

From: Bishop, Michael E (Al Hillah RSO)
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2005 10:00 PM
To: Hunter, Mark J (Baghdad)
Cc: Young, John B (Baghdad); Blaschke, Brent E (Al Hillah RC)
Subject: Pending claims filed against USREO Al-Hillah for incidents involving PSD

Various individuals have approached the Embassy seeking compensation for property damage, injuries and loss of life. Given the continued lack of a compensation program, I do not have much to offer them other than telling them I have passed their claims on to Embassy Baghdad.

Obviously it is not pleasant meeting these individuals with nothing more to offer than apologies, condolences and vague promises that I will do what I can to assist them in regards to what is more often than not a significant financial or personal loss for them.

If we are unable or unwilling to address this issue, sooner or later those requesting compensation for their losses will lose their patience with us and seek recourse through other means (i.e. civil suits; referring request to other entities, reporting to the media). In the worse case scenario, some might seek revenge. We also face the possibility those suffering losses in incidents involving our PSD will approach the Iraqi Government and seek their assistance with resolving these pending matters. Not resolving these situations in a quick and decisive manner is counter productive in regards to accomplishing our foreign policy objectives, ensuring our safety, negating unnecessary additional threats, maintaining the continued good will of the Iraqi people as well as avoiding unnecessary problems/issues with our host country counterparts.

In regards to the increase shooting of incidents in Al-Hillah I offer the following. I lost the vast majority of my experienced PSD operators when the SSI contract switched over the DSS. In fact, I lost almost 75 percent of my experienced SSI personnel with less than 24 hours notice. In turn, I received allot of personnel who were new to the business, new to the environment as well as working with each other.

Here is a quick summary of pending claims - starting with the most recent:

June 25, 2005: USDoS Blackwater PSD team fires shots in Al-Hillah, and does not report the incident. RSO receives a report an adult Iraqi male was shot and killed by a passing convoy of "GMC" vehicles. Blackwater PSD personnel fired shots in this area, and did not report this incident as required through their chain of command to the RSO. These shots most likely caused the death of the adult Iraqi male, who was standing on the sidewalk in the area where the shots where fired. The brothers of the deceased have already came to USREO Al-Hillah and met with the RSO. The victim was 42 years of age, a husband and father to 6 minor children. The family has also referred this matter to the Provincial Council Chairman requesting assistance. This matter remains pending.

June 20, 2005: USDoS Blackwater PSD team is involved in a serious motor vehicle accident in Najaf. In short, the PSD team swerved to avoid a donkey and ran into the rear of a local vehicle belonging to an Iraqi Police Officer. The owner of the vehicle initially contacted the 155th Mississippi USARNG Civil Affairs unit in Najaf to file a claim. The Civil Affairs Unit in turn referred the owner of the vehicle to RSO Michael Bishop at USREO Al-Hillah. The stated value of the vehicle (which is totaled) is \$ 5,000.00. See PDF attachment for additional information.

June 20, 2005: USDoS Blackwater PSD team fires a shot at a local vehicle, damaging a side and rear window glass as well as damaging a seat with a gun shot hole. Two occupants in the vehicle were injured as result of shattered glass. The owner of the vehicle, as well as the injured occupants initially contacted the 155th Mississippi USARNG Civil Affairs unit in Najaf to file a claim. The Civil Affairs Unit in turn referred the owner of the vehicle and the injured parties to RSO Michael Bishop at USREO Al-Hillah. The stated value of the damaged glass is \$400.00. Injury claims for the two occupants is likely to be \$ 400.00 each. See PDF attachment for additional information

May 14, 2005: Blackwater Mamba fires shots at a black colored Audi sedan resulting in the death of a 64 year old Iraqi male who was the passenger in the vehicle. The Audi sedan also incurred a broken windshield, multiple bullet holes, blood stains throughout the interior and damage when it ran off the road after being shot. The Mambas were observed by the IPs arriving and departing the USREO Al-Hillah compound later that day. The victim's family was referred to RSO Michael E. Bishop at USREO Al-Hillah by the IPs. The victim's sons are seeking compensation and have periodically checked with both RSO Al-Hillah as well as the IPs regarding status of payment.

May 1, 2005: Blackwater Mamba fires shots at a sedan resulting in an eye injury to an adult Iraqi male who was the passenger in the front seat of the vehicle and the death of his 12 year old son who was seated in the rear. The Mambas were observed by the IPs arriving and departing the USREO Al-Hillah compound later that day. The victim was referred to RSO Michael E. Bishop at USREO Al-Hillah by the IPs. The father reportedly departed Iraq to obtain medical treatment in Jordan for his eye injury, and will most likely return to USREO Al-Hillah seeking compensation in the near future.