



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

OFFICE OF SECURITY COOPERATION-IRAQ  
BAGHDAD, IRAQ  
DPO AE 09348

December 17, 2011

Office of the Chief

DoD Contractors In-Country (Iraq) Leads

To Whom This Concerns:

This letter is to inform DoD Contractors supporting the Office of Security – Iraq aggressive efforts to obtain GoI approved work/travel authorizations for calendar year 2012. We encourage you to inform your home offices of our efforts.

We are following Government of Iraq (GoI) guidance to obtain standard, blanket coverage of our contracting population. We have presented the Ministry of Defense with copies of all contracts and employee names. After several requests to reformat, we then sent the documentation to the Ministry of Interior (MoI). The MoI asked us to further reformat before sending to the Prime Minister (PM). Our request for action is now with the PM, and the Ambassador and I are in discussions with him. When the PM signs, the Residency Office in the MoI will issue work/travel authorization memos. We expect this process to go quickly.

I am confident all OSC-I contractors will have the proper documentation to legally work in Iraq before the end of the month. That said, I am not confident that the documents will come in time for those companies that have decided to remove their employees from Iraq by 31 December, to do so with a responsible drawdown timeline.

For those companies desiring to remain up to the last minute, we will ensure that those who are eligible for MILAIR are evacuated to Kuwait or elsewhere by 31 Dec. We have CENTCOM's commitment of resources to make that happen. If companies want to execute plans now to withdraw in accordance with a responsible drawdown, then we will support as requested. Requests for such support should be sent to LTC Howard 'Clint' Kirk at 239-5929 or at [howard.kirk@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:howard.kirk@iraq.centcom.mil).

For those companies that allow employees to remain with expired work/travel authorizations, the U.S. Embassy has determined the worst case consequence is a \$50 fee at BIAP when an individual contractor departs Iraq.

I assure you the Ambassador and I remain engaged with the GoI to ensure all our contractors obtain the proper documentation to work in Iraq. It is our number one priority and we are confident we will have the legal authorities by 31 Dec 11. We encourage all contracted companies to continue their own corporate efforts to learn and adjust to the new documentation processes required by the newly sovereign nation of Iraq. Iraq is a fledgling partner of the United States and the commitment of corporate America is critical to stabilizing that partnership.

We will continue to keep you informed of the status of our efforts, and appreciate you keeping us informed of any issues and decisions you make in the next few weeks. Thank you for all you have done to support our mission and our partnership with Iraq.

Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact my point of contact for this issue, Ms. Diane Devens at 239-5694 or at [diane.devens@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:diane.devens@iraq.centcom.mil).

Sincerely,



Robert L. Caslen, Jr.,  
Lieutenant General, US Army  
Chief, Office of Security  
Cooperation – Iraq