

STATEMENT BY KARL DEMMING
TECHNICAL PROFESSIONAL LEADER, SPECIALTIES, KBR
BEFORE THE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
July 26, 2007

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Karl Demming.

I am currently employed as a Technical Professional Leader, Specialties, for KBR in Baghdad in support of USMI – the U.S. Mission in Iraq. Under the LOGCAP contract, I oversee KBR’s engineering and construction work in Iraq. I arrived in-country soon after the invasion in 2003, and have been on the ground there ever since. I am a practicing electrician and have been a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for more than 30 years.

You asked KBR to assist the Committee in its inquiry regarding the Baghdad Embassy Security Force guard camp and I am here to do so. The guard camp and the new Embassy are being constructed by another contractor. KBR did not design or construct either one. Once the guard camp is complete, KBR will provide support services to the personnel who will be housed there.

I am a native Californian. I grew up in Burbank, went to Burbank High and, later, the Los Angeles Trade Technical School. I joined the U.S. Army in 1971, and returned to Burbank after my tour of duty. I began work in the electrical field in 1975, and in the course of my career have had the opportunity to work in many aspects of this field. For example, power generation for the Federal Aviation Administration and the Marine Corps, and electrical systems and construction positions for International Controls, Carnation, Lockheed, and Anheuser Busch.

I have held State of California electrical and HVAC contractors licenses, and an LA city supervisors electricians license. I also owned and operated my own electrical firm. I worked on a wide variety of projects where the IBEW supplied the work teams. I was a member of the National Guard from 1975 through 1997. And I volunteered for the Gulf War, and served in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait as a staff sergeant with the Guard. I moved to Denver soon after leaving active duty, and worked on multiple construction projects at Denver International Airport. At night, I also taught the IBEW's electrical apprenticeship program.

I began working for KBR in May 2003. After an initial assignment in Basra, I began working in Baghdad on several power generation projects related to the U.S. Embassy Annex. In November of 2006, I was promoted to my current position.

Under the LOGCAP contract KBR provides a variety of support functions to the U.S. and Coalition personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan. As part of that work, every day KBR provides meals, laundry and other support services throughout theater. Specific to today's discussion, KBR was asked to prepare to provide similar services at the Baghdad Embassy Security Force camp.

As I mentioned before, KBR did not design or construct either the guard camp or the new Embassy compound. But as the company prepared to support personnel at the guard camp, KBR participated in several site visits and was asked to conduct a technical inspection of the facilities. This is not unlike having an inspection done before buying a house.

My team and I carried out these inspections and, earlier this week, at the Committee's request, I briefed the Committee's bipartisan staff on our findings. I am here today to answer any questions you may have.

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