

U.S. has criminal probe into Iraq arms

by UPI

BAGHDAD - Criminal investigations have been launched by several U.S. departments and agencies into possible fraud in the delivery of U.S. weapons and supplies in Iraq. Since last year, various governmental oversight agencies have noted discrepancies in the delivery of goods to Iraqi forces, although none have found evidence of weaponry or supplies ending up in insurgents' hands, a New York Times correspondent reported from Baghdad. However, sources said one of the investigations being conducted by the Army Criminal Investigation Command, the Department of Justice, and the FBI involves a lieutenant colonel who reported directly to U.S. Army Gen. David Petraeus in 2005 and worked with him in setting up the logistics operation to supply Iraqi troops, the Times said. It isn't clear exactly what the officer is being investigated for, the Times said, and she didn't return the newspaper's telephone calls on Monday. Army spokesman Col. Dan Baggio told the Times there were 73 ongoing criminal investigations related to \$5 billion in contract fraud in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan. He said 20 civilians and military personnel have been charged in court so far.

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