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THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA NORTHERN DIVISION NO. 2:06-CV-49 (F)

| BLACKWATER SECURITY CONSULTING, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company; BLACKWATER LODGE AND TRAINING CENTER, INC., a Delaware Corporation, |) |
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| Plaintiffs/Petitioners, | DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO DISMISS, OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, MOTION TO STAY |
| v. | |
| RICHARD P. NORDAN, as Ancillary Administrator for the separate Estates of STEPHEN S. HELVENSTON, MIKE R. TEAGUE, JERKO GERALD ZOVKO and WESLEY J.K. BATALONA, |)))) |
| Defendant/Respondent. |))) |

COMES NOW Defendant in the above-entitled action, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 12(b)(3) and (6), as well as the *Colorado River* abstention doctrine, and hereby moves the Court for an Order dismissing Plaintiff's entire action, including the Petition for Order Directing Arbitration, or in the alternative, staying the entire proceeding until the resolution of the pending, duplicative North Carolina state court action. This motion is based upon the following grounds:

1. Pursuant to the abstention doctrine articulated by the U.S. Supreme Court in Colorado River Water Conservation District v. United States, 420 U.S. 800 (1976), the instant matter should be dismissed in favor of Plaintiff's compulsory counterclaim in the pending state court action entitled Richard P. Nordan, etc. v. Blackwater Security Consulting, LLC, et al. (Case No. 05CV000173).

- 2. The Plaintiff's petition for order directing arbitration fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, since the claim may not be brought by way of an independent action, but instead is a compulsory counterclaim to the pending state court action entitled Richard P. Nordan, etc. v. Blackwater Security Consulting, LLC, et al. (Case No. 05CV000173), and thus should be dismissed pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 12(b)(6).
- 3. This Court is the improper venue for the instant petition to compel arbitration, since the arbitration claim brought by Plaintiff is a compulsory counterclaim to the pending state court action entitled *Richard P. Nordan, etc. v. Blackwater Security Consulting, LLC, et al.* (Case No. 05CV000173), and thus should be dismissed pursuant to *Federal Rules of Civil Procedure* Rule 12(b)(3).

In support of this motion to dismiss, or in the alternative, motion to stay, the Defendant concurrently submits herewith the Defendant's Memorandum of Law in Support of Motion to Dismiss, or in the alternative, Motion to Stay and a Request for Judicial Notice.

WHEREFORE, Defendant, by his undersigned attorneys, moves this Court for an Order dismissing the instant action in its entirety, or in the alternative, staying the matter until the resolution of the pending state court case.

This 10th day of January 2007.

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WESLEY J.K. BATALONA

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify I electronically served **Defendant's Motion to Dismiss, or** in the Alternative, Motion to Stay by sending notification via email addressed to the following:

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This the <u>loan</u> day of January, 2007.

KIRBY & HOLT, L.L.P.

David F. Kirby N.C. Bar #7841