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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

MICHAEL L. ALEXANDER, STAFF DIRECTOR
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June 16, 2010

Patrick F. Kennedy
Under Secretary for Management
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

On June 15, 2010, the *Associated Press* reported that the State Department has requested 24 Army Black Hawk helicopters, 50 bomb-resistant vehicles, heavy cargo trucks, fuel trailers, and high-tech surveillance systems from the Defense Department to protect State Department personnel in Iraq. According to the *Associate Press*, the State Department anticipates that contractors “will be required to maintain the gear and provide other support to diplomatic staff.”¹

In addition, the State Department has reportedly requested that it be allowed to use the Defense Department’s Logistics Civil Augmentation Program contract (LOGCAP) to support the five “Enduring Presence Posts” that the State Department will be responsible for maintaining after September 2011. The State Department stated that if it is not permitted to use LOGCAP, it “will be forced to redirect its resources towards developing, implementing and overseeing a massive new life support infrastructure throughout Iraq.”²

To help the Subcommittee understand the Department’s plans, I request that you provide all documents referenced by the *Associated Press*. I also request that you provide the following information in a briefing for Subcommittee staff:

- (1) Will private security contractors, including contractors under the State Department’s Worldwide Personal Protective Services contract, be operating the requested equipment, vehicles, and aircraft?
- (2) What increased management and oversight is planned by the State Department to ensure that these vehicles, aircraft, and equipment are not misused by contractors?

¹ *State Department Wants Combat Gear for Security in Iraq*, Associated Press (June 15, 2010).

² *Id.*

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- (3) What individuals or companies outside the State Department communicated with you or other State Department concerning the need for combat equipment?
- (4) Does the State Department plan to request that the Defense Department compete its requirements for life support services under LOGCAP IV?
- (5) If the State Department's request to use LOGCAP is denied, how does the Department plan to ensure that the next contract for life support services is as transparent, competitive, and accountable as possible?

I request that you provide the Subcommittee with the briefing and documents no later than **Thursday, July 1, 2010**.

The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight is set forth in Senate Rule XXV clause 1(k); Senate Resolution 445 section 101 (108th Congress); and Senate Resolution 73 (111th Congress). An attachment to this letter provides additional information on how to respond to the Subcommittee's request.

Please contact Alan Kahn with the Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-3230 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight

cc: Scott Brown
Ranking Member