



SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION

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John F Sopko, Special Inspector General

October 10, 2012

James N. Mattis,
General, United States Marine Corps
Commander, United States Central Command (CENTCOM)

John R. Allen
General, United States Marine Corps
Commander, International Security Assistance Force/U.S. Forces – Afghanistan

SUBJECT: Safety Alert - Threat to U.S. Forces from Lack of Culvert Denial Systems on a Major Highway in Afghanistan

Based on concerns shared with the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) by the military, we have identified potentially significant contract fraud in the installation and inspection of culvert denial systems designed to prevent access to roadway culverts by insurgents. Through our preliminary investigative work, we estimate that a large number of culvert denial systems might have been falsely reported by Afghan contractors as complete when, in fact, the denial systems were not installed or were installed in a defective manner, rendering them ineffective and susceptible to compromise by insurgents seeking to emplace IEDs.

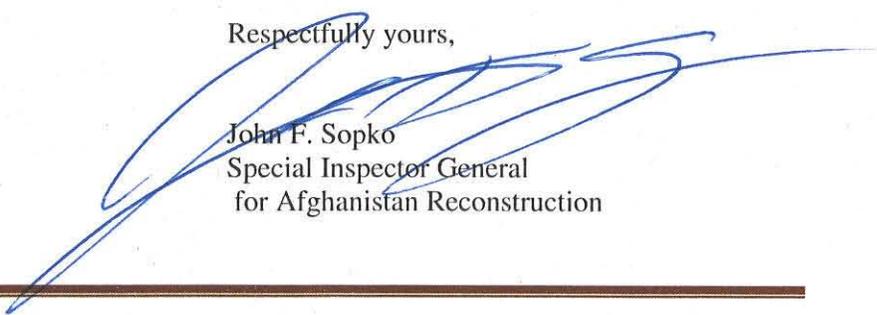
The area of [REDACTED] is a location of particular concern for this potential threat to U.S. forces. (Attached (Tab I) is a commercial satellite image that further identifies the area of [REDACTED] of interest.) However, we are concerned that this problem may be more widely spread throughout Afghanistan.

Senior SIGAR personnel in Kabul have formally briefed Major General Kenneth R. Dahl's staff, as well as USACE commanders, and have been working jointly with staff at Task Force 2010 and CENTCOM Joint Theater Support Contracting Command (C-JTSCC). We plan to share all relevant information regarding this threat with TF 2010 or any command you designate. Given the increased risk of IED attack against U.S. forces resulting from the missing or defective culvert denial systems, we are providing this information to you for immediate action and dissemination to all relevant personnel. Again, our foremost interest in this matter is the safety and protection of U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

This case is an outstanding example of the benefits of cooperation between the military and SIGAR and may result in the saving of lives. Additional information regarding this issue may be obtained from [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]. If you have any additional questions or if my staff can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [REDACTED].

Respectfully yours,


John F. Sopko
Special Inspector General
for Afghanistan Reconstruction