



SIGAR

Office of the Special Inspector General
for Afghanistan Reconstruction

March 13, 2013

The Honorable Claire McCaskill
Chair, Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight
Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee
432 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6250

Dear Chairwoman McCaskill:

Thank you for your letter asking SIGAR to review the State Department's Justice Sector Support Program (JSSP) and other U.S. rule of law programs in Afghanistan. I share your concerns about the State Department's oversight of PAE and the overall effectiveness of U.S. rule of law programs. SIGAR will address the issues raised in your letter through three separate audits.

Regarding your concerns about PAE, SIGAR will expand the scope of our ongoing audit of JSSP training programs (SIGAR Project Code 073A) to include the State Department's management of PAE's current contract and by determining if similar management issues exist with other JSSP contractors. SIGAR's audit will help determine the extent to which the U.S. government is setting performance metrics and properly overseeing JSSP contractors.

To address your question about the effectiveness of the JSSP and other rule of law programs, SIGAR will use its ongoing special project evaluating U.S. anti-corruption efforts in Afghanistan (SIGAR Project Code SP-6) to provide you an overview of U.S. efforts to improve the rule of law in Afghanistan. This project will: 1) identify the U.S. Government's strategic goals and objectives for reducing corruption in Afghanistan through rule of law programs, and 2) assess progress made in achieving those goals and objectives against identified benchmarks and performance targets. We expect to complete this special project by May 2013.

SIGAR will also address your overarching concerns about rule of law programs by initiating an in-depth audit based on the specific problems identified by SIGAR's special project. We currently expect this audit will examine the strategic planning, programmatic results, management, and sustainability of the overall rule of law effort in Afghanistan. We intend to start our rule of law audit this summer.

I believe these three audits should address your specific concerns about PAE and your overarching concerns about the \$900 million allocated to rule of law programs in Afghanistan. If you or your staff would like to discuss SIGAR's response to your letter in greater detail, please contact me or Timothy Nelson, SIGAR's Director of Congressional Relations and Government Affairs, at 703- 545-5973. We are available at any time to further brief your staff about our work.

In addition, as you may remember, I travel to Afghanistan every quarter, and during my next trip I will be sure to raise your concerns with the Embassy and include their responses, if appropriate, in our work product. I am also happy to provide a personal briefing on this and any other observations on the activities in Afghanistan at a mutually convenient time.

Thank you for your interest in SIGAR's work and your commitment to protecting U.S. reconstruction dollars from fraud, waste, and abuse.

Sincerely,



John F. Sopko
Special Inspector General
for Afghanistan Reconstruction

cc: Ron Johnson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight

Patrick Kennedy
Under Secretary for Management
United States Department of State