

~~SECRET~~

CCJ3 INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Senator Feinstein's Request for Information regarding Unguarded Ammo Dumps.

1. PURPOSE. To provide information on allegations of 50 "Ammo Dumps" in Iraq that are not guarded.

2. DISCUSSION.

a. At this time, CJTF^{1.4a} can confirm the existence of more than ^{1.4a} large (requiring more than 10 tractor trailer loads to move) caches. Numerous, perhaps thousands, of additional smaller caches existed across the country where Iraqi units and gun systems were deployed and small loads of ammunition were put on the ground next to the weapons. In most cases the weapon systems and their crews (tanks, BMPs, artillery, ADA systems etc) withdrew or retreated from their deployment areas, leaving caches dotted across the countryside, under trees and inside and beside buildings. Current estimates put the former regime's ammunition stocks at more than ^{1.4a} short tons. This is approximately one third of the entire US ammunition stockpile. Caches are positioned throughout a country the size of California.

b. Coalition forces have not, and would not, knowingly allow anyone to loot ammunition from a storage site. It is possible, and even likely, that unknown sites scattered around the country are used as a source for munitions to be used against the coalition. Evidence of looting has been found in many cache sites. Looters take munitions for brass or to use against the coalition.

c. CJTF^{1.4a} has focused significant energy, forces and other resources on dealing with this challenge. Every unit in CJTF^{1.4a} seeks out and secures caches. ^{1.4a} brigades, ^{1.4a} battalions, at least ^{1.4a} soldiers, work solely on securing, transporting, and destroying captured enemy ammunition. CJTF^{1.4a} has two Explosive Ordnance Battalions and several other ammunition units dedicated to this effort. The intent is to build a contracted Iraqi force by 5 December to supplement the ^{1.4a} dedicated battalions to quickly account for, and secure or destroy, every cache in the country. CJTF^{1.4a} has \$285M earmarked for this effort.

d. Coalition forces soldiers find and are often led by Iraqis to new ammunition caches. The site is then secured, inspected by explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) specialists, the contents evaluated, and an assessment made on how to proceed. Frequently, the ammunition found is unserviceable. In this case, engineers destroy the ammunition. Otherwise, Coalition forces move and secure the ammunition at consolidation sites. The most dangerous ammunition (rocket propelled grenades, hand grenades, and surface to air missiles) is destroyed on site or transported to captured enemy ammunition collection points or theater collection points located in each major subordinate command area of operations. Some sites are secured by Iraqi guards. The number of Iraqi ammunition storage sites will increase as operations continue to be conducted throughout the country.

e. Coalition forces are committed to guard, consolidate or destroy all captured enemy ammunition, a task that is estimated to take at least five years. CJTF^{1.4a} is

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

diligently pursuing ongoing operations to consolidate ammunition depots, demilitarize excess and unserviceable munitions and provide safe and secure storage for munitions.

3. RECOMMENDATION: None. Informational purposes only.

APPROVED BY: _____
J.F. Sattler
MajGen, USMC
Director of Operations

PREPARED BY: _____

(b)(3), (b)(6)

JOC Team Chief

Approved for Release

~~SECRET~~