

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
Office of the State Auditor



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PRESS RELEASE

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U.S. State Department seeks help from Auditor Campbell to establish government auditing agency in Iraq

RALEIGH _ North Carolina State Auditor Ralph Campbell has been asked to help the U.S. State Department and the new government in Iraq develop its government auditing abilities as part of democratic reforms.

The Office of the State Auditor is supplying copies of the state laws that affect government audits, audit manuals, staff job descriptions, job interview questions for potential auditors, as well as training manuals and presentations.

“A problem we have is getting instructors to come here, so we are looking for sources for course outlines we can use here with our locals to teach classes,” Vance Jochim of the U.S. State Department said in an email from Baghdad . “These folks are way behind in any type of business, management or professional training, so we have to almost start from scratch”

Jochim is helping set up the Commission on Personal Integrity, which has broad audit and police powers intended to identify, document and prosecute fraud within the Iraqi government and its 27 ministries. A separate Board of Supreme Audit, which is similar to the U.S. Government Accountability Office, also is being established, with standards set by the Commission of Personal Integrity.

Jochim said he requested help from North Carolina and Texas after examining State Auditor websites around the country. He said he was impressed with North Carolina’s organization, particularly the Investigative Audit Division that handles complaints to the State Auditor’s Hotline.

“I selected North Carolina and Texas because they are both business friendly states and I have visited both several times,” said Jochim, who hopes to move to North Carolina after his service in Iraq ends.



“It is an honor for us to help in whatever way we can to establish the new government in Iraq,” said Campbell. “With so many troops from North Carolina engaged in Iraq, including members of my own staff, the war has felt very close to home.

“We are pleased to do what we can from the homefront to support our military anywhere they are deployed,” said Campbell, who served in the U.S. Army Reserve. “Democracy requires accountability from its government agencies. Ensuring that accountability is what we do in this office, and we are happy to share what we have learned with the people of Iraq.”

Auditing can be a much more dangerous business in Iraq than it is in North Carolina. Ihsan Karim, the head of Iraq’s Board of Supreme Audit, was killed in a bomb attack in September. At the time, he was leading the investigation into alleged corruption in the United Nations oil-for-food program.

This is not the first time that the Office of the State Auditor has been involved in international relations. In 1998, the office helped the Supreme Audit Board of Indonesia in setting up a performance audit division. It helped the Japanese government with a similar request in 2001. Performance audits are intended to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of government agencies and programs.

The Office of the State Auditor web page is located at www.ncauditor.net.

