



PROJECT ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

October 25, 2011

Mission Essential Personnel  
4343 Easton Commons, Suite 100  
Columbus, OH 43219

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Project On Government Oversight (POGO) has updated its Federal Contractor Misconduct Database (<http://www.contractormisconduct.org/>), a compilation of information from public resources regarding government contractors, including Mission Essential Personnel. I have enclosed the findings relevant to your company, and I am seeking verification of this data.

Any response would be greatly appreciated, as the accuracy of this information is in the best interest of all parties. Out of fairness to Mission Essential Personnel, please be assured that any response received by POGO will be posted on the website along with the data. Please note that the database includes pending instances, but these are kept separate from resolved instances and are not included in the totals.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at (202) 347-1122. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Neil Gordon', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Neil Gordon  
Investigator

Enclosure

## **Instances**

### **Funk v. Mission Essential Personnel (Unqualified Translators)**

**Date:** 10/07/2010 (Date of 2nd Amended Complaint)

**Misconduct Type:** Government Contract Fraud

**Enforcement Agency:** Non-Governmental

**Contracting Party:** Defense - Army

**Court Type:** Civil

**Amount:** Undisclosed

**Disposition:** Settlement

**Synopsis:** Former Mission Essential Personnel employee Paul Funk filed a False Claims Act lawsuit alleging the company was supplying the Army with unqualified foreign language translators in Afghanistan in 2007 and 2008. Funk alleged MEP gave passing grades on language exams to applicants who failed meet the Army's proficiency standards or otherwise had poor skills in the Pashto and Dari languages. Funk also claimed the company retaliated against him. In February 2011, according to a press release issued by MEP, the lawsuit was dismissed as the result of "a confidential negotiated agreement under which MEP will not make any payment to the Relator or the United States regarding the False Claims Act fraud allegations." The lawsuit was dismissed without prejudice as to the United States.

### **Worldwide Language Resources v. Mission Essential Personnel (Unfair Competition)**

**Date:** 08/11/2008 (Date of Complaint)

**Misconduct Type:** Ethics

**Enforcement Agency:** Non-Governmental

**Contracting Party:** Defense - Army

**Court Type:** Civil

**Amount:** Undisclosed

**Disposition:** Settlement

**Synopsis:** Worldwide Language Resources, Inc. (WWLR), a government contractor that provides linguistic support services to the U.S. military in Afghanistan, filed a lawsuit against its direct competitor, Mission Essential Personnel, alleging breach of contract, unfair competition, and tortious interference with a contract. WWLR accused MEP of engaging in a scheme to "raid" WWLR's linguists in Afghanistan in July and August 2008. The lawsuit was settled in 2010.

## **Pending Instance**

### **Estate of Thompson, et al. v. Mission Essential Personnel (Wrongful Death)**

**Date:** 07/11/2011 (Date of Complaint)

**Misconduct Type:** Other

**Enforcement Agency:** Non-Governmental

**Contracting Party:** Defense - Army

**Court Type:** Civil

**Amount:** \$0

**Disposition:** Pending

**Synopsis:** In January 2010, an interpreter hired by Mission Essential Personnel, Nasir Ahmad Ahmadi, killed two soldiers and wounded a third when he went on a shooting spree at an Army Special Forces base near Kabul, Afghanistan. During the incident, Ahmadi killed Specialist Marc Decoteau and Capt. David Johnpaul Thompson and wounded Chief Warrant Officer Thomas

Russell. Russell and the families of Decoteau and Thompson filed a wrongful death lawsuit against MEP accusing the company of negligence and breach of contract for not properly vetting, training, and managing Ahmadi.