



News Release

U.S. ARMY SUSTAINMENT COMMAND

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Success of Southwest Asia Support Branch Leads to Expansion of Reachback Contracting

By Jake M. Adrian
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ROCK ISLAND, Ill. – Building upon the success of reachback programs, the Army Contracting Command – Rock Island Contracting Center (RICC) has expanded reachback contracting with the stand-up of the Joint Contracting Command – Surface Deployment & Distribution Command (JCC-SDDC) Support Branch. This expansion adds approximately \$2 billion in procurements to the RICC and highlights the need for increased support within the Central Command (CENTCOM) theater.

History

On Oct. 1, 2007, ACC-RICC – formerly the Army Sustainment Command Acquisition Center – established the CONUS-based Reachback Cell in support of the 408th Contracting Support Brigade located in Kuwait. Authority for all contracts exceeding \$1 million was transferred from Army Contracting Command – Kuwait to the Rock Island Contracting Center. In total, RICC assumed responsibility for approximately \$6 billion of SWA contracts. The establishment of the Reachback Cell was the result of a Secretary of the Army directed mission to resolve several issues:

- Massive increase in Kuwait/Qatar workload
- Increased complexity of requirements
- Lack of a defined requirements process
- Insufficient in staffing levels, inexperienced personnel, and difficulty in recruiting
- Questionable quality of contract actions and fraud

The Reachback Cell was renamed the SWA Support Branch shortly after its implementation. Several major successes have already been achieved:

- Saved \$152 million through negotiations on Combat Support Services Contract-Kuwait undefinitized contractual actions and new requirements
- Increased asset utilization under Heavy Lift Six – a line-haul trucking program - while saving \$21.1 million
- Streamlined non-tactical vehicle leasing requirements by folding more than 100 contracts into just four.
- Saved \$3 million through negotiations on Kuwait Dining Facility services
- Combined duplicative requirements for: logistics automation support, wash rack maintenance, and generator leasing & maintenance

The SWA Support Branch was also awarded the 2008 Secretary of the Army Team Award for Excellence in Contracting – Logistics Support (Sustainment) Contracting. Only four team awards are awarded within the Army each year.

SDDC Expansion

On June 1, 2008, the success of the SWA Support Branch led to the first expansion of reachback contracting with the creation of the SDDC Team for CENTCOM. The 409th Contracting Support Brigade in Europe transferred contractual authority to the Rock Island Contracting Center in support of the 595th Theater Transportation Group, one component of SDDC.

The SDDC Reachback Team has awarded or currently administers contracts ranging from internet service, IT automation, rental cars, and housing, to stevedoring & other related terminal services, line-haul services, and third party logistics. The contracts range in value from \$13,000 to \$293 million. The potential value of all contracts totals \$626 million.

Some of the successes of the SDDC Team are:

- Creation of a Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) training program which standardized the tracking, training, and surveillance reporting by the COR's
- Standardization of Integrated Product Teams to assist in consistent requirements definition
- Compliance standardization of: quarterly contractor manpower reporting, synchronized pre-deployment & operational tracker, and arming of contractors

The success of the CENTCOM SDDC Reachback Team has led to the proposed expansion of SDDC reachback to European Command, Africa Command and Pacific Command. This expansion aims to streamline and provide a consistent approach to transportation and strategic movement contracts for all overseas operations. It would also maximize personnel efficiency to improve support to the warfighter.

JCC Expansion

JCC Iraq/Afghanistan was approached by Army Material Command (AMC) about the reachback contracting concept. After AMC gained JCC Iraq/Afghanistan support, AMC asked the Rock Island Contracting Center to implement a new branch. On Jan. 5, 2009, the Rock Island Contracting Center established the JCC-SDDC Support Branch. The purpose of the branch is to reduce workload, provide personnel continuity, and offer unique capabilities to support JCC-Iraq/Afghanistan. Due to multiple contracts within Iraq and Afghanistan, the SDDC Team was pulled under the JCC expansion. Other teams within the branch support Iraq, Afghanistan, and CENTCOM theater-wide requirements.

Iraq

Several contracts were immediately transferred to JCC-SDDC Support from JCC-Iraq for administration, the largest of which is Omnibus. Omnibus is a multiple-award, indefinite-delivery, indefinite-quantity life-support contract that supports the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq. The contracts are currently valued at \$256 million with a ceiling of \$495 million.

Early award accomplishments for the JCC teams include: commander's support valued at \$1 million; Big Voice (warning system) repairs valued at \$36 million; acquisition support services (personnel) valued at \$7.6 million; and a classified procurement.

There are multiple procurements in the pre-solicitation phase for Iraq. These include: multi-media illustrators support estimated at \$3.2 million; counter improvised explosive device marketing campaign estimated at \$25 million; foreign military sales parts warehouse estimated at \$43 million; warehouse support estimated at \$90.8 million; and intelligence support services estimated at \$395 million.

Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, only one procurement – relocatable buildings -- has been transferred for administration. This is a multiple-award IDIQ valued at \$150 million.

To date, there has been one award made for Afghanistan - a classified procurement.

A modification has been issued against the Iraq Acquisition Support Services contract to provide the same service in Afghanistan.

There are two procurements in the pre-award phase for Afghanistan, both of which are classified.

Theater-wide

Theater-wide procurements are those within CENTCOM that don't directly support the SDDC mission or the JCC-I/A mission. The largest theater-wide procurement is Heavy Lift Six – a multiple-award, indefinite-delivery, indefinite-quantity, line-haul trucking and bus transportation program. The Heavy Lift program, valued at \$881.4 million, originates in Kuwait and travels into Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Heavy Lift is a legacy program that moved from SWA Support to JCC-SDDC Support because it spans multiple CENTCOM countries.

Most of the theater-wide procurements are in the pre-award phase. Shuttle bus services is the only procurement that is specific to one country – Kuwait. The majority of the theater-wide procurements are for US Air Forces- Central (AFCENT). These procurements include: airfield rubber removal and marking services; locally employed persons screening services (background investigations); pop-up barrier repair and maintenance; skywatch tower repair and maintenance; and the lone commodity procurement – command, control, communications, and computers infrastructure (C4I) materials.

Goals

There are three main goals of the JCC-SDDC Support Branch.

- JCC-Iraq/Afghanistan Teams plan to reduce the workload of the JCC-I/A procurement officials in-theater so they can focus on a smaller number of procurements and provide overall increased contract oversight.
- The SDDC Team will to provide long-term contracting support to the Theater Transportation Groups, minimizing personnel turnover.
- The JCC-SDDC Support Branch will ensure the best contract structure is utilized to deliver goods and services to troops, reduce costs, and provide maximum benefit to American taxpayers.

Author's bio:

Jake Adrian is a Contracting Officer with the Rock Island Contracting Center's JCC-SDDC Support Branch. He came to RICC in June 2004 under the Federal Career Intern Program after completing his Bachelor's Degree at Iowa State University and his MBA at St. Ambrose University.

Jake is Level III certified in Contracting, Level I certified in Program Management, and a member of the Army Acquisition Corps. He spent six months during FY07 deployed to Camp Victory in Iraq and has worked within Reachback since its inception in 2007, so he is well qualified to speak on the Reachback Branches. (DSN 793-6824)

Photo Credit:



The attached photo is of a Stevedoring Operation at the Port of Muscat, Oman. The photo was taken by Derek Schnorrenberg, contract specialist, SDDC Team.

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