

FYSA Iraq Fijian contractor TIP allegations (AAFES' Proposed Response).txt
From: [REDACTED] MAJ OSD PA
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 1:42 PM
To: [REDACTED], OIG DoD
Cc: [REDACTED] MAJ OSD PA; [REDACTED] CIV OSD PR; [REDACTED]
COL OSD PA; [REDACTED] OSD PA; [REDACTED] OSD PA
Subject: FYSA: Iraq: Fijian contractor TIP allegations (AAFES' Proposed Response)

Here is Part II.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] Maj, USAF [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 10:00 AM
To: [REDACTED] MAJ OSD PA
Subject: FW: Iraq: Fijian contractor TIP allegations (AAFES' Proposed Response)

FYI-EMW

very respectfully,

[REDACTED] Maj, USAF
HQ, AAFES, Deputy PAO
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] IV OSD PR
Cc: [REDACTED] CIV OSD PR; [REDACTED] MG, USA
[REDACTED] Brig Gen, USAF
Sent: Fri Feb 12 16:20:03 2010
Subject: Iraq: Fijian contractor TIP allegations
[REDACTED]

AAFES has long held a policy of zero tolerance on harassment and discrimination in the workplace place. This philosophy applies not only to AAFES associates, but also to the many contract and concessionaire workers who aid us in supporting our military troops and their families worldwide

The events surrounding [REDACTED] report were first surfaced and were brought to the attention of the AAFES Inspector General (IG) in March 2008. The I.G. conducted investigations from March to May 2008 centered on human trafficking and improper pay allocations. The Services business manager (SBM) in Iraq at the time conducted interviews with the complainants; Fijian workers at Sykes and Mosel, and the shop manager at Sykes. During the interviews allegations of rape never surfaced. The complainants acknowledged that they possessed their passports; they enjoyed their jobs as beauticians with the AAFES-vendor in Iraq, but felt that they were not receiving the pay they had been promised by the vendor. Based on a preponderance of credible evidence gathered during the IG investigation the human trafficking allegation was NOT

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SUBSTANTIATED.

All evidence came to the IG via the AAFES, Europe Contracting Officer who oversees contracts with vendors in the OEF / OIF theater. Based on the interviews, The Fijian women involved, were recruited with from Fiji with promises of \$800 per month to work in Dubai not \$3,033 as alleged in the Congressional or the \$3500 in this new article by [REDACTED]. Once in Dubai they claimed that they were told their jobs had moved to Iraq and they would make \$1500 per month, but upon arrival in Iraq a representative from Nasa an AAFES vendor, stated he now owned their contracts and that they would make \$350 ,per month plus all of their tips (which averaged the original \$800).

We believe that the lady referred to as [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] report, is [REDACTED] in the IG investigation. [REDACTED] along with another female Fijian, was released from her contract early (Mar-Apr 2008 time period) and sent back to Fiji because of poor work performance and complaints from the US military mayor's cell. Interview statements did not go into detail about the nature of the US military complaints other than to say the two women were making trouble on the military camp.

While the evidence gathered during the IG Investigation did not substantiate the human trafficking allegation, AAFES recognized that better safeguards and improvements were necessary to protect contract workers. The Europe Region leadership developed the Manpower Associate Bill of Rights (Dec 2008 - March 2009) to guarantee local and third country nationals basic employment rights and to ensure more humane treatment by their employers. The bill of Rights which addresses pay, passport, and other issues was not in place at the time of the investigation, and was only included in contracts between AAFES and the Man Power Agencies that hire TCNs and LNs to work in AAFES run facilities versus vendor run concessions in the OEF / OIF theater of Operations.

The Bill of Rights is not currently integrated into the AAFES-Europe concession contracts however plans are underway to include a tailored version of the Bill of Rights in AAFES-Europe contracts with vendors in the immediate future. In addition AAFES Europe has begun holding sensing sessions; small group meetings with Man Power Associates and AAFES representatives as a proactive tool in identifying contract compliance issues, complaints, and or other issues that could impact both the workers' welfare and performance.


Even with the policies and procedures already in place, we are continuing to press the envelop to find and address other areas where we can improve. We are currently engaged in the review and assessment of a recently completed I.G. follow on inspection of MPA contracts in OEF/ OIF, which should yield additional solutions and opportunities.

If you have additional questions or need any clarification, please let me know.

FOIA Exemption (b)(6)

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V/R


Chief Operating Officer

AAFES


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FOIA Exemption (b)(6)

Doc. 7

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From: [REDACTED] MAJ OSD PA
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 1:41 PM
To: [REDACTED] OIG DoD
Cc: [REDACTED] MAJ OSD PA; [REDACTED] CIV OSD PR; [REDACTED]
COL OSD PA; [REDACTED] MS OSD PA; [REDACTED] OSD PA
Subject: FYSA: Iraq: Fijian contractor TIP allegations

Here is Part I of the information on this issue. I'll send the other e-mail in a separate context.

Please confirm if IG is investigating this issue. Meanwhile, I will have AAFES hold off on responding to Washington Post on this issue, if questioned, and refer queries to OSD/PA.

V/r. [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----
From: [REDACTED] Maj, USAF [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 9:55 AM
To: [REDACTED] MAJ OSD PA
Subject: FW: Iraq: Fijian contractor TIP allegations

Hi there,

I try to include you in the loop when we have issues, and I've asked [REDACTED] to do the same. He forgot. Provided is an email trail that you need to probably read up on. I'll send one more to give a proposed response. You can contact [REDACTED] directly for any other required actions. Thanks, [REDACTED]

Very respectfully,
[REDACTED] Maj, USAF
HQ AAFES Deputy PAO
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 8:47 AM
To: [REDACTED] MG, USA; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Maj, USAF; [REDACTED] MAJ (US Army); [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Brig Gen, USAF; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] COL, USA; [REDACTED]
COL, USA; [REDACTED] CMSgt, USAF; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Iraq: Fijian contractor TIP allegations

[REDACTED] we should have gotten DSD involved before going direct to [REDACTED]. we got this backdoor from [REDACTED]. We are way out of our lanes on this. you've now created a situation that demands we talk with Ms. [REDACTED]. we should gather all information before contacting anyone in the future.

FOIA Exemption (b)(6)

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From: [REDACTED] MG, USA
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 1:02 PM
To: [REDACTED] Maj, USAF; [REDACTED] MAJ (US Army); [REDACTED] Brig Gen, USAF; [REDACTED] COL, USA; [REDACTED] COL, USA; [REDACTED] CMSgt, USAF;
Subject: Re: Iraq: Fijian contractor TIP allegations

Let's also make sure, if appropriate, that we include the positive actions (bill of rights, etc...) that the team has taken as well.
TC6

Sent from AAFES Blackberry Server

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] Maj, USAF; [REDACTED] MAJ (US Army); [REDACTED] MG, USA; [REDACTED] Brig Gen, USAF; [REDACTED] COL, USA; [REDACTED] COL, USA; [REDACTED] CMSgt, USAF;
Sent: Thu Feb 11 11:55:52 2010
Subject: RE: Iraq: Fijian contractor TIP allegations

Sir/Ma'am,

I contacted [REDACTED] to provide AAFES' position concerning sexual harassment prior to her story going to press. [REDACTED] advised that her report will not be in this weekend's Washington Post and that she is still investigating the matter. She ensured me that she will contact me for AAFES' perspective on the issue prior to her story going to press.

When she contacts us, we will use the opportunity to stress that sexual harassment is strictly prohibited and will not be condoned, AAFES takes all allegations of harassment seriously and all forms of harassment are unacceptable for both AAFES and its partners (manpower agencies, concessions, etc.).

V/R,

[REDACTED]
Public Relations Manager
MK-SCC/PA
[REDACTED]

FOIA EXEMPTION (b)(6)

FYSA Iraq Fijian contractor TIP allegations.txt

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 9:51 AM
To: [REDACTED] Maj, USAF
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Iraq: Fijian contractor TIP allegations

Are you in the loop on this?

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
VP, Strategic Corporate Communication
Marketing Directorate

[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 9:25 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Iraq: Fijian contractor TIP allegations

Need to stay on top of this.

[REDACTED]
CMO & SVP Marketing
Marketing Directorate

[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 9:18 AM
To: [REDACTED] MG, USA; [REDACTED] Brig Gen, USAF; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] COL, USA; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] MAJ (US Army); [REDACTED] CMSGT,
USAF

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Subject: Re: Iraq: Fijian contractor TIP allegations

Sir. We have already forwarded to the principals that will be gathering the information. will put the entire package together in response to the inquiries. VR [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] MG, USA
To: [REDACTED] Brig Gen, USAF; [REDACTED] COL, USA;
[REDACTED] MAJ (US Army); [REDACTED] CMSgt, USAF
Sent: Thu Feb 11 16:13:38 2010
Subject: Fw: Iraq: Fijian contractor TIP allegations

Team, let's gather the facts as we know them and be prepared to respond ICW OSD. Let's also outline the timeline of significant things we've done to combat these types of events and how we manage/intervene/ check on our MPA associates now.
TC6

Sent from AAFES Blackberry server

From: [REDACTED] CIV OSD PR
To: [REDACTED] USA;
Sent: Thu Feb 11 08:26:54 2010
Subject: Fw: Iraq: Fijian contractor TIP allegations

FYSA in case you have not been notified. Take care, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] CIV OSD PR
To: [REDACTED] CIV OSD PR; [REDACTED] CIV OSD PR
Sent: Thu Feb 11 09:22:22 2010
Subject: Fw: Iraq: Fijian contractor TIP allegations

Should have copied you. I notified the IG.
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] CIV OSD PR
To: Heddel, Gordon S., OIG DOD
Cc: [REDACTED] CIV OSD PR; [REDACTED] CIV OSD PR
Sent: Thu Feb 11 09:19:24 2010
Subject: Fw: Iraq: Fijian contractor TIP allegations

[REDACTED] I am sending this to you for potential IG interest. [REDACTED] is the Ambassador in charge of Trafficking in Persons at Department of State. He alerted me to this situation that may involve a contractor, or more likely subcontractor, to our Exchange Service.

FOIA EXEMPTION (b) (6)

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Regards,

From: [REDACTED] CIV OSD PR

[REDACTED] OSD PA; [REDACTED] CIV OSD PR

Sent: Thu Feb 11 08:23:28 2010

Subject: Re: Iraq: Fijian contractor TIP allegations

[REDACTED] I have forwarded this to our Public Affairs [REDACTED] (copied here) and Deputy Under Secretary responsible for AAFES [REDACTED] (also copied here). If you could forward any talking points you create for public statement that would be great. I am about to send it to our IG as well. Thanks for the notification.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] CIV OSD PR; [REDACTED] (CRT)
Lou [REDACTED] (DOS)
Cc: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wed Feb 10 18:49:25 2010

Subject: Iraq: Fijian contractor TIP allegations

Hello all:

Just before the storm, DOS was contacted by a reporter who came across alleged trafficking victims in a camp run by a US Government contractor. The reporter, [REDACTED] is in residence at Yale Law School, and returned to the United States with one such worker, a Fijian woman named [REDACTED] while the last name may be known to staff, I haven't seen it, so I'll just refer to her by her first name.

[REDACTED] was planning to take the woman to meet with Congressional staff on Friday and is reportedly scheduled to publish an article in the Washington Post over the weekend. The facts of the case as they recount them are pasted below. This is particularly timely given [REDACTED] presentation at the PITF cabinet meeting, and Secretary Clinton's interest in squaring up DOD and DOS' work on these issues of procurement, contractors, etc. [REDACTED] I'd love to move forward from PITF by setting up a meeting on the broader issues to identify good practices, common challenges, and next steps.

[REDACTED] I am looping you both in so we all have the same baseline among DOD, DOS, and DOJ. I don't know what [REDACTED] and the former worker have done vis the storm, so am unsure whether a preliminary interview could be pulled off by law enforcement, but here is [REDACTED] contact information:

We're going to make sure that Secretary Clinton is aware of these allegations, and we'll also prepare some press guidance to have on the shelf. [REDACTED] I wouldn't be surprised if DOD were to bear the brunt of inquiries, whether from the Hill or press. [REDACTED] is my lead press

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person; we should try to coordinate closely on the public front -- i have cc:d her and the Chief of my Public Engagement section, [REDACTED] who oversees for me the press, legislative branch, interagency, and the outside world. I am happy to reach out to [REDACTED] so the story has at least an Administration comment (generally anti-trafficking, committed to preventing abuses, etc), if we feel that is the appropriate way to go.

thanks to all & i hope everyone stays warm. I am also cc:ing myself on my Blackberry - harder to type long things on but much more convenient for an email chain.

Amb. [REDACTED] DOS/G/TIP, [REDACTED]

home: [REDACTED]