



February 23, 2010

The Daily Beast

To the Editor:

The article "A New Taliban Problem" carried in the Daily Beast on February 18, 2010, was striking not so much for what the author wrote as for what he chose to ignore. Certainly, given the provocative nature of this opinion article coupled with the level of attention the author directs at DynCorp International, any reader has good cause to wonder why he made no contact with the company to address this matter. Instead – and regrettably – the author contented himself with lifting a quote from elsewhere in the media (which was itself an abridged version of what was actually said) to insufficiently reflect the company's role in training the Afghan National Police.

Let us be clear, we are proud of our record training the Afghan National Police, and of our long record of experience in the international civilian police program. Since 1994, we have recruited, trained, and deployed more than 6,000 highly-qualified civilian police trainers to 11 countries, including Haiti, Kosovo, East Timor, Bosnia, Sudan, Liberia, Iraq and Afghanistan. We are dedicated to our work, and we serve today for a safe tomorrow.

DynCorp International is a leading global government services provider supporting U.S. national security and foreign policy objectives. The U.S. government is responsible for policy direction; our role is to supply high performance teams that deliver performance, compliance and professional conduct. All aspects of the training program being conducted in Afghanistan are carried out under the specific direction and guidance of the U.S. government. The highly qualified police advisors and mentors provided by DynCorp International are relentless in meeting the standards set forth for this program, performing under the contract oversight and policy direction of the U.S. State Department and the operational command role of the Combined Security Transition Command (CSTC-A.)

In telling only a partial story, this piece was quick to recycle themes of over-reliance on private contractors, but omitted the important successes that have been achieved amid the realities on the ground. DynCorp International has worked hand in glove with our U.S. government partners to develop, refine, and expand the impressive "train the trainer" program through which a cadre of Afghan trainers now conducts more than 90% of all training at the central and regional training centers. In addition to the work at the training centers, DynCorp International mentors, all sworn American police officers with significant law enforcement experience, are embedded in U.S. military Police Mentor Teams that provide oversight and monitoring of Afghan police at the district level.

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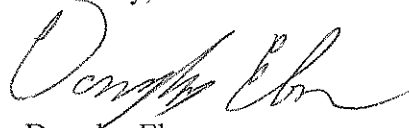
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As Army Maj. Gen. Richard P. Formica, former Commanding General of the Combined Security Transition Command, recently said at a hearing of the Commission on Wartime Contracting: “The development of the Afghan National Security Forces...requires this blend of military, police, civilian...and contract trainers. ...the contractors really augment our capacity, and they bring unique skills.” Commenting specifically on DynCorp International’s performance in Afghanistan, Commission Co-Chair Christopher Shays stated: “We know as a matter of public record that the existing contractor has done a good job and has done it for five years.”

DynCorp International has, from the start of the Afghan National Police training program, always put quality first, and continues to do so today. The author makes an unsubstantiated complaint about an emphasis on quantity only, but there is no evidence he actually looked at the extensive field mentoring done by the majority of the DynCorp International police advisors in Afghanistan, which is essential to making sure the instruction provided is properly applied in the field. To ignore the impact and results of the Focused District Development and In-District Reform programs, in which our civilian police advisors work side-by-side with members of the U.S. Military and coalition partners serving in Police Mentor teams, leads to a falsely negative and glaringly incomplete picture of the training effort. In fact, more than 80% of DynCorp International trainers are outside the regional training centers; yet the author draws conclusions apparently based on briefings and observations entirely within the confines of these locations.

DynCorp International is committed to the mission of training the Afghan National Police, and welcomes oversight and transparency in all that we do, in Afghanistan and around the globe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas Ebner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Douglas Ebner  
Spokesman  
DynCorp International