Contractors continue to play a substantial role in supporting U.S. military and diplomatic operations and sustainment, as well as reconstruction programs, in Iraq. DoD reports that as of August 2009, almost 174,000 contractor personnel were working in Iraq. For a breakdown by agency, see Table 2.7. These numbers reflect a 10% reduction in the contractor footprint in Iraq since last quarter.125

DoD has expanded the use of contractors in its acquisition process to aid in program management functions and has relied heavily on contractors to carry out operations in Iraq.126 U.S. policymakers continue to express concern over the oversight of Iraq contracts for several reasons, including the expense and difficulty of managing logistical support contracts as well as allegations of contract waste, fraud, abuse, and financial mismanagement.127

This quarter, MNF-I reports that its contractor force has been reduced by about 5%; as it draws down over the next 11 months, it expects to maintain a ratio of about one contractor for each of its personnel in Iraq. But some categories of contractors may increase temporarily to provide sufficient numbers of logisticians, engineers, and transportation specialists. DoD reports that it will be emphasizing limiting contractors in all areas, transitioning from hiring non-Iraqi contractors to hiring Iraqi contractors and "reducing costs in every way possible."128

For a breakdown of DoD contractors by national origin and type of service they provide, see Figure 2.10.

**Contractor Tracking**

DoD is working with the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) to continue the transition from manual accounting of contractor personnel to a web-based data tool—the Synchronized Predeployment and Operational Tracker (SPOT)—which allows real-time tracking capability for managers in theater.129

DoD has mandated that contingency contractors, as well as their personnel, be registered in SPOT if their work is contracted for longer than 30 days or if the value of the contract exceeds $25,000. In addition, CENTCOM has mandated that contractors must have SPOT-generated...
USE OF CONTRACT PERSONNEL

Contractor Deaths

Since 2003, more than 1,442 contractor employees—Americans, Iraqis, and third-country nationals—have died in Iraq.135

According to GAO’s audit, SPOT currently does not have the capability to track all of the required contract information or readily generate historical reports on the total number of killed or wounded contractor personnel. Moreover, the audit found that not all deaths and injuries reported under the Defense Base Act would be regarded as contractors killed or wounded within the context of the NDAA for FY 2008. In addition, some contractor deaths and injuries may not be reported to the Department of Labor, as required. In particular, the deaths and injuries to local and third-country contractors may be underreported.136

As part of an effort to address such gaps, DoD reports that the January 2009 release of SPOT provides better functionality. Specifically, the system now has a more visible killed-in-action/wounded-in-action status under a drop-down menu, which must be updated by contractors upon change of personnel status.137 Notwithstanding this recent change to SPOT, SIGIR has reported historically on contractor deaths from information provided by DoL. (See Figure 2.11).