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The Honorable Claire McCaskill United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McCaskill:

This is in response to your letter dated October 28, 2013, regarding the Coast Guard's management and oversight of contractor access to Coast Guard facilities.

The Coast Guard uses Eid Passport's Rapidgte system to provide contractor access at only five facilities (Base Honolulu, Base Seattle, Base Portsmouth, Base Miami, and the Academy). Our limited use of Rapidgate is part of a trial to assess its effectiveness at mitigating risk and overall cost, in combination with other security measures. We recently completed a preliminary review of Rapidgate at Base Seattle. Our initial finding is that Rapidgate mitigated some risks in providing contractor access to Coast Guard facilities, but it is deficient in its current form because it does not incorporate vetting through the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and Terrorist Screening Center (TSC). We intend to evaluate RAPID-RCx, an enhanced Rapidgate system that includes checks against these additional databases. Our use RAPID-RCx will apply only to contractors (including high turnover contractors) who require infrequent, limited, or short-term access to provide support services such as construction, delivery, custodial, commissary, and groundkeeping.

Long-term contractors (those requiring access for more than 6 months) and those contracted for positions of public trust or national security are more thoroughly vetted in accordance with HSPD-12, Department of Homeland Security, and Coast Guard directives. This HSPD-12 process includes more comprehensive background checks, including fingerprinting, to support issuance of a secure credential.

My Senate Liaison Office at (202) 224-2913 would be pleased to respond to any further questions you or your staff may have.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Poulin

Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard

Director, Governmental and Public Affairs