



SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION

February 24, 2010

The Honorable Phyllis K. Fong
Inspector General, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Chair, Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE)

Dear Ms. Fong,

The Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) has been in operation for just over a year. Since October 2008, we have grown from a staff of 2 to a staff of 78, and we are now producing audit reports and quarterly reports on a regular basis, as well as conducting a substantial body of investigative work. We are continuing to grow. For example, we expect to hire 5 auditors each month through the summer of this year.

As we grow, I want to make sure that we establish (1) appropriate standards for our work and (2) the policies, procedures, and management structures needed to ensure that we consistently meet those standards. In addition, I want to make sure that we are assembling a team of highly qualified staff who can conduct the level and quality of oversight that the Congress intended and that the taxpayer expects. Accomplishing all of these goals quickly is challenging.

I know that it would be normal practice to wait until at least the third year of SIGAR's existence before asking CIGIE to conduct a peer evaluation of our organization. However, as you know, there have been calls for close scrutiny of SIGAR. Therefore, I am asking that CIGIE consider engaging with SIGAR now. I would like CIGIE to examine aspects of our audit, investigative, and support operations to assist us in identifying improvements that should be made and to ensure that we are moving in the right direction.

I look forward to working with CIGIE to improve SIGAR so we can make necessary improvements as we continue to grow. I look forward to discussing my request with you in more detail at your convenience. I can be reached at 703-602-3807.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnold Fields". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Arnold Fields
Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction