

**STATEMENT OF SHELBY HALLMARK
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

BEFORE THE

**COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

May 15, 2008

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

My name is Shelby Hallmark and I am the Director of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP), a component of the Employment Standards Administration at the United States Department of Labor (DOL). OWCP is responsible for overseeing, among other workers' compensation activities, the provisions of the Defense Base Act (DBA) and the War Hazards Compensation Act (WHCA). I appreciate this opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the Department's responsibilities under these two statutes.

DEFENSE BASE ACT OVERVIEW

The 1941 Defense Base Act (DBA) (42 U.S.C. § 1651 et seq.) is an extension of the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act (Longshore Act) (33 U.S.C. § 901 et seq.). Since 1950, this program has been administered by DOL. Unlike other programs OWCP administers, but similar to state workers' compensation systems, benefits under the Longshore Act and DBA are provided by private insurance companies to injured workers and survivors of workers whose death is related to their employment while under contract overseas to federal agencies. The Department oversees this benefit delivery by receiving and monitoring reports of injury and of benefit payment, and providing informal but critical dispute resolution services. We also educate the various parties to the program about their rights and responsibilities under the DBA, and provide technical and compliance assistance whenever necessary.

Following the inception of the Iraq conflict in 2003, we quickly became aware that the level of contract activities there and in Afghanistan required a major enhancement in our compliance assistance with regard to the DBA. While the program had been in existence for six decades, contract employment covered by the DBA had been relatively restricted. Thus, DBA claims activity had been a trickle compared to the basic Longshore program. Federal contracting agency staff, insurers, contract employers, and the plaintiff and defense bars all needed to be fully informed of the DBA's requirements to ensure that the insurance coverage required under the statute was put in place via the contracting process, that subcontractors were informed of their responsibilities, that claims services

were extended appropriately, and that all parties to DBA cases better understood the process and their rights and responsibilities within it.

DOL held seven DBA training seminars from 2003 to 2006, each of which attracted hundreds of participants. In addition, we held smaller round-table discussions with key stakeholders to address special problem areas of program implementation as they were encountered. Since conducting those major seminars, OWCP's Longshore Division actively participated in industry events whenever possible, including participation in full-day DBA seminars and symposiums sponsored by ACE-USA and AIG in 2007 and again this month. Our district directors participate in this assistance effort as well, speaking at an AIG-sponsored DBA event last November, the Loyola Law Conferences in March 2007 and 2008, a half day workshop for KBR and its subcontractors in Houston last month, and regularly holding telephonic training sessions with the insurance claims managers.

The DBA assigns oversight, but not benefits administration responsibilities to DOL. Thus, our role is limited to overseeing employer/carrier responsibilities that are spelled out in the statute and to resolving disputes that may arise. This places a premium on technical assistance of the kind we emphasized in the early years of the Iraq conflict. Through our seminars, round-tables and other communication channels, we assisted the dissemination of best practices and helped to resolve operational challenges as they were identified.

For example, when we were informed that mail from the Federal government or the insurance companies was being used by insurgents to identify and target surviving family members as "collaborators," we immediately notified the insurers of this serious problem. Our Longshore staff worked with the insurers to have all mail sent to the local employer who would then deliver it directly to the claimants. This and similar precautions helped to avoid public identification of the surviving claimants. The experienced and dedicated Longshore/DBA claims staff in our New York office has continued to provide detailed and ongoing assistance of this kind, helping to identify unique and unforeseen problems and develop successful strategies to overcome them on a daily basis.

In addition, we have continued to encounter problems associated with ensuring coverage in the Middle East. Recently, the Joint Contracting Command Iraq (JCCI), the military agency responsible for contracting with local companies in Iraq and Afghanistan, contacted OWCP seeking help in obtaining DBA insurance. Because of the large number of contracts in Iraq and because no insurance companies or brokers have sales offices there, the JCCI and its contractors were having trouble locating DBA coverage. By contacting the insurance industry representatives with whom OWCP has been working for years on DBA education, regulation, and compliance assistance, we were able to arrange for both brokerage and insurance company staff to directly contact the JCCI leadership in Iraq.

The procurement of DBA coverage for overseas contracts remains complicated, but we are continuing to facilitate communication among the contracting and insurance organizations to address and resolve problems as they arise.

We believe that our compliance assistance efforts, and the efforts of the major insurers and other parties within the Longshore/DBA community, have improved the system's provision of DBA medical and compensation benefits to the employees of U.S. contractors in Iraq and Afghanistan. The delivery of an insurance-based program of this kind is a challenge in any war zone, particularly one at great distance, with a different language, and within a society with different legal and civil structures.

For example, filing timeframes are inevitably elongated for Iraq and Afghanistan claims, ensuring that host country nationals are fully apprised of and encouraged to exercise their rights is difficult. Moreover, the cultural barriers and economic system shortcomings may make delivery of benefits, especially to widows, extremely difficult. At least in part as a result of our focus on these challenges, we believe that the outcomes under DBA in Iraq and Afghanistan are becoming more comparable to those under the Longshore program here at home. We also believe that where there are differences in outcomes, they derive in large part from the difficulties in dealing with the foreign national claims just mentioned.

DBA CLAIMS AND PAYMENT STATISTICS

Table 1 displays the number of claims arising from Iraq and Afghanistan since 2003. The particularly steep increase in Calendar Year 2007 likely resulted in large part from improved reporting by contractors and their subcontractors, and some late reporting from previous periods.

Although the increased claims volume placed a strain on DOL capacity, we have made significant adjustments, including spreading the caseload throughout our ten Longshore district offices, and have generally kept our processing of cases timely. While this is not meant to demonstrate a trend, there has been a decline in the claims volume in the first quarter of 2008, especially for disabling injuries and deaths.

Table 1
DBA Claim Totals for Iraq & Afghanistan
(Calendar Years)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 to 3/31
Iraq	157	1,684	3,113	3,581	12,007	2,110
Afghanistan	13	150	526	1,036	2,413	269
Total	170	1,834	3,639	4,617	14,420	2,379

Table 2 shows the amount of payments made in Calendar Years 1997 to 2007, as reported to the OWCP by self-insured employers and insurance carriers under the DBA throughout the world. We are unable to segregate the payment data for claims arising from Iraq or Afghanistan from other Defense Base claims. However, it appears that the increase in the number of claims paid and in the amount of payments can be attributed in large part to increased DBA covered employment and related deaths and injuries in the Middle East conflicts. As compliance among subcontractors improved, there was an increase in no-time-loss injuries reported by covered employers, resulting in an over 100 percent rise in cases paid in 2007.

Table 2
DBA* Payments Reported by Self-Insured Employers and Insurance Carriers
(Calendar Year 1997 to 2007)

YEAR	CASES PAID	COMPENSATION	MEDICAL	TOTAL	AVERAGE PER CLAIM
1997	432	\$4,905,081	\$1,203,217	\$6,108,298	\$14,140
1998	423	\$5,497,439	\$2,194,012	\$7,691,451	\$18,183
1999	269	\$3,724,290	\$1,727,703	\$5,451,993	\$20,268
2000	309	\$6,268,112	\$2,314,654	\$8,582,766	\$27,776
2001	516	\$7,212,869	\$2,198,061	\$9,410,930	\$18,238
2002	430	\$5,480,592	\$2,101,403	\$7,581,995	\$17,633
2003	688	\$7,885,666	\$3,452,728	\$11,338,394	\$16,480
2004	1,592	\$19,432,369	\$10,647,020	\$30,079,389	\$18,894
2005	3,080	\$36,140,994	\$23,656,467	\$59,797,461	\$19,415
2006	5,039	\$66,973,732	\$48,781,929	\$115,755,661	\$22,972
2007	11,887	\$100,319,949	\$69,815,704	\$170,135,653	\$14,313
Totals	24,665	\$263,841,093	\$168,092,898	\$431,933,991	\$17,512

*For all DBA cases; Iraq/Afghanistan cases represent the great majority but payment information is not separately available.

DBA MEDICAL AND CLAIMS SERVICES

Claimants under the DBA are entitled to prompt, appropriate medical care for their injuries. In the majority of trauma cases in Iraq and Afghanistan, contract employees who are American citizens receive immediate care at military Combat Support Hospitals (CSH). The military also sends the most severely injured to facilities in Germany, and then to civilian medical care in the United States. Less severely injured workers may be treated locally by the military, and then be flown by the contractor directly back to the United States if additional medical services are required. Except for treatment provided by the military, the DBA insurance companies pay for this healthcare and submit reports to our district offices that oversee the claims. Our district directors are responsible under the DBA for supervising the provision of these services, monitoring the reports from the insurance companies, and responding to questions from claimants.

The DBA also covers foreign nationals, including Iraqis and Afghans, for medical care. In severe cases the employee may receive initial care by a U.S. military CSH, and then be transferred to either Northern Iraq or a neighboring country such as Jordan or the United Arab Emirates for further medical care. Again, the insurance company is responsible for paying for these services, including medical evacuations and transportation expenses.

Monitoring medical care services provided to foreign nationals in other countries is challenging. Departmental staff must rely on reports from the insurance companies, in some cases generated by the Middle Eastern representatives hired by some of these companies. In an effort to make the program as accessible to claimants as possible, we urged insurers to translate into Arabic and other local languages the forms and instructions for filing claims and submitting information to us, and we require contractors and their subcontractors to provide information about their rights under the statute to their employees. The DOL Web site now contains detailed information about the DBA, the forms, instructions, contact information, Q&A, and many links to other available resources. We frequently conduct informal conferences via telephone for foreign national claimants in need of dispute resolution services.

INSURERS IMPROVING DBA CLAIMS SERVICE

We are pleased that two of the three largest DBA insurers have opened claims centers in the Middle East to assist claimants. AIG has had an operation in Dubai and Istanbul, employing trained staff members who speak Arabic and other local dialects. ACE-USA just announced the opening of their claims center in Bahrain, providing similar services for its clientele. The ability of these offices to communicate with claimants directly and in their own language should enhance the quality and timeliness of support to Iraqi and third country national claimants. It is likely that communications will accelerate and our ability to ensure that appropriate services are in fact delivered to host country nationals will improve.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR DBA DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICES

When disputes arise over the provision of any benefit, whether weekly indemnity payment or medical services, our district office staff receive a report of the dispute and attempt to resolve it by telephonic or written communications (often requiring the receipt of additional documentation). In cases where the dispute cannot be resolved in this way, the district office staff convenes an informal conference, allowing the parties to communicate directly with each other under the mediation of our specialists. If this dispute resolution is unsuccessful, the parties can request a formal hearing before the Department's Office of Administrative Law Judges (OALJ) whose decisions can be appealed to the Department's Benefits Review Board and then to federal court.

Although the majority of DBA cases are handled by the insurance carriers without dispute, disagreements sometimes arise between the employer/carrier and the claimant. Our records show that among all Iraq/Afghanistan cases reported between Calendar Years 2001 to 2005, only 8.2 percent have genuine, two-party claim disputes, compared to 13.4 percent for non-DBA cases for the same period.

Another way of assessing the responsiveness of the system is to look at the percent of time loss (disability and death) cases which receive an indemnity payment. Our data show that 70.3 percent of Iraq/Afghanistan DBA time loss (disability and death) cases reported between Calendar Years 2001 and 2005 were paid, compared with 87.7 percent for non-DBA cases during the same period. Undoubtedly this disparity can be attributed in part to obstacles in war-zone claim investigation and benefit delivery. Of the paid Iraq/Afghanistan cases noted in this period, 20.2 percent involved bona-fide disputes between the two parties, whereas 16.5 percent of non-DBA paid cases were disputed. Put another way, about 80 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan paid claims were paid without any dispute, compared to 83.6 percent for non-DBA cases. This is not a significant difference and suggests that while DBA claims arising in Iraq and Afghanistan have a lower rate of participation in the claim dispute process, once the dispute arises, the claim is given the same level of dispute resolution services from the OWCP and the OALJ, and the outcomes are similar to non-DBA claims.

Our efforts to expedite dispute resolution have also proven effective overall. The following data illustrate how our district offices have worked to help both workers and insurers reach fair and prompt resolution to complex dispute issues. Comparable data for both DBA cases and the larger Longshore program again indicate that outcomes are roughly similar, and our efforts to overcome the logistical and other challenges of the DBA have been relatively successful.

Table 3
DBA* v. Longshore Dispute Resolution Performance
(FY 08 through March)

	NUMBER OF RESOLUTIONS	AVERAGE # OF DAYS	PERCENT OF RESOLUTIONS BY THE LONGSHORE DISTRICT OFFICE
DBA Claims	197	171	60.1
LS Claims	1,558	141	60.5

* All DBA cases; Iraq/Afghanistan cases represent the great majority but are not separately available.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OVERSIGHT

The Department of Labor, in addition to its compliance assistance efforts, works diligently to ensure that the obligations of all contractors and the rights of all workers are protected, regardless of nationality or claim complexity. For example, in August 2004, while en route to their place of employment, 11 Nepalese laborers were abducted by Iraqi insurgents and killed. At the end of 2006, a District of Columbia law firm filed claims on behalf of the workers' families. Through the efforts of the New York Longshore district office, OWCP determined that the employer was insured. In early 2007, OWCP conducted informal conferences and then referred the cases to the OALJ for formal hearing because the employer denied that the workers were covered under the DBA. In March and April 2008, the DOL administrative law judge issued orders awarding death benefits to the widows and children of three workers followed by awards to dependent parents of six other workers. The remaining two workers left no survivors eligible for DBA benefits.

In December 2004, a bus carrying Iraqi workers to a job site was ambushed and 40 were injured or killed. The employer was an insured Iraqi subcontractor. The insurer initially refused to file injury reports because the incident occurred en route to, but not at the job site, and disputed the identity of some of the workers and their eligible survivors. None of the claimants was represented by counsel. Through the efforts of the New York district office, the insurer eventually filed injury reports on all workers injured or killed and paid benefits to disabled workers and to those survivors who could be identified. Thirty of the 39 claims have been paid to date. The remaining nine claims, all for non-fatal injuries, were not pursued by the worker or were not paid due to lack of medical or other evidence.

In January 2007, a plane carrying 31 passengers from Turkey crashed near Baghdad. All but one on board were killed. Thirty of them were employees of a Turkish construction contractor. As soon as OWCP learned of the accident, the New York district director confirmed DBA coverage. The company was working under contracts for different agencies, and complications arose because the employees were covered by different insurance companies. To facilitate resolution of various insurance coverage and

entitlement issues, the OWCP held an informal conference with ten participants including lawyers representing the employer, the two insurance carriers, and the claimants, and at least one contract employer representative, in April 2007. All but three of the 27 claims were voluntarily paid, the majority within two months of the incident. The three remaining claims are currently in process for payment.

Our experienced staff in the New York district office continues to receive new DBA claims from Iraq and Afghanistan, creates and reviews those cases, and distributes the files to the district office closest to the (U.S. citizen's) residence for ongoing monitoring and service. This distribution allows for dispute resolution to occur at a closer Longshore office for U.S. citizens, while allowing our New York office to maintain oversight of all foreign national claims and serve as our center of expertise for new issues and for communications with the insurers and contractors.

POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

Mr. Chairman, you expressed a particular interest in the handling of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) claims in the context of the DBA. Stress claims are perhaps the most complex of all in any workers' compensation system. The key factor – work-relatedness – is often very difficult to discern in such cases, given the lack of clarity with regard to specific causative events, the frequent ambiguity of medical diagnoses, temporal delays between events and the onset of symptoms, and the personal and subjective nature of the medical condition itself. PTSD, although somewhat less difficult to diagnose than other stress conditions, may be clouded by employees' reluctance to report the condition or seek help out of concern for being stigmatized or barred from future employment.

In 2006, the Department determined that additional focus was needed in the DBA community on PTSD cases coming from Iraq. Relatively clear-cut PTSD situations were being reported by DBA contract employees – such as individuals who witnessed bombing attacks which killed several co-workers – and claim resolutions were not being obtained swiftly enough. Media reports also indicated that contract workers were not always receiving the kind of de-briefing and counseling following such traumatic events that uniformed military personnel receive, and of course it was understood that these DBA-covered employees do not have recourse to Department of Veterans Affairs psychological services upon their return to the United States.

The Department has worked closely with the insurance industry, questioning what appeared to be inappropriate denials of benefits for PTSD treatment, and providing venues for the claims management leadership to share best practices, approaches, and insight about PTSD. The insurance companies are now paying significantly more attention to PTSD. They are training their claims management staff how to identify PTSD and make appropriate referrals for treatment, and identifying healthcare specialists to help treat it and promptly report it to the Longshore Division. We have also urged insurers to work with contract employers to provide pre-deployment training and counseling regarding potential traumatic stress, as well as post-event and post-employment counseling and services to help employees transition successfully.

INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Mr. Chairman, you raised questions about the Department of Labor's role in overseeing the cost of the DBA program.

Three major insurance companies, AIG, ACE-USA, and CNA, provide the majority of DBA insurance coverage in Iraq and Afghanistan.

There is no standard premium for DBA insurance. Whereas Longshore insurance activities are subject to regulation by state insurance commissioners, because DBA coverage is provided overseas for companies and workers from around the globe, insuring all ranges of industries and occupations inside a war zone, U.S. regulators play little, if any, role in the premium setting for DBA coverage. Rather, as in the Federal Employers Liability Act (FELA) covering railroads, and the Jones Act covering seamen, premiums are based on payrolls but are a product of market-driven forces and negotiations between the insurance companies and the employers or contracting agencies.

The DOL does not have the authority to regulate premiums, either for domestic Longshore policies or for DBA policies. The Longshore Division of OWCP collects documentation that the required DBA policies are in effect for extant contracts. The Federal Employees' Compensation Division of OWCP receives copies of the complete DBA policy for each claim filed under the WHCA, and determines whether a war risk premium has been included in the DBA policy. If it had been included, the Department would deny WHCA reimbursement, as the war risk premium had already provided coverage. However, OWCP staff has uncovered no instance in which any premium, additional charge, or premium increase for the war risk has been added in these filings.

Implementing an insurance-driven program in Iraq and Afghanistan has many challenges. Nevertheless, we believe the system is functioning and improving. There are many complicating factors, but most contractors are complying with insurance coverage requirements and are being monitored by their contracting agencies; insurers are reporting injuries and deaths, and are providing healthcare and weekly benefits. The Department continues to engage in monitoring, education, technical support, compliance assistance, and dispute resolution to achieve appropriate outcomes.

WAR HAZARDS COMPENSATION ACT

The War Hazards Compensation Act (WHCA) (42 U.S.C. § 1701 et seq.) supplements the DBA and completes the protection provided to employees of federal contractors performing work outside the United States. Like the DBA, it was enacted during World War II. The WHCA establishes a compensation system that provides reimbursement to contractors covered by the DBA for both benefit and administrative costs resulting from an injury or death caused by a war-risk hazard. In reimbursement cases, OWCP is also authorized to make payments directly to injured employees or their survivors.

WHCA is also administered by OWCP, but by our Division of Federal Employees' Compensation (DFEC), rather than the Longshore Division. Section 1704(a) of the WHCA requires that reimbursements are paid from the same Employee Compensation Fund from which DFEC also pays workers' compensation benefits to Federal employees. These general revenue reimbursements were established as a form of reinsurance for DBA policies, to ensure that DBA insurance would be available and affordable.

An insurance carrier, self-insured employer or compensation fund may claim reimbursement from the Employees' Compensation Fund for benefits paid on cases approved under the DBA, if it can be shown that the injury or death was due to a war-risk hazard. A war-risk hazard is defined in the WHCA as a hazard arising during a war in which the United States is engaged; during an armed conflict in which the United States is engaged, whether or not war has been declared, or during a war or armed conflict between military forces of any origin, occurring within any country in which a covered individual is serving and the hazard arises from the discharge of a weapon, the action of a hostile force, the explosion of munitions intended for use in connection with a war, collision of vessels or the operation of vessels or aircraft in a zone of hostilities. (42 U.S.C. § 1711(b).) DFEC claims examiners make the determination as to whether an injury resulted from a war-risk hazard.

While not absolutely necessary, claims for reimbursement from insurance carriers usually receive a formal decision under the DBA prior to filing under the WHCA. A claim for reimbursement must be supported by copies of the forms, statements and medical reports submitted by the employee (or survivors) and the employer to establish a claim under the DBA, the compensation order awarding benefits under the DBA, and the insurance policy under which the employee was covered. If the claim is accepted as resulting from a war-risk hazard, the request for reimbursement must also be accompanied by documentation of the payments for which reimbursement is being claimed. The WHCA permits reimbursement for benefits paid and reasonable and necessary claims expenses, which includes expenses incurred in determining liability such as expenses for attorneys' fees, court and litigation costs, witnesses and expert testimony, examinations, autopsies, etc. (42 U.S.C. §1704(a).) Under the WHCA regulations, these allocated claims expenses must be itemized and documented in order to be reimbursed. The insurance carrier may claim other unallocated expenses in an amount up to 15 percent of the sum of the reimbursable medical, compensation and burial payments. These expenses represent the cost incurred by the company handling the claim in its regular course of operations that cannot be specifically itemized or documented.

DFEC will deny a claim for reimbursement if we find that the benefits paid or payable on account of injury or death arose from a war-risk hazard for which a premium for such hazard was charged – a practice referred to as “premium loading.” By submitting a Form CA-278 (Claim for Reimbursement), the party seeking reimbursement is certifying that premium loading has not occurred. A copy of the insurance policy must be submitted with every reimbursement claim, and DFEC reviews the policy, as well as verifying that the insurer has properly certified via the Form CA-278 that such premium

loading has not occurred and that the claim does not contain, nor will the insurance carrier or self-insured demand, an additional charge or loading for war-risk hazard.

Insurance carriers and self-insured employers whose claim for reimbursement is denied or reduced may appeal for review by the Director of DFEC. The objection must be filed within 60 days of the date of the decision for domestic carriers and within 6 months of the date of the decision for carriers outside the United States.

In cases where ongoing entitlement to compensation has been established, OWCP may assume direct payment of benefits rather than continue to reimburse the insurance carrier or employer. As a rule, cases are accepted for direct payment only when the rate of compensation and the period of compensation have become relatively fixed. Cases in which the nature and extent of entitlement to compensation either have not been determined or are in dispute will remain under the control of the insurance carrier until the issues have been resolved.

To clarify procedural requirements and expedite the process for submitting a reimbursement claim, we published OWCP Bulletin 05-01 in October 2005. This bulletin clarified that insurers or employers need not obtain a formal compensation order under DBA from a Longshore District Director to obtain a WHCA reimbursement in a given case but strongly recommended that such an order be obtained. The findings in the order regarding compensability under the DBA would be accepted absent extraordinary circumstances which would allow DFEC to simply focus on whether the injury was the result of a war-risk hazard. In circumstances where a formal compensation order could not be obtained either because the claimant declined to participate in the proceeding or because one or more parties did not agree to the issuance of such an order, rather than having the matter referred to an ALJ for a decision (a process generally requiring many months) the insurer or employer may obtain from the appropriate Longshore District Director a recommendation on the compensability of the DBA claim by requesting an informal conference at the office of the Longshore District Director. If no agreement is reached at the informal conference the Longshore District Director will issue a Memorandum of Informal Conference setting forth his recommendations on the DBA claim. Absent extraordinary circumstances, DFEC will accept the recommendations made by the Longshore District Director with regard to DBA compensability and adjudicate the reimbursement claim under WHCA. The DFEC Cleveland district office, which handles all WHCA claims, has communicated with insurance carriers and their attorneys on a regular basis to develop an expeditious process for obtaining the documentation necessary for adjudicating and reimbursing WHCA claims.

WHCA CLAIMS STATISTICS

Although the WHCA workload has increased, DFEC has issued decisions on a relatively timely basis and has a small inventory of pending cases. Based on the number of DBA claims for which no WHCA claim has yet been received, and the extended period required for DBA case processing to reach stability so that a WHCA claim is ripe, OWCP anticipates that the WHCA claim volume will continue to grow.

Table 4
WHCA Claims Filed, Iraq & Afghanistan
2003 through March 31, 2008 (Calendar Years)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Iraq	2	33	99	80	25
Afghanistan	0	0	5	4	4
Totals	2	33	104	84	29

Table 5
Disposition of Claims, Iraq & Afghanistan, through March 31, 2008

	TOTAL FILED	ACCEPTED	DENIED	PENDING ADJUDICATION	ACCEPTED & PENDING REIMBURSEMENT
Iraq	239	207	12	20	25
Afghanistan	13	9	0	4	5
Totals	252	216	12	24	30

Table 6
WHCA Benefits Paid
2003 through March 31, 2008

	CARRIER REIMBURSEMENT	COMPENSATION	TOTAL
Iraq	\$7,432,105	\$4,950,814	\$12,382,919
Afghanistan	\$178,155	\$256,647	\$434,802
Totals	\$7,610,260	\$5,207,461	\$12,817,721

CONCLUSION

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss OWCP's administration of the Defense Base Act and the War Hazards Compensation Act. I will be pleased to answer any questions you may have.