

**Statement of
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Before the

**Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
of the House Armed Services Committee**

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Mr. Chairman, Congressman Wittman, members of the Subcommittee. I welcome the opportunity to provide you an update on the Department of State's implementation of Section 861 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008.

Please allow me first to express how much we at the State Department appreciate the support of this subcommittee. As the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Logistics Management, I am responsible for ensuring that our global logistics platform provides consistent, reliable support to the men and women who directly implement our foreign policy around the world. I work daily with the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, as well as our interagency partners, to guarantee the personal security of our personnel in the dangerous but critical environments of Iraq and Afghanistan. I am pleased to be able to state before you today that this is a good news story. Legislation originated by this body is part of that story.

Section 861 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 reinforced through legislation the strong cooperative effort the Department of Defense, the Agency for International Development, and the Department of State began in February 2008. Even prior to the signing of our July 2008 MOU, our three agencies had discussed at length how best to account for contractor personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan. We concluded that the

Synchronized Predeployment and Operational Tracker, SPOT, provided the best available information system solution. The Department of State has embraced this solution enthusiastically.

In March 2008, the Department directed contracting officers to incorporate into each contract a clause that required contractors to include their personnel deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan in SPOT.

Each of our agencies has its own business processes for contracting. From July until November 2008, the Department of State developed our unique system hierarchy for data entry into SPOT and defined business rules, roles, and responsibilities. State met the Section 861 120 day deadline and by November 2008 had included all contracts, subcontracts, task and delivery orders over \$100,000 into SPOT. In January 2009, SPOT was mandated for all State Department grants in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As of today in SPOT, State has entered data on 88 contracts and 53 grants. We have 5,670 contract personnel in Iraq and 1,649 in Afghanistan.

Much work has been accomplished. SPOT system enhancements will continue as the State Department, DOD, and USAID continue to work together daily to improve our cooperative efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. This concludes my testimony and I am happy to answer any questions the Subcommittee may have.