

## Department of Defense Office of Inspector General

Report No. D-2007-001

(Project No. D2006-D000LA-0139.000)

October 6, 2006

### Information Operations Activities in Southwest Asia

#### Executive Summary

**Who Should Read This Report and Why?** DoD personnel involved with Information Operations, including Psychological Operations, at the strategic, operational, and tactical level should read this report. This report summarizes the use of the Lincoln Group to conduct Psychological Operations in Southwest Asia.

**Results.** We concluded that the Multi-National Force-Iraq and Multi-National Corps-Iraq complied with applicable laws and regulations in their use of a contractor to conduct Psychological Operations and their use of newspapers as a way to disseminate information. Specifically, the Multi-National Force-Iraq and Multi-National Corps-Iraq contracted with the Lincoln Group to place articles in the Iraqi media to inform and influence their target audience, the Iraqi population. The Multi-National Force-Iraq and Multi-National Corps-Iraq used the contractor's capabilities to simultaneously develop and place articles, provide cultural expertise, respond rapidly to counter anti-coalition propaganda, and prevent threats to those supporting coalition efforts. Accordingly, we did not make any recommendations.

However, of the three contracts awarded to the Lincoln Group in support of Information Operations in Iraq, the Victory Regional Contracting Command, a subordinate branch of the Joint Contracting Command-Iraq/Afghanistan, did not maintain adequate acquisition, oversight, and disbursement documentation for contract W91QEK-04-W-3879. The Victory Regional Contracting Command did not comply with the Federal Acquisition Regulation guidelines for contract documentation including award, oversight, and closeout procedures. Additionally, Victory Regional Contracting Command did not retain adequate documentation to verify expenditures. As a result, we cannot determine whether the Multi-National Force-Iraq and Multi-National Corps-Iraq awarded the contract properly and if the Victory Regional Contracting Command disbursements made on this contract were appropriate. Accordingly, we did not make any recommendations because the period of performance for the Multi-National Force-Iraq contract with the Lincoln Group that did not comply with the Federal Acquisition Regulation has ended.

**Management Comments.** Multi-National Force-Iraq and U.S. Central Command provided comments on the draft report, and concurred with the findings. Although not required to comment, the XVIII Airborne Corps provided feedback on specific steps in the Psychological Operations approval process at Multi-National Force-Iraq and Multi-National Corps-Iraq.

**Background.** We performed this audit in response to a congressional request to determine the authority under which the Lincoln Group conducted Information Operations activities in Southwest Asia and to identify details about the newspaper articles disseminated in Iraq under

the Lincoln Group contracts. In addition, the request also asked the DoD Office of Inspector General determine whether contracts with the Lincoln Group complied with the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

Psychological Operations are a central element of Information Operations and contribute to achieving the joint force commander's objectives. Psychological Operations are planned to convey selected, truthful information to foreign audiences to influence their emotions, motives, objective reasoning, and ultimately, the behavior of governments, organizations, groups, and individuals. The purpose of Psychological Operations is to induce or reinforce foreign attitudes and behavior favorable to U.S. objectives.

Multi-National Force-Iraq, organizationally aligned under the U.S. Central Command, is responsible for conducting military operations in Iraq. The Multi-National Corps-Iraq, a subordinate command of Multi-National Force-Iraq, is responsible for command and control of operations throughout Iraq. For the contracts discussed in this report, the Multi-National Force-Iraq and Multi-National Corps-Iraq received contracting support from Joint Contracting Command-Iraq/Afghanistan, the contracting organization for Iraq and Afghanistan.