

ORIGINAL

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA DIVISION

NOV 10 2005

LUTHER D. THOMAS, Clerk
By: *[Signature]* Deputy Clerk

SEALED

Plaintiffs

v.

SEALED

Defendants.

Civil Action File

No.: 1:05-CV-2893

JURY TRIAL
DEMANDED

[Stamp]

SEALED COMPLAINT PURSUANT TO 31 U.S.C.A. § 3730(b)(2)

Pursuant to 31 U.S.C.A. § 3730(b)(2), this Complaint is to be filed in camera and shall remain under seal and shall not be served upon Defendants until so ordered by this Honorable Court.

Additionally, pursuant to the terms of Standing Order 04-01 (III)(A), no Notice of Manual Filing is required and this Complaint shall not be accessible on the ECF system.

Respectfully submitted this 9th day of November, 2005

[Signature]
Lee Tarte Wallace
Georgia Bar No.: 698320

FORMS RECEIVED
Consent To US Mag.
Pretrial Instructions
Time VLN NTC
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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA *ex rel.*
HENRY W. "BUSTER" RODERIGAS, Jr.,
AND HENRY W. "BUSTER" RODERIGAS,
INDIVIDUALLY,

Plaintiffs

v.

L-3 VERTEX AEROSPACE, LLC, f/k/a
VERTEX AEROSPACE, INC.,
L-3 COMMUNICATIONS INTEGRATED
SYSTEMS, LP and
L-3 COMMUNICATIONS HOLDINGS, INC.

Defendants.

Civil Action File

No.: _____

JURY TRIAL
DEMANDED

COMPLAINT

COMES NOW, the United States of America, ex rel., Henry W. "Buster" Roderigas, Jr., and Henry W. Roderigas, Jr., individually, and files this Complaint showing this Honorable Court as follows:

PARTIES, JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1.

This is an action by the United States, ex rel., Henry W. "Buster" Roderigas, against Defendants L-3 Vertex Aerospace, LLC, L-3 Communications Integrated

Systems, LP, and L-3 Communications Holdings, Inc., pursuant to the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C.A. § 3729, *et seq.*

2.

Plaintiff-Relator, Henry W. "Buster" Roderigas is a citizen of the United States of America and resident of Barrow County, Georgia.

3.

Defendant L-3 Vertex Aerospace, LLC, is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 8001 Mid American Blvd., Suite 500, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73135, and is registered to do business in the state of Georgia. L-3 Vertex Aerospace, LLC, may be served through its registered agent, CT Corporation System – 1201 Peachtree Street – Atlanta, GA 30361. Upon proper service of the Summons and Complaint, L-3 Vertex Aerospace, LLC, will be subject to the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court.

4.

Defendant L-3 Communications Integrated Systems, LP, is a Delaware limited partnership with its principal place of business at 10001 Jack Finney Boulevard – Greenville, TX 75402, and is registered to do business in the state of Georgia. L-3 Communications Integrated Systems, LP, may be served through its registered agent, CT Corporation System – 1201 Peachtree Street – Atlanta, GA

30361. Upon proper service of the Summons and Complaint, L-3 Communications Integrated Systems, LP, will be subject to the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court.

5.

Defendant L-3 Communications Holdings, Inc., is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 600 Third Avenue – 34th Floor – New York, NY 10016, and is registered to do business in the state of Georgia. L-3 Communications Holdings, Inc., may be served through its registered agent, CT Corporation System – 1201 Peachtree Street – Atlanta, GA 30361. Upon proper service of the Summons and Complaint, L-3 Communications Holdings, Inc., will be subject to the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court.

6.

Upon information and belief, L-3 Vertex Aerospace, LLC, is a subsidiary of L-3 Communications Integrated Systems, LP, which is a division of L-3 Communications Corporation. All three (3) entities share common ownership and executive management. L-3 Vertex Aerospace, LLC, L-3 Communications Integrated Systems, LP, and L-3 Communications Holdings, Inc., are hereafter collectively referred to as “L-3.”

7.

Defendants are subject to federal question jurisdiction in this Court under 31 U.S.C. §§ 3729 and 3730, and other relevant federal statutes.

8.

Defendants (collectively, "L-3") are subject to jurisdiction and venue in this Court where "one defendant can be found, resides, transacts business, or in which any act proscribed by section 3729 occurred."¹ Accordingly, jurisdiction is appropriate in the Northern District of Georgia because, among other reasons, contracting activity relevant to this matter occurred at FORSCOM Headquarters at Ft. McPherson in Atlanta, Georgia. Additionally, L-3 regularly transacts business in the Northern District of Georgia, and has a 93,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility located at 1355 Bluegrass Lakes Parkway in Alpharetta, GA 30004, which is in the Northern District of Georgia.

SUMMARY OF FACTS

9.

L-3 is under contract with the U.S. Army's Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM) to conduct helicopter maintenance, in theater, in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Federal contract number is believed to be F34601-97-D-0425, and the relevant work order is believed to be 3222475L.

10.

Roderigas is an aircraft mechanic, licensed and certified by the Federal Aviation Administration.

¹ 31 U.S.C.A. § 3732.

11.

Plaintiff-Relator Roderigas was an L-3 employee assigned to support U.S. operations in Taji, Iraq, under an employment contract lasting from November 1, 2004, through October 31, 2005. Plaintiff actually worked for L-3 from November 2004 to July 2005. He submitted his resignation to L-3 on July 19, 2005, and returned to the United States. At L-3's request, he briefly returned to the theater in September 2005. L-3 constructively discharged Roderigas.

FALSIFICATION OF TIMESHEETS TO INFLATE BILLS FOR SERVICES PERFORMED IN IRAQ

12.

Defendants and/or their agents instructed their employees to record twelve (12) hours on their timesheets each day, even though the site practice was to work ten (10) to ten and one half (10 ½) hours per day, beginning at 0700 and ending at 1830 or 1900, with an hour and a half break for lunch.

13.

L-3 issued a document instructing employees to fill out their timesheets so as to show they took a thirty-minute lunch, but to actually take an hour-and-a-half lunch. See Shift description, attached as Exhibit 1 (exhibits are attached to the Statement of Relator-Plaintiff Roderigas).

14.

When Plaintiff-Relator arrived at the Taji site, he filled out his first timesheet, and showed he had worked ten or ten and one half hours each day. L-3 returned Roderigas' timesheet to him, and instructed him to change his timesheet to show that he had worked twelve (12) hours each day that week. When Plaintiff-Relator questioned the practice, his team lead, G., told that the Army had approved it. Roderigas was told that the practice had been followed for the entire year before Roderigas arrived in Iraq.

15.

In September 2005, S.W., a senior level L-3 employee in Kuwait, and L-3 Human Resources employee J.H., met with Relator Roderigas in Kuwait. S.W. and J.H. admitted that an internal company investigation had uncovered the fact that timesheets had been falsified.

16.

In the Kuwait conversation, J.H. stated that the Army had not approved the practice of filling out timesheets to show employees as working more hours per day than they actually worked, and that the Army would not have done so. J.H. stated that such a practice would have had to be approved by the Department of Defense's contractual office, and that no such approval had been given.

17.

J.H. informed Relator that the fraud had amounted to 200 hours per person, for 150 people, or approximately \$750,000.

18.

Roderigas informed J.H. and S.W. that the correct figure would far exceed 200 hours for 150 people, as every employee at the Taji site had been ordered to add at least an hour and a half to his or her timesheet every day. Roderigas informed J.H. and S.W. that he had received oral reports that the overstatement of time on timesheets had predated Roderigas' nine-month tenure in Taji by at least one year. Roderigas confirmed this information and supplied the name and offered the email address of the person who could confirm the duration of the problem, in a 9/10/05 email to J.H. attached as Exhibit 2.

19.

In addition to the regular falsification of timesheets, Taji Site Supervisor, E.F., sometimes allowed and instructed employees to take hours or days off, but he instructed them to adjust their timesheets to show they had worked the full 12 hours each day.

20.

L-3 employees at Taji were expected to work seven days a week, 365 days a year. Once employees had worked 48 hours in a week, additional hours were paid at time and a half.

21.

Even without the extra hour and a half per day that was falsified on the timesheets, L-3's employees worked 73.5 hours each week, and thus were on overtime status every week. Because employees already were in overtime mode, the falsified hours on their timesheets were paid at time and a half, thereby magnifying the damage to the government.

22.

According to a current L-3 employee, the practice of falsifying timesheets at Taji continues. See 9/25/05 email from (name withheld) to Roderigas, attached as Exhibit 3.

**SUBMISSION OF INVOICES FOR SERVICES BY PERSONNEL KNOWN
TO BE UNQUALIFIED FOR SPECIALIZED POSITIONS THAT
RESULTED IN OVERPAYMENTS BY THE GOVERNMENT AND
SUBSTANTIVE RISK OF HARM TO AMERICAN MILITARY
PERSONNEL**

23.

L-3 frequently hired and/or assigned people who were known to L-3 to be unqualified to do the specialized and/or highly technical jobs L-3 had contracted to do for the government.

24.

L-3's use of unqualified personnel caused damage to Army equipment and put the lives of American soldiers at risk.

25.

Examples of problems created by L-3's use of unqualified employees include, but are not limited to, the following:

a.

In approximately March 2005, the guns jammed in combat on an Apache helicopter being used by the 3rd Infantry Division. L-3 had serviced the aircraft and performed maintenance on related systems which may have caused the guns to fail. The helicopter was shot down by a rocket-propelled grenade and the servicemen aboard were killed. On information and belief, some of the L-3 employees who were to service the aircraft were unqualified for their positions and the aircraft's

systems failed as a result. See 7/14/05 Sample Discrepancy Sheet for 269, attached as Exhibit 4.

b.

On a CH-47 Chinook helicopter, L-3 employees were charged with completing the phase inspection and maintenance. The L-3 employees forgot to pull the rigging pins out of the aircraft after their inspection. When the helicopter was powered up, damage was caused to the flight control system, causing extensive damage requiring repairs estimated to cost between \$80,000 and \$100,000, to the aircraft.

c.

In another incident, L-3 was charged with doing repairs to the tail rotor gear box on an Apache helicopter. The L-3 employees left a bushing out during a phase inspection. The mistake was spotted by an Army inspector. Had the mistake not been detected, it could have caused a failure of the tail rotor system, and the Army personnel operating the helicopter could have been killed as a result.

d.

An L-3 employee named "A." left a spring scale in the flight controls of an Army helicopter. Another L-3 employee named "G." failed to detect the scale when he performed a foreign object damage inspection of the aircraft. After flying a combat mission over Baghdad, the spring scale was discovered

during a post-flight procedure by the crew chief. The Army Technical Inspector asked that A. be removed from the team. L-3 asked A. to resign, but G.F. informed him beforehand that they intended to rehire him.

e.

The Army requested that L-3 send Apache-qualified ("AH-64") mechanics for a critical front-line assignment working on Longbow Apache helicopters. The Army specifically requested that one particular mechanic, E.M., not be given the assignment, because they believed that mechanic was unqualified and had done a poor job for them on a previous occasion. L-3 sent 6 mechanics who were known to be unqualified. Two of these six had never worked on an Apache helicopter before, and another four had little experience with the aircraft. Three quit shortly after getting the assignment. A fifth was actually on an extended medical leave at the time he was given the assignment, and L-3 knew the man could not actually serve. See collection of emails, attached as Exhibit 5. As a replacement, L-3 sent E.M., the very employee whom the Army had specifically requested not get the assignment.

f.

E.F. explicitly acknowledged that the person he was sending to lead the team was not even qualified to work on Apache 64 helicopters: "I have no use for this Team Leader and he can only work on UH-60's"; and "He insists on only working

with UH-60's so he is of no assistance to me at all for Taji." See 7/2/05 email, in collection attached as Exhibit 5. E.F. also admitted: "Of course, I am not sending the most stellar employees, such as I did not receive the most stellar employees from the ACR. None of us need to set each other up for failure." See 7/13/05 email from E.F. to S.W. and R.G., in Exhibit 5.

g.

L-3 employee S.P. acknowledged that when his team and he checked engines on a 500-hour phase inspection of a 701C series engine, they did not follow the accepted and prudent practice, as per the task requirement, of checking for low-voltage leaks on the electrical harness. Nonetheless, the L-3 employees were stating on the checklist that they were checking these leaks, as per the task requirement.

h.

The 58D team lead/inspector, G., was not changing worn out bearings on the pitch change links on helicopters. Roderigas challenged G., but when G. would not change the procedure, Roderigas disclosed the problem to the military TI (technical inspector). The military TI advised G. that the bearings were in fact bad and needed to be changed. G. stated that he would write Roderigas up if Roderigas ever disclosed information to the military again.

i.

In August 2005, an L-3 employee complained that L-3 was trying to give him an assignment to work on an aircraft for which he had no experience: "There is no way I'm going to [work on those helicopters]. I have 0 (yes that's a big ZERO) experience on them." See 8/17/05 email from (name withheld) to Roderigas, attached as Exhibit 6.

26.

When Roderigas applied to L-3, L-3 did not check his references.

27.

On information and belief, at all times material to this Complaint, L-3 failed to routinely check references when it hired people to fulfill its obligations under contracts with the military.

28.

On information and belief, one L-3 employee ("J.S.") was hired by L-3 after he struck up a conversation with a senior-level L-3 employee, E.F., when J.S. delivered pizza to E.F.'s home in Germany. On information and belief, J.S. had previously served as an aircraft electrician in the Army, but had been discharged from the Army on the grounds of possession and usage of cocaine. On information and belief, J.S. is now assigned to Talafar, which has critical maintenance

requirements due to the fact that Talafar base is very mission-oriented, and located on the Syrian border.

29.

In July 2005, while in a management position, Roderigas discovered a memo in his personal history file that had been written by E.F., the supervisor in charge of the Taji site. This memo had been used to procure Roderigas' promotion to assistant site supervisor. See 5/2/05 memo, attached as Exhibit 7. Mr. Roderigas' actual and accurate resume is attached as Exhibit 8.

30.

Unbeknownst to Roderigas, the E.F. memo significantly falsified Roderigas' credentials. Although Roderigas had only been an employee of L-3 for a little over 6 months, the memo stated that Roderigas had been there for a year. The memo also stated that Roderigas had been "Phase Team Leader" for the AH-64 Apache Helicopter and the UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter teams, when in fact Roderigas had not held and did not qualify for those jobs. The memo stated that Roderigas had been Flight Line Lead for the OH-58 Kiowa Scout helicopter team, when in fact he had not held that position.

31.

As a result of the E.F. memo, Roderigas was promoted to Back Shop Supervisor and, on information and belief, L-3 obtained increased revenue from the government.

32.

On information and belief, in order to hire or promote people, L-3 falsified the qualifications of other of its employees, and as a result obtained increased revenue from the government to which it was not entitled.

HIRING UNNECESSARY PERSONNEL

33.

Under L-3's contract with the military, the Taji site was permitted to have 150 employees. L-3 set a goal of keeping the worksite staffed at 110% at all times. See 7/19/05 email from S.W. to Roderigas, attached as Exhibit 9.

34.

L-3 awarded bonuses or additional compensation to team leads and site supervisors, based on the number of employees who were present at their respective sites. Because of this incentive, regardless of the workload, L3's site leads and supervisors kept the full complement of employees in order to receive the maximum bonus or compensation.

35.

Because of this incentive, L-3 overcharged the U.S. Government by deliberately over-staffing positions. Hundreds, if not thousands, of man-hours were billed to the government for employees who did little or no work, or were overcompensated for the work they did.

36.

By way of example and without limitation, Plaintiff-Relator and seven (7) other aircraft mechanics were assigned to work on the OH58D Kiowa Helicopter, even though the 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, to which they were assigned, did not have those aircraft in Taji. The men were paid for six (6) weeks during which they did not work on a single aircraft. In fact, the OH-58's were never brought to the Taji site. At the end of six (6) weeks, the eight (8) men were given new assignments.

37.

Site Supervisor E.F. assigned "make-work" jobs and invented positions for employees, in order to keep them on-site and in order to boost his pay.

38.

At the conference in Kuwait, L-3 employee J.H. stated that upon investigation he had concluded at least two employees (J.E. and R.W.) at the Taji

site were not performing needed jobs or had admitted to spending substantial time on non-work activities while ostensibly working.

39.

A hazardous materials crew at Taji had been staffed with a team of up to four (4) employees. A tool room had been staffed with a team of two (2) additional employees. On information and belief, following the L-3 investigation prompted by Plaintiff-Relator's complaints, the departments were consolidated, and a single employee was assigned to cover the jobs previously held by six employees.

40.

E.F. also assigned employees, e.g., B.G. and T.P., to new jobs which should have had lower pay rates, but he allowed the employees to be paid at their former, higher rates.

41.

An employee named T.P. had been given an office job as a clerk, but continued to be paid the higher rate assigned to aircraft mechanics. On information and belief, as a result of the L-3 investigation prompted by Plaintiff-Relator's complaints, T.P. was required to accept a demotion and an approximately \$6 per hour pay cut in order to keep his office job.

42.

According to a present L-3 employee, this practice continues, and employees continue to sit idle. *See* 9/25/05 email from (name withheld) to Roderigas, attached as Exhibit 3.

RETALIATION AGAINST RELATOR

43.

Roderigas reported the problems of unqualified employees, and one and perhaps more falsified resumes, and employees sitting idle, to L-3. *See, e.g.*, 7/19/05 and 7/20/05 letters, attached as Exhibit 10.

44.

Human Resources for L-3 asked Roderigas to return to Taji (*see* 8/24/05 email from L.M. to Roderigas, attached as Exhibit 11); and told him that he would be returning in the same capacity in which he had been serving when he left.

45.

On his way back to Iraq, Roderigas met in Kuwait with L-3 employee S.W., who informed Roderigas that Roderigas was being promoted from assistant site supervisor to site supervisor.

46.

At the Kuwait meeting, S.W. and J.H. informed Roderigas that the company had found timesheets had been falsified and that the falsifications amounted to at least \$750,000 of time.

47.

Roderigas informed S.W. and J.H., both senior level L-3 employees, that the false reporting problem was much greater in scope than the \$750,000 L-3 was suggesting, and offered to provide backup data to prove much more extensive overcharges to the government. *See* 9/10/05 email from Roderigas to S.W. and L.M., attached as Exhibit 2.

48.

After the Kuwait meeting, Roderigas returned to Iraq, where he was treated inhumanely. He was not made site supervisor or assistant site supervisor, but instead was ordered off the Taji site to a remote location. This relocation was performed with no prior notice to Roderigas and in such a way as to suggest to onlookers or observers that Roderigas had behaved improperly.

49.

At the request of L-3, Roderigas reported to Balad, Iraq, but was informed the site did not have a comparable job opening for him.

50.

Roderigas contacted L-3's Human Resources department to inquire about his status. L-3 employee L.M. stated that she needed ten additional days to complete the investigation before she could tell Roderigas his status.

51.

When Roderigas reviewed his papers and discovered that his military travel orders were expiring (*see* Letter of Identification, attached as Exhibit 12), he properly concluded that it would be dangerous to wait until his military travel orders expired to resolve the issue. He instead returned to the United States in order to mitigate his damages.

OTHER L-3 SITES

52.

Linda Mandel, an L-3 Human Resources employee, stated: "I have received complaints from Southwest Asia and we have conducted investigations in Balad and Kuwait. I was unaware that there were major issues in Taji." See 7/20/05 Mandel email to Roderigas, attached as Exhibit 13.

53.

L-3 employees informed Roderigas that, based on the information provided by Roderigas, they were going to investigate all of L-3's facilities.

VIOLATIONS OF THE FALSE CLAIMS ACT – 31 U.S.C. § 3729

COUNT I

**Falsifying Time Records of L-3 Employees Hired to Fulfill L-3's Contract
with the U.S. Army**

54.

Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege the previous paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

55.

L-3 instructed its employees to record hours on their timesheets, even though the employees had not worked those hours.

56.

On information and belief, the practice of falsifying timesheets continues. *See 9/25/05 email from (name withheld) to Roderigas, attached as Exhibit 3.*

57.

Defendants and/or their agents have violated, and continue to violate, 31 U.S.C. § 3729, by knowingly presenting or causing to be presented, to an officer or employee of the United States Government or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, a false or fraudulent claim for payment or approval, based on falsified timesheets.

58.

Defendants and/or their agents have violated, and continue to violate, 31 U.S.C. § 3729, because they have knowingly made, used, or caused to be made or used, false timesheets, in order to get a false or fraudulent claim paid or approved by the Government.

59.

Defendants and/or their agents have violated, and continue to violate, 31 U.S.C. § 3729, by conspiring to defraud the Government by getting a false or fraudulent claim, based on falsified timesheets, allowed or paid.

COUNT II
Submitting False Claims To The U.S. Armed Forces
For Payment For Services Never Rendered

60.

Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege the previous paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

61.

L-3 knowingly hired unnecessary employees in order to receive additional compensation from the government.

62.

On information and belief, the practice of hiring unnecessary personnel continues. See 9/25/05 email from (name withheld) to Roderigas, attached as Exhibit 3.

63.

Defendants and/or their agents have violated, and continue to violate, 31 U.S.C. § 3729, by knowingly presenting or causing to be presented, to an officer or employee of the United States Government or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, a false or fraudulent claim for payment or approval, based on employment of unnecessary personnel.

64.

Defendants and/or their agents have violated, and continue to violate, 31 U.S.C. § 3729, because they have knowingly made, used, or caused to be made or used, a false record or statement, based on employment of unnecessary personnel, in order to get a false or fraudulent claim paid or approved by the Government.

65.

Defendants and/or their agents have violated, and continue to violate, 31 U.S.C. § 3729, by conspiring to defraud the Government by getting a false or fraudulent claim, based on employment of unnecessary personnel, allowed or paid.

COUNT III
Falsely Billing The United States For Unqualified Personnel

66.

Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege the previous paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

67.

Under military rules and its contract with the United States government, L-3 has a duty to hire qualified technicians and personnel.

68.

The United States government and its men and women in military service depend on L-3 to properly maintain and service military aircraft.

69.

L-3 represents to the United States that it will, and specifically contracts to, hire competent employees to discharge L-3's duties under its contract with the United States.

70.

L-3 charges the United States government for allegedly competent employees.

71.

Upon information and belief, however, L-3 has repeatedly failed to hire or supply qualified aircraft technicians and personnel.

72.

Defendants and/or their agents have violated, and continue to violate, 31 U.S.C. § 3729, by knowingly presenting or causing to be presented, to an officer or employee of the United States Government or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, a false or fraudulent claim for payment or approval, based on the hiring of unqualified personnel.

73.

Defendants and/or their agents have violated, and continue to violate, 31 U.S.C. § 3729, because they have knowingly made, used, or caused to be made or used, a false record or statement, based on the hiring of unqualified personnel, in order to get a false or fraudulent claim paid or approved by the Government.

74.

Defendants and/or their agents have violated, and continue to violate, 31 U.S.C. § 3729, by conspiring to defraud the Government by getting a false or fraudulent claim, based on the hiring of unqualified personnel, allowed or paid.

COUNT IV
Kickbacks

75.

Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege the previous paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

76.

Plaintiff-Relator Roderigas had been informed that a program manager, P.B., was discovered to have been taking kickbacks when purchasing trucks for L-3 to use in its Army contract.

77.

L-3 and its employee, solicited, accepted, or attempted to accept kickbacks.

78.

L-3 failed to properly supervise P.B. and other employees so as to prevent the solicitation or acceptance of kickbacks.

79.

Defendants and/or their agents have violated, and continue to violate, 31 U.S.C. § 3729, by knowingly presenting or causing to be presented, to an officer or employee of the United States Government or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, a false or fraudulent claim for payment or approval, due to the inclusion of kickback charges.

80.

Defendants and/or their agents have violated, and continue to violate, 31 U.S.C. § 3729, because they have knowingly made, used, or caused to be made or used, a false record or statement, due to the inclusion of kickback charges, in order to get a false or fraudulent claim paid or approved by the Government.

81.

Defendants and/or their agents have violated, and continue to violate, 31 U.S.C. § 3729, by conspiring to defraud the Government by getting a false or fraudulent claim, due to the inclusion of kickback charges, allowed or paid.

RETALIATION AND TORTS AGAINST RODERIGAS

**COUNT V
Retaliation Against Relator**

82.

Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege the previous paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

83.

L-3 constructively terminated Roderigas, and harassed and discriminated against him, because of lawful acts done by him in furtherance of an action under this section, and in direct contravention of 29 U.S.C. § 3730.

84.

Roderigas suffered damages as a proximate result of his constructive termination, and L-3's harassment of and discrimination against him.

**COUNT VI
Negligence**

85.

Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege the previous paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

86.

L-3 owed a duty of care to its employees, and specifically to Roderigas.

87.

L-3 was negligent in sending Roderigas into a theater of war when it knew or should have known that it did not intend to provide him with a job or the basic, physical necessities of life.

88.

L-3 breached its duty to Roderigas by sending him into a theater of war when it knew or should have known that it did not intend to provide him with a job or the basic, physical necessities of life.

89.

At the time of this incident, L-3 reasonably could have foreseen that injury and damages could result from its negligence and breach of duty described above.

90.

The negligence and breach of duty of L-3 directly and proximately caused damages to Roderigas, including physical injury, pain and suffering, monetary damages, and mental anguish.

91.

The conduct of L-3 manifests a willful, reckless, and wanton disregard for the life and safety of Roderigas, and a conscious indifference to the foreseeable consequences to Roderigas. L-3 is liable to Plaintiffs for punitive damages pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 51-12-5.1 and other applicable law.

COUNT VII
Breach of Contract

92.

Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege the previous paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

93.

Roderigas was constructively terminated.

94.

The Defendants had no cause to terminate Roderigas and did so wrongfully.

95.

The Defendants breached their employment agreement with Roderigas.

96.

Roderigas suffered damages as a proximate cause of the breach of his employment contract.

COUNT VIII
Fraud And Misrepresentation

97.

Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege the previous paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

98.

The Defendants intentionally and/or negligently requested that Roderigas return to his former or a superior job in the theater of war, with the intent of inducing him to alter his position, and refrain from acting, to his injury or risk.

99.

The Defendants knew or came to know of the falsity of such statements, or made them with reckless disregard for the truth.

100.

Roderigas did not know at the time that the statements were false, nor could he have known at that time with the exercise of reasonable care.

101.

The Defendants made the material misrepresentations and omissions with the intent of and for the purpose of inducing Roderigas to act or refrain from acting in reliance, and Roderigas reasonably and justifiably so relied.

102.

As a proximate result, Roderigas has been damaged.

103.

The Defendants acted with willful misconduct, malice, fraud, wantonness, oppression, and an entire want of care which raises the presumption of conscious indifference to consequences, constituting both common law fraud, misrepresentation, or deceit in violation of O.C.G.A. § 51-6-1. Roderigas is therefore entitled to punitive damages, the costs of this action, and attorneys' fees.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully pray and demand the following:

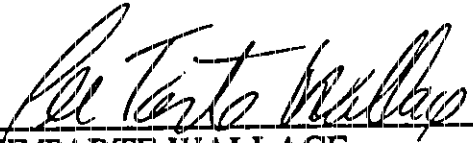
- (a) That process issue and service be made upon Defendants to appear and answer this Complaint as provided by law;
- (b) That judgment be entered in favor of Plaintiffs and against Defendants on all Counts of the Complaint;
- (c) That Plaintiffs be awarded all damages flowing from Defendants' wrongful acts;

- (d) That Plaintiffs be awarded three (3) times the amount of damages sustained by the United States as a result of the wrongful acts of the Defendants, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3730;
- (e) That Plaintiffs be awarded a civil penalty of \$ 5,000 - \$ 10,000 for each wrongful act by Defendants, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3730;
- (f) That Relator Roderigas be awarded a portion of all damages, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3730;
- (g) That Relator Roderigas be awarded attorneys' fees and expenses of litigation, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3730;
- (h) That Roderigas be reinstated and awarded back pay with interest and receive compensation for special damages, including litigation costs and reasonable attorneys' fees, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3730(h);
- (i) That Roderigas recover from the Defendants, jointly and severally, compensatory damages, including without limitation, damages for pain and suffering and mental anguish, in an amount to be determined in the enlightened conscience of a fair and impartial jury;
- (j) That Roderigas recover punitive damages from Defendants, as authorized by Georgia statute, in an amount to be determined in the enlightened conscience of a fair and impartial jury;
- (k) That Roderigas recover monetary damages;

- (l) That Plaintiffs be awarded such other and further relief as is justified by the facts and law that this Court deems just and proper; and,
- (m) That Plaintiffs be granted a trial by jury.

Submitted this 9TH day of November, 2005.

GORBY, REEVES & PETERS, P.C.



LEE TARTE WALLACE
Georgia Bar No.: 698320

Two Ravinia Drive
Suite 1500
Atlanta, Georgia 30346-2104
404-239-1150
404-239-1179 Fax



communications

**Integrated Systems
Vertex Aerospace**

Night Shift (Shift 2)

0000 – 1230 = 12 Hrs

0600 – 0730 Lunch

Night Shift (Shift 2)

1200 – 0030 = 12 Hrs

1800 – 1930 Lunch

Night Shift (Shift 2)

1700 – 0530 = 12 Hrs

2330 – 0100 Lunch

Day Shift

0630 – 1900 = 12 Hrs

1130 – 1300 Lunch

Notes:

If you work over 6 hours, you must annotate an additional 30 minutes on your T&A sheet to cover Lunch.

You must have a total of 8 hours off between shift changes.

Fifteen minute breaks are to be taken every 6 hours. If you worked over 6 hours, an additional break must be taken.

Subj: No Human Should Have to Endure This
 Date: 9/10/2005 12:21:26 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: [REDACTED]
 To: [REDACTED]
 CC: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] When I left Kuwait you and [REDACTED] had a conversation with me about all that had happened in Taji and that your investigation had confirmed the complaints I filed with [REDACTED] at HR. [REDACTED] told me that he wanted me to go back to Taji as C.O. and not assistant. I told him I did not care that as long as I was in a decision making capacity so that I could continue to make my sit a better place to be. When I arrived in Taji at 1000 on the 9th of September I was greeted by most all the employees with a hand shake and a thank you. The next morning [REDACTED] woke me up at 0845 and told me I had to pack and leave Taji as per [REDACTED]. I was literally putting on my close and packing as I was driven to the pad. I had no idea what was happening to me. I was told I was being sent to Balad. The choper they scheduled me on went to Bio. After arriving there I found that there was not another flight till 2200 the net day and that that flight had to go through Taji to get to Balad. At this point I knew I was being punished and that my right to be a human being was being trampled on once more. I hitched a ride with some Blackwater security guys into Baqdad via a mini van. They we on mission but had room for me. During the drive we were ambushed and a gun battle arupted and the third vehicle back was disabled. This is what I have had to go through because no one in L-3 cares about the people. I am lucky to have my life. I have the email address of the Blackwater employe to confirm my statement. I had to get out of Biop because not only did [REDACTED] get me out of Taji like I was a criminal he put me in a holding cell environment. I had to go by car to get to Washington pad so I could get to Balad that day. I had to know what was happening. I reported to [REDACTED] and he did not know why I was there just that I was coming. I am now in the process of seeking legal representation and trying to get home alive.

[REDACTED] trusted you, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and you set me up for total destruction. I want you to know [REDACTED] that by running me out of Taji on a rail the next morning after my arrival sent a message to all the employees that HR will KILL the messenger if there is ever a problem like I had with [REDACTED] coast my company over 3/4 of a million dollars as you stated and you also stated that you could only go back as far as 3rd ID. You can go back further because I hag [REDACTED] email address and he was the contract officer at the time. We can let L-3 pay the rest of what they owe. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] you have proven to me and about 156 other men that you have no integrity at all. Shame on you all...Buster

Subj: Re: Hey Man
Date: 9/25/2005 12:22:46 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From:
To: [REDACTED]

Good luck to you and just let them know that the ch47 phase tem has done absolutely nothing for the past month and have been payed for 12 hour days, plus they leave early most days. All they do is sit in the hide out and do nothing. Plus they are doing alot of t&a fraud, people not there but signing in and out . they are way out of control. I have been watching them since I left them. Please again do not mention my name. Good luck and keep me p on whats happening. Your friend

-- [REDACTED] wrote:

- > Hey Buddy, Things are going OK here for me. I am
- > still dealing with L-3, but
- > in more of a legal mode. I will keep you posted.
- > Something big to go down
- > tomorrow with L-3, some of the big wigs are flying
- > here to Atlanta to meet with
- > me. Believe me my friend I have not given up in my
- > pursuit of justice nor
- > will I. I hope things are tolerable for you there. I
- > know it has been very
- > difficult. Talk to you later my friend, I have much
- > to do prior to my meeting
- > tomorrow. Buster
- >

Yahoo! Mail - PC Magazine Editors' Choice 2005
<http://mail.yahoo.com>

STATUSFAULT

PLT HDU not installed
 CPG HDU not installed
 X PLT Collective upper arm assembly not safetied to lower assembly
 X CPG Collective upper arm assembly not safetied to lower assembly
 X CPG upper canopy de-ice on #1 side has wire broken
 / #2 XMSN oil cooler return line chaffing on UTIL HYD line
 / #2 XMSN oil cooler to line chaffing on chip detector housing
 X #2 generator wire clamp on mast support base strut not connected, hardware hanging loose
 / #2 driveshaft bolts not torque striped
 X Mast support base lightning hole covers not pro sealed
 X Pitch housing bolts not torque striped
 / #2 ENG load demand & power available spindle bracket at the firewall fire louver doors not installed
 X #2 ENG black electrical cable has clamp with rubber pushed out and metal rubbing cable
 X Main landing gear struts not serviced properly measured at 2.75"
 X #2 ENG secondary exhaust nozzle inboard upper lip inside of outer shell
 X #4 Driveshaft has wear spots from wire chaffing
 / #1 FM not installed
 / #2 FM not installed
 X T/R mounting bolts not indexed
 X T/R mounting bolts not torque striped
 / #6 driveshaft upper bolts not torque striped
 / T290 top rib cracked
 X #1 pylon jettison cannon plug cables not connected properly
 X Ammo feed system link connecting pin missing washer behind 5L195
 X Tail rotor control tube (short) bent under #1 driveshaft
 X #2 blade aft retaining pin clip not seated



Subj: RE: ACR guys
Date: 7/2/2005 12:25:02 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
CC: [REDACTED]

Thanks [REDACTED] I'll let you know if there is any resistance.

I will also start making arrangements to see if we can get a dedicated mission (Chinooks) to fly our folks to Tal Afar.

Thanks again.

[REDACTED]

Site Supervisor

L3 Vertex Aerospace

Taji, Iraq

[REDACTED]

From: "[REDACTED]"
To: "[REDACTED]"
CC: <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: ACR guys
Date: Sat, 2 Jul 2005 15:27:16 +0300

[REDACTED]

Thanks for the listing. I have no problem with moving these employees, to include [REDACTED] Have they been notified, and is there any resistance?

[REDACTED]
L3 Com. Vertex Aerospace
Operations Manager Iraq
SWA CFT

[REDACTED]

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 02, 2005 2:49 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: ACR guys

[REDACTED]

Here is the list you had requested, it consists of a total of 8 (1 is ITV):

[REDACTED] ITV (UH-60)....I have no use for this Team Leader and he can only work on UH-60's.

Thursday, November 03, 2005 America Online: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] MAV (AH-64)

[REDACTED] MAV (AH-64/UH-60)

[REDACTED] MAV (AH-64/CH-46)

[REDACTED] MEV (AH-64)

[REDACTED] MEV (UH-60)

[REDACTED] MSV (All Airframes)

[REDACTED] MSV (All Airframes)...currently on LOA, if individual is not returned by 10-15 July, than [REDACTED] MSV, will take his place.

This is a total of 8 personell instead of 7...removing [REDACTED] will give room for an additional mechanic required on my site, this of course is only if you agree. He insists on only working with UH-60's so he is of no assistance to me at all for Taji.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter and please inform me if this request is approved and/or if I need to adjust anything.

Thanks again.

V/R

[REDACTED]

Site Superviscr

L3 Vertex Aerospace

Taji, Iraq

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
CC: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: ACR guys
Date: Sat, 2 Jul 2005 13:14:08 +0300

[REDACTED]

Thanks, I got the statements. I just wanted this for when the confrontation ensues, and I know that it will. We have no obligation to send these employees to Tal-Afar, and we will honor the employee request to remain at their present worksite. Please identify, and send me a list of the employees (and their qualifications) that we will be transferring to Tal-Afar.

v/R

[REDACTED]

L3 Com. Vertex Aerospace
Operations Manager Iraq
SWA CFT

[REDACTED]

---Original Message---

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 02, 2005 11:32 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: ACR guys

[REDACTED]

Here are the statements from all of the personnel that came from the ACR. None of them want to go, however, I think of business and business only. Out of the seven ACR personnel on hand, I only have two in critical and very

important positions:

[REDACTED] (MAV)...I had requested her for an INV upgrade for my Apache program (Very Critical).

[REDACTED] (MAV)...Engine guy (Very Critical)

The other five are also being importantly used but not as critical as these two individuals.

Here are the names of the remainder of ACR individuals:

[REDACTED] (MAV).....AH-64/UH-60/ULLS-A/ELASS

[REDACTED] (MAV).....UH-60

[REDACTED] (MAV)....AH-64

[REDACTED] (MSV)

[REDACTED] (MSV)

I have two names in place for the replacement of my critical personnel:

[REDACTED] (MAV)...AH-64
[REDACTED] (MEV).....AH-64

I think that it would only be fare to give up two Apache guys in order to try to keep my critical people.

Let me know what you think or if I need to change anything. Thank you in advance for the support.

V/R

[REDACTED]

Site Supervisor

L3 Vertex Aerospace

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

Date: Fri, 1 Jul 2005 02:32:08 -0500

[REDACTED]

Our guys down in Taji are going to coordinate with [REDACTED] and our movement officer for the move. Plan on the L3 personnel that are moving to get manifested and packed up with our guys. We'll just pack their stuff in the milvans and get them on the AMR with us. CW3 [REDACTED] is down there and will get it set up. Pretty sure he has linked up with [REDACTED] already.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

4/3 ACR
Aviation Maintenance Officer

[REDACTED]

Subj: RE: Transfers from Taji
Date: 7/14/2005 4:02:16 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
CC: [REDACTED]

Gentlemen:

I will remove [REDACTED] from my payroll and will send it in by 1400 today. I will need to return to the office to make the adjustment, then come back to the MWR to send it out. Files cannot be manipulated on the work stations here at the MWR.
I appologize for the delay,

Thank you for all the information and cooperation in getting this far.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I am sorry but this is the first that I have heard of sending a replacement for [REDACTED]. I must be losing it. I had scanned my emails, just in case I had missed something, to no success. Again, I appologize. Originally, he was supposed to go get an MRI and then be sent to Tal Afar. None of us expected him to go on Med. LOA. He will be continued to stay on our payroll until he is "officially" transferred to Tal Afar. All of his belongings have been inventoried and banned properly but it was shipped on the Chinook to Tal Afar last night.

I had previously sent to you the flavors of personnel being transferred to Tal Afar. Here are the differences between both groups.

Received from 4-3 ACR:

- [REDACTED] (MAV) Armt.
- [REDACTED] (MAV) Hydraulics
- [REDACTED] (MAV) Engines
- [REDACTED] (MAV) AH-64
- [REDACTED] (MAV) UH-60
- [REDACTED] (MSV) All Airframes
- [REDACTED] (MSV) All Airframes

Sent to 4-3 ACR:

- [REDACTED] (MAV) AH-64
- [REDACTED] (MAV) AH-64/UH-60
- [REDACTED] (MAV) AH-64/CH-47
- [REDACTED] (MAV) AH-64
- [REDACTED] (MEV) UH-60
- [REDACTED] (ITV) UH-60
- [REDACTED] (MSV) All Airframes
- [REDACTED] (MSV) All Airframes

As you see, the 4-3 ACR is getting alot more AH-64 mechanics than I had recieved. Of course, I am not sending the most stellar employees, such as I did not receive the most stellar employees from the ACR. None of us need to set each other up for failure. I am however sending qualified mechanics that I have been using on AH-64's.

As you instructed, I will send an additional AH-64 mechanic to replace [REDACTED]

Please let me know otherwise or if you need anything else.

Thank you.

V/R

[REDACTED]
Site Supervisor

L3 Vertex Aerospace

Taji, Iraq
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
CC: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Transfers from Taji
Date: Wed, 13 Jul 2005 18:43:12 +0300

[REDACTED]
It is not possible to transfer [REDACTED] if he is on MLOA. We discussed this and I instructed you to find a replacement for him. If he returns I would still transfer him to Tal-Afar but you can not transfer an employee that is not here. He will remain assigned at Taji until further notice from this office. Find a replacement ASAP.

V/R

[REDACTED]
L3 Com. Vertex Aerospace

Operations Manager Iraq

SWA CFT
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2005 4:05 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Transfers from Taji

[REDACTED]

The Assistant Site Supervisor has asked me to send you the following message along with the attachments to this email:

[REDACTED] Payroll,

How are you today?

Tal Afar personnel are on the way. Thier transfer effective date is today, 13 Jul 05 and they should arrive at your station at approx. 0030. They will be arriving with thier baggage and multi-paks and if you could arrange a forklift to off-load the multi paks, it would be greatly appreciated.

Please see the attachments concerning thier paperwork and as a reminder, I will pick them up for 1 day P.D. and you will pick them up for six days.

Henry Roderigas
Asst. Site Supervisor
L-3 Vertex Aerospace
Taji, Iraq

Please direct any question directly to Mr. Roderigas at the following:



Site Safety and Training Representative
L-3 Vertex Aerospace
Taji, Iraq

"Continue To Be Safe!"

Start your day
with Yahoo! - make it your home page

Start your day with Yahoo! - make it your home page



Subj: Re: Tal Afar personnel
 Date: 7/13/2005 5:00:02 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: [REDACTED]
 To: [REDACTED]
 CC: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thank you for the clarification.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Here is the reply from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I will answer your email in the order with which they have been presented to me via your email.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are the same person, Please re-read my second email (below) second line [REDACTED] was approved for LOA prior to his assignment to your location. His LOA starts 16 Jul 05 and ends 24 Jul 05. I have processed him out of Taji prior to his departure and his tools and belongings will be accompanying the other personnel to your station along with [REDACTED] terms as previously stated. He will return from LOA directly to your location- Please see Transfer paperwork attached to the first email.

I do not quite understand your second statement/question concerning [REDACTED] where you wrote "he will have to do the same thing as [REDACTED]". -What same thing may I ask? [REDACTED] was slated to come to your site and shortly after receiving this information, injured his back. After approval from Kuwait, he was approved to go there for an MRI on his back. As for your statement "whereabouts unknown" I ask you once again to please pay a little bit more attention to the email. My statement was "status unknown" I know where he is.

Also you will please note the last line to my first and second email to "direct any questions to [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]". Because you did not follow my request, you put me in a position to not receive your email. Please feel free to "cc" whomever you want, but at least repond in the proper manner with which I ask at this present time.

In order to prevent confusion and delays, I once again make the request for you to contact me at the following: [REDACTED]

I am trying my best to make this transfer of personnel as painless as possible and I am sending you a total of 6 professional employees tonight with 2 more to follow at a later date and time.

[REDACTED]

Asst. Site Supervisor
 L-3 Vertex Aerospace
 Taji, Iraq

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Who is [REDACTED] and I assume [REDACTED] is one of the personnel headed this way from Taji.

I do not think it is possible to transfer a person from one site to another while he is on LOA. How would he out process your site? How would he get his belongings from there to here.

The other individual [REDACTED], is on MED LOA whereabouts unknown and is being transferred to this site. He will have to do the same thing as [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

It's time for Kuwait to step in. I need an official list of who is coming from Taji. We are starting an AH-64 phase here on the 18th. This was on the premise that 8 AH-64 personnel were on the way here from Taji to arrive here on the 15th. It is too late in the mix to be changing up things now. It is also too late to be finding out two of the personnel on the list will not be here.

Please get back to me on this promptly, as I will need to be explaining some things to the APO here.

Thanking all in advance,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Another message from [REDACTED]

Please be advised that

[REDACTED] has started LOA as is due to return to theatre 24 Jul 05 and will report to your station upon arrival in theatre.

[REDACTED] is on Medical LOA and his status is unknown at the present moment. We will update you upon receiving any information here at Taji. At present he is due to report to your station after completion of his Medical LOA.

[REDACTED]
Asst. Site Supervisor
L-3 Vertex Aerospace
Taji, Iraq

Please direct any questions to [REDACTED] at the following: [REDACTED]

Thank you and have a good day.

[REDACTED]
Site Safety and Training Representative
L-3 Vertex Aerospace
Taji, Iraq

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<http://mail.yahoo.com>


Site Safety and Training Representative
L-3 Vertex Aerospace
Taji, Iraq

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Subj: Transfers from Taji
Date: 7/13/2005 9:05:12 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
CC: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Assistant Site Supervisor has asked me to send you the following message along with the attachments to this email:

[REDACTED] Payroll,

How are you today?

Tal Afar personnel are on the way. Thier transfer effective date is today, 13 Jul 05 and they should arrive at your station at approx. 0030. They will be arriving with thier baggage and multi-paks and if you could arrange a forklift to off-load the multi paks, it would be greatly appreciated.

Please see the attachments concerning thier paperwork and as a reminder, I will pick them up for 1 day P.D. and you will pick them up for six days.

[REDACTED]
Asst. Site Supervisor
L-3 Vertex Aerospace
Taji, Iraq

Please direct any question directly to [REDACTED] at the following: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Site Safety and Training Representative
L-3 Vertex Aerospace
Taji, Iraq

"Continue To Be Safe!"

Start your day with Yahoo! - make it your home page

Subj: Re: TAL AFAR Transfer
Date: 7/13/2005 5:08:20 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
CC: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
The aircraft have landed. We have them in hand.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
My boys are airborne, 2345, headed your way with all there gear. Please advise me when they arrive.
[REDACTED]

Assistant Site Supervisor
Taji

Yahoo! Mail
Stay connected, organized, and protected. Take the tour

Subj: RE: Transfers from Taji
 Date: 7/14/2005 4:02:16 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: [REDACTED]
 To: [REDACTED]
 CC: [REDACTED]

Gentlemen:

I will remove [REDACTED] from my payroll and will send it in by 1400 today. I will need to return to the office to make the adjustment, then come back to the MWR to send it out. Files cannot be manipulated on the work stations here at the MWR.
 I apologize for the delay.

Thank you for all the information and cooperation in getting this far.

I am sorry but this is the first that I have heard of sending a replacement for [REDACTED]. I must be losing it. I had scanned my emails, just in case I had missed something, to no success. Again, I apologize.
 Originally, he was supposed to go get an MRI and then be sent to Tal Afar. None of us expected him to go on Med. LOA. He will be continued to stay on our payroll until he is "officially" transferred to Tal Afar. All of his belongings have been inventoried and banned property but it was shipped on the Chinook to Tal Afar last night.

I had previously sent to you the flavors of personnel being transferred to Tal Afar. Here are the differences between both groups.

Received from 4-3 ACR:

[REDACTED] (MAV) Armt.
 [REDACTED] (MAV) Hydraulics
 [REDACTED] (MAV) Engines
 [REDACTED] (MAV) AH-64
 [REDACTED] (MAV) UH-60
 [REDACTED] (MSV) All Airframes
 [REDACTED] (MSV) All Airframes

Sent to 4-3 ACR:

[REDACTED] (MAV) AH-64
 [REDACTED] (MAV) AH-64/UH-60
 [REDACTED] (MAV) AH-64/CH-47
 [REDACTED] (MAV) AH-64
 [REDACTED] (MEV) UH-60
 [REDACTED] (ITV) UH-60
 [REDACTED] (MSV) All Airframes
 [REDACTED] (MSV) All Airframes

As you see, the 4-3 ACR is getting a lot more AH-64 mechanics than I had received. Of course, I am not sending the most stellar employees, such as I did not receive the most stellar employees from the ACR. None of us need to set each other up for failure. I am however sending qualified mechanics that I have been using on AH-64's.

As you instructed, I will send an additional AH-64 mechanic to replace [REDACTED]

Please let me know otherwise or if you need anything else.

Thank you.

V/R

[REDACTED]
Site Supervisor

L3 Vertex Aerospace

Taji, Iraq
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
CC: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Transfers from Taji
Date: Wed, 13 Jul 2005 18:43:12 +0300

[REDACTED]

It is not possible to transfer [REDACTED] if he is on MLOA. We discussed this and I instructed you to find a replacement for him. If he returns I would still transfer him to Tal-Afar but you can not transfer an employee that is not here. He will remain assigned at Taji until further notice from this office. Find a replacement ASAP.

V/R

[REDACTED]
L3 Com. Vertex Aerospace

Operations Manager Iraq

SWA CFT
[REDACTED]

Subj: (no subject)
 Date: 8/17/2005 2:40:07 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From:
 To: [REDACTED]

Hey Brother Bear,

So whats the latest info on your return. 603 had a kid (soldier) commit suicide last Friday. SPC. [REDACTED]. He worked in 603 tool room. They had a memorial service Tuesday night. I have pics of him on a horse, and of the upside down weapon, [REDACTED] said he e-mailed you. so are coming back as a MAV or MTV. you know as an a.s.s. haha. Did i tell you [REDACTED] decided [REDACTED] is backshops lead. [REDACTED] is back in his box, im still backshop t.i., for now... They want to use me as a UH-60 phase team t.i.. There is no way im going to do the 60 t.i thing... I have 0 (yes thats a big ZERO) experience on 60's. We will see what happens. [REDACTED] short, [REDACTED] is a good kid, pretty smart on engines. [REDACTED] is still an asset, dont want to lose him. so now i do not go to pc meetings, i let [REDACTED] its his job. Although he dosen't go either, to busy walking around talking to buddies. Oh well, I just keep focused on the engine/blade shop. [REDACTED] was the right person to take over for [REDACTED] Oh well, so when are you going to be in Kuwait? Do you have to back through CRC? Have you done anything on the movie? Got to go buddy, talk to later. And eat Waffle House when u can, cause u won't here. haha

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communications
Integrated Systems
Vertex Aerospace

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION
CONTRACT FIELD TEAM OPERATIONS

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 2 May 05

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Roderigas, Henry, 8F672, ITV Upgrade

Site: Taji, Iraq

It is with great professional pleasure that I recommend the upgrade of Mr. Henry Roderigas to ITV-Team leader. Mr. Roderigas provides us with over 30 years of Aviation Maintenance and Maintenance Management experience. Of those numerous years of experience, for the past year, he has been an integral part of our L3 Vertex Aerospace Team in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During Mr. Roderigas's tenure with our company he has filled the position and performed the duties as AH-64 and UH-60 Phase Team Leader, OH-58 Flight Line Lead, Mechanic and Structural Technician. He has grown personally and professionally in all of the above mentioned positions and received numerous accolades for outstanding job performance and superior customer satisfaction. He is a dedicated and loyal employee and supports company policy and procedures to their fullest extent. His knowledge base of the Company's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), ISO 9001-2000 requirements, Quality Control, Production Control and Tech Supply functions is unparalleled and sets the example for his peers to emulate. He interfaces with the customer daily and presents a positive and professional image of our company.

Mr. Roderigas is a professional, knowledgeable, intelligent, and highly motivated employee. He thrives on challenge and always displays the ability to make things happen. I would like to have Mr. Roderigas upgraded to the position of Team Leader and utilize him as such for the Shops ten-man team. It is felt that this upgrade will present a positive image of our company and enhance the customer's combat mission in the Iraqi Theatre.

With the break down and spread of personnel at the site, it would be beneficial to the customer and company to have an assigned Team Leader to each team. Mr. Roderigas had shown time after time his maturity and professionalism in leading a ten-man team to a complete mission success. The site is presently broken down and spread within the base to accommodate each unit supported by our parent Military Company.

It would benefit the site and the customer if this upgrade, if approved, would take effect as soon as possible. I appreciate your time and consideration in this matter and look forward to your reply.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]
Site Supervisor
L3 Vertex
Taji, Iraq

HENRY W. RODERIGAS, JR.
715 EVERGREEN DRIVE
WINDER, GEORGIA 30680
(770) 868-1827

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND SPECIAL SKILLS SUMMARY

Over thirty years of active maintenance of G.A. and military aircraft. 4,000 logged hours as pilot in command with an A&P license and a Commercial Instrument Pilots license. Comprehensive PT-6 maintenance background including rigging and hot section procedures. Above average mechanical, electrical and people skills.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- PDK FLIGHT ACADEMY, General Manager/Maintenance Director: Atlanta, Georgia** 2002-2003
- Supervised overall flight operations and maintenance for Part 141-Flight school.
 - Maintained thirteen based single engine aircraft and a large number of privately owned aircraft including the C.A.P.
 - Supervised four mechanics and one apprentice mechanic.
 - Maintained parts and supply section for based aircraft.
- CLOUD WORKS, Owner/Operator: Atlanta, Georgia** 1992 - 2002
- Performed all aspects of maintenance on G.A. aircraft operated under FAR 135, 141 and 91.
 - Provided aircraft retrieval and pilot services.
- AIR SERV INTERNATIONAL, Maintenance Director: Mozambique, Africa** 1991 - 1992
- Maintained A-200 Super King Air, Cessna 402, 208, 210 and 206 aircraft for the humanitarian relief organization.
 - Supervised five U.S. mechanics, four Mozambique mechanics and four Mozambique lineman.
 - Performed weekly status reports to the home office and appropriation and distribution of parts and supplies.
- WXIA TV-11, Electronic Engineer: Atlanta, Georgia** 1988 - 1991
- Performed the duties of an Electronic News Gathering Engineer.
 - Maintained and operated a mobile satellite transmission vehicle and microwave remote trucks.
 - Maintenance of the Bell Jet Ranger Helicopter, bench repairs, trouble shooting of cameras and audio gear.
 - Engineered remote functions such as the UNCF telethon and the National Democratic convention held in Atlanta.
- S.E.L. AVIATION, Owner/Operator: Atlanta, Georgia** 1982 - 1988
- Employed six mechanics and one aircraft inspector.
 - Maintained general aviation aircraft located at PDK airport including aircraft operated under FAR 135, 141 and Part 91.
- BEECH AEROSPACE SERVICES, Field Service Representative** 1980- 1982
- Maintained C-12 Super King Air aircraft under contract with the U.S. Army in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as lead mechanic. Duties included engine changes, hot section inspections, five-year gear changes and all required TBO items for the aircraft.
- P.D.K FLIGHT ACADEMY, Aircraft Mechanic** 1980- 1982
- Maintained eight fixed wing aircraft including two Cessna 152, for Cessna 172, one Cessna 177RG, one Cessna 206 and one Beech 55 Baron. All aircrafts were on a 100-hour maintenance program as per the FAR's.
- U.S. ARMY, Crew Chief/Door Gunner** 1969- 1978
- Served in the Republic of Vietnam for one year and was awarded with a Vietnam Service and Campaign Medal, a Good Conduct Medal, The Mearatours Service Medal and two Air Medals.
 - Assigned to Fort McPherson Georgia to the Third Army Flight Detachment and crewed a U-21 Aircraft assigned to the Chief of Staff.
 - Later, assigned to the 24th Infantry division in Hawaii as an OH-58 Bell Jet Ranger aircraft mechanic. Maintained aircraft: UH1H and OH-58 helicopters and the U-21 and U-8 fixed wing aircraft.
 - Later, assigned to Fort Knox in Kentucky as a Sergeant in the Fixed Wing/Rotor Wing N.C.O.I.C.

EDUCATION

- BEECH AEROSPACE SERVICES, Field Service Support School, Jackson Mississippi, 1980.
- P.D.K. FLIGHT ACADEMY, Atlanta Georgia. Commercial and Instrument Pilots License, 1978-1979.
- U.S. ARMY. General Aircraft Maintenance and Door Gunner School and obtained M.O.S. 67B2F and 67V.

Subj: RE: NEED INFORMATION
Date: 7/19/2005 9:45:33 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
CC: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Taji is currently authorized 150 L-3 employees. Our goal is to man each worksite at 110% with the additional 10% to cover LOA. Currently we have 144 assigned so obviously we are short. We have people in CRC right now and will start to fill some shortages as these new employees arrive.

[REDACTED]
L3 Com. Vertex Aerospace
Operations Manager Iraq
SWA CFT
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 16, 2005 2:24 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: NEED INFORMATION

Hi [REDACTED]
I need information pertaining to the exact number of personnel that are authorized at this station, Taji Iraq.
603rd Commander is preparing a report and I have conflicting information as to the exact number. [REDACTED] is in a meeting and will not be available for sometime. Commander needs info as soon as possible.

Thank you very much,

Henry 'Buster' Roderigas
Assistant Site Supervisor

Dear Sir:

19 JULY 2005

The purpose of this email to inform you that I am resigning my position with L-3 Vertex Aerospace and to advise you of the circumstances concerning this matter. I have strived in every way possible to become a positive contributing factor to the L-3 Vertex Aerospace mission and the U.S. Army in Iraq.

Unlike most of the employees here I did not come to Iraq for the money but did in fact subject myself to this change in life style and hardships for patriotic and personal reasons. My son was stationed here and I felt I should be where he was. I don't know why, call it a premonition. My son was in fact wounded when his Bradley Fighting vehicle was blown apart by an I.E.D. He was treated for wounds at the hospital in Balad. [REDACTED] allowed me to go and be with my son and I am deeply grateful for this. I am a Viet Nam era veteran and I know the lingering scars that are left on each and every person that participates in a war. I am and always will be a soldier at heart; nothing will ever change that for me. I will do everything I am told and will enforce any and all rules that apply to my position.

As Acting Assistant Site Supervisor I actively participate in the daily activities at this site and I am pretty much abreast of the issues and morale status of the employees. I am obligated by my moral values to draw the line sometimes. This is one of those times. What I am about to tell you, I am sure beyond a shadow of a doubt, you have already heard. [REDACTED] is the site supervisor here at Taji and has been for quite some time. It is because of his actions and poor leadership that I am resigning. I have witnessed this man bring people to tears through his poorly executed disciplinary procedures as well as his double standards which he demonstrates on a daily basis. He has absolutely no self control and does in fact create many of the problems at this site. He is very good at covering his trail and is a wizard at cut and paste when he needs to. [REDACTED] personally breaks all the rules that he enforces with the employees and the men see this every day. [REDACTED] has placed many unqualified people in positions of responsibility and they cannot function at the level needed for the position they were assigned to. I have in my possession falsified documents signed by [REDACTED] to support this statement. You know as well as I do the number of people who have quit this job simply because of [REDACTED] personally feel that when a man or woman can endure the life style here and the war, but cannot endure the actions of the Site Supervisor, there is a serious problem. [REDACTED] is constantly on the hunt for the next female victim, just ask the men. I often wonder if he has ever had a sexual harassment complaint against him. If he can't be loyal to his wife how can he be loyal to L-3???

[REDACTED] I did not come here for the money. I came to do some good. I don't want to leave but I will not let my 36 years of aviation experience be used to allow a Saddam wannabe to hold his throne. I am sure [REDACTED] has done some good here, I acknowledge that, but he is out of control. Taji needs to be investigated by a third party and someone needs to talk to the men and not the management for a change.

Please consider this my formal letter of resignation. I will have the original letter with me and will have a witness sign it just in case someone decides to cut and post changes. I will be packing and sending my belongings home tomorrow.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. I believe in the chain of command and you being my next higher point of contact I will wait for your response prior to forwarding this letter to HR and my former employer, President of Productions, CNN for further investigation.

Henry "Buster" Roderigas
Acting Assistant Site Supervisor
Taji, Iraq

Subj: Re: FW: LETTER OF RESIGNATION
 Date: 7/20/2005 1:48:54 PM Pacific Standard Time
 From: HRoderig
 To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thank you so very much for responding to my situation here at Taji. I will do my best to enlighten you as to the issues which exist at this site. Please understand that what I am about to reveal to you is based on observation and is not an act of a disgruntled employee. I take great pride in being an active member of this history making event in which L-3 Vertex has such a major role. It is because of my beliefs and experience as a leader and business owner that I humbly present to you the following issues.

This is the first time I have made a complaint to upper management in regard to issues at this station. I will start with the falsified document which I have attached with this communication. It is a request for an upgrade to ITV status for me. In the second paragraph it states I have performed the duties as AH-64 and UH-60 Phase Team Leader, OH-58 Flight Line Lead, Mechanic and Structural Technician. These are false statements made in order to upgrade me to a position of leadership in order to fill a vacancy at this site. I assumed I was upgraded because someone read my resume. I found this document while reviewing my personal history file. Needless to say I was shocked and disgusted. I have never taken anything that I was not deserving of or assume a position under false pretenses. Although some of this memo is true and correct and the fact that I am capable of managing the men assigned to me, it is still false in nature. This is where the problem comes in. [REDACTED] uses this same technique to promote people who do not possess skills needed to lead and function as representatives of the management. I often have wondered why certain people are in the positions they are in and when I found this memo I discovered the answer. [REDACTED] at times promotes someone for reasons other than professional. This has created many problems in the leadership end of things due to [REDACTED] disregard to seniority, skill level and leadership abilities of an individual. Recently a man, [REDACTED] MAV status was assigned to be team lead for the UH-60 Phase team. This man prior to his assignment has spread disharmony and unrest among his CO workers on a regular bases. He was lazy and hard to motivate. He has recently made the comment that when he gets his ITV position he want have to do anything any longer and no body can do anything about it. I overheard this in the chow hall. I ask [REDACTED] why he was putting this young kid in charge when we have so much more talent to chose from. I was told he will be just fine. We will see I guess and in the mean time ii have fifteen people who worked with this man that don't understand why. These guys think that the more you disrupt things and the more you slack off the sooner you move up. This man should be written up and discharged if he continues, not promoted.

Recently the 3rd ACR which is an AH-64 company relocated to Tal Afar. We were requested to send 8 people with them from our site. These people were to be 64 qualified. We did in fact send 6 people. We sent six problem children to that site instead of six qualified people as requested. [REDACTED] did his magic again and justified the people we sent. We set the L-3 operation up for confusion and failure. Several of the people quite shortly after getting there. One man, [REDACTED] who was processing for medical loa was manifested to go even though we knew he wasn't going. We even sent his multi packs with the other guys. [REDACTED] did this out of spite for [REDACTED]. There was conflict between the two over a woman. [REDACTED] is married isn't he? We received an email from [REDACTED] telling us not to send [REDACTED] multi packs to Tal Afar and [REDACTED] danced around that one. I had told [REDACTED] we should not send his stuff there. Now we have to send a replacement and guess what, we are sending a girl that the 3rd ACR has already voiced there opinion about...She will not work on our aircraft....How will the site supervisor handle that in Tal Afar when she get there. [REDACTED] I understand how a man would not want to lose good people to another site but to go through a list of names and pick out all the black sheep and send them does not help the overall mission. We knew several of those people would quite shortly after arriving at Tal Afar.

Alcohol. It arrives here via DHL to several individuals. [REDACTED] Knows who they are because they keep him supplied. Therefor those people are untouchable. We are not allowed to have Military personnel in our living quarters yet [REDACTED] has his regular poker games with female participants and alcohol. The men see them coming and going all the time from [REDACTED] trailer.

Disaplin. I have watched [REDACTED] bring people to tears over the most trivial of matters. He takes great pride in being in a position to do so. I personally witnessed him push one employee, [REDACTED] to the point of tears over the placement of a filing cabinet and cursed her so badly that she quite. I watched him discipline another girl over making noise and waking her next door neighbor. This girl was also brought to tears. The next door neighbor is a girl. [REDACTED] has been seen at the pool quite often with. I myself watched him rub oil on her. Conduct unbecoming of a married man and a leader.

[REDACTED] is an adulterer and a tyrant living the life of a king at the expense of many people. He is volatile and reacts instead of acting on a problem. I have a list of names and email address of people who have been pushed

out of this site by [REDACTED] that were written of as disgruntled employees. Maybe some were but most were not. They were abused. At present we have a new girl in the office. She is not qualified for the position she is in and several other people are. Why was she picked? Because [REDACTED] says so. In the mean time [REDACTED] has let it be known that everyone should stay away from her. He put that out in a team lead meeting and I could not believe he said that, but he did.

This man is out of control and has a hidden agenda. These people here are afraid of him and his power. The morale here has been very low with lots of animosity toward the office.

During your investigation I ask that you check with CW-4 [REDACTED] of the PC section and [REDACTED] the commanding officer of the 603rd as to my attributes and willingness to get the job done here. I have striven very hard to reach goals for my men and myself that are obtainable although difficult. [REDACTED] puts very little effort into solving problems and finding solutions instead he simply blows up and starts yelling and cursing. He is not someone I would want to be in a fox hole with believe me.

As to my resignation, I do not want to resign [REDACTED] primarily because I am not one to be defeated so easily. I am mission oriented and I have the good of the company that sponsors me as my primary goal. What do I do? I am off the clock, on my own time in a combat zone waiting to go home because of ethical and moral issues with the person in charge. I am a leader and I have not a clue as to which way to turn. Please direct me in the right direction. What do I do, where do I go, where am I needed? I will postpone sending my belongings home till I hear from you as to what to do next. I am sure you will address the issues here at Taji. Next month will be ideal because [REDACTED] will be on leave and maybe the men and women want be afraid to talk to someone. I will be waiting for your directions.

Very Respectfully,
Henry "Buster" Roderigas

Subj: RE: Buster Roderigas
Date: 8/24/2005 7:40:04 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]

Buster

I have been in training the last week. [REDACTED] and I do want you to go back to your site. [REDACTED] is currently on leve and we have two investigators at the site investigating the situation.

I will be available for your call any time tomorrow.

thanks

Kind Regards,
[REDACTED]
Human Resources Manager, CFS
L-3 Vertex Aerospace
[REDACTED]

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 21, 2005 10:40 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Buster Roderigas

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope things are going good at your end. My son just left for Ft. Carson where he is going to be evaluated and find out if he will be allowed to remain in the army. He sure doesn't want to be discharged so we will hope that doesn't happen.

[REDACTED] will need to know what day next week you want me to leave for Kuwait. I have my return ticket but I need to schedule the flight with the airlines. We had decided I would leave the week of the 23rd. I am packed and ready to return and get to work. I will contact you again on Tuesday if I do not hear back from you before then.

Thanks again for all you have done and are doing. I will look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank You, Henry 'Buster' Roderigas

//



communications
Integrated Systems
Vertex Aerospace

October 6, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

Mr. Henry Roderigas, SSN# [REDACTED], has accepted a position with L-3 Communications Vertex Aerospace CFT to work as an Aircraft, Mechanic in Southwest Asia in direct support of military operations. Mr. Roderigas is departing the U.S. on 21 October 2004.

If you have any questions please call [REDACTED] toll free at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

HR Manager

L-3 Communications AeroTech • Contract Field Team Operations
8001 Mid America BLVD, Suite 500 • Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73135
(405)736-8021 • Fax: (405)732-1006

Subj: **FW: LETTER OF RESIGNATION**
Date: 7/20/2005 11:22:58 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]

Mr. Rodriguez,

I have received your letter of resignation. Would you please give me a little clarification of the issues at your site? I have received complaints from Southwest Asia and we have conducted investigations in Balad and Kuwait. I was unaware that there were major issues in Taji. L-3 takes these complaints seriously and we will do everything to ensure that our site supervisors conduct themselves according to our policies and code of ethics. However, I need more information to be able to move forward and conduct an investigation. Please provide me with as many examples, dates and witnesses as possible. In addition, I need to know if you had made any complaints previously, to management in Kuwait or HR.

We hope you will reconsider your resignation and give us the opportunity to conduct a proper investigation and make appropriate corrections.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]
Human Resources Manager, CFS
L-3 Vertex Aerospace
[REDACTED]

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2005 2:09 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: LETTER OF RESIGNATION

[REDACTED]
L-3Com Vertex Aerospace
Program Manager
SWA CFT
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2005 10:05 AM

To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: LETTER OF RESIGNATION

[REDACTED]
L3 Com. Vertex Aerospace
Operations Manager Iraq
SWA CFT
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2005 12:22 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: LETTER OF RESIGNATION

Please see the attached file which contains my formal letter of resignation from L-3Vertex.
I will await confirmation from [REDACTED] prior to forwarding this email to HR and other third parties.

Henry "Buster" Roderigas



2005 Atlanta Gr
OCTOBER 6, '05

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Father Followed Son to Iraq

Reported By: Jon Shirek

Web Editor: Manav Tanneeru

Last Modified: 8/9/2005 7:44:17 PM

A Barrow County man whose son was wounded fighting in Iraq has a unique perspective for a parent. He was there, too.

Buster Roderigas is a father with memories of his own war. "A year and a half in Vietnam, I was shot down in a helicopter. I know what it's like to pay the price," he said.

The father said he had a premonition something would happen to his son while on duty.

So, last year, he followed his instincts, left Barrow County, and followed his son -- Staff Sgt. Dustin Roderigas, a Bradley tank commander -- to Iraq, taking a civilian job on a U.S. Army base.

In May, the father's premonition came true. Dustin and his crew were hit by a massive, roadside bomb near Fallujah, Iraq.

"It picked his Bradley up, threw it across the street," the father said.

Within hours, Buster Roderigas was with his son in a military hospital.

"[I] kind of busted out crying -- that's where we got to see each other for the first time in almost a year," he said.

He stayed with his son during his recovery, taking photos and videos, and taking stock of what his son was doing in Iraq while risking his life

"He does his part for his country, for us, so we can do the things that we do, and he does it with a free heart, and a free spirit. That's what he wants to do. He wants to fight for freedom," the father.

Now, the father is at home and at peace with his son's calling to war against invisible insurgents.

"If we turn our eyes the other way, and let it go on, it will be in our own backyard before it's over with. There's no question about it. We have to make these sacrifices. We have to," he said.

His son's been recuperating in the States, but, he suspects, not for long. "He wants to go back., like, today," the father said.

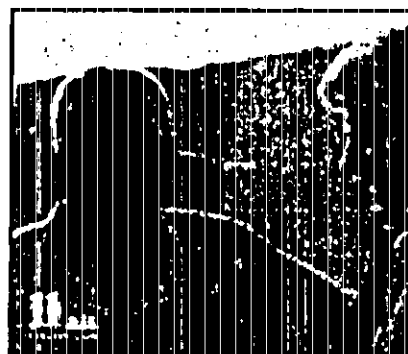
The two soldiers who were with Staff Sgt. Roderigas also survived, and they credit Roderigas for always making them wear every piece of protective gear the army issues, despite the intense heat.

Print E-mail Make Us Home

Jon Shirek Reports



Buster Roderigas



Staff Sgt. Dustin Roderigas (l) and father Buster Roderigas

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A year on the edge: 2nd BCT bound for Colorado after grueling tour in Ramadi

Soldiers' memories of Iraq are etched in tragedy and triumph

By Joseph Giordano, Stars and Stripes Pacific edition, Sunday, July 31, 2005

RAMADI, Iraq — They marked the passage of a year not by the numbers on a calendar, but by their memories of extraordinary events.

The day a beloved platoon sergeant was killed. The four-day, running battles to secure polling places in a city whose population refused to vote. The outdoor birthday celebration interrupted by a million-to-one mortar shot hitting an artillery piece and killing four men.

After one year, 68 deaths, and 498 Purple Hearts awarded with "several hundred more" pending, the 3,900 soldiers of the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division have left Iraq. They were an experiment of sorts for the Army, deploying from bases along the Demilitarized Zone in South Korea, the first time units there meant to preserve a Cold War peace were sent directly to a shooting war. They will head to an entirely new home in Fort Carson, Colo., taking over the barracks of yet another unit deploying to Iraq.

For many, it was the second or third



First in a four-part series on the 2nd Brigade's year in Iraq.

Related article:
[Silver Stars honor two 2nd BCT GIs who sacrificed their lives for others](#)

Military family locator

A site set up to collect status and location information from military family members affected and/or displaced by Hurricane Katrina.



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straight year without their families. They served in one of the most violent cities in Iraq, in some cases living on austere bases where the latrines were crude wooden frames atop metal buckets. They were mortared nearly every day, through a pair of brutal summers and a muddy, cold winter.

A volatile year

"It seems like the elections were forever ago," said 1st Lt. Matt Miller, an artillery officer who had spent his year attached to the 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, training Iraqi recruits. "I came back from leave and almost forgot about them."

While the elections to form the beginnings of a new Iraqi government were a success in other parts of the country, Ramadi's Sunni population heeded both the boycott calls of their own leadership and the death threats of insurgents. Fewer than 1,000 people in this city of 250,000 voted on Jan. 30.

In many ways, the situation hasn't changed since election day. Gunfights still erupt frequently downtown and there are persistent reports of masked insurgents controlling the streets when U.S. patrols aren't around.

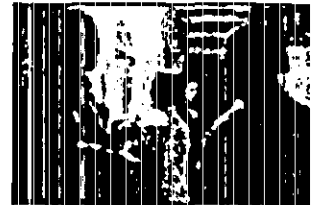
But there also are signs of progress, particularly on the city's fringes.

In the spring, U.S. forces kicked off Operation River Blitz, screening traffic across the main bridges over the Euphrates River and the canals that form a natural boundary around Ramadi. The checkpoints are still there, stifling the freedom of movement. Insurgents once had between Ramadi and the flash point city of Fallujah. Weapons and fighters still trickle across the waterways, despite at least one operation in which U.S. troops disabled dozens of small river boats used to ferry contraband.



Joseph Giordano / S&S

As their yearlong tour in Iraq comes to a close, soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team stand on a bridge overlooking Ramadi at sunset.



Joseph Giordano / S&S

U.S. and Iraqi troops question Iraqi men during a night raid in Ramadi.



Joseph Giordano / S&S

A young Iraqi girl watches a passing patrol of U.S. and Iraqi soldiers.

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The blockades, along with a change in tactics, have produced results in Tamin, a district along Ramadi's western edge. Since the soldiers began sending out sniper teams and stepping up night patrols with Iraqi forces, said Capt. Kevin Capozzoli, commander of Company A, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, things have improved.

"Between May and June, when we started the (Iraqi Security Force) patrols, there's been a 65 percent decrease" in the number of homemade bombs, he said. Between July 2 and July 20, there was only one detonation in Tamin.

"They are the ones who are going to finish the fight," the brigade commander, Col. Gary Patton, said of the new Iraqi forces.

U.S. and Iraqi forces have expanded their presence in the toughest neighborhoods downtown, he said, establishing two-week "strong points" in insurgent havens. "We have turned the corner. The avalanche has started and it's not going to stop."

Applying pressure

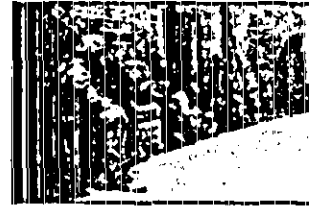
The violence in Ramadi went in cycles, soldiers said. The first big spike was in November, around the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. The attacks waned after the elections, but they increased again in the spring. Soldiers point to two reasons for that.

First, the five Iraqi National Guard battalions that had been imported for election security were disbanded. They were inept and unorganized, so 2nd Brigade leaders cut them loose.

Second, a series of offensives farther west in Iraq drew a lot of combat power from a military stretched thin across the country.

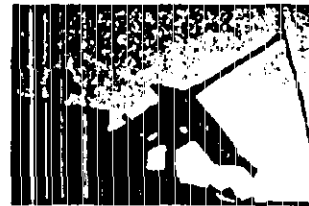
"I knew they were going to hit us when the offensives kicked off," Capozzoli said. Over a few weeks, eight of his soldiers were killed. It was a low point for the 1-9 Infantry and there were signs the unit was feeling the strain nine months into its tour.

"But you had to keep going. You had to do whatever you could to



Joseph Giordano / S&S

First Lt. Judson Bennett, left, Capt. Kevin Capozzoli and 1st Lt. Matt Miller from 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry seek some shade.



Joseph Giordano / S&S

A soldier from 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment mans a .50-caliber machine gun while patrolling Ramadi.

keep fighting through. That was a credit to the leadership," Capozzoli said.

In May, the brigade started receiving and training new Iraqi army soldiers. Through July, 2nd Brigade soldiers said, the new Iraqi units have performed much better than the first group.

"There's still some problems, but it's a lot better," said Sgt. Eddie Vargas, one of the trainers. "They still have a ways to go."

Soldiers say they've also noticed a small but significant change in the way Ramadi residents describe the insurgency.

The locals now refer to either "the terrorists" who seem to kill at random, or "the local resistance" who fight for ideology and enjoy some measure of support and succor.

"Ramadi is symbolic," said Maj. Tom Munsey, the brigade's fire support and information operations officer. "So goes Ramadi, so goes Anbar province. Both sides realize that."

Echoes of the past

For some, the deployment was occasionally a mind-bending knot of family threads. Staff Sgt. Dustin Roderigas' father, grandfather and great-grandfather fought in wars for the United States.

His father, a Vietnam-era helicopter door gunner, retired and ran his own aviation firm. Roderigas was born while his father served in Vietnam; Roderigas' own son was born the day the unit shipped off to Iraq. After Sept. 11, 2001, Roderigas' father joined a contractor supplying helicopter maintenance experts downrange. When the younger Roderigas deployed to Iraq, his father was in Taji, north of Baghdad.

On May 22, Dustin Roderigas' Bradley fighting vehicle was blown up by a roadside bomb. He survived with a serious leg injury, and was sent to a military hospital in Balad. After pulling some strings, and with a little help from the aviation units he serviced, the elder Roderigas swung a hospital visit to his son. "I was in the bed, on a morphine drip, and all of a sudden there was my dad," Dustin recalled later.

"I thought I pressed the morphine button too many times."

Going home

Six months after the election, 12 months after they arrived, some things have changed and some things haven't.

New faces have replaced the dead and wounded who were sent home.

A piece of graffiti scrawled on the wall of a plastic portable toilet at Forward Operating Base Ramadi seemed to sum it up back in January: "Only the dead have seen the end of war," it read.

By late July, as the 2nd Brigade soldiers packed their things for what they all called the Freedom Bird home, someone had added a postscript: "You said it brother. But we're still standing. And we're outta here."

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA DIVISION


SEALED)
 Plaintiffs)
))
v.) Civil Action File
) No.: _____
SEALED)
 Defendants.) JURY TRIAL
) DEMANDED
 /

SEALED COMPLAINT PURSUANT TO 31 U.S.C.A. § 3730(b)(2)

Pursuant to 31 U.S.C.A. § 3730(b)(2), this Complaint is to be filed in camera and shall remain under seal and shall not be served upon Defendants until so ordered by this Honorable Court.

Additionally, pursuant to the terms of Standing Order 04-01 (III)(A), no Notice of Manual Filing is required and this Complaint shall not be accessible on the ECF system.

Respectfully submitted this 9th day of November, 2005



Lee Tarte Wallace
Georgia Bar No.: 698320

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA *ex rel.*)
HENRY W. "BUSTER" RODERIGAS, Jr.,)
AND HENRY W. "BUSTER" RODERIGAS,)
INDIVIDUALLY,)

Plaintiffs)

v.)

L-3 VERTEX AEROSPACE, LLC, f/k/a)
VERTEX AEROSPACE, INC.,)
L-3 COMMUNICATIONS INTEGRATED)
SYSTEMS, LP and)
L-3 COMMUNICATIONS HOLDINGS, INC.)

Defendants.)

Civil Action File

No.: _____

JURY TRIAL
DEMANDED

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that I have this date served counsel for the United States of America with a copy of COMPLAINT via U.S. Mail to:

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This 10th day of November, 2005.

GORBY, REEVES & PETERS, P.C.



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