

RECORD VERSION

STATEMENT BY

DR. JAMES T. BLAKE,
PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR SIMULATION, TRAINING AND
INSTRUMENTATION (PEO STRI), U.S. ARMY
AND
MR. STEVEN M. OGRAYENSEK,
PEO STRI PROCURING CONTRACTING OFFICER

BEFORE THE

SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

ARMED CONTRACTORS OPERATING IN AFGHANISTAN

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STATEMENT BY DR. BLAKE AND MR. OGRAYENSEK

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on the important issue of oversight of Raytheon Technical Services Company and their subcontractor, Paravant LLC under the Warfighter FOCUS contract.

I serve as the Army's Program Executive Officer for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI). In that capacity, I am responsible for the acquisition of training services as well as production, fielding and sustainment of training systems. Mr. Ograyensek serves as a Division Chief for the PEO STRI Acquisition Center. He also functions as Contracting Officer for specifically assigned training services under the Warfighter FOCUS contract.

The Warfighter FOCUS (WFF) Contract

WFF is a contract for training services. It was awarded on June 6, 2007 to a team of Contractors known as the "Warrior Training Alliance", led by Raytheon Technical Services Company (RTSC) the prime contractor. The Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity contract has a maximum ten year period of performance, consisting of a base period followed by one-year options with a total contract ceiling of \$11.2B. We are scheduled to enter the third year of performance on May 1, 2010.

The training services provided under WFF contribute greatly to preparing our Warfighters for deployments. From the time our young men and women

enter the Army, they rely on these services to train in their assigned Military Occupational Skills (MOS).

The Warfighter Focus contract provides for integrated life-cycle contractor support and services for training aids, devices, simulators and simulations and training support worldwide. It provides worldwide operations maintenance sustainment and instructional support of training systems used by the U.S Army, Air Force, Marines, Navy, multi-national coalition forces and Foreign Military Sales (FMS).

This contract does not provide private security contractors.

Establishing Support Under WFF for Afghan National Army Weapons Training

PEO STRI provides training services under WFF in support of the NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan/Combined Security Transition Command's (NTM-A/CSTC-A's) mission to train the Afghan National Army (ANA). These training services include literacy training, driver training and weapons training. As previously stated, the WFF contract does not provide private security contractors.

On April 7, 2008, CSTC-A sent a Memorandum of Request (MOR) through the U.S. Army Security Assistance Command (USASAC) chain of command requesting establishment of an FMS case for training the ANA.

Attached to the MOR was the Statement of Work for the ANA Weapons Training Program. USASAC officially assigned the work to PEO STRI on June 13, 2008.

On May 30, 2008, PEO STRI sent a draft request for proposal to RTSC. Between May 30 and August 19, RTSC was provided a final request for proposal and conducted a subcontract competition among its subcontractors. On August 20, PEO STRI received and evaluated Raytheon's proposal. The ANA Weapons Training Program was awarded under WFF on September 5. Letters of Authorization to the Paravant LLC employees were issued prior to deployment to Afghanistan. The Period of Performance began on September 15, 2008. On September 16-18, 2008 PEO STRI, RTSC and RTSC's subcontractor Paravant LLC conducted the start of work site visit in Afghanistan.

PEO STRI's Oversight of the ANA Weapons Training Program

Weapons training began on November 17, 2008. As part of PEO STRI's oversight; routine site visits, teleconferences, email correspondence, and program management reviews were conducted and CSTC-A leadership indicated that they were very pleased with the performance of the contractor's execution of this training service.

On December 3, 2008, the PEO STRI Project Director received an email from the RTSC program manager. The email requested the contractor's Letters of Authorization be updated to allow the Paravant employees to carry arms in Afghanistan because Paravant employees were being routinely stopped and had

to surrender weapons. The response from the PEO STRI Project Director was that no weapons were authorized to be carried until CSTC-A validated the requirement and obtained weapons authorization from the Combatant Commander. CSTC-A never obtained approval and never requested PEO STRI revise the LOAs.

Between December 2008 and January 2009, PEO STRI communicated with CSTC-A to confirm that weapons authorizations had not been approved by the Combatant Commander in accordance with theater policy. As a result of this communication, on January 7, 2009, PEO STRI formally informed RTSC that weapons were not authorized, and no LOAs would reflect weapons authorized.

In February 2009, PEO STRI initiated personnel actions to deploy an Active Duty Officer to Afghanistan in support of the CSTC-A mission. On March 18, 2009, we informed CSTC-A that a PEO STRI representative had been identified to provide contractor oversight in Afghanistan. The PEO STRI representative reported for duty in Kabul on May 18, 2009. We have had a continuous Active Duty Military Officer presence in Afghanistan in support of this mission.

On May 7, 2009, RTSC informed PEO STRI of the May 5 shooting incident. From May 7 through July 27, PEO STRI conducted an investigation into the incident and was in constant formal communications with RTSC to include the issuance of a letter of concern on June 1, 2009. On July 17, 2009, in response to PEO STRI's letter of concern, RTSC informed PEO STRI that they would not renew the Paravant subcontract. On July 28, 2009, PEO STRI

formally notified RTSC that this corrective action was acceptable subject to change based on the results of the Army's continuing investigation. Effective September 15, 2009, Paravant LLC was no longer performing on the WFF contract.

Thank you again for this opportunity to appear before you today and for the support Congress and the Members of this Committee have provided for our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.