



SIGAR

Office of the Special Inspector General
for Afghanistan Reconstruction

September 12, 2014

Mr. Steven F. Gaffney
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
DynCorp International Inc.
1700 Old Meadow Road
McLean, VA 22102

Dear Mr. Gaffney:

The Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) is authorized by Congress to, among other things, investigate waste, fraud, and abuse in wartime contracts and contracting processes in Afghanistan. As part of an initiative undertaken by my office to combat human trafficking in connection with the multibillion-dollar Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP) contract in Afghanistan, SIGAR special agents are participating in enforcement sweeps and conducting interviews with Third Country National (TCN) workers employed by LOGCAP contractors.

Your staff has previously provided my office with useful information concerning DynCorp's efforts to address the potential use of improper and deceptive recruitment practices in connection with work performed under LOGCAP. However, I remain concerned that TCNs working on LOGCAP task orders may be victims of deceptive recruitment practices and other forms of mistreatment. Therefore, I write to request additional information and records concerning DynCorp International's compliance with the many laws, policies and contract provisions prohibiting human trafficking.

In particular, a recent documentary broadcast by the Al Jazeera television network, "Fault Lines: America's War Workers", raised troubling allegations concerning recruitment of TCNs for work at U.S. military bases in Afghanistan. These TCNs, who are mainly from India, Nepal, and other parts of South Asia, reportedly paid thousands of dollars each in "recruiting fees" to labor brokers who supply workers to LOGCAP contractors. Such recruiting fees are prohibited by 22 U.S.C. § 7104(g), Joint Contracting Command Iraq/Afghanistan Clause 952.222-0001, and the zero-tolerance policy regarding trafficking in persons set forth in Executive Order 13627 and FAR 22.1703. Moreover, these press reports alleged that many of these foreign workers are housed by labor brokers in overcrowded conditions for long periods of time in Dubai, prior to being transferred to jobs at U.S. military bases in Afghanistan.

My staff has interviewed workers' advocates and lawyers who indicate that TCN workers usually must borrow substantial sums of money at high interest rates in their home countries in order to pay these recruitment fees. In some cases, the substantial sums that the TCN workers borrow to pay these fees will take many months of work to pay back. The high levels of indebtedness that often result may make it difficult for these TCNs to leave their jobs.

SIGAR continues to gather information concerning allegations of improper recruitment practices and the mistreatment of TCNs working on U.S. military bases. To aid SIGAR in its ongoing inquiry, please provide the following information and related documents:

1. Copies of all DynCorp policies addressing human trafficking.
2. A detailed description of all efforts by DynCorp to detect and deter trafficking on LOGCAP task orders, which employees are responsible for investigating and reporting allegations of trafficking violations or other abuses of TCNs, and efforts by DynCorp to ensure subcontractor compliance with federal laws prohibiting human trafficking laws. Please also outline all training that employees hired to work on LOGCAP task orders receive regarding the legal prohibitions against human trafficking.
3. The number of TCN employees who have worked for DynCorp and/or its subcontractors in support of LOGCAP task orders in Afghanistan. Please identify (1) the number of TCNs hired directly by DynCorp or by Worldwide Recruiting and Staffing Services, LLC, and (2) the number of TCNs hired by any DynCorp LOGCAP subcontractor. Please also provide an explanation for why DynCorp directly hires TCNs in some instances and in other instances uses labor recruiting firms to hire TCNs.
4. Provide all records of complaints related to trafficking in persons or reports of related abuses submitted to the DynCorp hotline or to DynCorp through any other method. Please also provide all records of any investigation conducted by DynCorp into such alleged abuses.
5. List all recruitment firms DynCorp uses to recruit TCNs to work in Afghanistan, the countries where those recruiters operate, and all efforts by DynCorp to ensure that the recruiters comply with federal laws against human trafficking.
6. Provide all records of communications between DynCorp, Ecolog, Fluor or any other entity relating to the Al Jazeera network documentary "Fault Lines: America's War Workers." Records responsive to this request include, but are not limited to, e-mails, memoranda, letters, notes from telephone conversations, and any recordings or minutes made of meetings between DynCorp, Ecolog, and any other person, including any civilian or military employee of the United States.
7. Provide records and results of all internal audits conducted to ensure compliance with FAR 52.222-50, AFARS 5152.222-5900 or any similar law, regulation, or contract clause prohibiting trafficking in persons.
8. Provide the locations and names of any worker holding facilities where TCNs recruited by your firm or its contract recruiters are housed. What is the longest amount of time that any TCN workers have been housed in these facilities before being dispatched to jobs in Afghanistan? Who inspects these facilities and are records kept of such inspections? What are your firm's policies for the proper care and feeding of these TCN workers?

Please respond in writing to this request by September 25, 2014. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. These requests are made pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, and section 1229 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, as amended.

If you have any questions regarding these requests, please contact me directly, or have your staff contact Jack Mitchell, Director of Special Projects at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Sincerely,



John F. Sopko
Special Inspector General
for Afghanistan Reconstruction

CC:

Linda Dixon, CONUS Program Manager
Combating Trafficking in Persons Task Force
U.S. Department of Defense

Sam Yousef, CONUS Program Manager
Combating Trafficking in Persons Task Force
U.S. Department of Defense