



**Independent Joint Anti-Corruption
Monitoring & Evaluation Committee**

NEWS RELEASE

**MEC asks SIGAR to review \$39 million worth of US funded
pharmaceuticals that cannot be accounted for**

KABUL, Afghanistan, October 9, 2013 – MEC’s monitoring of various investigations related to the national military hospitals has led to the conclusion that allegations of the disappearance of millions of dollars of pharmaceuticals cannot be substantiated due to the inability of international forces to locate distribution records.

The case of the national military hospitals became public in September 2010 after the media highlighted the findings of an American research group that reviewed the Sardar Mohammed Dawood Hospital. At this time, several allegations of patient neglect, corruption and other crimes including an allegation of millions worth of pharmaceuticals which disappeared were revealed.

In 2011 MEC issued two recommendations related to the case of the national military hospitals calling for the establishment of a Joint Investigation Team and the initiation of a criminal prosecution. The Afghan government established a Joint Investigation Team that resulted in charges being laid against officials from the Ministry of Defense for the misuse of pharmaceuticals, smuggling medicine, and unethical behavior in procurement. However, concerns in regard to errors and technical problems with the indictment and the collection of evidence were highlighted at recent Court hearings.

Compounding weaknesses in the investigation and prosecution is the inability of international military forces to track the distribution of millions of dollars worth of pharmaceuticals that could substantiate claims of embezzlement. MEC has asked SIGAR (Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction) to review this issue to determine how much – if any – of these pharmaceuticals were diverted or misappropriated.

Mr. Yasin Osmani, MEC’s current Chair, stated:

As the independent voice monitoring national and international anti-corruption efforts in Afghanistan, MEC has followed this case from the beginning. Unfortunately international forces cannot account for millions of dollars of pharmaceuticals, which has hampered the investigation of some aspects of the case.

MEC will continue to monitor outstanding issues related to the case of national military hospitals to ensure that they are transparently resolved.

**For more information contact the Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and
Evaluation Committee +93 (0) 798 750 527 contact@mec.af www.mec.af photos
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