

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Fri, 13 Jul 2012 18:07:36 -0400  
**To:** Little, George CIV OSD PA  
**Cc:** Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Lanza, Stephen R MG USARMY (US); Moynihan, Dennis, RDML CHINFO; Kodlick, Les A Brig Gen Mil USAF SAF/PA; Kennedy BGen Paul J (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6) Nolte, Christy SES USAF SAF/PA (b)(6)  
DC (b)(6) (b)(6) USTRANSCOM PA; (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6) USSOUTHCOM/SC-CC  
(L); (b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)

**Subject:** Close of Business Report - 13 July 2012  
**Attachments:** smime.p7s

Fair Winds and Following Seas to John Kirby as he takes some well deserved time off in advance of his promotion to Rear Admiral and assignment as the Navy's Chief of Information.

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- Provided a response to Tom Vanden Brook, USA Today, ref Leonie receiving a \$60 million contract when the Army, at the same time, has suspended one of its owners from receiving federal contracts. An article may follow from Ray Locker, but no publication date is known at this time.

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** 22 May 2012 18:52:46 -0400  
**To:** Little, George CIV OSD PA  
**Cc:** Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA (b)(6)  
Col JCS OCJCS PA; Lanza, Stephen R MG USARMY (US); Moynihan, Dennis, RDML CHINFO; Kodlick, Les A Brig Gen Mil USAF SAF/PA; (b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6) Nolte, Christy SES USAF SAF/PA; (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6)  
PA; (b)(6) (b)(6) USTRANSCOM PA; (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6) USSOUTHCOM/SC-CC  
(b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Close of Business Report - 23 May 2012

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- Deputy Director of Logistics, Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Installations and Mission Support  
Dee Reardon will discuss the Air Force's strategic logistics priorities during a Joint-Service panel at  
Defense Strategies Institute's Conference on Logistics and Materiel Readiness in Alexandria, VA.  
(open press)

**FROM THE PRESS CONFERENCE (full**

**transcript:** <http://www.defense.gov/transcripts/transcript.aspx?transcriptid=5039> )

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thu, 24 May 2012 17:41:03 -0400  
**To:** Little, George CIV OSD PA  
**Cc:** Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Lanza, Stephen R MG USARMY (US); Moynihan, Dennis, RDML CHINFO; Kodlick,  
Les A Brig Gen Mil USAF SAF/PA (b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6) Nolta, Christy SES USAF SAF/PA (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6) USTRANSCOM PA; (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6) USSOUTHCOM/SC-CC  
(L); (b)(6) Bender Jeffrey A CAPT USSTRATCOM/J020; (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Close of Business Report - 24 May 2012  
**Attachments:** smime.p7s

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- USA Today's Greg Korte is writing about an individual affiliated with DoD contractor Leonie Industries that admitted to an online smear campaign directed at Tom Vanden Brook and Ray Locker. We have submitted a statement to USA Today in response.

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(b)(6) ; Non - Responsive - Duplicate



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**From:** Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA

**Sent:** 13 Dec 2012 18:19:52 -0500

**To:** Little, George CIV OSD PA

**Cc:** (b)(6) (b)(6)

USSOUTHCOM/SC-CC (L);

(b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6) Maxon, Eric D LTC MIL NG NGB ARNG;EUCOM PAO; (b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) USTRANSCOM

(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Hutton,

(b)(6) Joint Staff PA; (b)(6)

(b)(6) Kennedy BGen Paul J;Kirby, John F RDML CHINFO;Kodlick, Les A Brig Gen Mil USAF

SAF/PA;Lanza, Stephen R MG USARMY (US) (b)(6) McGraw, Kenneth S

CIV USSOCOM HQ (b)(6) Nolta, Christy SES USAF SAF/PA; (b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6) OSD PA CNS Distro Group; (b)(6)

(b)(6) SHAPE PAO;Silkman, Holly - SOCEUR;Sims, Chris CAPT PACOM,

(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6) Volesky, Gary J BG USARMY HQDA OCPA (US);Whitman,

Bryan SES OSD PA; (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** COB 13 Dec 2012.

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. Tom Vanden Brook, USA Today, plans to run a short story about the lawsuit against Mr. Camille Chidiac, co-owner of Lconic Industries, an IO contractor working for DoD in Afghanistan. Chidiac admitted to a smear campaign against Vanden Brook and Ray Locker earlier in the year. The plaintiff in this case says Chidiac boasted of his smear campaign. Vanden Brook offered an opportunity for DoD comment, which was graciously declined.

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LTC Steven H. Warren  
Director, Defense Press Ops

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** 22 May 2012 19:05:52 -0400  
**To:** Little, George CIV OSD PA  
**Subject:** Fw: Close of Business Report - 23 May 2012

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 22, 2012 06:52 PM  
**To:** Little, George CIV OSD PA  
**Cc:** Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA; (b)(6)  
Lanza, Stephen R MG USARMY (US); Moynihan, Dennis, RDML CHINFO; Kodlick, Les A Brig Gen  
Mil USAF SAF/PA; (b)(6) (b)(6)  
Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA; (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6) Nolta, Christy SES USAF SAF/PA; (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6)  
OSD PA; (b)(6) (b)(6)  
USTRANSCOM PA; (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6) USSOUTHCOM/SC-CC (L); (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Close of Business Report - 23 May 2012

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thu, 24 May 2012 12:42:36 -0400  
**To:** Little, George CIV OSD PA  
**Cc:** (b)(6) Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA  
**Subject:** FW: Camille Chidiac  
**Attachments:** smime.p7s

(b)(5); (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Lin Wood [<mailto:lwood@whetrialaw.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:38 PM  
To: (b)(6)  
Cc: ed.negrelli@leoniegroupp.com  
Subject: Camille Chidiac

Dear (b)(6)

I represent Camille Chidiac in his individual capacity. As you may know Mr. Chidiac is a minority shareholder in Leonie Industries. Mr. Chidiac has asked that I forward to you his statement below regarding the recent revelations related to USA Today. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if I can provide you with any additional information. Here is Mr. Chidiac's statement:

Statement of Camille Chidiac:

"In the wake of recent reporting by USA Today on Information Operations, Leonie Industries generally, and me personally, there was much online criticism of the articles, and of the two USA Today staff members involved: Tom Vanden Brook and Ray Locker. Some of the positive and negative comments made about these two journalists articles were written on blogs that I had registered under my name. I take full responsibility for having some of the discussion forums opened and reproducing their previously published USA Today articles on them. Even though the USA Today articles written about my family included unfair personal attacks and false statements by the reporters, it did not motivate me to post anything personally nor did I encourage anyone to post anything that was untrue or defamatory in any way. The blogs registered under my name were all clearly marked "unofficial fan site(s)", were not "fake websites" and were not intended to "smear", mislead or misinform anyone. Instead, they were intended to create open dialogue in an open forum related to the reporters past articles. Due to the un-moderated nature of the forums, some of these discussions quickly degenerated from legitimate criticism to immature and irrelevant rhetoric by unknown users. Following USA Today's release of a new article falsely claiming a "smear campaign" had been instituted against its journalists, I had the blogs audited and then removed so that there would be no consequences to Leonie for something I did personally.

Although I own a minority interest in Leonie, I have not been part of its management or day-to-day operations for approximately four years. I acted independently of Leonie Industries and the US Government using only personal funds. My actions should in no way reflect on the honor of Leonie Industries eight years of work serving the military, its hundreds of veteran and civilian employees or the brave work of the US military we support in Afghanistan. I recognize and deeply regret that my actions

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**From:** Little, George CIV OSD PA  
**Sent:** 3 Jul 2012 19:57:08 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Fw: IO/USA Today inquiry  
**Attachments:** Leonie Industries One-Year Option Exercised 07022012\_jec.doc

(b)(5)

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 03, 2012 03:48 PM  
**To:** Lettre, Marcel CIV SD; (b)(6) Little, George CIV OSD PA; Hawley, Thomas E SES (US)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**PA:** Kelly, John LtGen SD; (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: IO/USA Today inquiry

Marcel,

(b)(5)

Bryan

On 7/3/12 3:02 PM, "Lettre, Marcel CIV SD" <Marcel.Lettre@sd.mil> wrote:

>Thanks for the SA and adding Jeremy/LtGen Kelly/Jeff for their SA as well  
>given they worked the comms b/t SD and GEN Allen on this.

>

>Do you guys anticipate holding to the posture (b)(6) articulates below?

>Sounds like if we refrain from engaging, Vandebrook will be in the

>general ballpark but may get it slightly wrong re: the rationales for

>USFOR-A support and CJCS review.

>

>-----Original Message-----

>From: Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA (b)(6)  
>Sent: Tuesday, July 03, 2012 2:54 PM  
>To: (b)(6) Little, George CIV OSD PA; Hawley, Thomas  
>E SES (US); Lettre, Marcel CIV SD  
>Cc: (b)(6)  
>(b)(6)  
>Subject: Re: IO

>  
(b)(5)

>On 7/3/12 2:39 PM, (b)(6) wrote:

(b)(5)

>>-----Original Message-----

>>From: Vandebrook, Tom [<mailto:tvbrook@usatoday.com>]

>>Sent: Tuesday, July 03, 2012 2:34 PM

>>To: (b)(6)

>>Subject: IO

>>

>>(b)(6)

>>

>>

>>

>>I've been told that OSD wanted to cancel the IO contract with Leonie

>>but Gen. Allen's staff expressed concern that the other contractors --

>>SOSi and Torres -- could not fill the gap. Is that your understanding?

>>

>>

>>

>>I also understand that Gen. Dempsey has ordered a review of IO. Did he

>>do that because of concerns raised in our stories about IO in general

>>and Leonie specifically.

>>

>>

>>

>>Thanks,

>>

>>

>>

>>Tom

>>

>>

>>

>>Tom Vanden Brook

>>

>>Reporter

>>

>>USA Today

>>

>>703-854-8921 (o)

>>

>>571-235-4792 (m)

>>

>>

>>

>

## LEONIE INDUSTRIES CONTRACT RENEWAL

*On July 2, 2012, the Army exercised the one-year option on Leonie Industries' Afghanistan information operations contract, renewing their services until July 2013. On May 24, 2012, the company revealed that one of their owners engaged in an Internet smear campaign against USA Today journalists Tom Vanden Brook and Ray Locker. The company issued a statement and severed all ties with the individual. USA Today reporters Tom Vanden Brook and Ray Locker, the subjects of the smear campaign, have followed all developments very closely.*

### Key Points

- The Army exercised the one-year option on the Leonie Industries Afghanistan information operations contract on July 2, 2012, extending the company's services until July 2013.
- Information Operations are a critical capability that support our military objectives and counter the information activities of our adversaries who also actively operate within the information space.
- It is the intention of the Department to prepare in advance to re-compete this contract at the end of this option year if the capability is still required.

## **Questions & Answers**

### **Q: Did you exercise the option on Leonie for IO in Afghanistan?**

- Yes, the Army exercised the one year option on July 2, 2012.
- Leonie was eligible for a renewal based upon their successful performance of the initial year of their contract.

### **Q: How much money is being awarded for the one-year extension?**

- The contract will award an additional \$60 million to the company for services in Afghanistan.

### **Q: Given the problems with Leonie outlined by USA Today, why didn't you re-compete the contract?**

- Like any multi-year contract with options that was a consideration, but given the amount of time this would take to re-compete there would have been a significant capabilities gap for our forces in Afghanistan.
- The successful operational performance by Leonie during their initial year was a significant factor in the decision to renew.
- However, it is the intention of the Department to prepare in advance to re-compete this contract at the end of this option year if the capability is still required.

### **Q: Why are you confident that the company won't engage in any misconduct?**

- First and foremost we will appropriately monitor the services provide under this contract and any misconduct will be handle swiftly and in accordance with the law and our regulations.
- The managers and employees working for Leonie in Afghanistan have performed all of their contracted tasks in a satisfactory manner. Leadership in Afghanistan has requested this important capability to support our military objectives and counter the information activities of our adversaries.
- None of the contractors involved in this contract were found to be engaged in any misconduct and the company has dealt with the individual who confessed to conducting these inappropriate activities.



Background:

- **24 May 12 DoD statement:**

*"We were deeply disappointed to read this disclosure from Leonie Industries. Smear campaigns--on-line or anywhere else--are intolerable, and we reject this kind of behavior. The Secretary has directed the Department to review this matter and to take appropriate action."*

- **24 May 12 Leonie statement:**

*When Leonie Industries learned in April of a "misinformation campaign" against two USA Today reporters who had recently reported on the company, Leonie immediately launched an internal investigation to determine whether any employee was involved and Leonie strongly condemned the activity described in the article. In addition, Leonie has since engaged an independent digital forensics firm to augment its internal investigation.*

*To date, the investigation indicates that no Leonie employee was engaged in anonymous online activity directed against the reporters. However, on Sunday, May 20, Leonie's management was informed by Camille Chidiac, who owns a minority interest in Leonie and who was personally referenced in the USA Today coverage, that he was involved in the online activity.*

*In 2008, Mr. Chidiac resigned as an employee of Leonie, and since then, he has not been involved in any way with the operation and management of the company and its contracts. Accordingly, Mr. Chidiac does not have access to Leonie's bank accounts and other financial resources, derived from government contracts or otherwise, and he used non-Leonie funds to participate in the online activity. In addition, Leonie was not aware of and did not authorize Mr. Chidiac's online activity concerning the reporters.*

*Mr. Chidiac is currently in the process of divesting himself of his ownership in the company. In addition, Leonie is in the process of informing government officials of the situation and will continue to work with government officials on this matter.*

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**From:** Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA  
**Sent:** 24 May 2012 13:10:30 -0400  
**To:** Little, George CIV OSD PA  
**Subject:** FW: USA Editor (more info)

(b)(5)

-----Original Message-----

From: Locker, Ray [<mailto:rlocker@usatoday.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:53 PM  
To: Vanden Brook, Tom; Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA  
Subject: RE: Editor

Susan Weiss can be reached at 703-854-5433. Her assistant is Charlene Washington. Their emails are [sweiss@usatoday.com](mailto:sweiss@usatoday.com) and [cdwashington@usatoday.com](mailto:cdwashington@usatoday.com).

Lee Horwich is my direct editor. He is at 703-854-3618. [lhhorwich@usatoday.com](mailto:lhhorwich@usatoday.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Vanden Brook, Tom  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:50 PM  
To: 'Steven.Warren@osd.mil'  
Cc: Locker, Ray  
Subject: Re: Editor

Really? What would he like to say?

Susan Weiss is the editor -- main number is 703-854-3400.

I'm cc'g Ray Locker, too. He may be able to speed things up.

Tom

Tom Vanden Brook  
Reporter  
USA Today  
202-906-8165 (o)  
571-235-4792 (m)

----- Original Message -----

From: Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA (b)(6)  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:46 PM  
To: Vanden Brook, Tom  
Subject: Editor

(b)(5)



(b)(5)

LTC Steven H. Warren  
Military Assistant to  
Asst Sec Def for PA

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**From:** Little, George CIV OSD PA  
**Sent:** 24 May 2012 16:44:20 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Camille Chidiac

(b)(5); (b)(6) Thanks.

----- Original Message -----

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:42 PM  
**To:** Little, George CIV OSD PA  
**Cc:** (b)(6) Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA  
**Subject:** FW: Camille Chidiac

(b)(5); (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Lin Wood [<mailto:lwood@whetrialaw.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:38 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** ed.negrelli@leoniegroupp.com  
**Subject:** Camille Chidiac

Dear (b)(6)

I represent Camille Chidiac in his individual capacity. As you may know Mr. Chidiac is a minority shareholder in Leonie Industries. Mr. Chidiac has asked that I forward to you his statement below regarding the recent revelations related to USA Today. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if I can provide you with any additional information. Here is Mr. Chidiac's statement:

Statement of Camille Chidiac:

"In the wake of recent reporting by USA Today on Information Operations, Leonie Industries generally, and me personally, there was much online criticism of the articles, and of the two USA Today staff members involved: Tom Vanden Brook and Ray Locker. Some of the positive and negative comments made about these two journalists articles were written on blogs that I had registered under my name. I take full responsibility for having some of the discussion forums opened and reproducing their previously published USA Today articles on them. Even though the USA Today articles written about my family included unfair personal attacks and false statements by the reporters, it did not motivate me to post anything personally nor did I encourage anyone to post anything that was untrue or defamatory in any way. The blogs registered under my name were all clearly marked "unofficial fan site(s)", were not "fake websites" and were not intended to "smear", mislead or misinform anyone. Instead, they were intended to create open dialogue in an open forum related to the reporters past articles. Due to the un-moderated nature of the forums, some of these discussions quickly degenerated from legitimate criticism to immature and irrelevant rhetoric by unknown users. Following USA Today's release of a new article falsely claiming a

"smear campaign" had been instituted against its journalists, I had the blogs audited and then removed so that there would be no consequences to Leonie for something I did personally.

Although I own a minority interest in Leonie, I have not been part of its management or day-to-day operations for approximately four years. I acted independently of Leonie Industries and the US Government using only personal funds. My actions should in no way reflect on the honor of Leonie Industries eight years of work serving the military, its hundreds of veteran and civilian employees or the brave work of the US military we support in Afghanistan. I recognize and deeply regret that my actions have caused concerns for Leonie and the US military. This was never my intention. As an immediate corrective action, I am in the process of completely divesting my remaining minority ownership from Leonie."

L. Lin Wood

WOOD, HERNACKI & EVANS, LLC

1180 West Peachtree Street

Suite 2400

Atlanta, GA 30309

Telephone: (404) 891-1402

Direct Dial: (404) 891-1406

Facsimile: (404) 506-9111

E-Mail: lwood@whetrialaw.com <<mailto:lwood@whetrialaw.com>>

NOTICE: This communication may contain privileged or other confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, or believe that you have received this communication in error, please do not print, copy, retransmit, disseminate, or otherwise use the information. Also, please indicate to the sender that you have received this communication in error, and delete the copy you received. Thank you.

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**From:** Little, George CIV OSD PA  
**Sent:** 22 May 2012 23:06:17 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Close of Business Report - 23 May 2012

(b)(5)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 22, 2012 7:06 PM  
**To:** Little, George CIV OSD PA  
**Subject:** Fw: Close of Business Report - 23 May 2012

(b)(5)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 22, 2012 06:52 PM  
**To:** Little, George CIV OSD PA  
**Cc:** Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA; (b)(6)  
Lanza, Stephen R MG USARMY (US); Moynihan, Dennis, RDML CHINFO; Kodlick, Les A Brig Gen  
Mil USAF SAF/PA; (b)(6) (b)(6)

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(b)(6) Nolte, Christy SES USAF SAF/PA; (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6) USTRANSCOM PA; (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)  
USSOUTHCOM/SC-CC (L); (b)(6); (b)(6)  
USSTRATCOM/J020; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6) MLA dd-OASD-PA Press Officers; (b)(6)  
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**Subject:** Close of Business Report - 23 May 2012

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- Deputy Director of Logistics, Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Installations and Mission Support Dee Reardon will discuss the Air Force's strategic logistics priorities during a Joint-Service panel at Defense Strategies Institute's Conference on Logistics and Materiel Readiness in Alexandria, VA. (open press)

FROM THE PRESS CONFERENCE (full transcript:  
<http://www.defense.gov/transcripts/transcript.aspx?transcriptid=5039> )

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**From:** Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA  
**Sent:** 3 Jul 2012 15:48:45 -0400  
**To:** Lettre, Marcel CIV SD (b)(6) Little, George CIV OSD PA; Hawley, Thomas E SES (US)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Kelly, John LtGen SD (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: IO/USA Today inquiry  
**Attachments:** Leonie Industries One-Year Option Exercised 07022012\_jec.doc

Marcel,

(b)(5)

Bryan

On 7/3/12 3:02 PM, "Lettre, Marcel CIV SD" <Marcel.Lettre@sd.mil> wrote:

>Thanks for the SA and adding Jeremy/LtGen Kelly/Jeff for their SA as well  
>given they worked the comms b/t SD and GEN Allen on this.

>

>Do you guys anticipate holding to the posture (b)(6) articulates below?

>Sounds like if we refrain from engaging, Vandebrook will be in the

>general ballpark but may get it slightly wrong re: the rationales for

>USFOR-A support and CJCS review.

>

>-----Original Message-----

>From: Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA (b)(6)

>Sent: Tuesday, July 03, 2012 2:54 PM

>To: (b)(6) Little, George CIV OSD PA; Hawley, Thomas

>E SES (US); Lettre, Marcel CIV SD

>Cc: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

>Subject: Re: IO

>

(b)(5)

>On 7/3/12 2:39 PM, (b)(6) wrote:

(b)(5)

>>-----Original Message-----

>>From: Vandebrook, Tom [<mailto:tvbrook@usatoday.com>]

>>Sent: Tuesday, July 03, 2012 2:34 PM

>>To: (b)(6)

>>Subject: IO

>>

>>(b)(6)

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>I've been told that OSD wanted to cancel the IO contract with Leonie



>>but Gen. Allen's staff expressed concern that the other contractors --  
>>SOSi and Torres -- could not fill the gap. Is that your understanding?  
>>  
>>  
>>  
>>I also understand that Gen. Dempsey has ordered a review of IO. Did he  
>>do that because of concerns raise in our stories about IO in general  
>>and Leonie specifically.  
>>  
>>  
>>  
>>Thanks,  
>>  
>>  
>>  
>>Tom  
>>  
>>  
>>  
>>Tom Vanden Brook  
>>  
>>Reporter  
>>  
>>USA Today  
>>  
>>703-854-8921 (o)  
>>  
>>571-235-4792 (m)  
>>  
>>  
>>  
>

## LEONIE INDUSTRIES CONTRACT RENEWAL

*On July 2, 2012, the Army exercised the one-year option on Leonie Industries' Afghanistan information operations contract, renewing their services until July 2013. On May 24, 2012, the company revealed that one of their owners engaged in an Internet smear campaign against USA Today journalists Tom Vanden Brook and Ray Locker. The company issued a statement and severed all ties with the individual. USA Today reporters Tom Vanden Brook and Ray Locker, the subjects of the smear campaign, have followed all developments very closely.*

### Key Points

- The Army exercised the one-year option on the Leonie Industries Afghanistan information operations contract on July 2, 2012, extending the company's services until July 2013.
- Information Operations are a critical capability that support our military objectives and counter the information activities of our adversaries who also actively operate within the information space.
- It is the intention of the Department to prepare in advance to re-compete this contract at the end of this option year if the capability is still required.

## **Questions & Answers**

### **Q: Did you exercise the option on Leonie for IO in Afghanistan?**

- Yes, the Army exercised the one year option on July 2, 2012.
- Leonie was eligible for a renewal based upon their successful performance of the initial year of their contract.

### **Q: How much money is being awarded for the one-year extension?**

- The contract will award an additional \$60 million to the company for services in Afghanistan.

### **Q: Given the problems with Leonie outlined by USA Today, why didn't you re-compete the contract?**

- Like any multi-year contract with options that was a consideration, but given the amount of time this would take to re-compete there would have been a significant capabilities gap for our forces in Afghanistan.
- The successful operational performance by Leonie during their initial year was a significant factor in the decision to renew.
- However, it is the intention of the Department to prepare in advance to re-compete this contract at the end of this option year if the capability is still required.

### **Q: Why are you confident that the company won't engage in any misconduct?**

- First and foremost we will appropriately monitor the services provide under this contract and any misconduct will be handle swiftly and in accordance with the law and our regulations.
- The managers and employees working for Leonie in Afghanistan have performed all of their contracted tasks in a satisfactory manner. Leadership in Afghanistan has requested this important capability to support our military objectives and counter the information activities of our adversaries.
- None of the contractors involved in this contract were found to be engaged in any misconduct and the company has dealt with the individual who confessed to conducting these inappropriate activities.



Background:

- **24 May 12 DoD statement:**

*"We were deeply disappointed to read this disclosure from Leonie Industries. Smear campaigns--on-line or anywhere else--are intolerable, and we reject this kind of behavior. The Secretary has directed the Department to review this matter and to take appropriate action."*

- **24 May 12 Leonie statement:**

*When Leonie Industries learned in April of a "misinformation campaign" against two USA Today reporters who had recently reported on the company, Leonie immediately launched an internal investigation to determine whether any employee was involved and Leonie strongly condemned the activity described in the article. In addition, Leonie has since engaged an independent digital forensics firm to augment its internal investigation.*

*To date, the investigation indicates that no Leonie employee was engaged in anonymous online activity directed against the reporters. However, on Sunday, May 20, Leonie's management was informed by Camille Chidiac, who owns a minority interest in Leonie and who was personally referenced in the USA Today coverage, that he was involved in the online activity.*

*In 2008, Mr. Chidiac resigned as an employee of Leonie, and since then, he has not been involved in any way with the operation and management of the company and its contracts. Accordingly, Mr. Chidiac does not have access to Leonie's bank accounts and other financial resources, derived from government contracts or otherwise, and he used non-Leonie funds to participate in the online activity. In addition, Leonie was not aware of and did not authorize Mr. Chidiac's online activity concerning the reporters.*

*Mr. Chidiac is currently in the process of divesting himself of his ownership in the company. In addition, Leonie is in the process of informing government officials of the situation and will continue to work with government officials on this matter.*

Non - Responsive - Duplicate

Non - Responsive - Duplicate



Non - Responsive - Duplicate



Non - Responsive - Duplicate

Non - Responsive - Duplicate

Non - Responsive - Duplicate

Non - Responsive - Duplicate

Non - Responsive - Duplicate

Non - Responsive - Duplicate

**From:** Little, George CIV OSD PA  
**Sent:** 24 May 2012 17:17:48 +0000  
**To:** Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA  
**Subject:** Re: USA Editor (more info)

Thanks

(b)(5)



----- Original Message -----

From: Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 01:10 PM  
To: Little, George CIV OSD PA  
Subject: FW: USA Editor (more info)

(b)(5)



-----Original Message-----

From: Locker, Ray [<mailto:rlocker@usatoday.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:53 PM  
To: Vanden Brook, Tom; Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA  
Subject: RE: Editor

Susan Weiss can be reached at 703-854-5433. Her assistant is Charlene Washington. Their emails are [sweiss@usatoday.com](mailto:sweiss@usatoday.com) and [cdwashington@usatoday.com](mailto:cdwashington@usatoday.com).

Lee Horwich is my direct editor. He is at 703-854-3618. [lhorwich@usatoday.com](mailto:lhorwich@usatoday.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Vanden Brook, Tom  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:50 PM  
To: 'Steven.Warren@osd.mil'  
Cc: Locker, Ray  
Subject: Re: Editor

Really? What would he like to say?

Susan Weiss is the editor -- main number is 703-854-3400.

I'm cc'g Ray Locker, too. He may be able to speed things up.

Tom

Tom Vanden Brook  
Reporter

USA Today  
202-906-8165 (o)  
571-235-4792 (m)

----- Original Message -----

From: Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:46 PM

To: Vanden Brook, Tom

Subject: Editor

(b)(5)

LTC Steven H. Warren  
Military Assistant to  
Asst Sec Def for PA

(b)(6)



Non - Responsive - Duplicate

Non - Responsive - Duplicate

Non - Responsive - Duplicate

Non - Responsive - Duplicate

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** 22 May 2012 15:46:10 -0400  
**To:** (b)(6) (b)(6)  
CAPT OSD PA  
**Cc:** Little, George CIV OSD PA; (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: USA Today and MISO

(b)(5)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 22, 2012 2:58 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Little, George CIV OSD PA; (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: USA Today and MISO

I've heard nothing....but then, perhaps Leonie speaks for itself on this....

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 22, 2012 2:54 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Little, George CIV OSD PA; (b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: USA Today and MISO  
**Importance:** High

(b)(6) just got the following:

(b)(5)

--  
(b)(6)

On 5/22/12 2:35 PM, (b)(6)

(b)(6)

wrote:

(b)(5)

>

(b)(6)

Non - Responsive - Duplicate

Non - Responsive - Duplicate



**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** 22 May 2012 18:57:48 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Little, George CIV OSD PA (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: USA Today and MISO

I've heard nothing,...but then, perhaps Leonie speaks for itself on this....

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 22, 2012 2:54 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Little, George CIV OSD PA (b)(6) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: USA Today and MISO  
**Importance:** High

(b)(6) just got the following:

(b)(5)

--  
(b)(6)

On 5/22/12 2:35 PM, (b)(6)  
(b)(6) wrote:  
(b)(5)  
>  
>T, (b)(6)

Non - Responsive - Duplicate

Non - Responsive - Duplicate

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** 22 May 2012 14:53:45 -0400  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Little, George CIV OSD PA (b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: USA Today and MISO  
**Importance:** High

(b)(6) just got the following:

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

On 5/22/12 2:35 PM, (b)(6)  
(b)(6) wrote:

(b)(5)

>  
> (b)(6)

Non - Responsive - Duplicate

Non - Responsive - Duplicate

Non - Responsive - Duplicate

Non - Responsive - Duplicate



**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** 12 Apr 2012 08:13:41 -0400

**To:** Little, George CIV OSD PA

**Cc:** Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA (b)(6)

(b)(6) Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA

**Subject:** FW: Leonie Industries

George,

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

----- Forwarded Message

**From:** (b)(6)

**Date:** Thu, 12 Apr 2012 07:48:08 -0400

**To:** "Jane CAPT OSD PA Campbell," <jane.campbell@osd.mil>

**Subject:** RE: Leonie Industries

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 11, 2012 4:02 PM

**To:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Leonie Industries

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Korte, Gregory [<mailto:gkorte@usatoday.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 3:14 PM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: Leonie Industries

(b)(6)

I've been assigned to look into a possible story about this unusual online campaign against Tom Vanden Brook and Ray Locker, and whether Leonie Industries is involved. I just left you a message on the press office voicemail, but if you get this could you give me a call at your convenience at 703-854-8907?

Gregory

--

Gregory Korte

Washington Bureau

USA TODAY

1575 Eye Street N.W., Suite 350  
Washington, D.C. 20005

(o) 703-854-8907

<http://twitter.com/gregorykorte>

<http://facebook.com/gregorykorte>

----- End of Forwarded Message

**From:** Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA  
**Sent:** 24 May 2012 17:10:30 +0000  
**To:** Little, George CIV OSD PA  
**Subject:** FW: USA Editor (more info)

(b)(5)



-----Original Message-----

From: Locker, Ray [<mailto:rlocker@usatoday.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:53 PM  
To: Vanden Brook, Tom; Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA  
Subject: RE: Editor

Susan Weiss can be reached at 703-854-5433. Her assistant is Charlene Washington. Their emails are [sweiss@usatoday.com](mailto:sweiss@usatoday.com) and [cdwashington@usatoday.com](mailto:cdwashington@usatoday.com).

Lee Horwich is my direct editor. He is at 703-854-3618. [lhhorwich@usatoday.com](mailto:lhhorwich@usatoday.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Vanden Brook, Tom  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:50 PM  
To: 'Steven.Warren@osd.mil'  
Cc: Locker, Ray  
Subject: Re: Editor

Really? What would he like to say?

Susan Weiss is the editor -- main number is 703-854-3400.

I'm cc'g Ray Locker, too. He may be able to speed things up.

Tom

Tom Vanden Brook  
Reporter  
USA Today  
202-906-8165 (o)  
571-235-4792 (m)

----- Original Message -----

From: Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA [<mailto:Steven.Warren@osd.mil>]  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:46 PM  
To: Vanden Brook, Tom  
Subject: Editor

(b)(6)



(b)(5)

A large rectangular area of the document is redacted with a solid gray fill.

LTC Steven H. Warren  
Military Assistant to  
Asst Sec Def for PA

(b)(6)

A rectangular area of the document is redacted with a solid gray fill.



(b)(5)



Tom Vanden Brook, USA Today, plans to run a short story about the lawsuit against Mr. Camille Chidiac, co-owner of Leonie Industries, an IO contractor working for DoD in Afghanistan. Chidiac admitted to a smear campaign against Vanden Brook and Ray Locker earlier in the year. The plaintiff in this case says Chidiac boasted of his smear campaign. Vanden Brook offered an opportunity for DoD comment, which was graciously declined.

(b)(5)



(b)(5)

(b)(5)



LTC Steven H. Warren  
Director, Defense Press Ops

(b)(6)



Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE



**From:** Vanden Brook, Tom  
**Sent:** 24 May 2012 13:15:55 -0400  
**To:** Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA  
**Subject:** Re: Editor

Ahh.

Tom Vanden Brook  
Reporter  
USA Today  
202-906-8165 (o)  
571-235-4792 (m)

----- Original Message -----

From: Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA (b)(6)  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 01:08 PM  
To: Vanden Brook, Tom  
Subject: RE: Editor

(b)(5)

-----Original Message-----

From: Vanden Brook, Tom [<mailto:tvbrook@usatoday.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:50 PM  
To: Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA  
Cc: Locker, Ray  
Subject: Re: Editor

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Tom Vanden Brook  
Reporter  
USA Today  
202-906-8165 (o)  
571-235-4792 (m)

----- Original Message -----

From: Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA (b)(6)  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:46 PM  
To: Vanden Brook, Tom  
Subject: Editor

(b)(5)

LTC Steven H. Warren  
Military Assistant to  
Asst Sec Def for PA

(b)(6)



**From:** Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA  
**Sent:** 24 May 2012 17:09:13 +0000  
**To:** 'Locker, Ray'; Vanden Brook, Tom  
**Subject:** RE: Editor

Thanks Ray. Will call in shortly.

-----Original Message-----

From: Locker, Ray [<mailto:rlocker@usatoday.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:53 PM  
To: Vanden Brook, Tom; Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA  
Subject: RE: Editor

Susan Weiss can be reached at 703-854-5433. Her assistant is Charlene Washington. Their emails are [sweiss@usatoday.com](mailto:sweiss@usatoday.com) and [cdwashington@usatoday.com](mailto:cdwashington@usatoday.com).

Lee Horwich is my direct editor. He is at 703-854-3618. [lhhorwich@usatoday.com](mailto:lhhorwich@usatoday.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Vanden Brook, Tom  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:50 PM  
To: 'Steven.Warren@osd.mil'  
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Reporter  
USA Today  
202-906-8165 (o)  
571-235-4792 (m)

----- Original Message -----

From: Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA (b)(6)  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:46 PM  
To: Vanden Brook, Tom  
Subject: Editor

(b)(5)

LTC Steven H. Warren  
Military Assistant to  
Asst Sec Def for PA

(b)(6)

**From:** Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA  
**Sent:** 24 May 2012 17:08:44 +0000  
**To:** 'Vanden Brook, Tom'  
**Subject:** RE: Editor

(b)(5)

-----Original Message-----

From: Vanden Brook, Tom [<mailto:tvbrook@usatoday.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:50 PM  
To: Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA  
Cc: Locker, Ray  
Subject: Re: Editor

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Tom Vanden Brook  
Reporter  
USA Today  
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571-235-4792 (m)

----- Original Message -----

From: Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA (b)(6)  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:46 PM  
To: Vanden Brook, Tom  
Subject: Editor

(b)(5)

LTC Steven H. Warren  
Military Assistant to  
Asst Sec Def for PA

(b)(6)

**From:** Locker, Ray  
**Sent:** 24 May 2012 12:53:18 -0400  
**To:** Vanden Brook, Tom; Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA  
**Subject:** RE: Editor

Susan Weiss can be reached at 703-854-5433. Her assistant is Charlene Washington. Their emails are sweiss@usatoday.com and cdwashington@usatoday.com.

Lee Horwich is my direct editor. He is at 703-854-3618. lhorwich@usatoday.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Vanden Brook, Tom  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:50 PM  
To: 'Steven.Warren@osd.mil'  
Cc: Locker, Ray  
Subject: Re: Editor

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Tom Vanden Brook  
Reporter  
USA Today  
202-906-8165 (o)  
571-235-4792 (m)

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From: Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA (b)(6)  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:46 PM  
To: Vanden Brook, Tom  
Subject: Editor

(b)(5)

LTC Steven H. Warren  
Military Assistant to  
Asst Sec Def for PA

(b)(6)

**From:** Vanden Brook, Tom  
**Sent:** 24 May 2012 12:49:30 -0400  
**To:** Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA  
**Cc:** Locker, Ray  
**Subject:** Re: Editor

Really? What would he like to say?

Susan Weiss is the editor -- main number is 703-854-3400.

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Tom

Tom Vanden Brook  
Reporter  
USA Today  
202-906-8165 (o)  
571-235-4792 (m)

----- Original Message -----

From: Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA (b)(6)  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:46 PM  
To: Vanden Brook, Tom  
Subject: Editor

(b)(5)

LTC Steven H. Warren  
Military Assistant to  
Asst Sec Def for PA

(b)(6)



**From:** Locker, Ray  
**Sent:** 24 May 2012 13:22:23 -0400  
**To:** Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA; Vanden Brook, Tom  
**Subject:** RE: Editor

You're welcome. Looking forward to hearing more. Thanks.

-----Original Message-----

From: Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA (b)(6)  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 1:09 PM  
To: Locker, Ray; Vanden Brook, Tom  
Subject: RE: Editor

Thanks Ray. Will call in shortly.

-----Original Message-----

From: Locker, Ray [<mailto:rlocker@usatoday.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:53 PM  
To: Vanden Brook, Tom; Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA  
Subject: RE: Editor

Susan Weiss can be reached at 703-854-5433. Her assistant is Charlene Washington. Their emails are [sweiss@usatoday.com](mailto:sweiss@usatoday.com) and [cdwashington@usatoday.com](mailto:cdwashington@usatoday.com).

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USA Today  
202-906-8165 (o)  
571-235-4792 (m)

----- Original Message -----

From: Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA (b)(6)  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:46 PM  
To: Vanden Brook, Tom  
Subject: Editor

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

LTC Steven H. Warren  
Military Assistant to  
Asst Sec Def for PA

(b)(6)



**From:** Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA  
**Sent:** 12 Apr 2012 08:58:22 -0400  
**To:** (b)(6) Little, George CIV OSD PA  
**Cc:** (b)(6) Warren, Steven H  
LTC OSD PA  
**Subject:** Re: Leonie Industries

(b)(5)

On 4/12/12 8:13 AM,  
wrote:

(b)(6)

>George,

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

>----- Forwarded Message

>From: (b)(6)

>Date: Thu, 12 Apr 2012 07:48:08 -0400

>To: (b)(6)

>Subject: RE: Leonie Industries

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

>-----Original Message-----

>From: (b)(6)

>Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 4:02 PM

>To: (b)(6)

>Subject: RE: Leonie Industries

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

>  
(b)(6)

>  
>-----Original Message-----

>From: Korte, Gregory [<mailto:gkorte@usatoday.com>]

>Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 3:14 PM

>To: (b)(6)

>Subject: Leonie Industries

>  
(b)(6)

>

>

>I've been assigned to look into a possible story about this unusual online  
>campaign against Tom Vanden Brook and Ray Locker, and whether Leonie  
>Industries is involved. I just left you a message on the press office  
>voicemail, but if you get this could you give me a call at your  
>convenience  
>at 703-854-8907?

>

>

>

>Gregory.

>

>

>

>—

(b)(5)

**From:** Little, George CIV OSD PA  
**Sent:** 12 Apr 2012 14:05:29 -0400  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA; Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA  
**Subject:** RE: Leonie Industries

That works. Thanks.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 12, 2012 1:45 PM  
**To:** Little, George CIV OSD PA  
**Cc:** (b)(6) Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA; Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA;  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Leonie Industries

George,

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Little, George CIV OSD PA  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 12, 2012 10:38 AM  
**To:** Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA; (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA  
**Subject:** RE: Leonie Industries

(b)(5)

Thanks,  
George

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 12, 2012 8:58 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) Little, George CIV OSD PA  
**Cc:** (b)(6) Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA  
**Subject:** Re: Leonie Industries

(b)(5)

On 4/12/12 8:13 AM, (b)(6)  
wrote:

>George,

>

(b)(5)

>  
(b)(5)

(b)(6)

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>From: (b)(6)

>Date: Thu, 12 Apr 2012 07:48:08 -0400

>To: (b)(6)

>Subject: RE: Leone Industries

>

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

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>-----Original Message-----

>From: (b)(6)

>Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 4:02 PM

>To: (b)(6)

>Subject: RE: Leone Industries

(b)(6)

>

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

>

(b)(6)

>

>-----Original Message-----

>From: Korte, Gregory [<mailto:gkorte@usatoday.com>]

>Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 3:14 PM

>To: (b)(6)

>Subject: Leonie Industries

>

(b)(6)

>

>

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>at 703-854-8907?

>

>

>

>Gregory.

>

>

>

>

>

>Gregory Korte

>

>Washington Bureau

>

>USA TODAY

>

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>(o) 703-854-8907

>

><http://twitter.com/gregorykorte>

>

><http://facebook.com/gregorykorte>

>

>

>

>

>----- End of Forwarded Message  
>

**From:** Little, George CIV OSD PA  
**Sent:** 24 May 2012 13:17:48 -0400  
**To:** Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA  
**Subject:** Re: USA Editor (more info)

Thanks

(b)(5)



----- Original Message -----

From: Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 01:10 PM  
To: Little, George CIV OSD PA  
Subject: FW: USA Editor (more info)

(b)(5)



-----Original Message-----

From: Locker, Ray [<mailto:rlocker@usatoday.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:53 PM  
To: Vanden Brook, Tom; Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA  
Subject: RE: Editor

Susan Weiss can be reached at 703-854-5433. Her assistant is Charlene Washington. Their emails are [sweiss@usatoday.com](mailto:sweiss@usatoday.com) and [cdwashington@usatoday.com](mailto:cdwashington@usatoday.com).

Lee Horwich is my direct editor. He is at 703-854-3618. [lhorwich@usatoday.com](mailto:lhorwich@usatoday.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Vanden Brook, Tom  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:50 PM  
To: 'Steven.Warren@osd.mil'  
Cc: Locker, Ray  
Subject: Re: Editor

Really? What would he like to say?

Susan Weiss is the editor -- main number is 703-854-3400.

I'm cc'g Ray Locker, too. He may be able to speed things up.

Tom

Tom Vanden Brook  
Reporter



USA Today  
202-906-8165 (o)  
571-235-4792 (m)

----- Original Message -----

From: Warren, Steven H LTC OSD PA (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 12:46 PM

To: Vanden Brook, Tom

Subject: Editor

(b)(5)

LTC Steven H. Warren  
Military Assistant to  
Asst Sec Def for PA

(b)(6)

**From:** Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA  
**Sent:** 3 Jul 2012 15:48:45 -0400  
**To:** Lettre, Marcel CIV SD (b)(6); Little, George CIV OSD PA; Hawley, Thomas E SES (US)  
**Cc:** (b)(6); (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Kelly, John LtGen SD; (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: IO/USA Today inquiry  
**Attachments:** Leonie Industries One-Year Option Exercised 07022012\_jec.doc

Marcel,

(b)(5)

Bryan

On 7/3/12 3:02 PM, "Lettre, Marcel CIV SD" <Marcel.Lettre@sd.mil> wrote:

>Thanks for the SA and adding Jeremy/LtGen Kelly/Jeff for their SA as well  
>given they worked the comms b/t SD and GEN Allen on this.

>

>Do you guys anticipate holding to the posture (b)(6) articulates below?

>Sounds like if we refrain from engaging, Vandebrook will be in the

>general ballpark but may get it slightly wrong re: the rationales for

>USFOR-A support and CJCS review.

>

>-----Original Message-----

>From: Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA (b)(6)

>Sent: Tuesday, July 03, 2012 2:54 PM

>To: (b)(6); Little, George CIV OSD PA; Hawley, Thomas

>E SES (US); Lettre, Marcel CIV SD

>Cc: (b)(6); McNally,

>Patrick CDR JCS OCJCS PA

>Subject: Re: IO

(b)(5)

>On 7/3/12 2:39 PM, (b)(6) wrote:

(b)(5)

>>-----Original Message-----

>>From: Vandebrook, Tom [<mailto:tvbrook@usatoday.com>]

>>Sent: Tuesday, July 03, 2012 2:34 PM

>>To: (b)(6)

>>Subject: IO

>>

>> (b)(6)

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>I've been told that OSD wanted to cancel the IO contract with Leonie

(b)(6)

>>but Gen. Allen's staff expressed concern that the other contractors --  
>>SOSi and Torres -- could not fill the gap. Is that your understanding?  
>>  
>>  
>>  
>>I also understand that Gen. Dempsey has ordered a review of IO. Did he  
>>do that because of concerns raised in our stories about IO in general  
>>and Leonie specifically.  
>>  
>>  
>>  
>>Thanks,  
>>  
>>  
>>  
>>Tom  
>>  
>>  
>>  
>>Tom Vanden Brook  
>>  
>>Reporter  
>>  
>>USA Today  
>>  
>>703-854-8921 (o)  
>>  
>>571-235-4792 (m)  
>>  
>>  
>>  
>

## LEONIE INDUSTRIES CONTRACT RENEWAL

*On July 2, 2012, the Army exercised the one-year option on Leonie Industries' Afghanistan information operations contract, renewing their services until July 2013. On May 24, 2012, the company revealed that one of their owners engaged in an Internet smear campaign against USA Today journalists Tom Vanden Brook and Ray Locker. The company issued a statement and severed all ties with the individual. USA Today reporters Tom Vanden Brook and Ray Locker, the subjects of the smear campaign, have followed all developments very closely.*

### Key Points

- The Army exercised the one-year option on the Leonie Industries Afghanistan information operations contract on July 2, 2012, extending the company's services until July 2013.
- Information Operations are a critical capability that support our military objectives and counter the information activities of our adversaries who also actively operate within the information space.
- It is the intention of the Department to prepare in advance to re-compete this contract at the end of this option year if the capability is still required.

## **Questions & Answers**

### **Q: Did you exercise the option on Leonie for IO in Afghanistan?**

- Yes, the Army exercised the one year option on July 2, 2012.
- Leonie was eligible for a renewal based upon their successful performance of the initial year of their contract.

### **Q: How much money is being awarded for the one-year extension?**

- The contract will award an additional \$60 million to the company for services in Afghanistan.

### **Q: Given the problems with Leonie outlined by USA Today, why didn't you re-compete the contract?**

- Like any multi-year contract with options that was a consideration, but given the amount of time this would take to re-compete there would have been a significant capabilities gap for our forces in Afghanistan.
- The successful operational performance by Leonie during their initial year was a significant factor in the decision to renew.
- However, it is the intention of the Department to prepare in advance to re-compete this contract at the end of this option year if the capability is still required.

### **Q: Why are you confident that the company won't engage in any misconduct?**

- First and foremost we will appropriately monitor the services provide under this contract and any misconduct will be handle swiftly and in accordance with the law and our regulations.
- The managers and employees working for Leonie in Afghanistan have performed all of their contracted tasks in a satisfactory manner. Leadership in Afghanistan has requested this important capability to support our military objectives and counter the information activities of our adversaries.
- None of the contractors involved in this contract were found to be engaged in any misconduct and the company has dealt with the individual who confessed to conducting these inappropriate activities.



Background:

- **24 May 12 DoD statement:**

*"We were deeply disappointed to read this disclosure from Leonie Industries. Smear campaigns--on-line or anywhere else--are intolerable, and we reject this kind of behavior. The Secretary has directed the Department to review this matter and to take appropriate action."*

- **24 May 12 Leonie statement:**

*When Leonie Industries learned in April of a "misinformation campaign" against two USA Today reporters who had recently reported on the company, Leonie immediately launched an internal investigation to determine whether any employee was involved and Leonie strongly condemned the activity described in the article. In addition, Leonie has since engaged an independent digital forensics firm to augment its internal investigation.*

*To date, the investigation indicates that no Leonie employee was engaged in anonymous online activity directed against the reporters. However, on Sunday, May 20, Leonie's management was informed by Camille Chidiac, who owns a minority interest in Leonie and who was personally referenced in the USA Today coverage, that he was involved in the online activity.*

*In 2008, Mr. Chidiac resigned as an employee of Leonie, and since then, he has not been involved in any way with the operation and management of the company and its contracts. Accordingly, Mr. Chidiac does not have access to Leonie's bank accounts and other financial resources, derived from government contracts or otherwise, and he used non-Leonie funds to participate in the online activity. In addition, Leonie was not aware of and did not authorize Mr. Chidiac's online activity concerning the reporters.*

*Mr. Chidiac is currently in the process of divesting himself of his ownership in the company. In addition, Leonie is in the process of informing government officials of the situation and will continue to work with government officials on this matter.*

Non - Responsive - Duplicate

Non - Responsive - Duplicate



Non - Responsive - Duplicate

**From:** Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA  
**Sent:** 29 Feb 2012 12:05:18 -0500  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: USA Today article - Information Operations

(b)(5)

On 2/29/12 11:36 AM, (b)(6)

(b)(6) wrote:

> Hello Sir,  
>  
> I hope you are well.  
>  
> Interesting piece below which I'm sure you've perused. Does it concern you  
> a bit that Flag level PA officers are commenting on their management of IO  
> programs which clearly have the intent to influence?  
>  
> VR,  
>  
> Jeremy  
>  
>  
> USA Today  
> February 29, 2012  
> Pg. 1  
>  
> Cover story  
>  
> A Dubious, Costly Effort To Win Hearts And Minds  
>  
> 'Info ops' programs in Iraq, Afghanistan are loosely run  
>  
> By Tom Vanden Brook and Ray Locker  
>  
> WASHINGTON -- As the Pentagon has sought to sell wars in Iraq and  
> Afghanistan to often-hostile populations there, it has spent hundreds of  
> millions of dollars on poorly tracked marketing and propaganda campaigns  
> that military leaders like to call "information operations," the modern  
> equivalent of psychological warfare.  
>  
> From 2005 to 2009, such spending rose from \$9 million to \$580 million a year  
> mostly in Iraq and Afghanistan, Pentagon and congressional records show.  
> Last year, spending dropped to \$202 million as the Iraq War wrapped up. A  
> USA TODAY investigation, based on dozens of interviews and a series of  
> internal military reports, shows that Pentagon officials have little proof  
> the programs work and they won't make public where the money goes. In Iraq  
> alone, more than \$173 million was paid to what were identified only as  
> "miscellaneous foreign contractors."  
>  
> "What we do as I.O. is almost gimmicky," says Army Col. Paul Yingling, who  
> served three tours in Iraq between 2003 and 2009, including as an  
> information operations specialist. "Doing posters, fliers or radio ads.  
> These things are unserious."

- >
- > Indeed, information operations are no panacea in crises such as the current
- > showdown in Afghanistan after revelations that U.S. forces burned copies of
- > the Quran, the Islamic holy book. NATO and Afghan forces have had little
- > success in calming the country after a week of riots, attacks on U.S. and
- > NATO forces and even a suicide car bombing.
- >
- > The Pentagon's counterinsurgency manual -- the guide to U.S. military policy
- > in Afghanistan -- urges commanders to "aggressively use" information
- > operations to win over local populations and to "admit mistakes (or actions
- > perceived as mistakes) quickly."
- >
- > President Obama has apologized to Afghan President Hamid Karzai, and Gen.
- > Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has called the Quran
- > burning a mistake. While the riots have subsided, it's unclear whether even
- > the best information operations program could have stopped the growing rage
- > over this incident.
- >
- > As to whether the hundreds of millions of dollars spent in Afghanistan and
- > Iraq have been worth the U.S. investment, the USA TODAY investigation found:
- >
- > \*The Pentagon's top information operations contractor in Afghanistan,
- > California-based Leonie Industries, was started in 2004 by a
- > brother-and-sister pair with no apparent experience working with the
- > military. Camille Chidiac and Rema Dupont have more than \$4 million in liens
- > on their homes and property for failure to pay federal income taxes. Leonie
- > Industries has Army contracts that could surpass \$130 million; the Army has
- > already paid them more than \$90 million.
- >
- > \*Contractors like Leonie plant unattributed broadcasts, plaster the
- > countryside in war zones with billboards, stage concerts and drop leaflets
- > with the intent of bending the will of civilians and combatants to U.S.
- > aims. Contracts show that the companies often measure the effects of the
- > propaganda they produce, essentially grading their own work, although the
- > military reviews the metrics.
- >
- > \*In Afghanistan, the Pentagon continues to create at least 11 hours a day of
- > what it calls "unattributed" radio and television programming. Information
- > operators seek to tell Afghans who their real enemies are, why Taliban
- > propaganda was wrong, what the Afghan government is accomplishing, how
- > non-governmental organizations are helping them, and why they should serve
- > in the security forces. Whether that's all worthwhile is open to debate.
- >
- > Karl Eikenberry, the former U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan and a retired
- > Army three-star general who led forces there, wrote the State Department in
- > July 2009 to say that information operations campaigns that "focus
- > predominantly on negative enemy operations may be counterproductive" because
- > they emphasize the Taliban's success, scare the Afghan people and show that
- > the Afghan government can't protect them.
- >
- > In response to questions from USA TODAY, a senior Pentagon official
- > acknowledged there have been abuses involving the program. "There has been
- > such a desperate need to address communications vacuums that sometimes there
- > has not been the proper coordination between thinking ahead what the mission
- > is and the money that you apply to it," said the official familiar with the
- > program who insisted on remaining anonymous to speak candidly.

>

> Information operations have borne fruit in the months prior to the Quran  
> incident, says Rear Adm. Hal Pittman who recently completed a tour in  
> Afghanistan overseeing them. He pointed to surveys showing 90% of Afghans  
> view their Army positively and 80% approve of national police.

>

> "That's kind of the best measure of the effectiveness of whether or not  
> these communication programs that we have in place are able to move the  
> needle, so to speak," Pittman says.

>

> There is little way for anyone without a secret or top secret security  
> clearance to know how well the programs are working in places such as  
> Afghanistan. A Pentagon inspector general report on information operations  
> produced last March is classified.

>

> Leonie Industries

>

> From the beginning of the Pentagon's information operations programs,  
> military leaders have called for a dedicated career force specializing in  
> that work. That need was detailed in a November 2005 Pentagon directive. By  
> January 2011, little had happened, and then-Defense secretary Robert Gates  
> repeated that desire in another military-wide memorandum.

>

> "In their communications with me, Combatant Commanders continue to stress  
> the lack of adequately trained I.O. personnel," Gates wrote. "It is  
> imperative to recruit, train, educate and properly track these individuals  
> in order to provide the best possible resources to the war-fighter."

>

> Untested was a fair description of Camille Chidiac, who's now 37, and Rema  
> Dupont, now 46, when they started Leonie Industries in August 2004. Chidiac  
> worked as an assistant director on a series of low-budget, direct-to-video  
> movies, while his sister Dupont had been in the advertising business.  
> Chidiac and Dupont declined requests for interviews, instead delegating a  
> lawyer and spokesmen to answer questions from USA TODAY.

>

> Dupont and Chidiac's first known military work came as part of a team of  
> subcontractors working for SYColeman, a Virginia-based company running the  
> Iraqi adviser task force (IQATF), which recruited local Iraqis and exiles to  
> help spread pro-U.S. and coalition messages among the Iraqi public and share  
> information with the military, according to Dupont and documents filed in  
> two federal lawsuits.

>

> By 2006, Chidiac and Dupont had each bought homes worth more than \$2 million  
> on the west side of Los Angeles. They also fell behind on their federal  
> income taxes, according to IRS and California real estate records. By early  
> 2011, liens for more than \$4 million in unpaid federal taxes had been placed  
> on both of their homes.

>

> Both Chidiac and Dupont, through spokesmen, said they were in the process of  
> repaying their back taxes and that their failure to pay their federal taxes  
> for 2004, 2005 and 2006 stemmed from the difficulties surrounding the  
> startup of a new business and payment problems involving their business  
> partners.

>

> Their failure to pay taxes shows the lack of accountability in Pentagon  
> contracting, said Rep. John Tierney of Massachusetts, the ranking Democrat

> on the National Security oversight subcommittee, on Tuesday. "This must be  
> fully investigated," he said, adding that "families and businesses are too  
> pressed at home to have contracts rewarded to tax dodgers."  
>  
> The Army, which has granted Leonie at least \$120 million in contracts in  
> recent years, has both chided and praised the company for its work. Its  
> employees have received commendations from the Army, and an Army contracting  
> officer has given the company overall good grades, according to documents.  
>  
> However, the Army also has had problems with Leonie Industries in  
> Afghanistan. The company did not pay for heat for its Afghan employees or  
> provide for their medical care in the cold and increasingly dangerous war  
> zone. Army records obtained through the federal Freedom of Information Act  
> reveal that the Army threatened to drop Leonie's contract unless it fixed  
> the problems, which the company eventually did.  
>  
> "This failure to pay local Afghan vendors puts the mission and your  
> employees at risk," Barbara Voss, an Army contracting officer wrote Leonie  
> officials on Nov. 25, 2009.  
>  
> Leonie responded, and the government was satisfied. Since then, Voss has  
> filed reports saying Leonie Industries' "performance and product is (sic)  
> highly valued by the customer," according a July 2011 assessment.  
>  
> More money, more scrutiny  
>  
> The Army defines information operations to include psychological operations,  
> deception, protecting vital data, electronic warfare, and computer network  
> defense and attack. Over the past four years, the military has spent an  
> average of \$96 million annually for information operations in Afghanistan.  
> Overall, spending peaked in 2009 at \$580 million, dropped to \$355 million in  
> 2011 and \$202 million in 2012, Pentagon data show.  
>  
> Psychological operations, rebranded Military Information Support Operations  
> in 2010, have accounted for the bulk of the spending increases since 2005,  
> according to the Pentagon. It has also attracted congressional scrutiny.  
>  
> In the federal spending bill for 2012 passed in December, Congress told the  
> Pentagon it needed to detail the various information operations program it  
> had and how much money it wanted to spend on them. That's been a problem for  
> the Pentagon from the beginning.  
>  
> "The Department can not currently identify what is spent on I.O. or even on  
> specific core capabilities," said the Pentagon's October 2003 Information  
> Operations Roadmap.  
>  
> Authorized by then-Defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld, the plan was meant to  
> guide the military's far-flung set of information operations programs across  
> the globe. But an analysis of Pentagon spending shows that hasn't happened.  
>  
> Money for the programs comes from a series of difficult-to-track accounts  
> and goes to contractors whose identities are shielded from the U.S. public  
> and who are known to only a small group of Pentagon insiders.  
>  
> For example, the Pentagon used 172 different "contract vehicles" to provide  
> information operations in Iraq between 2006 and 2008, according to a report

- > by the Defense Department's inspector general in September 2009. The total
- > spent was \$270 million. One payment of \$34.5 million in September 2008 was
- > for a strategic media campaign. No documents could be found to show where
- > the money was spent, who spent it and whether it accomplished the military's
- > objectives.
- >
- > Military officials acknowledge that spending has grown -- "exponentially"
- > for some information operations -- at times without adequate oversight,
- > though they maintain that has changed.
- >
- > "The reason there has been growth is because the commanders in the field
- > have realized, 'Holy cow, we've got to operate in this space,' " said a
- > second senior Pentagon official who spoke on condition of anonymity. "How do
- > we do translations? How do we do assessments? How do we do polling and focus
- > groups? How do we gauge whether we're being effective or not, and how do we
- > evaluate that? And then use that data to calibrate our continued
- > engagement."
- >
- > Selling virtues instead of products
- >
- > Information operations work like most giant marketing campaigns, as they use
- > a combination of radio and TV broadcasts, leaflets, newspapers and
- > entertainment to drive home their message. Instead of selling soap or
- > cereal, information operators are selling Iraqi or Afghan citizens on the
- > virtues of their governments, the need to report roadside bombs or how to
- > switch sides from the insurgency to the government.
- >
- > U.S. military and government reports obtained by WikiLeaks show that
- > information operations campaigns often work in coordination with
- > intelligence operations. After improvised explosive device (IED) explosions
- > or sniper attacks, reports show, information operators would flood an area
- > with anti-insurgent messages while intelligence operatives would fan into
- > neighborhoods to gather information.
- >
- > After an attack on a military convoy in Iraq in April 2009, Iraqis were told
- > by information operators that "the true enemies of your nation are the
- > criminals that continue to attack the brave security forces and soldiers
- > protecting you and your families," a military report obtained via WikiLeaks
- > shows. The message also asked citizens to call a tip line to report "any
- > information that can lead to the arrest and conviction of these criminals."
- >
- > In Afghanistan, information operations campaigns are often used to bolster
- > local officials, who are viewed with suspicion by many Afghans because of
- > their ties to corruption. A Feb. 10, 2010, cable from then-ambassador
- > Eikenberry recounted a meeting between State Department and military
- > officials with Abdul Raziq, an Afghan border police official.
- >
- > Raziq, Eikenberry wrote, said he wanted to improve conditions on the
- > Afghan-Pakistani border in Kandahar province and fight corruption. Coalition
- > officials proposed a campaign including local radio spots, billboards and
- > "if credible, the longer-term encouragement of stories in the international
- > media on the 'reform' of Raziq, the so-called 'Master of Spin.' "
- >
- > Retired rear admiral Greg Smith, who oversaw all communications programs in
- > Afghanistan from 2009 to 2011 and prior to that in Iraq, says commanders
- > have the resources they need to "put out product, real time," either on



- > their own or through a contractor. They then pay Afghan media outlets to
- > deliver the message, he says.
- >
- > In 2011, Pittman succeeded Smith and acknowledged that linking changes in
- > behavior to a specific radio, TV or leaflet campaign has been difficult. But
- > it has improved in the past seven months, he says. Contractors poll 13,000
- > Afghans from across the country every three months, and military officials
- > analyze the results, he says.
- >
- > "It's still difficult because communications is not cause and effect,"
- > Pittman says. "Considering that a tremendous amount of developmental work
- > has been done to create measures of effectiveness that actually measure the
- > efforts and can show an impact through polling."
- >
- > Contract documents for at least a dozen information operations programs
- > reviewed by USA TODAY show that the successful performance of a contract is
- > measured more by output than effectiveness.
- >
- > "How many messages were produced, how many leaflets were distributed?"
- > Yingling says. "Those are variables that we can turn up and down with money.
- > But that doesn't measure anything in the host-nation culture."
- >
- > If the government does try to see whether a campaign actually works,
- > military contract records show, it usually relies on the contractor to
- > review itself, which is an inherent conflict of interest.
- >
- > Yingling learned as a battalion commander in Iraq that the most effective
- > information operations is identifying key community leaders and convincing
- > them that they and the United States have shared interests. He cites Col.
- > H.R. McMaster's work in 2005 taming Tal Afar, the northern Iraqi city that
- > served as an early example of an effective counterinsurgency strategy.
- >
- > "We're paying a lot of money to contractors to plant or get stories into the
- > news, or influence local broadcasts," Yingling says. "Is that how critical
- > decision makers (among the Iraqi or Afghan populations) are making their
- > decisions? No."
- >
- > Hiding the messenger
- >
- > Although hundreds of millions of U.S. taxpayer dollars have been spent on
- > information operations, the hand of the United States is rarely apparent.
- > And that's how the Pentagon wants it.
- >
- > In Afghanistan, the military is "cranking out over 1,000 hours of TV and
- > radio programming each quarter in both attributed and unattributed fashion,"
- > according to an April newsletter published by the command in Kabul.
- > "Unattributed -- meaning that some of our message can't be traced to the
- > coalition, hence no preconceived prejudices resonate with the populace."
- >
- > J.P. Morgan, the senior information operations adviser, wrote that the
- > military also sponsored "many billboards across Afghanistan as well as
- > posters" and "The Psyop Radio Network."
- >
- > "The honest truth is that because we are outsiders and not Muslim, we have a
- > lower believability and credibility rating than people within the Afghan
- > government or Afghans," Pittman says. If possible, he says, the military

> prefers to send messages through Afghans or non-governmental organizations  
> that work in Afghanistan.  
>  
> Beyond leaflets and radio and TV shows, the military also pays for concerts  
> to welcome home Afghan security forces from deployments, says Mike Holmes, a  
> former Army information operations officer who helped plan the performances.  
> The military picked performers who would sing nationalist themes to help  
> build morale.  
>  
> "We didn't lie," Holmes says. "We didn't say it was an Afghan production.  
> But we didn't play it up as the brainchild of a couple of Americans sitting  
> in an office somewhere."  
>  
> Smith says the military generally produces the scripts for messages and  
> manages the operation, but contractors produce the finished radio or  
> television spots.  
>  
> He estimates that 70% of the spots are broadcast on radio, 25% on television  
> and the rest in print. While the messages come from the U.S. military, the  
> voices that deliver them do not, Smith says.  
>  
> "All of the voices, if you will, are local voices," he says. "There was  
> never, as I recall, anything other than a local voice, somebody who people  
> knew. They're hearing somebody they know and trust."  
>  
> \*\*\*  
>  
> An 'Iraq Star' in the making  
>  
> In 2008, information operations sought to co-opt Iraq Star, a hit television  
> show patterned after American Idol, to put out pro-Iraqi-government  
> messages, according to a presentation obtained by USA TODAY.  
>  
> Military officials proposed options ranging from \$300,000 to \$24 million to  
> help support "a regional television production that celebrates the rich  
> diversity of Iraq, builds hope and unity, and demonstrates normalcy here."  
> Iraq Star, the proposal noted, had received extensive attention in Arab and  
> Western media, including The Washington Post, USA TODAY and Time magazine.  
>  
> The military command in Iraq "has the opportunity to sponsor the program  
> with (information operations) messaging for about \$300,000." For \$400,000  
> more, the military could have chosen its own contractor to produce the  
> program, while \$24 million would have built a studio in Baghdad and allowed  
> for "private transportation for celebrity stars in and out of Iraq for all  
> prime-time broadcasts."  
>  
> Ultimately, the proposals were deemed too costly, said a source familiar  
> with the project who talked about it on condition of anonymity because he  
> works in the field.