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Report No. D-2008-060

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discussed in this report. See the “Command Notification and Management Action” section of this report.

Background

Most water production sites providing water to U.S. forces in Iraq were operated by two contractors, KBR and Oasis International Incorporated. KBR provided bulk water and Oasis International Incorporated provided bottled water. We found no problems with the production of bottled water by Oasis International Incorporated.

The Army’s Logistics Civil Augmentation Program provides logistical support including housing, food, and water to U.S. forces in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Djibouti, and Georgia. The Army’s Operations Support Command issued a LOGCAP contract to KBR effective December 14, 2001. The LOGCAP contract is a 10-year cost-plus-award-fee contract with 1 base year and 9 option years (2006 was the contract’s fourth option year). The LOGCAP contract provides for services through individual contract task orders. LOGCAP contract task orders 59 (awarded June 2003), 89 (awarded May 2005), and 139 (awarded August 2006) included water services for the U.S. forces in Iraq during the audited period.

The LOGCAP Deputy Program Director – Iraq reported that by August 2006, the award date for task order 139, 87 percent of the LOGCAP contract was supporting the Iraq mission.

Through the LOGCAP contract, KBR is the main provider of bulk water used in dining, medical, and personal hygiene facilities. Oasis International Incorporated (Oasis) has a separate contract, not under LOGCAP, issued by the Joint Contracting Command-Iraq to provide bottled drinking water throughout Iraq.

In Iraq, the main sources for water are the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers. Water from all sources is nonpotable until it is treated (produced), tested, and certified to meet the potable quality standards. The water treatment facilities we visited used the reverse-osmosis purification method. Reverse-osmosis water purification unit (ROWPU) systems were housed in moveable containers that can be set up and operated in remote locations. At the end of the reverse-osmosis treatment process, the water received an infusion of chlorine as a residual disinfection agent. It was stored at the production sites for distribution and then trucked to separate point-of-use storage containers from which it was pumped into medical, dining, or personal hygiene facilities.

Established Standards. TB MED 577 establishes field water quality standards and water certification processes and defines operational and oversight roles. The LOGCAP contract requires KBR to comply with TB MED 577. It provides detailed requirements for the sanitary control and quality surveillance of land-based field water support. The requirements are