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Subject: Re: Cold Front

Posted by [artisticrainey](#) on Wed, 25 Jul 2012 21:01:56 GMT

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Monday, November 5th, Tracy Island, 11 am

Cassie sat patiently across the desk from Jeff as he skimmed through a new Emergency Procedures Policy for the Kabul, Afghanistan plant. During her review of the information sent to her, she had noticed contradictions in the current policy. Though not the only one, the conflicts in the existing procedures were the most extensive there. Cassie felt the correcting and updating the current policy would not be time effective and had set about fleshing out a new set of guidelines for the plant.

"Looks like you put a lot of work into it. I remember from the report you submitted on Friday that Kabul was last in emergency drill response times. Do you think the conflict in the policy has something to do with that?" Jeff asked, looking up from the proposal and gazing across the desk at Cassie.

"From the information I've been given, I believe it is. Employees seem confused when asked questions about the procedure. Doing some research, I found out that the fire protocols for Afghanistan were changed about a year and a half ago. That seems to coincide with the conflicts getting introduced into the policy as well as a decline in the results from drills. I think whoever was in charge of updating the document did so in a hurry."

Jeff glanced at his notes he had made on Cassie's previous reports. "I notice you've been making some changes to other policies. Why create a brand new procedure for Kabul?"

"I think it's necessary in this situation. The edits would be so numerous that there is a chance they would only cause more confusion. By presenting a whole new procedure you're basically telling the employees to disregard all previous policies and learn the new one. Yes, it'll take some effort on the employees part to learn the new procedure but any confusion that exists can be cleared up in the training process."

Jeff nodded, and placed the data pad on his desk. "I can look it over more thoroughly on my own time. I'll get back to you with any questions or clarifications that I may need."

"Okay, sir."

"You mentioned there was something else you wanted to discuss," Jeff said, breaking the silence that had fallen between them.

"There was. With your permission, I'd like to visit some of the Tracy Industry plants and observe a drill for myself. I was thinking maybe three of the sites with the lower times: Kabul, for one. I might see something that is getting missed or can't be relayed in the reports. I'd also like to visit some of the higher ranked sites. Something that is working there might also be able to be implemented at another site."

"You mentioned Kabul already. I'm assuming you'd like to visit there after the new policy gets put

into effect?"

"Yes, sir."

"Which other places did you want to pay a visit to?"

Cassie looked down at her note card that she had written her information on. "Well, Havana and Dakar are two of the other plants on the low end while Tokyo and Christchurch are two of the higher ranked sites. I was also thinking Sydney, Australia as its one of your office only sites."

Jeff nodded. "Sounds reasonable. Getting you to Christchurch shouldn't be a problem. I can have one the boys fly you to the mainland. We should be able to arrange business trips so you can visit the other plants, too. If we arrange one per month it shouldn't leave us short with IR if a rescue were to come up while you were away. Any preference in the order of the visits?"

"Not really. I did have a thought about arranging the visit to the Tokyo plant, though it also involves a personal request," Cassie said, hesitantly. She felt awkward about requesting time off having just started but she had promised her mother she would see what she could do.

Sensing her uneasiness, Jeff smiled. "I'm always willing to listen to anything my employees have to say, work related or personal. The worst I can tell you is no, right?" he said trying to lighten the mood.

Cassie smiled slightly at Jeff's attempt to lighten the atmosphere. With a little more confidence, she started to present her request. "My grandmother has been ill. My parents went over there recently and between my mother and her siblings they finally got my grandmother to get checked out at a hospital in Tokyo. Turns out she has pneumonia. She's still in the hospital but she's doing much better. The Japanese have a holiday known as Labor Thanksgiving Day that falls at the end of November. My grandmother has asked my brothers and me to join the rest of the family in Japan for the celebration this year."

"When exactly is this holiday?"

"November twenty-third. I was thinking that maybe I could combine the trip to the Tokyo plant along with a visit home. My Mom's family lives in Kozushima, which is a small island off shore from Tokyo. Once I got to Tokyo, I could meet my family. The holiday would fall on a Friday so if I flew in middle of the week I could pay a visit to the office, then spend a few days with my family before coming home."

"I think that can be arranged," Jeff said jotting down the dates so he could finalize the arrangements. "I definitely don't want to be the one keeping your grandmother from seeing her granddaughter," he said with a smile, thinking about his own mother and what his kids meant to her.

"I really appreciate it, Mr. Tracy," Cassie replied, relaxing some.

"I'll work out the arrangements, and let you know the details but you can tell your family that you can join them for the holiday. Is there anything else you can think of that we need to discuss?"

"Not that I can think of."

"Okay. Keep up the good work, Cassie," Jeff told her, as he shook her hand.

Cassie said a quick good-bye and then left the lounge.

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