

AUG 15 REC'D

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Office of Legislative Affairs

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Washington, DC 20528



# Homeland Security

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Waxman:

On behalf of Secretary Chertoff, thank you for your letter regarding the Department of Homeland Security's potential use of cruise ships as detention facilities for illegal aliens. You also inquired about the contract issued to KBR, Inc. (formerly Kellogg Brown and Root) for emergency housing and detention facilities support services.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Office of Detention and Removal Operations believes that before it could consider use of cruise ships to detain and remove aliens, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) would have to evaluate a number of serious safety, cost, legal, and logistical issues. In the absence of a detailed analysis and study, DHS has no plans at this time to use cruise ships for this purpose.

With regard to your inquiry about the contract issued to KBR, Inc., a critical aspect of ICE's mission is the responsibility for promoting public safety and national security by ensuring that removable aliens depart the United States. To accomplish this mission, ICE must maintain the capability to provide a reliable supply of detention facilities for housing detained illegal aliens during immigration emergencies, such as a mass migration.

To prepare for such conditions, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), within the Department of Defense, awarded a contingency support contract in 2001. The contract was again competitively offered to the public and awarded to KBR in December 2005. The contract ceiling is \$385 million based on the potential five-year period of performance, and the contract was issued for a base period of one year with four one-year options. Per your request, a copy of this contract is enclosed.

This contract provides ICE an emergency response mechanism to deploy support services and temporary shelters within short response times for migrant populations. Such support services are necessary to ensure a high level of readiness when responding to a mass migration that might occur anywhere throughout the nation. All deployment locations supported under this contract are temporary. KBR, Inc. would only receive funding if ICE has a need for those services and requests that USACE place a task order against the contract. Working cooperatively, USACE and ICE will provide full contractual and programmatic oversight.

I appreciate your interest in the Department of Homeland Security, and I look forward to working with you on future homeland security issues. If I may be of further assistance, please contact the Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 447-5890.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Kent". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Donald H. Kent  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Enclosure