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Date: 25 Aug 03

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Conduct of Female Searches in CENTCOM AOR

- ~~(S)~~ **Purpose.** Provide DepSecDef information on conducting female searches in the CENTCOM Area of Operations
- ~~(S)~~ **Background**
 - ~~(S)~~ DepSecDef asked if CENTCOM believed there is an issue with searching Iraqi women. If so, are there other potential options such as wands, the use of indigenous Iraqi women that are members of the Civil Defense or women from UAE such as the Woman Military Police Corps. Also, what can JS do to assist?
- ~~(S)~~ **Discussion.**
 - ~~(S)~~ While CENTCOM acknowledges that Americans physically touching Iraqi women is a friction point they do not feel the topic has gained intensity.
 - ~~(S)~~ The Information Operations campaign has had some positive effect conveying our force protection rationale to search women. The Iraqi public knows that all persons are subject to search as a force protection measure. Incidences of Iraqi women transiting an area or attempting to gain access to coalition facilities is rare compared to males, and as such do not present this dilemma often.
 - ~~(S)~~ CJTF^{1.4a} forces make every attempt to have Iraqi females screened and searched by female MPs. When that is not possible, appropriate searches are performed by male MPs in a manner that does not violate a female's individual rights. In an effort to alleviate male on female searches, CJTF^{1.4a} has begun hiring Iraqi females to assist in searching when female MPs are not available. Additionally, CENTCOM is negotiating with UAE for employment of the Woman Military Police Corps.
 - ~~(S)~~ Fixed checkpoints have US female MPs available for searching IZ females if warranted, but there is not always a female present when Infantry patrols are required to conduct a search. Personnel are aware of the sensitivities

associated with conducting an appropriate search while also ensuring security and force protection.

- ~~(S)~~ Capturing units first conduct a visual search. Then a body search is performed using wands whenever they are available. In situations where a wand is unavailable, the back of the hand is used to check ('pat' a subject down) for possible weapons or explosives hidden beneath clothing.
 - ~~(S)~~ Presently there are not enough wands to equip all of the checkpoints. Additional wands have been ordered to mitigate this situation. The Provost Marshal Office (PMO) reports that to date 1,000 hand held metal detectors have been purchased and distributed to major subordinate commands to include the Multi-National Division (SC and SE). The PMO also reports another 1,000 wands are to be delivered soon.
 - ~~(S)~~ CJTF^{1.4a} is making every effort to accommodate the Iraqi female populace by conducting dignified and appropriate searches. However, since Iraq is still a combat zone, security and force protection are given priority when conducting missions.
- ~~(U)~~ **Recommendation.** None. For information only.

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Reason: 1.5 (a)

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