract

4. In the event of any occurrence which may give rise to a claim under this policy the Insured shall inmediately give notice thereof to the Company with fuli particulars. Every letter, shall immediately give notice thereof to the Contpany with full particulars. Every letter, claim, writ, summons and process shall be notified or forwarded to the Company claim, writ, sumumons and process shall be notified of forwarded to the Cortpany immediately on receipt. Notice shall also be given to the Company immediately the insured shall have knowledge of any inpeading prosecution, inquest or fatal enquiry in connection with ary such occurrence as atoresaid. 5. No admússion, offer, promise or payment shail be made by or on behaif of the Insured without the consent of the Company which shall be entitted if it so desired to take over and conduct in his naxne the defence or settements of any clatm or to prosecute in his name for its own benefit any claim for medemaity or darages oftement of any claim and the dired shall aive conduc any proceeding and one semp Conpany may require Insured shall give all such information and assistangana the Company may require. 6. The initial prenuium and all renewal prexuupe hamay be accepted shal be paid by the ccordance with the total amnount of waggs ahd gaknes and oner eamings paid by together with the amount of wages, sela less and other earnings shall be properly recorded  upply the Company with a cypaticcount of all such wages, saiaties and other earnings paid during any period of instrampey yitins one pronth from the expiry date of such period  as been paid, the difference in premium shail be met by a further proportionate payment the refund premium to the instred shall not exceed $50 \%$ of the initial premium. 7. The Company as well as the insured may cancel this policy by sending seven days notice by registered letter to the other party at his last known addrass and in such event the premium shall be adjusted in accordance with Condition No. 6. 3. The due observance and fultillment of the terms, conditions and endorsements of this policy so far as they relate to anything to be done or complied with by the lnsured and the uth of the statements and answers in the Proposal shall be a condition precedent to any Hiability of the Company to make any payment under this Policy. 9. It is hereby understood and agreed that this insurance shall be governed by Kuwait Law and that the Kuwaiti Conrts alone shaill have jurisdiction in any dispute arising hereunder.

EXCLUSIONS The Conpany shall not te liable under this policy in respect of 4. Any liability of the insured which attaches by virtue of an agreement but which would not have attached in the absence of such agreement. 2. The fnsured's Liability to enployees of Contractors to the finsured or their SubContractors. 3. Any euployee who is not a' worknan' within the meaning of applicable Law(s).


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4. Any injury caused or resulting from:
a) War, Invasion, Act of foreign enemy, Hostilites or War like operations (whether war be declared or not, Civil War, Mutiny, Riots, Strikes, Civil commotion assuming the proportions of or amounting to a popular rising, Military rising, insurfection, proportians of or amouning to a
b) Acts of Terrorism Committed by a person or persons acting on behalf of or in connection with any organisation. For purpose of unis insurance lerrorism ${ }^{*}$ means the use of violence for the purpose of putting the public or any section of the public in fear.
c) Nuclear Weapon or Matexial, Ionizing, Radiation or Contamination by radioactivity from any nuclear fuel or from any nuclear waste from the combustion of nuclear fuel.

CONDITIONS

1. This poilcy and the schedule shall be read together as one contract and any word or exprestion to which a specific mennuig haybeet atsached in any part of this policy or the schedule shall bear such specific mearing diether/t may appear.
2. Every notice or communication to be geventypade under this policy shall be
delivered in writing to the Company/
3. The fnsured shall take reasonable fetonytions to prevent accidents and shall comply with all statutory obligations and in (RXACalar, has to comply with Provisions of the Ministerial Order No. 43 for the year 1989 egyting the "neressary conditions required to protect the works from the risks of injuries bhy occupational diseases".

IMPORTANT NOTICE
If the Insured does not declare the wages and salaries paid to the workers for overtime or If the insured does not deciare the wages and sadaries paid the the appropriate additional
work on Public Holiday; and the Company did not receive the and
premeum thereon, the Company shall not be liable for injuries (fatal or otherwise) sustaned by the workers during said overtime or pulblic holidays.
4.

EMPLOYER'S LIABILITY SCHEDULE

ATTACHEDTO AND FORMING PART OF POLICY NO.


For WARBA INSURANCE CO. K.S.C.

## Confidential: Under

Protective Order.
KGL0010406
HCOGR-27 Feb 09-199

## EXHIBIT 13

HCOGR-27 Feb 09-200


DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY LEGAL SERVICES AGENCY
9A1 NORRTH STUART STREET
ARLNGTON VA 2202-1837
REPLYTO
ATEENTO
December 4, 2008

Contract and Fiscal Law Division
Procurement Fraud Branch
Mr. Ahmed Afifi
Director, Legal Affairs
Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company
Shuwaikh Industrial Area, Block A
Building No. 14-3 ${ }^{\text {rd }}$
Shuwaikh, Kuwait
Tel: 011-965-888-700
Subject: Request for Information
Dear Mr. Afifi:
On September 22, 2006 and December 19, 2007, the United States Army Suspension and Debarment Official sent requests for information to your company, Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company (KGL), based on information disclosed by the plaintiff's attomey in the civil case of Dominic F. Baragona, et. al. v. Kuwait Gulf Link Transport Company, et. al., in the United States District Court for the Northem District of Georgia. Both of these requests were for the purpose of determining KGL's present responsibility as a United States Government contractor. The first of these letters asked for information regarding KGL's acceptance of service of process in this matter while the second asked for the company's response to the default judgment entered against it regarding the May 19, 2003, death of LTC Dominic R. Baragona, USA. After each of KGLs' responses were received by the Procurement Fraud Branch (PFB), a determination was made to await the outcome of the ongoing civil case prior to making a recommendation of suspension or debarment to the Army Suspension and Debarment Official.

Since receiving KGL's last response, PFB has become aware that the Government of India has prohibited your company from recruiting its citizens for employment since at least March 14 , 2006. The basis for this prohibition is an allegation that Indian citizens were recruited for work in Kuwait, but were instead sent to Iraq despite the Indian Government's ban on employing its citizens in that country. (Encls. 1 through 4.) Documents obtained from the Government of India's Ministry of Overseas Affairs (MOA) support this allegation and state that KGL had previously been prohibited from recruiting workers in India between June 19, 2001, and November 30, 2004 for similar reasons. On both occasions, KGL was included on the MOA's "Prior Approval Category List" (PAC List), as "blacklisted" from recruiting workers in india for employment overseas. (Encls. 5 and 6.) A review of the most recent PAC List shows that KGL remains "blacklisted" by the MOA. (Encl. 7.)

VIA INTERNATIONAL EXPRESS MAIL

KGL's listing on the Indian Government's PAC List has caused concern about the company's present responsibility as a Government contractor. As a result, KGL is asked to provide the following:

1) An explanation of why the Government of India has taken action to prevent KGL from recruiting Indian citizens on two separate occasions based on allegations that it employed them in Iraq instead of Kuwait;
2) information regarding KGL's disclosure of its inclusion on the MOA's PAC list to the Government in light of the provisions of Sections 22.17 and 52.222-50 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation; and
3) the number Indian citizens employed by KGL as well as their geographic locations, duties and travel requirements to Iraq, as of December 1, 2008.

In addition, a separate issue has been raised regarding KGL's possession of liability insurance at the time of the death of LTC Baragona. A review of contracting files previously maintained by the Army Contracting Command, Kuwait, and presently under review by the Army Contracting Task Force, Warren, Michigan, has failed to locate any insurance certifications provided by KGL to the Army. As a result, we ask that KGL provide proof that it acquired liability insurance for contracts and subcontracts for services provided to the Department of Defense since October 1,2002. This proof should be in the form of documentation received from KGL's liability insurance provider(s) notifying KGL that insurance coverage has been purchased, the effective dates of the insurance, the geographic locations where this insurance was effective and any additional information that would help verify that KGL has complied with liability insurance requirements as a Government contractor.

Section 3.10 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation states that Government contractors must conduct themselves with the highest degree of integrity and honesty. The purpose of this letter is to solicit your response regarding KGL's knowledge of the matters discussed herein.

Please respond in writing not later than January 5, 2008, and provide any information that you believe is relevant to this matter. Your submission may include affidavits, certified records, letters, or other documents bearing on this issue. All timely submissions will be considered. All statements made must be true and accurate; false statements are punishable under Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001.

You should address your written submissions to: U.S. Army Legal Services Agency, Procurement Fraud Branch, ATTN: Mr. Brian A. Persico, 901 North Stuart Street, Suite 500, Arlington, Virginia 22203-1837.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Persico at (703) 696-1500. A copy of this letter has been provided to your previously identified legal counsel in the United States, Richard
J. Bednar, Esq., Crowell and Moring LLP, 1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C, 20004-2595.

Sincerely,

# Canistin S. Mclomenas 

Christine S. MoCommes
Chief, Army Procurement Fraud Branch

7 Enclosures:

1) Facsimile from A.A. Chalai, Protector General of Emigrants, Goveroment of India Ministry
of Overseas Indian Affairs, dated March 14, 2006
2) Memorandum from Mahesh Arora, Government of India Ministry of Overseas Indian Affaits, dated April 15, 2004
3) Memorandum from A.A. Chalai, Protector General of Emigrants, Government of India Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, dated September 27, 2004
4) Memorandurn from G.C. Rout, Government of India Ministry of Overseas Indian Affaits, dated May 22, 2007
5) Letter from V.K. Bhatia, Government of India Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, dated August 25, 2008
6) Letter from V.K. Bhatia, Govemment of India Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, dated September 3, 2008
7) Blacklisted Foreign Employers (PAC) List, dated May 18, 2007

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## Enclosure 1

PFB-0188

HCOGR-27 Feb 09-204


## Enclosure 2

HCOGR-27 Feb 09-206

No.Z-11025/46/2003-Emig.


New Delhi, the $15^{\text {th }}$ April 2004.
To,

## All the Protector of Emigrants.

Sub: Grant of Emigration clearance for Iraq - Reg.
Sir,
In supersession of this Ministry's letters No. Z-11025/10/2003-Emig dated 12.06.2003 and Z-1 1025/46/2003-Emig. dated 04.08.2003, I am directed state lhat in view of the deteriorating security situation in Iraq it has been decided on the recommendations of the Ministry of External Affairs to temporarily suspend giant of Emigration Clearance by all POEs to Indian citizens applying for going to Iraq.
2. You are. Therefore, requested not to grant ECR, ECNR and ECRS clearances to any Indian national applying for visiting Iraq with immediate effect and until further orders. You are also requested to exercise due caution while giving emigration clearance for proceeding to Kuwait and Jordan as some workers may try to reach Iraq through these countries.
3. Kindly acknowledge receipt and confirm action taken.

## Yours faithfully,



Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India Telefax: 23753079
Copy to:

1. The Ministry of External Affairs [Kind Attn: Shri R. Dayakar, . JS (Gu!f/faj)], South Block, New Delhi].
2. The Ministry of External Affairs [Kind Attn: Dr. Ashok K. Amrohi, JS (CPV)], Patiala House, New Delhi],
3. Embassy of India, Iraq / Kuwait / Jordan

6-7. PCSR-I/PGR-11 Section.
(Mahesh Arora)
Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India

## Enclosure 3

PFB-0192

HCOGR-27 Feb 09-208

## By Fax

## No. Z-11025/50/2004-Emig. (i)

Government of India/Bharat Sarkar
Ministry of Labour and Employment/Shram aur Rojgar Mantralaya
(Emigration Division)
New Delhi, dated the $27^{\text {th }}$ September, 2004

1. Protector of Emigrants, Mumbai
2. Protector of Emigrants, Chennai
3. Protector of Emigrants, Delhi
4. Protector of Emigrants, Cochin
5. Protector of Emigrants, Thiruvananthapuram
6. Protector of Emigrants, Hyderabad
7. Protector of Emigrants, Chandigarh
8. Protector of Emigrants, Kolkata

Sub: Grant of emigration clearance to persons going to Kuwait - Reg.
Sir,
I am directed to state that in view of the continuing unstable security situation in Iraq and the fact that people in the past have bypassed the ban on going to Iraq by going through Kuwait, it has been decided that prior attestation of all employment documents by the Embassy of India, Kuwait in respect of all categories of workers should be insisted upon by the POEs before considering grant of emigration clearance to the persons going to Kuwait for employment,
2. All the POEs are requested to place a copy of these instructions on their Office Notice Board for infonnation of the Recruiting Agents and the public. Wide publicity may also be given to these instructions.

Yours faithfully,
(A.A.Chalai)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tel: 23753083
Copy to:

1. The Joint Secretary (Gulf and Haj), Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi.
2. The Joint Secretary (CPV), Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi.
(A.A. Chalai)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

## Enclosure 4

# (9) a $^{5}$ <br> No.Z-11025/90/07-Emig. 

Government of India Ministry of
Overseas Indian Affairs

Akbar Bhawan, Chankyapuri New<br>Delhi, the 22 May, 2007

To

> All the Protectors of Emigrants
> Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

Subject: Grant of emigration clearance to workers going abroad for employment.
Sir,
I am directed to say that instructions have been issued in the past from time to time with regard to grant of emigration clearance by the POEs to workers going abroad for employment purposes. The matter has been reviewed with a view to simplifying the procedure and in supersession of all earlier orders/instructions in this regard, it has been decided that henceforward the Protectors of Emigrants (POBs) will grant emigration clearance up to 100 workers for UAE, Qatar, Malaysia and Kuwait, for heavy duty drivers/Trailer drivers up to the limit of 100 and up to 500 workers for other ECR countries. Proposals beyond the aforesaid limit will be referred to the Ministry for permission.
2. The exercise of the above powers by the POEs will be subject to the following conditions:
a) The employment documents ( specimen employment contract, power of attorney and demand letter) should be attested by the Indian Missions concerned in respect of seven countries viz. Yemen, Lebanon, Libya, Jordan, Sudan, Kuwait and Brunei.
b) The employment documents should be attested by the Indian Missions concemed in respect of vulnerable categories i.e. housemaid/domestic servants and unskilled labours for all ECR countries.
c) All demand for 500 or more workers should be verified for the genuineness of the demand as well as the Foreign Employer before grant of clearance.
d) All demands for Kuwait, which are already attested by the Indian Mission as per present stipulation, should be verified for the genuineness of the attestation before grant of clearance.
e) All demands from Recruiting Agents in the Watch List of the Ministry should be attested by the Indian Missions concerned before grant of clearance.
f) No clearance should be granted against demand received from a foreign employer already placed in the PAC list of the Ministry.
-2-

(g) No clearance should be granted against demand specifically recommended against by the Indian Mission abroad,
(h) An affidavit is to be obtained from the Recruiting Agent concerned. to theeffect that there is no complaint pending against the RC holder and he/she will be liable for action under the Bmigration Act in case the declaration turns out to be false.
3. POEs shall conduct usual checks and adopt adequate caution while granting emigration clearance and shall also keep in view other requirements/instructions issued from time to time in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

(G.CRout)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

## Enclosure 5

## Annexure A

BY SPEED POST
RTI Act Matter
No. Z-11011/62/2008-PGE-1
Goveroment of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
$* * * *$
Akbar Bhawan, Satya Marg, Chankyapuri
New Delhi, Dated 2 ${ }^{3}$ August, 2008

New Delhi, Dated 2 $g^{\prime \prime}$ August, 2008

Shri C. Stikant,
Director,
Epitome Consulting \& Information Teenology Pvt. Ltd.,
\#7, $17^{\text {th }}$ Cross, K.R. Road, Banashankari TInd Stage,
Benguluru-560 070
(SRIKANTH EPITOMEcsrokanthoepitomeltd.com)
Subject: Regarding information under Right o Information Act, 2005.
Sir,
I am directed to refer to your letter dated $29^{\text {th }}$ July, 2008 addressed to the Ministry of External Affairs on the above subject and to say that -..

1\& 2: M/s Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport (KGL) was placed under the Prior Approval Category (PAC) in 2001 vide letter No. Z-11c25/ 23/2001Enig. Dated 11-10-2001. Placing some foreign employer in PAC list means blacklisting them:
3. $\mathrm{M} / \mathrm{s}$ Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport (KGL) was removed from PAC list vide letter No. C-11011/3/2001-PGE-11 dated 30-11-2004 on the basis of decision taken in the meeting held under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Labour \& Employment) on $10^{\text {ith }}$ November, 2004, but was again placed in PAC list in 2006.
4. KGL is in PAC list as on date.
5. For emigration clearance for deployment for KGL, prior approval of the Ministry of (iversuat indian Afraiss is required.

Yours faithfully.

(V.K. Bhatia)

Deputy Secretary to the Govt of Thdial
Cental Public Information Officer

## Enclosure 6

## (Annexure D)

## BY SPEED POST

 RTI Act MatterNo. Z-11011/62/2008-PGE-I
Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
$* * * *$
Akbar Bhawan, Satya Marg, Chankyapuri
New Delhi, Dated $3^{\text {ni }}$ Sept., 2008

To
Shri C. Srikant,
Director,
Epitome Consulting \& Information Tecnology Pvt. Lt
\# 7, $17^{\text {th }}$ Cross, K.R. Road, Banashankari IInd Stage,
Benguluru-560 070
(SRIKANTH EPITOMEcsrokanth@epitomeltd.com)
Subject: Regarding information under Right o Information Act, 2005.
Sir,
I am directed to refer to your letter dated $29^{\text {h }}$ August, 2008 on the above subject and to inform you that ---

M/s Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport (KGL) was again placed in PAC list vide letter No. C-11011/18/2006-PGE-I dated $14^{\text {th }}$ March, 2006 as the Embassy of India, Kuwait had recommended to place M/s Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport (KGL) in PAC list as the foreign employer was recruiting Indian workers for IRAQ on the pretext of deploying them to Kuwait.
1.

A copy of this Ministry's letter No. C-1 1011/18/2005-PGE-II dated $14^{\text {th }}$ March, 2006 is enclosed.

Yours faithfully,

(V.K. Bhatia)

Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India/ Central Public Information Officer

## Enclosure 7

BLACKLISTED FOREIGN EMPLOYERS (PAC) LIST AS ON 18.5.2007
COUNTRY-WISE BREAK UP

| SL.NO. | NAME OF THE COUNTRY | NO. OF FOREIGN <br> EMPLOYRRS PLACED <br> IN PAC |
| :---: | :--- | :---: |
| 1 | AZERBAIJAN | 1 |
| 2 | BAHRAIN | 57 |
| 3 | BRUNEI | 2 |
| 4 | JORDAN | 7 |
| 5 | KENYA | 4 |
| 6 | KUWAIT | 21 |
| 7 | LIBYA | 2 |
| 8 | MALAYSIA | 122 |
| 9 | MALTA | 2 |
| 10 | MAURITUS | 1 |
| 11 | OMAN | 7 |
| 12 | QATAR | 18 |
| 13 | SAUDI ARABIA | 58 |
| 14 | UGANDA | 2 |
| 15 | UKRAINE | 10 |
| 16 | UNITED ARAB EMIRATES | 14 |
| 17 | YEMEN | 2 |
|  | TOTAL | 30 |
|  |  |  |

COUNTRY-WISE DETAILS

| AZHERBAIJAN |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1 | CASPIANPETROLEUM PROJECT, BAKU, Azerbailan |
| BAHRAIN |  |  |
|  | 1 | 24.MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTIONS, PO.BOX38341BAHRAIN |
|  | 2 | ABDULLA AHMED NASSPO.O. BOX 669 |
|  | 3 | AHMED ABDULLA KHALID AL KHAJA CR 883-10BAHRAIN |
|  | 4 | AHMED ABDULLA KHALID CONTRACTING ESTABLISHMENT, CR 883-BAHRAIN |
|  | 5 | AL ABRAJ CARPENTARY WORKSHOPBAHRIN |
|  | 6 | AL ASAIL CONSTRUCTION, BAMRAIN |
|  | 7 | AL BENGERY LADIES TRAININGBAHRIN |
|  | 8 | AL DAHRANI CONST, P. O. BOX NO. 5763 |
|  | 9 | AL DAWOOD CONTRACTING EST. BAHRAIN |
|  | 10 | AL KHAJAH EST, P.O. BOX NO. 5042, BAHRIN |
|  | 11 | AL MANAZEL WORKERS SERVICES, BAHRIN |
|  | 12 | AL QASEEM CONTRACTING EST., PO BOX 2930,TEL |
|  | 13 | AL RABHA CONTRACTING EST.BAHRIN |
|  | 14 | AL RAZI CONTRACTING COMPANYBAHRAIN |
|  | 15 | AL RIFFA CONTRACTORSBAHRAIN |
|  | 16 | AL-SALAM ALUMINIUM COMPANY, PH 39419977 BAHRAIN |
|  | 17 | ALTAF CONSTRUCTION CO, BAHRIN |
|  | 18 | AWAL AC AND REFRIGERATION WORKSHOP PO BOX 955, CR NO.883-01 |
|  | 19 | AWAL REFRIGERATION AND AIRCONDITIONING P.O. BOX 955, BAHRAIN |
|  | 20 | AWAL WORKSHOP A/C ANO REFRIGERATIONS REPAIRS, BAHRAIN |
|  | 21 | BAHRIAN SAUDI BANK, BAHRAIN |
|  | 22 | BINIL MECHANICAL CONTRACTING BAHRIN |
|  | 23 | CONNECTION CONTRACTING CO, WLL |
|  | 24 | CONSOLIDATED CONTRACTORS CO, P. O. BOX 583 |
|  | 25 | EBRAHIM ABDUL AAL GROUPP.O. BOX 20418, MANAMA, BAHRIN |
|  | 26 | FAhAD KHALID ISMAIL ALALAWI ESTABLISHMENTBAHRAIN |
|  | 27 | FAIRMECH W.L.L. PO 54108 , BAHRIN |
|  | 28 | FIVE STAR EST FOR CONSTRUCTIONBAHRIN |
|  | 29 | GARIMECH WLL, PO BOX 54108TEL. $17268,200 \mathrm{BAHRAIN}$ |
|  | 30 | GEODATA,803, DIPLOMAT TOWER, DIPLOMATIC AREA, MANAMABAHRIN |
|  | 31 | GRANDIUM CONSULTANTS WLL.P.O. BOX NO. 3201 |
|  | 32 | HASSAN ABDUL MAJEED ABDUL HASSAIN AL SATTI ESTAB.BAHRIN |
|  | 33 | IMI ENGINEERING COMPANY- RASTI ELECTRICALBAHRAIN |
|  | 34 | 3ONYAH FOODSTUFF CR B83-09BAHRAIN |



| KENYA |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1 | M/S INDUSTRIAL PLANT LTD. NAIROBI KENYA KENYA |
|  | 2 | MACK CONSTRUCTION COMPANY P.O.BOX 2755 NAKURU, KENYA |
|  | 3 | OPTICA KENYA LTD. NAIROBI KENYA |
|  | 4 | RICHFIELD ENG. LTD. NAIROBI Kenya |
| KUWAIT |  |  |
|  | 1 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { AL ATEEQ COMPANY } \\ & \text { POBOX NO. } 5646, \text { SAFAT, CODE NO. } 13057 \text { KUWAIT } \end{aligned}$ |
|  | 2 | AL BLASEM GENL TRADING \& CONST. CO. Kuwalt |
|  | 3 | AL WELAYA TRAVEL TOURISM Kuwalt |
|  | 4 | AL-TAN GENER TRAD\&CONT. AND MANTECHSERV ICES GROUP SAFAT Kuwalt |
|  | 5 | ASAHI GENL TRADING \& CONTRACCO. KUWAIT |
|  | 6 | FINESCO INTERNATIONAL TRDG.\& CONTRTG.CO KUWAIT |
|  | 7 | FIRST KUWAITI COMPANY KUWAIT |
|  | 8 | GERSEN GENRAL TRAD\& CONT. CO. KUWAIT |
|  | 9 | GHAZWAN TRADING \&CONTRACTING CO. KUWAIT |
|  | 10 | GOLDEN SHAHIN GROUP OF COMPANIES KUWAIT |
|  | 11 | GUL F INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTING CO. Kuwalt |
|  | 12 | KUWAIT AND GULF LINK TRANSPORT KUWAIT (KGL) |
|  | 13 | FIRST PROJECTS GENERAL TRADING \& CONTRACTING CO., PO BOX NO. 47027. FAHAHEEL, KUWAIT FAHAHEEL Kuwalt |
|  | 14 | SAAD MASHOOD AGENCY <br> JLEEB ALSHUWAIKH, AYYED AYYAD COMPLEX, FIRST FLOOR, OFFICE NO. 22 , KUWAIT |
|  | 15 | PEARAL CATERING SERV. KUWAIT |
|  | 16 | RIC COOLEX REFRIDGERATION INDUSTRIES CO SHWWAK KUWAIT, PO BOX NO. 2261 SAFAT KUWAIT |
|  | 17 | AL ESSA MEDICAL \& SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT COMPANY, KUWAIT <br> [FILE NO,1-11011/5356/99-PGE.I DATED 16.10.2006] |
|  | 18 | LONDON GROUP OF MEDICAL SERVICES, PO.BOX20, SAFAT -13001, KUWAIT <br> -11011/17/2005-pge. I DATED 4.12.2006 |
|  | 19 | AL SAQLAWI INTERNATIONAL CO., KUWAIT <br> 1-11011/5009/97-PGE.I DATED 11.12,2006 |
|  | 20 | AJIAD ARABIAN COMPANY GENERAL TRADING AND CONTRACTIONG <br> 1-11011/5271/99-PGE,I DATED 13.03.2007 |


|  | 21 | M/S SAAD MUTLAK DAKHNAN FOR HOMR CARE SERVICES, SALMIYA, KUWAIT <br> (1.11011/70/2007-PGE-I dated 18.5.2007) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| LIBYA |  |  |
|  | 1 | AL-SHEHAB CO-MISUARTA, Libya |
|  | 2 | ORGANISATION OF NAHAR AL HAYAH FOR CONST RUCTION AND INVESTMENT TRIPOLI Libya |
| MALAYSIA |  |  |
|  | 1 | ACTION Op RENOUNED NO. 198, LEVEL 3, JALAN TUN SAMBANTHAN, BRICKFIELDS, 50470 KUALA LUMPUR KUALA LUMPUR Malaysla |
|  | 2 | AKESORI SDN, BHD NO. 35 , LENGKONG RISHAH, I, KAWASAN PERINDUSTRIAN SILLBIN, 30100 IPOH, PERAK Malaysta |
|  | 3 | ANDALAS MEDICAL CENTRE 77, PERISARAN TENGKU AMPUAN RIHIMAH 41200 KLANG SELANGOR Malaysla |
|  | 4 | ARTERIAL RESOURCES SDN. BHD LOT 2353-12, JALAN KEMPAS LAMS, OFF JALAN SKUDAI, 81300 JOHOR Malaysia |
|  | 5 | AUSTRAL ENTERPRISES BERHAD <br> 24-31, JALAN SETIAWANGSA 8, TAMAN SETIAWANGSA, <br> 54200 KUALA LUMPUR Malaysla |
|  | 6 | AYUB RESTORAN <br> NO. 33 , JALAN SUGU, TAMAN DAYA JOHOR Malaysia |
|  | 7 | B.W. LUCKY ENTERPRISES <br> LOT 173, JALAN KAMPUNG AIR KUNING, 34000 TAIPING, PERAK PERAK Malaysla |
|  | 8 | BANENG INDUSTRIES SDN, BHD <br> BATU $21 / 2$, JALAN TRANJUNG LABOH, 83000 BATU PAHAT, JOHOR Malaysla |
|  | 9 | BERESTU ENTERFRISE SDN BHD NO. 16, JALAN 9 , AMPANG JAYA, 58000 AMPAN SELANGOR MALAYSIA |
|  | 10 | BERESTU ENTERPRISE SDN. BHD. KLANG, SELANGOR Malaysia |
|  | 11 | BIO AXIS SDN. BHD NO. 6A LORONG ARA KIRI 3, LUCKY GARDEN BANGSAR, 59000 KUALA LUMPUR Malaysia |
|  | 12 | BOON KOON VEHICLES INDUSTRIES SDN. BHD 1177 JALAN DATO KERAMAT, 14300 NIBONG TEBAL, SEBARANG PERAL SELATAN, PALAU PINANG MALAYSIA |
|  | 13 | CHINWELL FASTNERS CO. SDN. BHD. NO. 1583 MK 11, LORONG PERUSAHAAN UTAMA 1, BUKIT TENGAH INDUSTRIAL PARK, 14000 BUKIT MERTAJAM, PENANG Malaysia |
|  | 14 | CLASSIC ADVANTAGE HOSTEL AND CANTEEN JOHAR JOHAR Malaysla |
|  | 15 | COSMO ENGINEERING SDN, BHD <br> 30, JLN, TRAMING 4, TMN, TAMING JAYA JLN BELAKONG, SERI KEMBANGAN, SELANGOR MALAYSIA |
|  | 16 | DATABUDI ENGINEERING SDN BHD RON YING/MR. MASOOD HOSSAIN/GANESAN 41-A, JALAN SS, 19/6, 47500 SUBANG JAYA MALAYSIA |
|  | 17 | DIGITAL CONSTRUCTION SDN BHD |


|  |  | NO. $14-A$, JLN. SG, $3 / 2$, TAMAN SRI GOMBAK BATU CAVES, SELGANGOR MALAYSIA |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 18 | DIGITAL CONTINENTAL <br> NO. 32 , JALAN SS 10/6C, 47500 SUBANG JAYA SELANGOR, MALAYSIA |
|  | 19 | DIGITAL POWER PROJECTS SDN. BHD NO. 44-A, JLN. $1 / 19$ PETALLNG JAYA, 46000 SELANGOR, MALAYSIA |
|  | 20 | DURGA CHARITABALE TRUST BERDAFFER K. TRENGGANU, TRENGGANU, SRI ARUMUGHA VINAYAGAR TEMPLE, NO. 9 SG., TUAH BATU CAVES, SELANGOR MALAYSIA |
|  | 21 | EMINENT CAPITAL SDN. BHD LEVEL 32 , MENARA SHAHZAN INSAS, 30, JALAN SULTAN ISMAIL, 50520 KUALA LUMPUR KUALA LUMPUR Malaysia |
|  | 22 | EURO PRESTASL SDN. BHD <br> 48-2, 2ND FLOOR, JALAN 1/27F SECTION C-7 PUSAT <br> BANDAR, WANGSA MAUU, 53300 KUALA LUMPUR Malaysia |
|  | 23 | EUROSA FURNITURE (M) SDN. BHD <br> LOT 334, OFF JALAN HOSPITAL SUNGAL BULOH 47000 SUNGAL BULOH SELANGOR SELANGOR Malaysia |
|  | 24 | EXCEL MOULD MANUFACTURING SDN. BHD NO. 84, SUBANG LIGHT INDUSTRIAL PARK, BLOCK E, LOT 546 OFF JALAN SS 13/AK 4750 PETALING JAYA SELANGOR Malaysia |
|  | 25 | F.W. FURNITURE SDN, BHD <br> 8, JALAN $1 / 4$, KWS. PERINDUSTRIAN PENGKALAN 2, FASA 1 , <br> 31550 PUSING PERAK Malaysia |
|  | 26 | FUDEX RUBBER PRODUCTS (M) SDN, BHD JA 9158 , JASIN INDUSTRIAL PARK, 77000 JASIN MELAKA MELAKA Malaysla |
|  | 27 | G.K.K. IMPORT EXPORT SDN. BHD. <br> NO. 21, JALAN DATO HAMZAH, 41000 KLANG SELANGOR Malaysla |
|  | 28 | GALLANT ELECTRONIC CO. (M) SDN, BHD <br> LOT 1899 BATU 13, JT BALAKONG 43300 SERI KEMEANGAN, <br> SELANGOR SELANGOR Malaysia |
|  | 29 | GARDEN CITY HOTEL SDN, BHD <br> NO. 213, \& 214, JALAN BUNUS OFF JALAN MASJID INDIA, 50100. KUALA LUMPUR Malaysla |
|  | 30 | GOPAL CONSTRUCTIONS IM) SDN. BHO <br> 2634, JLN. SIMPANG KUKUT, PORT DICKSON, N. SEMBILAN <br> Malaysta |
|  | 31 | GRACEFUL TRANSFORMERS SDN. BHD NO. 202, BATU KG, TOK MUDA, JALAN KAPAR, 42200 KALANG SELANGOR Malaysla |
|  | 32 | GRADO OPNE SDN, BHO <br> NO. 45E, 5 TH FLOOR, BANGUNAN BANGSA RIA JALAN MAAROF, KLANG, SELANGOR Malaysla |
|  | 33 | GREATPAC SDN. BHD <br> JASA EXPRESS, LOT 2222/2223 JALAN HOSPITAL, SUNGAL. BULOH INDUSTRIAL AREA, 47000 SELANGOR Malaysla |
|  | 34 | HANORA SDH. BHD <br> 265 A. JLN. MAHKOTA, TMN. MALURI, CHERAS 55100 KUALA LUMPUR Malaysia |
|  | 35 | HOTLINE WOODEN FURNITURE SDN, BHD |


|  |  | LOT NO. 9, JALAN 7 KAWASAN PERUSAHAAN CHERAS JAYA, bATU 9, JALAN BALAKONG CHERAS, 43200 SELANGOR Malaysla |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 36 | HYLEX APPARELS JALAN KUALA LUMPUR Malaysla |
|  | 37 | HYPER SPEED (M) SDN, BHD <br> NO. 1, JAL 16/13C, SECTION 16 SHAH ALAM \& NO. 27-A, JALAN TUN SAMBANTHAN, 4, BRICKFIELDS, KUALA LUMPUR Malaysla |
|  | 38 | HYTEX APPARELS SDN, BHD LOT 25, JALAN E1/5, KAWASAN PERINDUSTRIA N TAMAN EHSAN, PETI SURAT NO. 6, KEPONG 52100 KUALA LUMPUR Malaysia |
|  | 39 | IDEAL SKILLS (M) SDN, BHD 61-A, JALAN SG, 3/1, PUSAT BANDAR SRI GOMBAK, 68000 GOMBAK, KUALA LUMPUR Malaysia |
|  | 40 | INSTANT GLORY SDN. BHD MEGAN PHILEO AVENUE, SUITE B-17-7, NO. 12, JALAN YAP KWAN SENG, MALAYSIA |
|  | 41 | INTISARI BAKERY <br> LOT 1328, JALAN 11, KG. BARU AMPANG TAMBAHAN AMPANG Malaysla |
|  | 42 | IVORY PEARL SDN, BHD <br> LOT 5, PERISIARAN PERINDUSTRIAN KANTHAN 5, ESTEL <br> PERINDUSTRIAK KANTHAN 31200 CHEMOR PERAK Malaysia |
|  | 43 | I.M.I. ENTERPRISES <br> 15-3-08, SRI JOHOR FLAT, $21 / 2$ MILES CHER A 56000 KUALA LUMPUR Malaysla |
|  | 44 | JOOLEN ENTERPRISES SDN. BHD <br> NO. 3B, LORONG BUKIT KUDA, OFF JALAN BATU TIGA LAMA, <br> 41300 SELANGOR Malaysia |
|  | 45 | JOVA INDUSTRIES SDN, BHD LOT 10, LORONG PERUSAHAAN 4A, KULIN INDUSTRY ESTATE, KULIM KEDAH Malaysla |
|  | 46 | JUST SECES, <br> LOT 2353-12, JALAN KEMPAS LAMA, OFF JALAN SKUDAI, 81300 JOHOR Malaysia |
|  | 47 | K. ARGO FARM PRODUCTS ENTERPRISES NO. 30, TAMAN SAUJANA, BATU GAJAH PERAK Malaysla |
|  | 48 | KERIS VIJAYA SDN BHD Malaysia |
|  | 49 | L.Y.K. CLEANING SERVICES SDN. BHD <br> 101B MAIN STREET AMPANG, AMPANG, 68000 SELANGOR <br> Malaysia |
|  | 50 | LAL QUILLA RESTAURANT SDN. BHD <br> NO. 9, \& A, PERISIARAN ARA KIRI, TAMANLUCKY BANGSAR, 59100 KUALA LUMPUR Malaysla |
|  | 51 | LEE SENG POTTERY SDN, BHD <br> LOT 81, PLOT 115728, JLN. CERAMIC CHEPR, 11/11 <br> CHEMOR, PERAK Malaysia |
|  | 52 | LIAN SENG WELDING SHOP <br> MCLD PIASAU ROAD, P.O. BOX 669, 98007 MIRI SARAWAK <br> Malaysla |
|  | 53 | M.G.M. CATERER <br> NO. 316, JLN. $24 / 39$, TMN. PETALING KEPONG BARU, KUALA <br> LUMPUR Malaysia |



|  | 73 | RAZIMCO SDN. BHD NO. 96, JALAN PINANG GADING 3, TAMAN PINANG GADING 70400 SEREMBAN N. SEM,NILAN Malaysla |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 74 | RESTAURANT HOUSE OF INDIA <br> 61, GROUND FLOOR, JALAN TELUK SISEK, 25000 KUANTAN PAHANG Malaysia |
|  | 75 | RESTORAN AKBAR SHAH $26 \& 28 A$, PERSIARAN ARA KIRI, LUCKY GARDEN, 59100 KUALA LUMPUR Malaysla |
|  | 76 | RESTORAN EHSAN <br> NO. 74, JALAN YANG KALSON, 30250 IPHON PERAK Malaysia |
|  | 77 | RESTORAN JAYA HARI VILAS <br> NO. 88, JALAN DATO DAGANG; KUALA PILAH 72000 NEGERI SEMBILAN, Malaysia |
|  | 78 | RESTORAN KAMPUNG BAIDURI <br> NO. 11, JALAN PULAU KEMPAS 28/3, TAMAN ALALM MEGAH, 40000 SHAH ALAM SELANGOR Malaysla |
|  | 79 | RESTORAN NASI KANDAR <br> NO, 50, LEBOH AMPANG, 50100 KUALA LUMPUR Malaysia |
|  | 80 | RESTORAN WANGSA UKAY <br> NO. 2, WANGSA 2 , BUKIT ANTARANBANGSA 68000 JALAN ULU KLANG, SELANGOR Malaysla |
|  | 81 | RHODEN (M) SDN. BHD <br> LOT. 1, JALAN 2, NORTH KLANG STRALTS, TA WANESE <br> INDUSTRIAL PARK, 42000 PORT KLANG SELANGOR Malaysia |
|  | 82 | S\&L DESIGN PLANNER <br> $50-A$, JLN. TUN MOHD FUAD 1, TMN. TUN DR. ISMAIL 60000 KUALA LUMPUR Malaysia |
|  | 83 | S.J. MEDICAL PRODUCTS (M) SDN $\mathrm{K}_{4}$ BHD <br> LOT 723, BATU $51 / 2$, JALAN KAPAR 42100 KLANG , SELANGOR Malaysla |
|  | 84 | SALURAN PERSONA SDN. BHD 36-B, 2ND FLOOR, JLN. $5515 / 8$, SUBANG JAYA SELANGOR Malaysia |
|  | 85 | SAMPOORNA CURRY HOUSE <br> 262, JALAN TUN SAMBANTHAN 50470 KUALA LUMPUR Malaysla |
|  | 86 | SAN HIN LOONG ENGINEERING WORKS SDN, BHD PLO 100, BT. PERINDUSTERIAN JALAN, GENUNANG, 85000 SEGAMAT JOHOR Malaysla |
|  | 87 | SASA-AR ENTERPRISE SDN, BHD NO, 46, JALAN PBS $14 / 3$, TAMAN PERINDUSTRIAN BUKIT SERDANG, 23300 SERI KEMBANGAN SELANGOR Malaysia |
|  | 88 | SIGNIVEST INUSTRIES SDN. BHD <br> LOT 788, JALAN TELUK MENGKUOUNG, 42500 TELUK <br> PUNGLIMAGORAND, KUALA LANGAT, SELA SELANGOR, DAUL <br> EHSAN, Malaysia |
|  | 89 | SIM TEE CHUNG SDN, BHD <br> LOT 2439, DYNASTY CENTRE, MIRI BINTULU ROAD, MIRI, SARAWAK MALAYSIA |
|  | 90 | SIMMAH LIVESTOCKS SDN, BHD AG5730, ALOR GAJAH INDUSTRIAL ESTATE 78000 ALOR GAJAH, MELAKA Malaysla |
|  | 91 | SION HEN SDN, BHD <br> LOT 93, PARIT BUNTAR, INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, PARIT <br> BUNTAR, PERAK Malaysia |


|  | 92 | SIVAPERUMAL CONSTRACTOR <br> POWER LINE, NO. 9, TAMAN CIVIL, 35500 BIDOR, IPOH, MALAYUSIA, SUB CONTRACTOR FOR SIM TREE CHUNG SDNN. BHD MALAYSIA |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 93 | SMART GLOVE SDN ${ }^{\text {BHD }}$ <br> LOT 6487, BATU 5 3/4, SEMENTA JALAN KAPAR, 42100 <br> KLANG SELANGOR Malaysia |
|  | 94 | SOLID AUDIO SDN, BHD <br> 1650, MK, 13, JURU ESTATE, BUKTI MERTAJAM, 14000 <br> PULAU PINANG PINANG Malaysia |
|  | 95 | SOON LEE ENTERPRISES <br> 17-A, TMN. TENGKU MALIK, JLN. SCUDAL JOHOR MalaysIa |
|  | 96 | SOUTH ISLAND GARMENTS SDN. BHD <br> 2468, SOLOK PERUSAHAAN DUA, KAWASAN PERUSAHAAN <br> PERAL, 13600 PRAL, PENANG PENANG Malaysla |
|  | 97 | SREE JAYAM CURRY HOUSE <br> NO. 7, JALAN HELANG 13, BANDAR OCHONG JAYA, 47000 PUCHONG, SELANGOR Malaysia |
|  | 98 | SRI PURVANESHWARAN RESTORAN <br> NO. 40, JALAN KEMUJA, OFF JALAN BANGSAR; 59000 KUALA LUMPUR Malaysla |
|  | 99 | SRI TAMA ENTERPRISE <br> NO. 20-A, JALAN CEMPAKA, 81750 JOHOR Malaysla |
|  | 100 | STEP FURNITURE MANUFACTURER SDN. HD LOT NO. 102-103, JALAN PERUSAHAAN LAMA TAMAN PERINDUSTRIAN MAHKOTA BEHRANG 63700 SELANGOR Malaysia |
|  | 101 | STEVIC PRECISION MOUNLDING CO. LOT 39, JIN. TAM MING 4, RAM MING JAYA INDUSTRIAL. ESTATE, 43300 SERI KEMBANGAN SELANGOR Malaysia |
|  | 102 | SUKWON IDCHE ENGINEERING SDN. BHD $1080 \cdot 1$, TINGKAT 2, JL. SULTAN SULAIMAN, 20000 KUALA TERENGGANU, TERENGGANU Malaysia |
|  | 103 | SWARGA ENTERPRISES SDN. BHD <br> NO. $1506,15 T$ FLOOR, JALAN RASAH, 70300 SEREMHAN, N. SEMBILAN Malaysia |
|  | 104 | TATEAMA AUTO MACHINE CO., (M) SDN. BHD LOT 2, JALAN PELABUR, 23/1, SEKSYEN 23, 40300 SHAH ALAM SELANGOR Malaysla |
|  | 105 | TETRACON ENGINEERING SDN. BHD LOT 106 \& 110 , RAWANG INTEGREATED INDUSTRIAL PARK, 48000 RAWANG SELANGOR Malaysla |
|  | 106 | THIRU SANDALWOOD SDN. BHD <br> LOT 6537, BATU 6, OFF JALAN KAPAR, P,O. BOX, 125, KLANG SELANGOR Malaysia |
|  | 107 | TIARATAN INDUSTRIES SDN. BHD NO. 20, JALAN NAGIRI-1, VAIDOR LIGHT INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, 14200 SUNGAI BAKAP PENANG Malaysla |
|  | 108 | TIMES OFFSET (M) SDN. BHD <br> BANGUNAN TIMES PUBLISHING, LOT 46, SELANGOR HI TECH <br> INDUSTRIAL PARK, BATU CAVES, SELGANGOR Malaysla |
|  | 109 | TOKYO ALUMI MFG.(M) SDN. BHD OT 28, JALAN LADA HITAM, SECTION $16 / 12,40000$ SHAH ALAM SELANGOR Malaysia |
|  | 110 | TOMMILINSON COLLECTION SDN. BHD. <br> B1, WISMA TOMLLINSON, ONE AMPANG BUSINES AVENUE, <br> IIN AMPANG UTAMA, $1 / 2,68000$ AMPANG JAYA, KUALA |


|  |  | LUMPUR Malaysla |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 111 | TONG HENG FARMING \& TRADING CO. <br> No. 707, PADANG TEMUSU, 08000 SUNGAI PETANI, KEDAH Malaysia |
|  | 112 | TONG YONG METAL SDN. BHD. LOT 5781 \& 5782, TAMAN SELAMAT, ALMA, 14000 BUKIT MERTAJAM PENANG Malaysia |
|  | 113 | TRANSFAME SDN. BHD. <br> 1, TMM. TUN DR.ISMALL, KUALA LUMPUR Malaysla |
|  | 114 | triple j , <br> TRIPLE J,(MR.GURUNATHAN@NATHAN@ZALNAL@JA YGURU), (a)4-B JLN WATAN4; TMM SRI WATAN, KL (B) TRIPPLE J CUSTOMER SERVICES PROMP T BLDG.JLN SULTAN KL Malaysia |
|  | 115 | TUCK SING ENGRG. \& CONS. LOT 9-102, KAWASAN PERINDUSTRIAN SEMAMBU 24550 KUANTAN, PAHANG Malaysia |
|  | 116 | TWIN FURNITURE MANUFACTURER SDN BHD LOT 9-102. KAWASAN PERINDUSTRIAN SEMAMBU KAUNTAN PAHANG Malaysla |
|  | 117 | UNITED INDUSTRIES SDN BHD. BANGUNANUNITED INDUSTRIES, $5-1 / 2$,MI LES,JALAN MERU, 41050 KALANG, SELANGOR SELANGOR Malaysia |
|  | 118 | UNITED SANOH INDUSTRIES SDN. BHD. <br> $51 / 2$ MILES, JALAN MERU, 41050 KLANG SELANGOR Malaysia |
|  | 119 | UNR TOOLING SYSTEM SDN. BHD. <br> LOT NO. ALP 12, 5TH MILE, JALAN INJAP 34/4, JALAN BUKIT KEMUNING, KLANG SELANGOR Malaysia |
|  | 120 | WOODLANDER WOOD PRODUCTS SDN. BHD., LOT 266, BATUU $221 / 2$, SUNGAI LALANG, 43500 SEMENYIH, SELANGOR Malaysia |
|  | 121 | WRP ASIA PACIFIC BHD., <br> LOT 1, JLN 3, KAWASAN PERUSAHAAN, BANDAR BARU SALAK TINGGI, 43900 SEPANG Malaysla |
|  | 122 | YE CHIU METAL SMELTING BERHAD LOT 5781 \& 5782, TAMAN SELAMAT, ALMA, 14000 BUKIT MERTAJAM PENANG Malaysia |
| MALTA |  |  |
|  | 1 | M/S ALBERTA MALTA |
|  | 2 | M/S INCCO, MALTA Malta |
| MAURITIUS |  |  |
|  | 1 | SWET \& SUN LTD. MAUTIOUS, Mauritlus |
| OMAN |  |  |
|  | 1 | AL-DAHLEEJ MANPOWER AGENCY AL KHUWAIR, SULTANAT OF OMAN |
|  | 2 | DARUISH-AST LLC, Muscat Oman |
|  | 3 | DARWISH AST LIC MUSCAT Oman |
|  | 4 | MUSCAT INDIAN CO. LTD. |


|  |  | OMAN |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 5 | MUSCAT INDUSTRIES CO. LTD. Oman |
|  | 6 | SILVER SANDS HOTEL WADI KABIR, MUSCAT OMAN |
|  | 7 | SINGH AND COMPANY <br> PO BOX NO. 2138, PC 111, CPO SEEB OMAN |
| QATAR |  |  |
|  | 1 | AJIA ENGINEERING CO. P.O. BOX 7407, DOHA Qatar |
|  | 2 | AKC CONTRACTING AND SUPPLY Qatar |
|  | 3 | AL OBAITAY CONTRATING CO. Qatar |
|  | 4 | AL-DARWESH ENGG COMPANY DOHA Qatar |
|  | 5 | AL-SAIF CONSTR \& BUI Qatar |
|  | 6 | AL-SARH TRADING. CONT.CO. Qatar |
|  | 7 | AMLON LTD. Qatar |
|  | 8 | ASIAN TRADING \& CONTRACTING CO. Qatar |
|  | 9 | CANDLE TRADING \& CONTING CO. Qatar |
|  | 10 | CITY TRADING \& CONTING CO. Qatar |
|  | 11 | FIRST TOUCH TRADING, DOHA Qatar |
|  | 12 | GEMCO, DOHA Qatar |
|  | 13 | INTERNATIONAL ENG. \& GENL. CONST. DOHA Qatar |
|  | 14 | LIBERATION GARMENTS FAC. QatarDOHA Qatar |
|  | 15 | PRESTIGE APPARELS INDUSTRY WLL DOHA Qatar |
|  | 16 | WESTERN APPAREL INFA DOHA Qatar |
|  | 17 | QATAR BUILDING ENGINEERING COMPANY, DOHA, QATAR C-11011/17/2005 DATED MARCH, 2006 (ENTRY ON 14.02.2007) |
|  | 18 | SHARIKA HANDSA AL AMMARATHUL-QATARIYA, No. 1-11 011/4498/95-PGE-I dated 21st February, 2007 |
| SAUDI ARABIA |  |  |
|  | 1. | ABDULLAH AL HAMRI JUBAIL JUBAIL Saudi Arabia |
|  | 2 | ABDULR Saudl Arabia |
|  | 3 | AL EKHWAH EST FOR TDG JEDDAH Saudl Arabla |
|  | 4 | Al faisal Clinic rivadh saudi arabla |
|  | 5 | AL HASSAS JUBAIL Saudl Arabia |
|  | 6 | AL HESAB CONGT EST RIYADH Saudl Arabla |
|  | 7 | AL KHAREP OPERATION COP. RIYADH Saudi arabla |
|  | 8 | AL MUBARAZ JUBAIL Saudi Arabla |
|  | 9 | AL. MUMAI GROUP JEDDAH Saudl Arabla |
|  | 10 | AL OMRAN EST RIYADH Saudl Arabla |
|  | 11 | AL REHMAN TRADE EST, DAMMAM DAMMAN Saudl Arabia |
|  | 12 | AL YEZEED CONSTRUCTION EST. RIYADH Saudi Arabla |
|  | 13 | AL-COMET TRADING AND CONTG. EST. JUBAIL-31961 Saudl Arabla |
|  | 14 | AL-FAHYA EST FOR GEN. TRG \& CONT. Saudl Arabla |

PFB-0213

|  | 15 | AL-GOZAR GROUP EST. RIYADH Saudl Arabla |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 16 | AL-JAREER EST FOR TRDG. RIYADH Saudl Arabia |
|  | 17 | AL-SAGRI TRDG \& CONT, EST Saudi Arabla |
|  | 18 | AL-THAMER EST FOR TRADING \& COMP PO BOX 6304, JEDDAH SaudI Arabia |
|  | 19 | AL-TURKI EST. Saudi Arabla |
|  | 20 | AMIRA ABDU HASSAN DAHAB EST. RIYADH 11311,P.O.BOX 92 DABAB ST, OPPOSITE SAUDIHOLANDI BA RIYADH Saudl Arabla |
|  | 21 | AMIRA MEDICAL EST <br> RIYADH DAHBAB ST, OPPOSITE SAUDIHOLANDI BANK RIYADH Saudi Arabla |
|  | 22 | ARABIAN GULF CO FOR MAINT \& CONTR, Saudl Arabla |
|  | 23 | ARIFF CONSTRUCTION EST RIYADH RIYADH Saudi Arabia |
|  | 24 | AYED NASER AL-QHATARI SONS CO. AL-KHOBAR Saudl Arabla |
|  | 25 | DALLAH GROUP CO. JEDDAH Saudl Arabla |
|  | 26 | DASHEN CONTG. EST. Saudl Arabla |
|  | 27 | Deloltte NASIR AL MATRAP RECRUTING OFFICE, Saudi Arabla |
|  | 28 | FAEIH BIN MOTAIB HASAN AL SUPATHI RIYADH Saudi Arabla |
|  | 29 | HAMAS CONT. EST Saudi Arabla |
|  | 30 | KHALLED MEERA EST JEDDAH Saudi Arabla |
|  | 31 | M.AM AL KHARAFI EST. RIYADH Saudl Arabla |
|  | 32 | M/S SAAD AHEMD AL ZAHARANIPST ALKHOBAR ALKHOBAR Saudi Arabia |
|  | 33 | M/S THRIYA HAMDAD NASPER EST ALKHOPAR ALKHOPAR Saudl Arabia |
|  | 34 | MARWAN AL FAZAL TRDG EST RIYADH Saudl Arabla |
|  | 35 | MOHD. H. BABTEEN EST. JEDDAH Saudl Arabla |
|  | 36 | MOHSIN MOHAMMED AL QAHTANI RIVADH Saudl Arabla |
|  | 37 | NAIF AL SADDON EST. DAMMAM Saudl Arabla |
|  | 38 | NAIID \& HIJAS DISPENSARY DAMMAM Saudl Arabla |
|  | 39 | RABYA LANDSCAPING CO. JUBAIL Saudi Arabla |
|  | 40 | REFUSE EQUIPMENT MANUF <br> RIYADH Saudl Arabla |
|  | 41 | RUBEIAN FACTORY RIYADH Saudl Arabla |
|  | 42 | SAAD AHMAD AL-ZAHARANI EST ALKHOBAR Saudl Arabla |
|  | 43 | SAAD AHMED MOHD AL MOOBIL RIYADH Saudl Arabla |
|  | 44 | SAP GENERAL P. RIYADH Saud Arabla |


|  | 45 | SAUDI HILLS <br> P.O.BOX 30571, AL-JUBAI 31951 KSA Saudl Arabla |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 46 | SAUDI OPERATING \& MAINTENANCE CO. RIYADH Saudl Arabla |
|  | 47 | SEDER GROUP TRADING \& CONT. P.P. BOX 8896, RIYADH Saudl Arabla |
|  | 48 | SHAYEA AL ALI SHAUEA AL SHAYEA CONTRACTING EST. RIYADH Saudi Arabla |
|  | 49 | SULAIMAN AL-REDAI TRDG. EST. RIYADH Saudl Arabla |
|  | 50 | TASHELET COMMERCIAL EST RIYADH Saudi Arabla |
|  | 51 | TASHELET COMMERICIAL EST. RIYADH ROYADH Saudl Arabla |
|  | 52 | TAWAIK EST. RIYADH Saudi Arabla |
|  | 53 | THIYA HA DAD NASPER EST ALKHOPAR Saudl Arabla |
|  | 54 | TOLODO COMPANY \& TRADING CONTRACTING RIYADH Saudi Arabla |
|  | 55 | SAUD AL MWAISHEER ESTT. AL JOUF, SAUDI ARABIA 1.11011/2804/90-Pge.II dated 23.11.2006 |
|  | 56 | ALBATIAN P.O. BOX 86179, AL-ARUBA SREET, ALSULAMANIA, RIYADH 11622, C-11011/70/2006-PGE. 1 DATED 12.05.2006 |
|  | 57 | ELAF RECRUITMENT OFFICE, SAUDI ARABIA [I-11011/418/84-PGE. 1 DATED 05.12.2006] |
|  | 58 | TWAIK CO. LTD, RIYADH, I-11011/4029/94-PGE.II DATED 28.12.2007 |
| UGANDA |  |  |
|  | 1 | KAPAKWATA SAWMILLS LTD, KAMPALA Uganda |
|  | 2 | M/S WHITE POWER HO TRISHUL CENTRE, KAMPALA KAMPALA, Uganda |
| UKRAINE |  |  |
|  | 1 | AL-MAJD GENERAL MAINTAK CO. Ukraine |
|  | 2 | AL-NAJAF MARINE SHIPPING LLLC Ukralne |
|  | 3 | BESCO INTERNATIONAL (LLC) Ukralne |
|  | 4 | CLEANCO TRADING IMPORTING \& SERVICES Ukralne |
|  | 5 | DUBAI TRANSPORT, Ukrame |
|  | 6 | EURO EMIRATES ELECTRICAL AND MACHANICAL DUBAI Ukraine |
|  | 7 | MASOOD OIL INDUSTRIES SUPPLIES \& SERVICE ABU-DHABI Ukraine |
|  | 8 | MILLENIUM SHIP TRADING CO. PO BOX NO. 20333 DUBAI Ukraine |
|  | 9 | NEW CLEANING EST Ukralne |


|  | 10 | STALLION MARINE ENGG LLC P. $0.80 \times 20985$ SHARJAH Ukraine |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| U.A.E |  |  |
|  | 1 | AL MAJAD GENL. MAINTENANCE CO. DUBAI Unlted Arab Emirates |
|  | 2 | AL NAJAT MARINE SHIPPING LIC SHARJAH United Arab Emirates |
|  | 3 | AL-KHATRI TRADING BUILDING CONTRACTING ESTABLISHMENT SHARJAH United Arab Emirates |
|  | 4 | BESCO INTERNATIONAL LLC. DUBAI United Arab Emirates |
|  | 5 | BIN FADHIL AL MAZROUI CONTRACTING CO. ABU DHABI ABU DHABI United Arab Emirates |
|  | 6 | CLEANCO TRADING IMPORTINGRSERVICES ABUDHABI United Arab Emirates |
|  | 7 | EURO EMIRATES ELECTRICAL \& MECH. DUBAI DUBAI Unlted Arab Emirates |
|  | 8 | HOSPITALITY CATERING \& SERVICES, AL AIN UAE United Arab Emirates |
|  | 9 | MILLINIUM SHIP TRADING CO. DUBAI DUBAI United Arab Emirates |
|  | 10 | NEW CLEANING EST. UAE UAE UAE United Arab Emirates |
|  | 11 | PRIME PROJECT INTERNATIONAL GENERAL TRAD LLC DEIRA, DUBAI, United Arab Emirates |
|  | 12 | SEACOR ENVIRONMENT SERVICES MIDDLE EAST P.O. BOX NO. 3600 FUJAIRAH United Arab Emirates |
|  | 13 | WEST COAST EST. <br> ABUDHABI United Arab Emirates |
|  | 14 | REALWAY RECRUITMENT AGENCY, BRIDGMURAR,DHERA dubal uae (I/11011/17/2005-PGE-I dated 9.5.07) |
| YEMEN |  |  |
|  | 1 | M/S NATIONAL CO. LTD., SANNAYAMAM SANA Yamen |
|  | 2 | NATIONAL CO. LTD. SANNA Yamen |

## EXHIBIT 14

HCOGR-27 Feb 09-233


January 5, 2009
Via International Express Mail
U.S. Army Legal Services Agency

Procurement Fraud Branch
ATTN: Mr. Brian A. Persico
901 North Stuart Street
Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22202-1837
Re: Request for Information from Kuwaic \& Gulf Link Transport Company
Dear Mr. Persico:
Kuwait \& Gulf Link Transport Company ("KGL") is pleased to respond to your office's 4 December 2008 letter requesting information regarding KGL's (1) recrutment and employment of Indian nationals and (2) possession of liability insurance under U.S. government contracts. KCL's responses are set forth below.

As an intial matter, your leter requests certain information on KGL employment activities "as of December 1, 2008." Please be advised that Kct veorganized its operations in May 2005. As part of that reorganization, RGL spow offite operational activities to other companies begining in mit-2004 in order to dlow each company to efficiently concentrate on one matbet. KOL today has ony ahout twenty employees, no operations of its own and completed ite last U.S. Government contract ix $x$ wh.







jurisdiction. ${ }^{1}$ Enclosed is a copy of the transcript from that hearing (Attachment 1). Also enclosed are the Defendant's 2 January 2008 post hearing brief (Attachment. 2). which supports that KGL does not have sufficient contacts with the State of Georgia to satisfy Due Process, and a copy of the Plaintiffs' post hearing brief (Attachment 3). We will notify your office when the court issues its decision on this matter.

## Recruitment of Indian Citizens.

We do not agree that the Government of India has probibited KGL from recruiting Indian citizens in India. The Government of India did not provide KGL with any notice before or after KGL was placed on a Prior Approval Category ("PAC") list. KGL has obtained advice from an Indian lawyer that the PAC list does not result in a prohibition or blacklisting from recruitment activities in India (Attachment 4). Instead, the PAC list means that a company must obtain prior: permission from India's Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs ("MOA") to recruit in India. KGL is free at anytime to request permission from the MOA to yecruit workers in India for employment outside of India, except in countries where the Indian Government prohibits employing its citizens. Because KGL never received notice of the company's name appearing on the PAC list and because of the 2005 reorganization mooted the need for KGL to recruit transportation personnel, KGL has not found it necessary to request permission from the MOA to recruit in India. Novertheless, KGL is attempting to determine the reason for placing KGL's name on the PAC list and to correct any misinformation.

KGL does not currently employ Indian nationals. Prior to the May 2005 reorganization, ope of KGL's core businesses was the transportation of supplies. KGL recruited and employed drivers to transpurt supplies within Kuwait and to surxounding counties. Each transportation assignment depended on the specific request of the customer. Because of nature of KGL's transportation operations, it did not recruit transportation personnel to work within a specific counter.





properly licensed under India law to perform such activities and did so in compliance with all applicable laws. Under KGL's personnel policies (Attachment. 5 , Section 5.3 ), such recruiting companies were required to "to provide clear explanation regarding business of the company, related activities, employee contract and remumeration." KGL has never recruited Indian citizens or persons of any other nationality for work specifically in Iraq. Nor has KGL recruited workers under a pretext of working only in Kuwait, but then deploying the workers to Iraq.

Under KGL's recruitment and employment policies. recruits for transportation positions were informed as part of the hiring process that they may be asked to transport goods within Kuwait and to surrounding countries. Those polices also required the company to ensure the employee's willingness and capability to accept the mission (see Attachment 5, Section 5.7), If an employee disagreed to take an assignment, IKGL would decide whether to offer another job to match hisher capabilities (see Attachment 5, Section 5.7). Likewise, KGL amployees were free to decline to accept a specific assignment, including any assigument involving travel in Lraq. On many occasions, KGL drivers and other persomel dectined assignments due to security, safety, health, or other concerns, Moreover, KGL's personnel policies included a mechanism for employees and third parties to file complaints alleging that KGL did not act in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, followed by an investigation by the company (see Attachment 6). KGL did not receive any allegations such as those in your 4 December 2008 letter.










R"L's Imblta mamerna





Baragona" and asked for documentation from KGL's liability insurance provider that KGL obtained such insurance. First, your office may not be aware that the traffic accident that resulted in the tragic death of LTC Baragona involved a KGL truck operating under a transportation contract with the United Nations and not under a U.S. Government contract. Second, KGL interprets your request to provide documentation that it procured the liability insurance coverage in the amounts required by FAR $52.228-8$, Liability and Insurance - Leased Motor Vehicles (May 1999), that was included in KCL's U.S. Government contracts for transportation.

Under Kuwaiti law, KGL is not required to keep copies of third party liability insurance policies after three years when no third party claims have been asserted. Therefore, neither KGL nor its insurance carrier has copies of the liability insurance policies that provided the coverage specified in FAR $52.228-9$. However, as permitted by your office's 4 December 2008 letter, enclosed is documentation from KGL's insurance carrier, Kuwait Insurance Company, s.a.k, representing that it issued and maintained third party liability insurance on KGL vehicles with coverage in the amounts required under TAR $52,228-9$ for the period 2002 through 2005 (Attachment 7). This period includes the starting date idenified in your office's letter (i.e., October 1, 2002) and an ending date of 2005 when KGI, would have completed its last U.S. Government transportation contract.


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 Tel.: 1888700-22240019-Fax: 24845926 - P.O. Box: 24565 Salat - 13 W6 Kuwait www.kglqB.com



KGL believes that it performed its U.S. Govermment contracts with the highest degree of integrity and honesty. Enclosed are certificates of appreciation from its U.S. Government customers attesting to KGL's dedication and commitment to providing quality service (Attachment 8). Please let us know if you have any further questions.

Respectfully submitted,


## SHIV K. SURI

ADVOCATEON RECORD SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

| Suite \#202. Arunachal Building 19, Barakhamba Road Connaught Place New Delhi-110001 <br> Phone: +91-11-4157111! | Chanuber No 30 <br> Supreme Court of India <br> New Delhifll 10001 <br> Cell: +(91) 98103-70732 <br> Email: surishiv@yahoo.com |
| :---: | :---: |
| To |  |
|  | December 27, 2008 |
| Mr. Yagoub Al-Wazzan |  |
| Assistant Managing Director |  |
| Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company |  |
| Shuwaikh Industrial Area, Block A |  |
| Bullding No 14-3 ${ }^{\text {rd }}$ |  |
| Shuwaikh, |  |
| Kuwait |  |
| Sub: Prior Approval Category |  |
| Dear Sir: |  |

You have asked us to review whether Kuwait and Guif Link Transport Company ("KGL") is prohibited by the Government of India from the recruitment personnel in India. Based on review of the relevant documents and laws, this is to state that Government of India has not phibited KGL from recruiting its eitizens from employment in Kuwait This is to further state that currently there is no ban by the Indian Government on employing its citizens in Kuwalt.

KGL had previously been stopped from recruiting Indian citizens from June 19,2001 to November $30 ; 2004$, and from March 14,2006 for work in Iraq because there was a ban by Indian Government on employing its citzens in Iraq and which ban was equaily applicable to all foreign employers for recrutiment overseas.

It Is clarified that Inclusion of KGL In Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs' Phor Approval Category List ( PAC List") ohly means that KGL is supposed to obtain prior permission from Government of India's, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affalis (MOA") and KGL is free and at liberty to request permission of MOA for recrulting workers In Indla for employment overseas except in countrles where there Is Indian Governments' ban on employing its citizens in that country.

It may further be stated that prior approval by KGL of MOA Is aiso required for emigration clearance from the Protector of Emigrants, Ministry Of Overseas Indian Affairs, for employment overseas which in any case is required by all foreign employers whether included in PAC List or not in regard to workers goling overseas for employment purposes.

Please feel free to let us know If there are any additional questions or clarifications.

Thanking You
Yours truly


Advocate


| 19, Haralhamba Road ( nnmugh Place New Dethi-1100n! <br> thone: +91-1141571111 |  |
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Phone: -91-114.1571111

Chamber No 30
Supreme Court of India
New Delhi-1 10001
Cell: 191 ) 98103.70732
Emuil: surivhivăyahou,com

To
December 27,2008
Mr. Yaqoub Al-Wazzan
Assistant Managing Director
Kuwbit and Gulf Link Transport Company
Shuwaikh industrial Area, Block A
Building No $14-3^{\text {td }}$
Shuwaikh.
kuwait
Sub: Prior Approval Category
Uner Str
Tou have asked us to rewew whether Kuwat and out link Thanspart Comotny ("RGt') is pothbted by the Govermment of Inda from the
 documwits and lews, this ts to state that Govetment of India has not prohbled kg from recrubing ts dyeene Ium evployment in kusat. This is ta frhme etste that cunenvy there is mo dat ty he modan Goverment eh emplowng hts ctivens in Rtwat

KGL had previously been stopped from recruting Indan citizens from Juit 19,2001 to November 30,2004 , and from March 14,2006 for work in Iraq because there was a ban by indian Government on employing its citizens in lrag and which ban was equally applicable to all foreign employets for recrultment overseas.

It is clarified that Inclusion of KGL In Ministry of Overseas Indian Affalrs' Prior Approval Category USt (PAC List") Only means that KGLis supposed to obtaln prlor permisslon from Government of Inda's, Ministry of Overseas Indlan Affalrs (MOA") and KGL is free and at liberty to request permission of MOA for recrulting workers In India for employment overseas except in countries where there is Indian Governments' ban on employing Its citizens In that country.

It may further be stated that prior approval by KGL of MOA Is also required for emigration clearance from the Protector of Emigrants, Ministry Of Overseas Indian Affairs, for employment overseas which In any case is required by all foreign employers whether included in PAC List or not in regard to workers golng overseas for employment purposes.

Please feel free to let us know if there are any additional questions or clarifications.

## Thanking You

Yours truly


Advocate


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|  |  | Rev No： 04 <br> Date：30／05／2005 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | No．：PAD 02 |
| Human Resources Management Process |  |  |  |
| S．N．${ }^{\text {D }}$ Description |  | Responsiblity | Reference documents |
| 1 | Receive Manpower Requests from various Departments based on the manpower planning in their respective departments． | Respective departmental head \＆ HR manager HR manager | Manpower Request Form |
| 2 | After reviewing the manpower request budget approval is obtained for the proposed／requested manpower | Chairman（for budget approval） approval） <br> RR Dept | Manpower Request Form |
| 3 | Contacting the recruitment agencies－ensuring the agency agrees with KGL．terms and conditions with the employment requirements． | HR Dept | List of Approved manpower agencies |
| 4 | The required budget is approved for the required business trip and informing the concerned individuals of the travel | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Approval from Vice } \\ & \text { president } \end{aligned}$ | Request for business trip／training |
| 5 | HR Team \＆Safety Team will assess the candidates and select the eligible ones． | HR team，Safety team | Overseas assessment |
| 6 | Apply for visa for the selected drivers | HR Dept／Agents | Memo for visa request |
| 7 | On receipt of visa，handover to the agent and agent will inform the arrival date of the employee． | HR deptiAgent | Emails from Agent |
| 8 | HR Representative will arrange for the airport pick up and receive all the relevant documents． | HR Dept | Visa \＆passport |
| 9 | Employment contract is signed between the KGL \＆the employee． | HR Manager | Employee contract |
| 10 | All drivers are provided initial fraining before allocating them to different project | HR Dept | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Safety } \\ & \text { process } \end{aligned} \text { and training }$ |

[^31]






a P POLICY
 management system (QMs )
 any complatits have bect both adecuately addrossed and that sulable pravende acton has been mpenented to proven tocurtence.

2 2. scopa

* Extemal Complaints - fom customers, supplers, other pardes.
* Internal Complaints - from personne withif the company.
* Complathts recelvad in any form - face to face, by phone, tetaris fax wail. All kOL Departmentshivistons and activites.
3.0 TEOWNTCA REFERENCES

None.
4.0 AEBREVATONSTERWS

COMPLABT - Any critical comment with regard to the products (goods or services) supphed by the company, or whit respect to its processes, or whth respect to its personnel, their actions or behavor.

AETIONS METHODS
5.7 An Stantare Responsible

All company personnet are responsble for onsuting that any complaint receved by then is handled in accordance with this procedure.

## 82 On Recelving ${ }^{2}$ Complanh

Any member of staff receving a complain shall make a carebl note of the detais of the person making the complaint. The indivulut should be inomed that kol. has a ciear procedure for havding compiaints theat MUST be followed

The contact detalls shall be immediately passed to personnel with responsibilithauthority to deal with complants and rase a Complant form (QF. CO.17) OR the person receving the complant shoud raise the Complant Fom thenselves.

### 5.3 Recording Complant Detatis

mtomation regarding the complant shat be recorded in as much detal as possible on the complant form (OF.CO. 17 ). These detalls must include:

* Futrame, tite, company and contact detais of the person making the complaint.
* Detalis regarding the naturefype of comptaint inctuting as nuch refevant data as possible je. Daters, times, equipment, events, names places, raference numbers as appropriate.
* What action the person makig the comptaint would expect kGL to cary out in order to re-establish that person's satistaction with the company.


UNDER NO CRCUMSTANEES SHOULD A MEMBER OF STAFF ROMISE OR GTAE THAT ANY PARTOULAR ACTIONS WIL BE UNBERTAKEN OTHER THAN THAT THIS PROOEDURE SHALL BE FOLOWES.

### 5.4 Reporting

As sonn as is practical, and based on the nature of the complant he relevant maneger and the MR should be informed cepending on the nature of the complaint.
This adviee can be passed by any practical means in the first hastance, athough the Complaht Fom $(\mathrm{OF}, 0017$ ) should foltow as soon as possible.
It is the responsibility of the MR to track all complaints using the Complaint Register (OF.CO. 18) and so he should be intormed as soon as is practical.

### 5.5 Writen Complaints

Written complaints to be directed to the MR or a relevant manager, depending upon the nature of the complaint, for follow up.
5.6 Confirm

Where practical the DepartmendDivision Manager will contact the person who made the complaint and establish, or confirm the details of the complaint. He/she will also advise as to the procedural actions that will follow i.e investigation \& corrective/preventive action.
5.7 Documentation

Any relevant documentation chould be attached to the complaint form. If necessary a file may be started.
5.8 Investigation

The MR andior Departnentoivision Manager, depending on the nature of complaint, is responsible for:

* substantating the grounds of the complaint.
* investigating the cause.
- deciding on appropriate corrective action.
* discussing and agreeing suitable preventive action with relevant staff.
* advising the person making the complaint, in writing if possible, of the action to be taken.
5.9 Closing Actions

In case of external complaints a statement such as the example below should be included in the fetter to the person making the complaint:
We trust these steps will re-establish your confidence in the quality produots'services provided by KGL. To minimise any further inconvenience to you, this matter will be fled as closed unless you advise us othewise within 15 working days. "

If no further contact is received with respect to the complait, the Complaint Form to be dated and sioned as 'closed' and to be sent to the MR to update the Complaint Register accordingly.
OP.CO.08 Rev. 0 Date: 30/07/03

9.0 Facalaton

H contad does continue andor customet satisfaction is not rew tablished the complantoroces t repeated i.e. a new Conplom Fonitis raised, ths me by the Mf and it is refered diectly to the voe Chaiman \& Managne Director for follow up:

A sumntry of compents wi be prosented to management for revew it accordaree wh the hanagoment Rewow Procolure (SP, ©0.00)
5.12 Recoris

Al correspondence, notes and forms used in accordance wh this procedure shall be retaned as quality record.
6.0 Oualty System Documentation Refarences

| Qhis net. Number | Doewment Title |
| :--- | :--- |
| QF.CO. 17 | Complain Form |
| QF.CO. 18 | Complant Register |
| OP.CO. 06 | Management Peview Procedure |

7.0 Persomel with Responsibility

Vice Chaman \& Managing Director
Management Representative
All Nanagers \& staf
 KUWAT\&GULF LINK TRANSPORT CO. K.S.C.C
Complaint Form

Stathornber Repotimg

Wequested Action
Thyertlgation Result
Responsible for Follow-up (Resevanth
Manapar or HR:

Preventive Messures


HCOGR-27 Feb 09.295


# Kuwait lnsurance Co. s.a.k. 


C.R. No. 7645

$17^{\text {th }}$ December, 2008

## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Kuwait Insurance Company declared that the period from 2002 through 2005, that it issued and provided Motor Third Party Liability Insurance for "Kuwait \& Gulf Link Transport Co. (KGL)" and collected the due premiums, with coverage in amounts meeting those specified in Federal Acquisition Regulation Clause $52.228-8$, Liability and Insurance - Leased motor vehicles (May 1999) as per Kuwait Insurance Company's Motor Third Party policies' terms, conditions \& liablities according to Kuwaiti laws.

## Regards,




Summary
Total collars: \$44,046,692
Total number of contractors: 1 Total number of transactions: 95 Get list of contractors
Gest list of transactions

Extent of Competition?


| W. Availabie for everyone for competition | \$20,915,448 |
| :---: | :---: |
| Everyone could compete, but only one bld or offer was recieved | \$14,026,387 |
| Competition within a limited pool | 50 |
| Actions necessary to continue existing competitive contracts for continuity funtil the next one could be competed) |  |
| Available only for groups such as disabled persons, prisoners, and regulated utllitles |  |
| - Not competed for an allowabte reason | \$9,104,857 |
| Not identified, soon to be addressed |  |

Performed ${ }^{\text {s }}$
Invalid district:

| Federal fiscal Year | $\triangle \mathrm{ALL} \geqslant \mathrm{Qo}$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| Level of Detail | Summary $\quad$ ¢ ${ }_{\text {co }}$ |
| Output | HTML $\mathrm{T}^{\text {go }}$ |


| Top 5 Products or Services Sold |
| :--- |
| Logistics Support Services |
| Word Processing/Typing Services |
| Trucks and Truck Tractors, wheeled |
| Right-of. Way Construction and Maintenance Equipment, <br> Rairsad <br> Miscellaneous Vehicular Components |

Top 5 Contracting Agencies Purchasing from Contractor(s) ARMY, Department of the (except Corps of Engineers Civit
Program Financing)

KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC(C) $\$ 44,046,692$

Federal Contracts to KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC(C), FY 2000-2009, sa... Page 2 of 2
The contracts database is compiled from the FPDS.NG system. For
timeliness details, please see the Data Quality tab.
Note: The numbers in this table can change after each data load.
Transactions included in a data load can impact numbers for the current
and previous fiscal years.
The data housed on USASpending. gov is provided by Federal agencies.
Please refer to the Data Oualty site for information about the current
status of data quality. USASpending. gov is continuously developing ways to
measure and improve the quality of the data on the site.

Federal Contracts to KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC(C), FY 2000-2009, list... Page 1 of 9

| Contracts to KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC(C) (FY 2000-2009) |  |  |  | Search Criteria Used (More) |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | Federal Fiscal Year |  | ALL - $\mathrm{Z}^{0} \mathrm{Co}$ |  |
| List of Individual Transactions for FY 2005 |  |  |  | Level of Detail |  | High (list of transactions) $\quad$ ]00 |  |
|  |  |  |  | Output |  | HTML | $\triangle \mathrm{GO}$ |
| You can click on the column headers below to re-sort the search. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Amount | Parent Company Name | Major Agency | Product or S | rute | Date | Program Source (Agency-Account) | Program Source Description |
| \$38,571 | KUWAIT E GULF UNK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC(C) | Dept. of Defense | Lease or rental of eq | Hipment | $2005 \cdot 08 \cdot$ |  |  |
| \$11,286 | KUWAIT \& GULF UNK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC(C) | Dept. of Defense | Plumbing, heating, disposal equipment | ad waste | $2005-07$ | 17-0100 |  |
| \$3,286 | KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC(C) | Dept. of Defense | Plumbing, heating, disposal equipment | ad waste | $18{ }^{2005-07-}$ | 17.0100 |  |

Total transactions for fiscal year 2005: 3
Total funding (within this search) for the year: $\mathbf{\$ 5 3 , 1 4 3}$
Competition summary for entire search for fiscal year 2005:


| 2i Avalable for everyone for competition | \$38,571 |
| :---: | :---: |
| - Everyone could compete, but only one bid of offer was recieyed | so |
| 3 Competition within a timited pool | So |
| D Actions necessary to continue existing competitive contracts for continuity (until the next one could be competed) | 50 |
| - Avallable only for groups such as disabled persons, prisoners, and regulated utilites | 50 |
| - Not competed for an allowable reason | 1414,572 |
| $\square$ Not identified, soon to be adoressed | \$0 |

## List of Individual Transactions for FY 2004

| Amount | Parent Company Name | Major Agency | Prodact or Service | Date | Program Source (Agency-Account) | Program Source Description |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| \$3.812.371 | KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Detense | Professional, admin, and management support services | $12003-1$ |  |  |
| 51,909,642 | kuwait a gulf bink TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept of Defense | Professional, admin, and management sugport services | $\frac{2003-}{11 \cdot 12}$ |  |  |
| 51.035,348 | huwait a gulf link TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept, of Defense | Professional, admin, and management support services | $\begin{aligned} & 2003- \\ & 10-25 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |

Federal Contracts to KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC(C), FY 2000-2009, list... Page 2 of 9


## List of Individual Transactions for FY 2003

You can click on the column headers below to re-sort the search.

Federal Contracts to KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC(C), FY 2000-2009, list... Page 3 of 9

| Amount | Parent Company Name | Major Agency | Product or Service | Date | Program Source (Agency-Account) | Program Source Description |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| \$59,000,000 | kUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept of Defense | Professional, admin, and management support services | $\begin{aligned} & 2003 \\ & 02-18 \end{aligned}$ | 17.0100 |  |
| \$3,817,371 | KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Profersional, admin, and management support services | $\begin{aligned} & 2003-1 \\ & 05-14 \end{aligned}$ | 17.0100 |  |
| \$2,430,000 | kuwait a guif tink TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept, of Defense | Professionat, admin, and management support services | $\frac{2002-}{12 \cdot 15}$ | 21.2035 | Other Procurement, Army |
| \$2,430,000 | KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Profestional, admin, and management support services | $\begin{aligned} & 2002- \\ & 12 \cdot 15 \end{aligned}$ | $21 \cdot 2035$ | Other Procurement, Army |
| 52,413,793 | KUWAIT \& GULF LUNK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professional, admin, and management support services | $\begin{aligned} & 2003 \\ & 02.01 \end{aligned}$ | 21-2035 | Other Procurement, Afriy |
| \$1,209,642 | KUWAIT \& GUR LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept, of Defense | Professional, admin, and management support services | $\frac{2003 .}{05-12}$ | 17.0100 | * |
| 51.035,348 | KuWAIT E GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professional, admin, and management support services | $\begin{aligned} & 2003- \\ & 01-25 \end{aligned}$ | 17.0100 |  |
| \$800,000 | KUWAIT Q GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professionai, admin, and management support services | $2003-$ | 21-2035 | Other Procurement, Army |
| \$486, 379 | KUWAIT Q GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professionat, admin, and management support services | $\begin{aligned} & 2003 \\ & 05-14 \end{aligned}$ | $21 \cdot 2020$ | Operation and Maintenance, Army |
| \$344,828 | KUWAIT Q GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professional, admin, and management support services | $\begin{aligned} & 2003 \\ & 03.08 \end{aligned}$ | :17.0100 |  |
| \$291.666 | KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professional, admin, and management support services | $\begin{aligned} & 2003- \\ & 01-15 \end{aligned}$ | 21.2040 | Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation, Army |
| 5290, 833 | Kuwait a gulf link TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professional, admin, and management support services | $\begin{aligned} & 2003- \\ & 01-15 \end{aligned}$ | 21.2040 | Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation, Army |
| \$251,667 | KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professional, admin, and management support services | $\begin{aligned} & 2003 . \\ & 01-15 \end{aligned}$ | 17-1106 | Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps |
| \$200.634 | Kuwait \& gulf link TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professional, admin, and management support services | $\begin{aligned} & 2002 \\ & 12 \cdot 12 \end{aligned}$ | 21.2035 | Other Procurement, Army |
| \$60,345 | kuwait a gulf link TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professional, admin, and management support services | $\begin{aligned} & 2003- \\ & 03-06 \end{aligned}$ | 21-2040 | Research, Devetopment, Test, and Evaluation, Army |
| \$44,800 | Kuwait a gulf link TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Motor vehicles, tratiers, and cycles | $\begin{aligned} & 2002 \\ & 12.07 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| 537.242 | KUWAIT a gulf link TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Lease or rental of equipment | $2003 .$ |  |  |
| \$37,241 | kuwait a gulf link TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Lease or rental of equipment | $\begin{array}{r} 2003 . \\ 05-25 \end{array}$ |  |  |
| So | KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Lease or rental of equipment | $\begin{aligned} & 2003 . \\ & 04-20 \end{aligned}$ | 17.0735 | Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Navy and Marine Corps |
| 50 | KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professional, admin, and management support services | $\begin{aligned} & 2002 . \\ & 12.08 \end{aligned}$ | 57.3400 | Operation and Maintenance, Air Force |

Total transactions for fiscal year 2003: 20
Total funding (within this search) for the year: $\$ 25,881,789$
Competition summary for entire search for fiscal year 2003:



## List of Individual Transactions for FY 2002

| Amount | Parent Company Name | Major Agency | Product or Service | Date | Program Source (Agency-Account) | Program Source Description |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 51,818,334 | KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professionat, admin, and management support services | $\begin{array}{r} 2002 . \\ 05-30 \end{array}$ | 21-2035 | Other Procurement, Army |
| \$694,667 | KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professional, admin, and management support services | $\begin{aligned} & 2002 \\ & 01 \cdot 31 \end{aligned}$ | 21.2035 | Other Procurement, Army |
| \$500.000 | KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Deferse | Professional, admin, and management support services | $2002 .$ | 21-2035 | Other Procurement, Army |
| \$500,000 | KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professionat, admin, and management support services | $\begin{aligned} & 2002 \\ & 01-01 \end{aligned}$ | 17-1106 | Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps |
| \$499,333 | KUWATT A GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professional, admin, and managenent support services | $\begin{aligned} & 2002 . \\ & 07 \cdot 24 \end{aligned}$ | 17-1106 | Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps |
| \$414,234 | KUWAIT \& GULF LiNk TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professional, admin, and management support services | $\begin{aligned} & 20017 \\ & 11-17 \end{aligned}$ | 21-2035 | Other Procurement, Army |
| 5348,867 | KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professional, admin, and management support services | $\begin{aligned} & 2002 . \\ & 05-30 \end{aligned}$ | 21-2040 | Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation, Army |
| 5247,583 | KUWATT a GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professional, admin, and management support services | $\begin{aligned} & 12002 \\ & 109-09 \end{aligned}$ | 21-2040 | Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation, Army |
| \$144,878 | KUWAIT A GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC | Dept. of | Professional, admin, and | 2001. | 97-0400 | Research, Development, Test, |

[^32]Federal Contracts to KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC(C), FY 2000-2009, list... Page 5 of 9

|  | (C) | Defense | management support services | 12.01 |  | and Evaluation, Defense-wide |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 5136,047 | KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professional, admin, and management support services | $\begin{aligned} & 2001- \\ & 12-26 \end{aligned}$ | 21-2040 | Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation, Army |
| \$128,500 | KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professional, admin, and management support services | $11-01$ | 57.3400 | Operation and Maintenance, Ait Force |
| \$75,909 | KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professional, admin, and management support services | $\begin{aligned} & 2001-10.01 \end{aligned}$ | 17-1319 | Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation, Navy |
| \$60.000 | KuWAIT \& GULFLINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professional, admin, and management support services | $\begin{aligned} & 2002 . \\ & 09-09 \end{aligned}$ | 24-2035 | Other Procurement, Army |
| \$59,208 | KUWAIT \& GULF LiNK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professional, admin, and maragenent support services | $\begin{aligned} & 20010 \\ & 10.01 \end{aligned}$ | 57-3400 | Operation and Maintenance, Air Force |
| \$54.434: | KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professional, admint, and management support services | $12001-01$ | 97-0400 | Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation, Deferse-wide |
| \$50,000 | KUWAIT E GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professional, admin, and management support services | $\begin{aligned} & 20010 \\ & 10.01 \end{aligned}$ | 21-2020 | Operation and Mantenance, Army |
| \$48,634 | KUWAIT G GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professional, admin, and management support services | $\begin{array}{r} 2001-1 \\ 12 \cdot 26 \end{array}$ | 21-2035 | Other Procurement, Army |
| 538, 325 | kUWATt E GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professional, admin, and management support services | $\begin{gathered} 2001- \\ 11.01 \end{gathered}$ | 17-1205 | Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps |
| \$30,000 | KUWATT \& GULF LINK <br> TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC <br> (C) | Dept. of Defense | Professionat, atmin, and management support services | $\begin{aligned} & 2002 \\ & 05-30 \end{aligned}$ | 97.0100 | Operation and Maintenance, Defense-wide |

Total transactions for fiscal year 2002: 19
Total funding (within this search) for the year: $\$ 5,848,923$
Competition summary for entire search for fiscal year 2002:


| - Available for everyone for competition | \$5,848,923 |
| :---: | :---: |
| W Everyone could compete, but only one bid or offer was recieved | S0 |
| $\square$ Competition within a limited pool | 50 |
| T Actions necessary to continue existing competitive contracts for continuity (until the next one could be competed) | 50 |
| - Avaliable only for groups such as disabled persons, prisoners, and regulated utilities | \$0 |
|  | \$0 |
| T Not identified, soon to be addressed | \$0 |

Federal Contracts to KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC(C), FY 2000-2009, list... Page 6 of 9

** Note: negative numbers represent deallocations.

Total transactions for fiscal year 2001: 14
Total funding (within this search) for the year: $\mathbf{\$ 2 , 0 9 8}, \mathbf{9 0 8}$
Competition summary for entire search for fiscal year 2001:

Federal Contracts to KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC(C), FY 2000-2009, list... Page 7 of 9


List of Individual Transactions for FY 2000

| Amount | Parent Company Narse | Major Agency | Product or Service | Date | Program Source (Agency-Account) | Program Source Description |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 5281,666 | KUWATT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY ISC(C) | Dept. of Defense | Motor vehicles, trallers, and cycles | $\begin{aligned} & 2000-01 . \\ & 02 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| 5247.500 | KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC(C) | Dept. of Defense | Motor yehicies, trailers, and cycles | $28$ |  |  |
| 5245,333 | KUWAIT Q GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC(C) | Dept. of Defense | Motor vehicies, trailers, and cycles | $\begin{aligned} & 2000-02 . \\ & 05 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| \$240,559 | KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC(C) | Dept. of Defense | Motor vehicles, traiters, and cycles | $\begin{aligned} & 1999-11 . \\ & 30 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| \$233.590, | KUWATT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC(C) | Dept. of Defense | Motor vehicles, tuilers, and cycles | $2000-04$ |  |  |
| 5233,500 | Kuwat e gulf link transport COMPANY KSC(C) | Dept. of Defense | Railway equipment | $\begin{aligned} & 2000-06 \\ & 27 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| \$233,500 | KUWAIT a GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC(C) | Dept. of Defense | Motor velictes, trailers, and cycles | $37000-07 \text {. }$ |  |  |
| \$231,167 | KUNAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC(C) | Dept. of Defense | Motor vehicles, traters, and cycles | $\begin{aligned} & 2000 \cdot 03 . \\ & 11 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| \$116,750 | kUWAIT A GULLF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC(C) | Dept, of Defense | Motor vehicles, traters, and cycles | $2000-06$ |  |  |
| 593,832 | KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC(C) | Dept. of Defense | Motor vehicles, traiters, and cycles | $1999-11 \cdot$ |  |  |
| 585,971 | KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC(C) | Dept. of Defense | Motor vehicles, trailers, and cycles | $\begin{aligned} & 22000-07-1 \\ & 31 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| \$72,764 | kuwait a gulf link transport COMPANY KSC(C) | Dept. of Defense | Motor vehicles, trailers, and cycles | $\begin{aligned} & 2000-06-1 \\ & 15 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| 565,334 | KUWAIT \& GULF LIN TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC(C) | Dept. of <br> Deferse | Lease or rental of equipment | $\begin{aligned} & 2000-08-1 \\ & 09 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| \$64,254 | KUWAIT a GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC(C) | Dept, of Defense | Transportation, travel and relocation services | $1999 \cdot 12-1$ |  |  |
| \$60,000 | KUWAIT a GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC(C) | Dept. of Defense | Motor vehicles, trallers, and cycles | $\begin{aligned} & 2000-06-1 \\ & 03 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| \$60,000 | KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC(C) | Dept. of Defense | Railway equipment | $\begin{aligned} & 2000-04-1 \\ & 30 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |

Federal Contracts to KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC(C), FY 2000-2009, list... Page 8 of 9


Total transactions for fiscal year 2000: 27
Total funding (within this search) for the year: $\$ 2,868,575$
Competition summary for entire search for fiscal year 2000:


| - Avaliable for everyone for competition | 52,868,575 |
| :---: | :---: |
| - Everyone could compete, but only one bid or offer was recieyed | \$0 |
| Competition within a limited pool | 50 |
| - Actions necessary to continue existing competitive contracts for continuity (unth the next one could be competed) | S0 |
| $\square$ Avallable only for groups such as disabled persons, prisoners, and regulated utilities | so |
| Whet competed for an altowable reason | 50 |
| $\square$ Not identified, soon to be addressed | \$0 |

## *END OF REPORT*

This search was done on February 4, 2009.

Search Criteria Used
Federal Fiscal Year AIL $\triangle$ OO
Assigned Parent Company DD 190288

Federal Contracts to KUWAIT \& GULF LINK TRANSPORT COMPANY KSC(C), FY 2000-2009, list... Page 9 of 9


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Contractor Name Lookup via String Search on Name. Search on Contractors Name : 'Kuwait United Development\%', State : 'IQ, KW, SA, JO'

| CIN | Contractor Name | Street Address | City Name |  |
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# Contractor Name Lookup via String Search on Name. 

Search on Contractors Name : 'kgl car rental\%', State : 'IQ, KW, SA, JO'

| CIN | Contractor Name | Street Address | City Name | $\underline{S t}$ |
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Contractor Name Lookup via String Search on Name. Search on Contractors Name : 'United International Trading\%', State : 'IQ, KW, SA, JO

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Contractor Name Lookup via String Search on Name. Search on Contractors Name : 'ksl passenger transport services\%', State : ' $\mathrm{KQ}, \mathrm{KW}, \mathrm{SA}, \mathrm{JO}$ '

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Contractor Name Lookup via String Search on Name.
Search on Contractors Name : 'Kuwait Asphalt\%', State : 'IQ, KW, SA, JO'

| ClN | Contractor Name | Street Address | City Name | ISte |
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Contractor Name Lookup via String Search on Name.
Search on Contractors Name : 'KGL LOGISTICS KSCC', State : 'IR, KW'

| ClN | Contractor Name | Street Address | City Name | St |
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| ClN | Contractor Name | Street Address | City Name | St |
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Contractor Name Lookup via String Search on Name. Search on Contractors Name : 'KGL ports international KSCC', State : 'IR, KW'

| CIN | Contractor Name | Street Address | City Name | Sti |
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# Contractor Name Lookup via String Search on Name. 

Search on Contractors Name : 'KGL. Transportation KSCC', State : 'IR, KW'
II CIN 1 Contractor Name 1 Street Address 1 City Name ISt

## DD350-Reports-Specials Contractor CIN Lookup VIA Name and State <br> Contractor Name Lookup via String Search on Name. <br> Search on Contractors Name : 'Gulf Africa Holding', State : 'IR, KW

Page 1 of 1

| CIN | Contractor Name | Street Address | City Name |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |

Contractor Name Lookup via String Search on Name. Search on Contractors Name : 'International Motors Co, W.G.L.', State : 'IR, KW'
$\square$ CIN 1 Contractor Name $\quad$ Street Address $\quad$ City Name ISte


SUBJECT: Request for Information-December 4, 2008
Mr. Yaqoub Abdulah Al Wazzan
Assistant Managing Director
Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company
Shuwaikh Industrial Area, Block A
Building No. 14-3rd
Shuwaikh, Kuwait
Tel: 011-965-888-700
Dear Mr. Al Wazzan:
I have reviewed the information provided in your January 5, 2009, letter sent to the Army Procurement Fraud Branch (PFB) in response to a Request for Information, dated December 4, 2008. Based upon that response, and my review of the information available to me in the administrative record, I do not intend to initiate a suspension or debarment proceeding against Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company (KGL) at this time. PFB will continue to monitor the progress of this case in the future and may request additional information from KGL and/or request that I revisit this determination should additional information come to the Army's attention regarding KGL's present responsibility as a Government contractor.

Should you have any questions, you may contact Mr. Brian A. Persico, Attorney, PFB, at (703) 696-1545. A copy of this letter was provided to Mr. Richard J. Bednar, Esq, Crowell \& Moring LLP, KGL's local counsel in this matter.

Sincerely,


Uldric L. xioftor.


SUBJECT: Intent Not to Recommend Suspension or Debarment
Ahmed Afifi
Director, Legal Affairs
Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company
Shuwaikh Industrial Area, Block A
Building No. 14-3rd
Shuwaikh, Kuwait
Tel: 011-965-888-700
Dear Mr. Afifi:
We have reviewed the information provided to this office in response to our letter dated September 22, 2006. Based upon that response and a review of the information available to us, this office does not intend to recommend suspension or debarment proceedings against Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company ("KGL"). This decision is based on the fact that the initial attempts to serve KGL with documents regarding a civil matter in the Federal District Court for the Northern District of Georgia were not accomplished in accordance with the procedures for service of process consistent with Kuwait's exercise of reservations to the Hague Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters.
These documents were later properly served on KGL via the Kuwaiti Ministry of Justice on 11 July 2006 in a manner consistent with these reservations. Additional delays in service of these documents can be attributed to an improper translation of KGL's corporate name in the service of process documents.

We will continue to monitor the progress of this case in the future and may revisit this determination should additional information come to our attention regarding KGL's present responsibility as a Government contractor. Should you have any questions, you may contact Brian A. Persico, Attorney, Army Procurement Fraud Branch at (703) 696-1545.


SAMUEL J. ROB
Colonel, U.S. Army
Chief, Contract and Fiscal Law Division
Copy Furnished:
Richard J. Bednar, Esq., Crowell \& Moring LLP


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Government Accountability Office Report to the Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, House of Representatives, entitled: Excluded Parties List System: Suspended and Debarred Businesses and Individuals Improperly Receive Federal Funds, (GAO-09-174), February 2009.("Draft Report").

[^1]:    ${ }^{2}$ FAR 9,405-1 makes the termination of existing contracts a matter of agency discretion. For instance, from a policy perspective, the basis for terminating a contract as a result of a suspension or debarment is if the action taken involved the specific contract in question and the contract is void $a b$ initio, or it would otherwise serve the interests of the Government to terminate the contract. ${ }^{3}$ Pursuant to FAR 9.405(d) the Contracting Officer checks the EPLS twice - once after opening of bids or receipts of proposals and then again immediately before award.

[^2]:    ${ }^{4}$ In a Federal Register Notice, dated February 27, 1995, concerning a Federal Information Resources Management Regulation amendment, it states "GAO has also previously suggested that the ordering procedures for low dollar value items be less stringent than the procedures which apply to high dollar value orders." ( 60 FR 10508-01. Feb. 27, 1995). As an example, a micro purchase threshold of $\$ 2.500$ was incorporated into the guiding principles to alleviate this concern.

[^3]:    ${ }^{5} 2$ C.F.R.§ 180.
    ${ }^{6}$ Certain federal statutes mandate ineligibility for those convicted of violation of certain provisions of that statute. See, e.g., the Clean Water Act. My testimony does not address such statutory debarments.
    ${ }^{7} 48$ C.F.R. § 9.406-2.
    ${ }^{8} 48$ C.F.R. § $9.406-4$.
    ${ }^{9} 48$ C.F.R. § 9.407-1. Due to the consequences a suspension can have upon a contractor and its employees, it is critical that an SDO establish both the adequate evidence and immediate need elements before suspending. There have been a number of instances where contractors have incurred significant damage due to suspensions stemming from erroneous allegations or improper suspensions.

[^4]:    12 Under the FAR, a contractor that is proposed for debarment is ineligible upon issuance of the notice. This is one of the key differences with the Common Rule. Under that Rule, a contractor or grantee that receives a notice of proposed debarment is not ineligible until a determination of debarment is made. In the interim, if there is an immediate need to protect the government's interest, the agency can suspend the entity.

[^5]:    14 The EPLS includes entities that have been declared ineligible for particular programs under certain statues or regulations. In some cases the ineligibility is not reciprocal, i.e., it is limited to the particular program and does not extend to other programs or agencies.

[^6]:    ${ }^{17} 48$ C.F.R. § 49.2.
    ${ }^{18} 48$ C.F.R. § 9.405-1.

[^7]:    19 Similarly, federal contractors review the EPLS before awarding subcontracts under federal contracts.
    ${ }^{20}$ This might become an issue only if a user selects the "exact name" search rather than the general search feature on the EPLS.

[^8]:    ${ }^{21} 48$ C.F.R. § 52.209.5.

[^9]:    ${ }^{1}$ For more information on POGO, please visit www.pogo.org.
    ${ }^{2}$ http://www.pogo.org/pogo-files/reports/national-security/defense-waste-fraud/ns-wds-
    19990901 html IThe 435 Hammer That Wont_Go_Away.
    ${ }^{3}$ The Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994 (FASA) (Public Law 103-355), the Federal Acquisition Reform

[^10]:    Act of 1996 (FARA) (Public Law 104-106), and the Services Acquisition Reform Act of 2003 (SARA) (Public Law 108-136) have removed taxpayer protections.
    ${ }^{4}$ Federal Acquisition Regulation, Subpart 9.103 (a) and (b),
    http://www.amet.gov/far/current/htmi/Subpart\%209_1.htmi/\#wpl084058.
    ${ }_{6}^{5}$ FAR Subparts 2.101, 9.404, and 52.209-6, http://www.acquisition.gov/far/current/pdf/FAR.pdf.
    ${ }^{6}$ FAR Subpart 9.405-2.

[^11]:    ${ }^{7}$ Waivers, also known as "compelling reason determinations," allow the government to award a contract to a suspended or debarred contractor or individual. FAR Subparts 9.405 and $52.209-6$ (permitting a prime contractor to enter into any subcontract in excess of $\$ 30,000$ with a suspended or debarred contractor if there is a "compelling reason"). Compelling reason determinations are also used in instances when an agency feels it must continue doing business with a suspended or debarred contractor. FAR Subparts 9.406 and 9.407 .
    ${ }^{8}$ POGO Report, Federal Contractor Misconduct: Failures of the Suspension and Debarment System, May 10, 2002, http://www.pogo.org/pogo-files/reports/contract-oversigh/federal-contractor-misconduct/co-fcm-20020510.htm.
    ${ }^{9}$ The Interagency Suspension and Debarment Committee (ISDC) was created, as an Office of Management and
    Budget (OMB) committee, by Executive Order 12549 for the purpose of monitoring and overseeing the suspension
    and debarment system, http://www.epa.gov/ogd/sdd/isdc.htm.
    ${ }^{10}$ Public Law 110-417, Sec. 872, October 14, 2008.

[^12]:    ${ }^{11}$ Public Law 110-417, Sec. 873, October 14, 2008.
    $12 \mathrm{http} / / / \mathrm{www}$. pogo.org/pogo-files/letters/contract-oversight/co-tic-20090129.html.
    ${ }^{13}$ http://www.contractormisconduct.org/.

[^13]:    ${ }^{14}$ GAO Report, Federal Procurement: Additional Data Reporting Could Improve the Suspension and Debarment Process, GAO-05-479, July 2005, p. 3, http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05479.pdf. According to the report, problems related to contractor names and identifiers date back to 1987. Ia., at p. 16.
    ${ }^{15}$ Paul A. Denett, Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy, and Linda M. Combs,
    Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, Memorandum to Heads of Departments and Agencies, Suspension and Debarment, Administrative Agreements, and Compelling Reason Determinations, M-06-26, August
    31,2006, http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/omb/memoranda/fy2006/m06-26.pdf.
    ${ }^{16}$ Cristina T. Chaplain, Acting Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management letter to
    The Honorable Carl Levin and The Honorable Norm Coleman, Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
    Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Selected Agencies Use of Criminal Background
    Checks for Determining Responsibility, Enclosure I, p. 8, January 12, 2007,
    http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07215r.pdf.
    ${ }^{17}$ Id., at Enclosure I, p. 12.

[^14]:    ${ }^{18}$ National Procurement Fraud Task Force, Legislation Committee, White Paper, June 9, 2008, http://pogoarchives org/m/co/npftflc-white-paper-20080609.pdf.
    ${ }^{19} 1 \mathrm{ld}$, at p. 18.
    ${ }^{20} 1 d$.
    ${ }^{21}$ FAR Subpart 52.209-5.

[^15]:    ${ }^{22}$ Public Law 110-417, Sec. 872(c)(3).

[^16]:    ${ }^{1} 48$ C.F.R. $\$ 49.101$ (b).
    ${ }^{2} 48$ C.F.R. $\$ 49.401$ (a).
    ${ }^{3}$ See, e.g., United States v. Corliss Steam-Engine Co., 91 U.S. 321 (1876) (recognizing the govemment's need to terminate contracts for bewleships atier the Civil War ended).
    ${ }^{4}$ See, e.g., Saltwater, Inc., Comp. Gen. Dec. B-293335.3, 2004 CPD 1106
    ${ }^{5}$ See, e.g., Landment Consw. Corp., Comp. Gen. Dex. B-281957.3, 99-2 CPD 175
    ${ }^{6}$ See, e.g., International Dwas Proda. Corp. v. United States, 64 Fed. Cl. 642 (2005) (an contractor participaniag the $8(a)$
    subcontracting program for mall businesses was sold to a large brasiness).

[^17]:    'See, e.g., Enntrey v. United States, 17 CL. CL. 617 (1989).
    ${ }^{8}$ See, eg., Northrop Grumman Corp. v. United States, 46 Fed. Cl. 622 (2000)
    ${ }^{9}$ John Cibinic, J., Ralph C. Nash, Jr., and James F. Nagle, Acministration of Government Controcts 1066 ( $4^{\text {th }} \mathrm{ed}$. 2006).
    ${ }^{10} 48$ C.F.R. $\$ 49.102(\mathrm{a})(1)(5)$.
    " 48 C.F.R. \$49.104.
    ${ }^{12} 48$ C.F.R. 8 49.103.
    ${ }^{13} 48$ C.F.R. $89.202(a)$.
    ${ }^{14} / \mathrm{ld}$.
    ${ }^{13}$ See, e.g. Administration of Government Contracts, supra note 9, at 1057.58.
    ${ }^{16}$ See id. at 1054 .
    ${ }^{17}$ See Torncello v. United States, 681 F.2d 756 (Fed. Cl. 1982).

[^18]:    
     الحادث.
    24. سحق الاصطلدام المخرب اللجيب رلا يعكن اصلاحه.
    
    اليضا صبغ برتقالي على جرنئه.
     KGL

    في أشارغ سن طرين الدارة للعرية بشكل خطر والآمسطام بركام الحطام المنظور.
    
    
    اللملازم بار فونا.
    
    الدانث.
    
    
    
    
    
    بالحادث.

[^19]:    ${ }^{1}$ Plaintiffs file this memorandum in support of their Motion for Order Regarding Service of Process, filed May 4, 2006.
    ${ }^{2}$ Plaintiffs in international civil litigation before the United States District Courts do not operate under the same time requirement to serve process as do domestic plaintiffs in United States district court. In contrast to the requirements under Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 for domestic service of process, there is no fixed time requirement under Fed. R. Civ. P. $4(\mathrm{~m})$ for the service of process in a foreign country upon foreign individuals or corporations, which are treated the same as foreign individuals under subsection (h)(2).

[^20]:    ${ }^{3}$ Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(h)(2) refers back to the prescriptions of Rule 4(f). With this Court's permission, Plaintiffs proceeded to serve KGL under Federal Rule 4(f)(2)(C)(ii).

[^21]:    ${ }^{4}$ Federal Rule 4(f)(2)(C)(ii) is a subsection designed exclusively for international service with requirements that differ from domestic service under Federal Rule 4(e).

[^22]:    - Plaintiffs have named two defendants in this action: Kuwait Gulf Link Transport Company and Mahmoud Muhammed Hessain Serour, the driver of the Kuwait Gulf truck that was involved in the accident in which Dominic Baragona was killed. Plaintiffs do not present any evidence pertaining to service of the Complaint on Mr. Serour and the Court limits its consideration of Plaintiff's motion to service on Kuwait Gulf.

[^23]:    ${ }^{2}$ The account of this service is supported by correspondence from Ms. Janetta Hooper in FedEx Express's Customer Relations office in Memphis, Temnessee, and the Affidavit of Edward B. MacAllister, counsel for Plaintiffs. (Motion, Exs. 2-4.) Ms. Hooper's April 13, 2006 letter indicates Mr. Dashti received the package with the Pleadings on March 14, 2006, opened it and after doing so, refused the shipment stating the shipment was "not for him." (Motion,

[^24]:    Ex. 2.) Ms. Hooper's April 6, 2006 letter indicates the package was attempted to be delivered again on March 15, 2006. On this attempt, Mr. Dashti's secretary indicated he was not in the office, but that he would contact FedEx when he returned. Mr. Dashti apparently did not contact FedEx. (Motion, Ex. 3.)
    ${ }^{3}$ Saeed Ismail Dashti is listed on Kuwait \& Gulf Link Transport Co.'s website as the company's Vice Chairman and Managing Director. See http://www.ameinfo.com/financial markets/Kuwait/Company KW0132l. This website suggests Defendant's name is not precisely as it is stated in the complaint. The variation does not appear to be material.

[^25]:    ' Having considered the affidavits submitted by Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs Motion for Order Allowing the Submission of Affidavits [29] is GRANTED.

[^26]:    2 "The court, in detemining foreign law, may consider any relevant material or source, including testimony, whether or not submitted by a party or admissible under the Federal Rules of Evidence. The court's determination shall be treated as a ruling on a question of law." Fed. R. Civ. P.44.1.

[^27]:    ${ }^{3}$ These figures were discounted to present value. The figures also included allowances for fringe benefits.

[^28]:    ${ }^{1}$ Plaintiffs initially attempted to serve KGL through the Kuwaiti Ministry of Justice, pursuant to the requirements of the Hague Convention of 1965 on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters, to which Kuwait acceded on May 2, 2002 and which the United States ratified on June 15, 1965. Plaintiffs moved for leave to serve via international courier after the Kuwaiti government failed to timely comply with its service obligations under the Hague Convention [3].

[^29]:    ${ }^{2}$ Plaintiffs filed an identical action in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama and attempted service in the same manner. See Baragona, et al. v. Kuwait Gulf Link Transport Co., et al., No. 05-cv-1049-CLS (N.D. Ala. May 19, 2005). On March 14, 2006, Saced Esmail Dashti, KGL's Chairman and Managing Director, signed for and opened the Complaint in the Alabama action, which is nearly identical to the Complaint in this action. Mr . Dashti read the Complaint and returned it to the courier. KGL refused delivery of the Complaint in this action on the following day.
    ${ }^{3}$ Defendant Serour has not appeared in this action. Plaintiffs have not sought entry of default against Serour.

[^30]:    ${ }^{\text {8 }}$ If the parties believe there is any other issue that should be the subject of discovery or on which evidence should be presented at the evidentiary hearing, the Court should be advised on or before June 20, 2008.

[^31]:    Reviewer by：HR Manager Approved By：Chairman \＆MD $\quad$ Page 3 of 9

[^32]:    http://www.usaspending.gov/fpds/fpds.php?fiscal year=\&parent id=190288\&sortby=a\&datype=T\&repty... 2/4/2009 HCOGR-27 Feb 09-288

