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Date: 17 Sep 03

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Security of Known Ammo Caches

- (U) Purpose: To provide DJ-3 answer to question, "Do we have adequate protection securing known ammo caches in Iraq?"
- (S) Background
 - (S) CJTF 1.4a can confirm the existence of more than 102 large (requiring more than 1.4a tractor-trailer loads to move) caches. Thousands of additional smaller caches exist across the country as a result of Iraqi forces abandoning them during the US invasion. These smaller caches can be found almost anywhere.
- (S) Discussion
 - (S) Estimates put Iraq's ammunition stocks at more than 1.4a short tons. This is approximately one third of the US ammunition stockpile.
 - (S) Undiscovered sites scattered around the country are used as a source of munitions to be used against Coalition forces.
 - (S) 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, and 1.4a soldiers, work solely on securing, transporting, and destroying captured enemy ammunition.
 - (S) CJTF 1.4a is planning to build a contracted Iraqi force by 05 Dec to supplement the six dedicated battalions to quickly account for, and secure or destroy, every cache in the country. \$285M is earmarked for this effort.
- (S) When Coalition forces find new ammunition caches, the site is secured, inspected by explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) specialists, the contents are evaluated, and an assessment is made on how to proceed. Unserviceable ammunition is destroyed. 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 ammunition collection points or theater collection points. Iraqi guards are currently responsible for securing some of these sites. The number of ammunition storage sites will increase as operations continue throughout the country.
- (S) 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 diligently conducting operations to consolidate ammunition depots, demilitarize excess and unserviceable munitions and provide safe and secure storage for munitions.
- (S) The protection afforded each known ammunition cache is adequate. Each site is given continuous protection until the ammunition is either destroyed or moved. The security at each site varies based upon the size of the site, the number and type of munitions stored there, and the threat that these munitions might pose to coalition forces and Iraqi citizens. The composition of the security forces at these sites are coalition forces, or contracted Iraqi guard forces monitored periodically by coalition forces.

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- • (U) Recommendation. None. For information only.

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Reason: 1.5 (a)

Approved for Release