

*Statement
Of
John Woodson
Former Civilian Contractor Injured in the War Zone*

*Domestic Policy Subcommittee
Oversight and Government Reform Committee*

*“After Injury, the Battle Begins: Evaluating Workers’ Compensation for
Civilian Contractors in War Zones”*

*2154 Rayburn HOB
Thursday, June 18, 2009
2:00 p.m.*

Chairman Kucinich and Ranking Member Jordan and all Subcommittee Members,

I would like to thank you very much for inviting me here today to share my experiences with you. My name is John Woodson. Prior to going to Iraq, I was a Construction Supervisor in Houston, Texas, working with Cranes in the Rigging Industry. I worked Aerospace, Commercial and Petro-Chemical fields investing 25 years of my life.

In late 2003, a KBR Representative contacted me, asking if I had thoughts about going to Iraq and help rebuild the country, which to me was an opportunity to provide my contribution. So, I left in June 2004 to go to Iraq and unfortunately, I was blown up by an I.E.D. blast on October 28, 2004. Now, here we are in June 2009, 5 years later and I am still wondering why events have happened the way they have?

After waking up from a medical induced coma at the Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas, I was sent to a rehabilitation facility called TIRR. There, I was visited by James Hile from AS&G. He was an

Adjuster/Investigator working for AIG Insurance. After seeing my condition, he stated there wouldn't be any problems because AIG was going to take care of my life and everything else involved, a statement that will shortly turn out to be untrue because the first problem quickly arose.

The first problem was money. Nothing was being deposited into my account. My wife, brother and daughter then spoke with Mr. Hile about the issue. He told them that the situation would be looked into. Several weeks later, I did receive a deposit, but the weekly average was lower than what had been spoken about. At that point, I called AIG Insurance and spoke to Jim McIntire who refused to talk to me, he flatly said to me: "Hire an Attorney and AIG would discuss the issue with them".

At first, I wanted to believe this was just a small misunderstanding because it was a new account, but the reality soon sank in and the result would be larger than I could even imagine. The conflict that started then is still going on today. Every aspect is a disagreement, a complex and indefinite process, from medical, money, pharmaceutical, transportation, even the Department Of Labor in Houston has not been any help, and I am just naming a few, the list is too long to write.

Ladies and Gentlemen, due to my vision impairment, speaking about this would be much more conducive for me. As of April 24, 2009, my case had been turned over to the U.S. Government, and I still haven't noticed much of an improvement.

In conclusion, I ask why? Where has the oversight been? Who is in charge of this operation?