Gentlemen and Ma'am,

FYI - Below are the LNO notes from the 20 NOV 07 MNC-I C3/G3 Weekly Huddle.

**Note:** Off-FOB locations could monitor but not transmit.

**Legend.**
- MNC-I C3 Comments = Black Font
- MND-B G3 Comments = Red Font
- LNO Comments = Green Font

**Happy Thanksgiving.** I won't see you before Thursday so I want to wish each and every one of you a Happy Thanksgiving. **No BUA at the Force or Corps level, that's your Thanksgiving present.** Thank you, up front, for everything you are doing.

**OPRES.** I know MND-B and MND-N are tracking pretty close what we have been doing with the OPRES. Right now, the draft FRAGO that's out there for staffing says to chop the OPRES on the 10th (of DEC), ready for employment in MND-N on the 15th. I have since gotten word that MND-N may not need it on the 15th – this has not been back to the CG yet so none of this is final until I get a chance to brief him but I will go back and tell the CG that based upon the condition-setting that North needs to do before employing the OPRES in the DRV, I'll recommend to the CG to leave the OPRES with MND-B until the 15th, and then move to MND-N for operations beginning around the 25th or the 29th and maybe we can squeeze a few more days down in Baghdad. We'll see – on that note, go ahead and move that date from the 10th - so lots more to follow on that and like I said, that has not been blessed by the CG. I will talk to him hopefully tonight, if not then first thing tomorrow morning with that recommendation. **Acknowledge all on the timeline.**

**OPORD 08-01.** It continues to evolve. I took it up last night. We were pretty straight with everything that the CG had given us and he had some more major changes... it’s not really a huge change from 07-01 except in areas of focus. We’re basically doing the same thing – his key tasks have not changed that much, the phasing construct has not changed at all. It's more changes in areas of emphasis. If you’ve heard him at all in the last 3 or 4 weeks, you kind of know what I’m getting at. It’s more of an emphasis on CLCs getting into either ISF or some sort of work program, it’s more emphasis on reconciliation, it’s better refined, more stringent targeting packets and criteria, etc. I’m still not convinced that we are complete with revisions for 08-01 – we will send out – the planners have it all ready and they will send out to your planners the latest cut from last night. It won't be the entire OPORD but it'll be the latest cut on commander's intent and what we're now calling the “environmental assessment". We started off with a threat assessment and just realized a couple of nights ago that it was really much more than a threat, it's really an
environmental assessment. I cannot guarantee that’s going to be the last change and I can almost guarantee that it won’t be the last change but what they send out to you will be a pretty clear indication of which direction we’re heading with this. **We’re still on track to brief the CG on 02 DEC and we will brief your commanders plus one note-taker on the 14th of DEC which is a Friday afternoon, followed by a General Officer Dinner.** There are some farewells that have to be said at that dinner and then the next day, Saturday, we’ll be in the MNF-I DG’s every-other-month conference. That will be followed up by orders briefs to him 06-19 JAN and that is from the MNDs/MNF-W. 316th and all the separate BDEs will give their briefs to the DCG, MG Simmons. We’ll publish a FRAGO here in the next 48-72 hours that will clear that up. There has been some confusion on whether this is a backbrief – we’ve made it clear that this is not a backbrief – but there’s been some questions on what that means. What the CG is looking for is your orders brief, basically. **Task, purpose, commander’s intent, concept of the operation** – so he’s looking for what he told your commanders to develop their plan, and then brief him on their plan – which makes up the roadshow that travels between the 6th and the 15th of JAN. That’s coming to you with a larger crowd than you’re used to in terms of when he travels. He’ll bring probably several of the primary staff with him and we’re trying really hard to get an XVIIIth ABC planner to travel along with him for continuity purposes.

**RFFs.** We briefed ADM Fallon this morning on the way ahead to JUL 08. The topics of the non-standard BDE HQ and the Reserve Component BN, Force Protection for the FOB, and PRTs came up. I don’t think they’re dead issues, I think we’ve got to do some modifications. ADM Fallon thinks the numbers are too high so we need to re-look it and how we can do it differently. The SECFOR BN which we thought would solve some problems for us as far as initial combat power – that’s still in staffing at CENTCOM – I think the J3 at CENTCOM sees the logic in it – but we’ll see where that goes. The AVN TF extension for the 49th AVN BDE is still in staffing at CENTCOM so that one is not moving very quickly. I guess the trend here is that RFFs are having and extremely difficult time getting through CENTCOM. I think the season of RFFs has pretty much come to an end. Nobody is saying don’t submit them but just be prepared for them to get denied and to take an extended amount of time for staffing.

**FORSCOM Patch Chart.** FORSCOM has published a COA 4 patch chart, which is different from the Joint Staff’s ribbon/rainbow chart. This is an attempt to get all units back to a 12-month BOG and that is for units deploying with a LAD of 01 AUG 08 or later. The Joint Staff rainbow chart basically did the same thing but the date for starting a 12-month BOG was in DEC. It causes major ripples in where units are going or projected to go and heavy/light mixtures, particularly in MND-N. I gave the boss a little taste of that last night but it would take more time than we actually had so we’ll take that back to him. The good news is that FORSCOM has come to us and asked is for our opinion before this gets locked in. For the year I’ve been here, it’s been the other way around; they locked us in
and we spent the next 6 months fighting them over it. We will get the CG’s input, the planners can and should have showed you that – if they haven’t already, they will for your input. Major impacts are North – two light BDEs being replaced by two heavies. Other than that, the impacts are mostly timings and where units are in battlespace. On the pending patch chart changes that might be driven by the decision on when we’re going to go back to 12 and 12 – I would just ask that you please keep MND-B in the loop. We’ve looked at some of that off-line. We have some very strong feelings about how that affects the ARFORGEN process for the 1st CAV Division back at Ft. Hood and Ft. Bliss and we have at least one recommendation for consideration and that may have been passed already through the transition cell but if not, we want to share that with you if MNC-I gets a chance to comment. We’ll get a chance to comment – the beauty of it is we’ve got both the MNC-I Commander and the guy that’s got to worry about it back at home station sitting here making the vote. If it hasn’t made it to our transition cell, if you could make sure (b)(3), (b)(6) gets it to our planners. I’m sure it’s a quicker turn probably for 3/1 CAV that’s a concern. We’ll absolutely roll it up into our pitch to LTG Odierno

2/1/10 is at Besmaya Range right now getting ready to RIP into Baghdad o/a 03 DEC. Actually some pretty good reports coming out right now in terms of proficiency, leadership and manning, so that should be good.

FMS Case for DBE Infrastructure Improvements. Signed by Mol for the Pentagon. We’re starting to get some movement from GoI, Mol in particular for improvement on infrastructure.

EOF. EOFs were the CPoF topic of discussion yesterday morning with your commanders. The CG just wanted to make it clear that he is never going to tell a commander or a soldier that they don’t have the right to defend themselves. He threw out some stats that he wants people to think about. Since JUL there have been 2 SVBIED attacks against moving convoys. So that’s 2 out of probably 100,000 or more convoys that were run in that same time period. Those are pretty much confined to North and Baghdad if I remember it right. That doesn’t mean – like I said – that Soldiers don’t have the right to defend themselves – but the CG just wants the Soldiers to be cautious of where they are and the conditions they are operating in – this is across the Corps – probably the bigger issue is the Private Security Companies (PSCs). We’ve had probably in the last week or two 5 or 6 incidents I can think of PSC EOFs that, from an outsider’s viewpoint, may have been excessive. Of course, this ties back into the Blackwater incident here in Baghdad, and that’s going to be a hard one to get a hold of. There is an effort – we’re working very hard right now to literally get control of PSCs. The hard part is going to be establishing the “stick” to hold them to a standard. So there’s a work in progress that is nowhere near complete and we’ll be continuing here over the next couple of weeks. I would say that soon, definitely before the end of the year, that the Corps will approve requests for the GRD to move convoys or the LMRC...
to move much like West does right now with about 72 hours out from movement, giving you about 24 hours to approve or disapprove that move. It’s almost becoming like – for those of you that have been to Germany – like March Credits. It’s not so much the equipment that’s moving on the roads, it’s the PSCs that are with them. So that’s kind of the direction we’re heading and that’s real loose right now but that’s coming, and coming fast because it’s getting more and more visibility, capped off last night by 4/1 IA at the direction of the PM, detaining about 43 PSC contractors, which are still in detention, for an EOF incident that wounded an Iraqi female.

**CODELs.** This isn’t going to be news to you, CODEL season is upon us here with the holidays coming up. Starting Thursday, there is going to be a tremendous amount of movement – CODELs going – while we continue to try and minimize the impact, highlight the impact, negate the impact but there is very little that we can do sometimes when you talk about the caliber of people that are coming. So just a heads up – it’s just going to get worse here about the first week of DEC when we lose the 1ACB.

**Mol Budget Conference.** A fairly hot one – the Force Draft FRAGO out last night – on an Mol Budget Conference that Force wants to hold on the 24th of NOV. Once again, we’re talking 4 days out. The hard part for you is going to be getting the PDoPs – their financial officers and budget officers – to Baghdad for this conference. We will push back at Force and tell them they’ve got to give us more than 96 hours to pull this together given the moving pieces. I don’t know if we’ll be successful – we’ll give it the best fight we can. As a heads up, this is being talked about as early as 24 NOV, the movement piece is obviously going to be on us to get them down here.

**Iraqi Railroad.** They’re starting to make some progress moving goods with the Iraqi Railroad. We’ve got an agreement between the DG of Distribution and the Bayji Oil Refinery to move fuel to Al Anbar. We’re moving cargo between Um Qasr and Baghdad now and that’s increasing every week in the amount of cargo we’re moving. They have the rail-bridge repaired up at Taji and have moved trains across it and they repaired the track up towards Samarra and further north. That’s all good news but it’s all new. What we’re finding is that over the last 4 years, there have been all sorts of obstacles put on the railroad tracks by us. MNF-W has a company-sized FOB blocking the tracks. We have in some cases cut tunnels underneath the tracks. **What I’m telling you is that you’re going to see more and more of a push to use rail and you’re going to have to unblock the obstacles along the track if we’re going to make this work.** I know the FUOPS Infrastructure Cell is working with you guys but just so you know, that this is not just them and their own little initiative out there running this. This is coming – just a heads up.

**TF Falcon.** For MND-N the TF Falcon replacement VTC is tonight at 2200.
**RIPs.** We've got some coalition RIPs coming up in the NOV/DEC timeframe. DEC is an extremely busy period for transportation assets so request as far out as you can possibly get your movement requests in to better the chances of you getting your request resourced.

**Snap TCPs.** On the snap TCP business inside Baghdad – I just wanted to let you know that there is some consensus among the BOCAT and MND-B that the Snap TCPs are not generating the returns that we had hoped for so we're going to encourage the BOC to re-look that whole thing. I spoke to you earlier about the potential to move towards roving TCPs – we’re not there yet – I think we’re moving in that direction and I'll keep you posted. We just need to make sure that’s well-coordinated with Force, primarily because of the issues of PSCs. So we’re ready to do that – it’s going to get a week or two to make sure that’s coordinated before we put that in place so I just ask you to be sensitive to that one.

**Sarafiyah Bridge.** The first day of demo operations started yesterday. It got off to an OK start – worked really for only over a half a day because of another demand on the unit that provided the security - that will be the lone exception. I think there is the potential for the demo operations to extend beyond the initial estimate of 5 or 6 days – it might go a little longer than that. Again, it’s going to be enemy situation/weather/river conditions-dependent – we’ll keep you posted. Roger. We’re going at your pace. There’s no pressure because there is progress being made.

**Central Bank of Iraq (CBI).** On the CBI and desire of the 9th IA to participate, we had drafted up based upon our assessments prior to the inclusion of the Iraqis, a CERP packet that relied heavily on contracted labor support to make this happen. That was followed last week by the offer of Iraqi participation, which caused us to pull the CERP contract back for review because we're looking at double-taps but now that's compounded by the PM's guidance to get barriers removed from the city, which has led to a BOC instruction to look at barriers that were erected by local nationals – not necessarily as a part of safe markets or safe neighborhoods - but just put in by citizens themselves on side-streets or around neighborhoods and begin a concerted effort to remove those all. So now we’re trying to assess with the BOC whether that is really going to end up occupying the MHE or the crab support of the 9th Engineers and their labor or whether they'll really be available for CBI or not – so we're probably just going to pull that trigger and turn the CERP packet in and know that there could be some inefficiencies there as we try to sort this out with the BOC and with the BOCAT.

**Go ahead and turn in the CERP packet.** We’re at the point now where we’re just interested in getting it done I guess so whatever the quickest way is at this point – to include if you need it, tell us you need engineer support and we’ll go back to the 20th and see what we can do – no guarantees it’s there but we’re more than willing to look at the 20th to see if we can get you some more MHE to move some barriers. I just drove out and got a haircut the other day and there's
plenty of concrete laying all over Victory Base for this so that's what makes me think we can move on it quick but you know better than I do.

**FPS Replacement.** Tracking on the 25th of NOV the next briefing by the BOC on FPS replacement for the Ministry of Transportation and that any COA that leads to FPS replacement at the Central Bank is one that we're going to have track and I'm not sure where CBI FPS sit on the BOC's prioritization list for guard replacement right now. So we'll see how that goes.

**VBC/BDOC Security.** I talked to (b)(3), (b)(6) Chief C3 FUOPS) on Sunday, and I guess in the near future there's going to be a Draft FRAGO coming out that speaks to VBC or BDOC security issues and relationships and we're standing by looking for that. C3 FUOPS: The TF Vigilant FRAGO was out Sunday night so your folks are already commenting on it. Thanks. My transition guy just brought in that DTU and the response so I appreciate it and I'll make sure that whatever we send you back we're in agreement with.

**ADM Fallon Way Ahead Brief.** I had about an hour with ADM Fallon this morning. We very quickly got to talking about what happens after JUL 08. So we're going to have to start working that, as a matter of fact, I think there is a CENTCOM order coming out in the next week or so telling us to work that. So we'll start looking at that and obviously anticipating lots of changes after next summer – if for no other reason than coalition contribution. The Polish government has announced the end of their contribution to OIF at some point in '08. MND-SE force structure goes down in '08, and then there is anticipated to be some pressure about continued reduction in US force structure after JUL when we're back down to 15. I think everybody acknowledges that's going to happen, it's just a matter of how fast. Of course you've got elections coming up in NOV and everything else. Next summer promises to be very interesting and we've been asked to put that together - with a due date in JAN - basically what the last half of CY 08 looks like. On the downsizing that occurs after JUL 08 - are there any division contributions or assessments we need to provide to support that or is that entirely a Corps look? We'll probably look at it at this level first then we'll push it out for comment. Obviously if we're going below 15, there's going to be a lot of pain associated with it and the boss is going to have some say. We're definitely going to rely on input but I don't think it's initial input – let us develop some stuff with some thought behind it and then push it out and you can validate or invalidate our thoughts and assumptions and then look at our concept and provide inputs back to the boss. Roger, understand. I was thinking about what we did for Phantom 6 and yourself when you came over to visit to kind of explain how we get to that endstate or something like that would occur later. Yeah, that's exactly it; eventually it's going to get to that but until we get some guidance from him I don't want to get you started and waste your time at this point. OK, acknowledged, thanks.

V/r