

TESTIMONY OF

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THE JOINT STAFF

BEFORE THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT

REFORM SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN

AFFAIRS

June 22, 2010

Chairman Tierney, Ranking Member Flake, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss DoD's efforts to link contracting and the flow of US government contracting funds to a winning counterinsurgency strategy in Afghanistan.

The focus of the counterinsurgency (COIN) strategy in Afghanistan is the Afghan people. We are focused on population-centric counterinsurgency operations: enabling an expanded and effective Afghan National Security Force, securing the population, and connecting the Government of Afghanistan to its people by supporting improved governance and economic development. The effects that US government contracting funds are having on the battlefield have not always contributed to the success of our strategy. Optimizing the effects of our contracting dollars in support of COIN objectives is crucial to our success.

In fiscal year 2009, the US Government spent more than \$8.6 billion on contracts with a place of work in Afghanistan, of which more than \$7 billion were awarded by DoD. In some cases, segments of the Afghan populace and government perceive that this money is not positively benefiting the Afghan people, and is supporting power brokers and malign actors. This is obviously not our intent nor in our strategic interest.

We intend to more effectively link US contracting dollars to desired operational effects and a winning COIN strategy in Afghanistan. In support of this, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff directed the establishment of Task Force 2010, which was chartered by the Commander, US Forces - Afghanistan. Task Force 2010 will improve visibility of USG contract funding flows in Afghanistan in order to ensure that US dollars complement the COIN campaign. Improved visibility of the flow of USG contract funds will provide awareness of how money flows from contractors to subcontractors, and eventually to tribes, families and individuals.

This is no easy task. It involves an integrated effort at all levels to gain visibility of the money flow, understand and shape perceptions of the Afghan people, correct the behavior of some Afghan contractors, and gain an awareness and level of control over the second order effects of US contract spending on the environment.

Task Force 2010 will be led by RADM Kathleen Dussault, US Navy, a former commander of the Joint Contracting Command Iraq and Afghanistan. She is leading an experienced, forward deployed task force of about 25 planners, intelligence analysts, auditors, contracting experts, law enforcement personnel, and strategic communications specialists. They will integrate with other efforts in theater, including the threat finance cell and the anti-corruption task force. We have established working groups in the Pentagon to provide reach-back support to Task Force 2010 in the areas of financial intelligence, contracting policy, and COIN effects.

The vast majority of US contracting dollars in Afghanistan come from the Department of Defense, Department of State, and U.S. Agency for International Development. Task Force 2010 is focused on DoD contract spending, but will share its lessons learned with State, USAID, and other government agencies through the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan. DoD is committed to improving the relationship between contracting expenditures and achieving the strategic objectives that support Afghanistan's long-term success, and Task Force 2010 will make a positive difference to that end.

I will be happy to answer any questions you have regarding Task Force 2010 and its support to the counterinsurgency strategy in Afghanistan.