



# News Release

BYRON L. DORGAN  
CHAIRMAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Monday  
July 27, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
CONTACT: Barry E. Piatt  
PHONE: 202-224-0577

## **DORGAN SAYS DOD IG REPORT CONFIRMS DPC HEARING FINDINGS, CALLS KBR AND ARMY'S CONDUCT "UNACCEPTABLE"**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) --- U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND) said Monday a new Defense Department Inspector General investigation confirms findings of a hearing he chaired a year ago: the electrocution death of Staff Sgt. Ryan Maseth was the result of poor-quality electrical work by contractor KBR and that the Army failed to adequately oversee KBR or hold the company accountable.

"This is a damning report," Dorgan said Monday. "The conduct of both KBR and the Army is unacceptable."

In the report, the Inspector General concluded that KBR failed to ground equipment which contributed to the electrocution death of Staff Sgt. Maseth. The IG also found that KBR failed to: employ personnel with adequate electrical training and expertise; report improperly grounded equipment the company had identified; and perform its work in the 'skillful and workmanlike manner' required by the contract.

"KBR has repeatedly denied any responsibility for what happened to Sgt. Maseth and other soldiers who were shocked and electrocuted in Iraq. This report makes it impossible for them to do that any longer," Dorgan added. "Instead of cutting corners and issuing denials, KBR needs to get very serious, very quickly about doing quality work that protects soldiers rather than endangering them."

Dorgan also renewed his call for the Pentagon to recoup the \$83.4 million in bonuses that the Pentagon paid KBR under LOGCAP III Task Order 139 for its shoddy electrical work.

As Chairman of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee, Dorgan has chaired 19 oversight hearings on contracting waste, fraud and corruption in Iraq and Afghanistan. One of these hearings, held on July 11, 2008, looked into the electrocution of Staff Sgt. Maseth, who died while he was showering at a U.S. Army facility in Iraq. The hearing revealed that KBR hired non-qualified electricians, supervised by non-electricians to do electrical wiring work at U.S. bases throughout Iraq. Whistleblowers and licensed electricians testified that KBR's work was not only shoddy, but posed a deadly risk to U.S. troops serving in Iraq.

Dorgan and other Members of Congress requested the Inspector General Report on Maseth's death, as well as a broad review of electrical work throughout Iraq. That review is ongoing, but has already found widespread electrical problems at hundreds of U.S. Army facilities in Iraq.

-- END --