

May 7, 1986

Honorable Joseph H. Sherick
Inspector General - Department of Defense
The Pentagon - 1E482
Washington D.C. 20301

Dear Sir:

I believe there has been a serious breach of ethics and conflict of interest incident to the current TRIMIS procurements by the Defense Medical System Support Center (DMSSC) of DOD/Health Affairs which bears immediate investigation.

A cursory study of current journal and media articles about the CHCS (Composite Health Care System) procurement leads one to conclude that the McDonnell Douglas Health Information System Company proposal is the, or, at least one of the, likely winners of this very expensive procurement which will cost the taxpayers well over a billion dollars.

It is common knowledge that Colonel Brekhus (ret) & J. Corken of McDonnell Douglas have retained several individuals to assist in writing and marketing the proposal who have a definite conflict of interest and whose participation is a clear breach of the code of ethics. In particular, two (2) recently retired DOD Health Affairs Army Officers responsible for the TRIMIS Program management for many years as well as the development of the detailed requirements & specifications for the CHCS -- and -- a civilian, the former owner of Libra Corporation, which is still under contract with TPO to develop requirements, specifications and to do advanced program planning for TRIMIS.

Libra (now a part of NDS) was quite correctly restricted from bidding the CHCS even as a sub contractor because of this obvious unfair competitive advantage & conflict of interest.

The individuals referred to are:

Colonel John W. McGinnis	- former Executive Director of the TRIMIS Program Office
Lt Colonel Matthew Gustat	- former Director of CHCS Requirements, TPO
Mr. Stuart Gold	- former owner & President of Libra -
Ms. Barbara Ewing	- former chief of the TRIMIS Administrative Office

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The current and frequent contacts of these individuals with key individuals in the DMSSC, Mr. Mestrovich, J. Pappa, L. Koch, A. Andreoni, D. Oatway, and many of their administrative and staff members -- all of whom McGinnis had hired, promoted and directly supervised during his many years as the TPO Director, could only result in actual or apparent improprieties leading to unfair competition in this sensitive procurement.

Further, the code of ethics concerning retired military from working on specific programs for which they were responsible has been seriously breached.

The letter and intent of the law must be vigorously administered to assure that high standards of conduct are complied with by all those who are involved with the use of public funds - government employees as well as contractors.

I trust that this serious situation will be thoroughly and diligently investigated to assure fair & equitable competition on all public procurements.

Sincerely yours,

A deeply concerned citizen