





Offensive CONOP


12 Dec 06


Problem: How do we change the dynamics in Baghdad, reducing the level of sectarian violence while helping the GOI regain momentum on its path to security self-reliance?

Overall Classification for this Brief is ~~SECRET//REL to USA, MCD//MR~~





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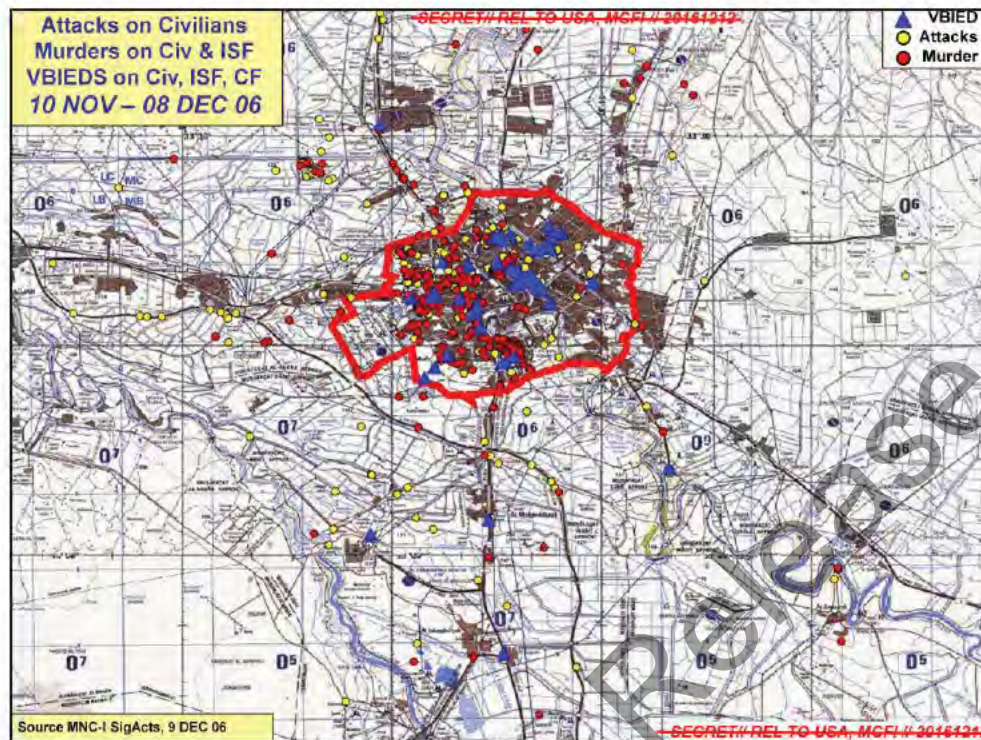


Purpose

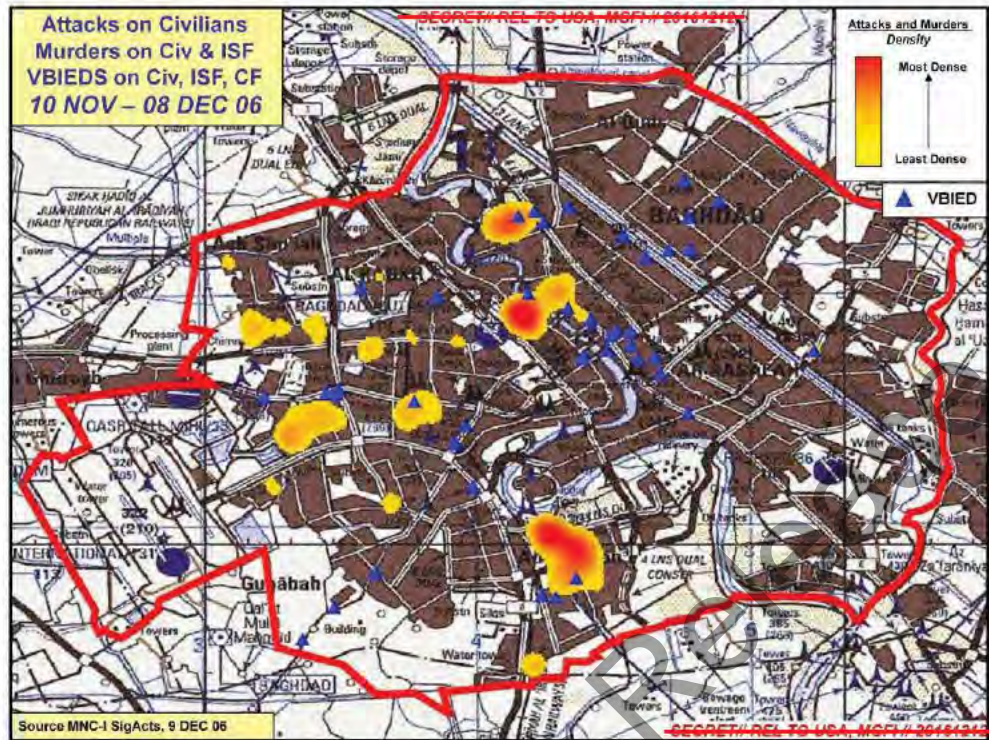
- **Purpose**
 - To obtain additional guidance from the CG on concept development for offensive operations (date TBD)
 - To provide a baseline response to MNF-I's RFIs for planning (from the MG Fastabend email)
- **Agenda**
 - Threat Assessment
 - Facts, Constraints, Assumptions
 - Tasks and Conditions
 - Concept of Operations
 - Risk

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July




Threat Courses of Action	
Most Likely Threat COA	Most Dangerous Threat COA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AQI moves North<ul style="list-style-type: none">Probe barrier for breach pointsSuicide attacks shift to Diyala, Salah ad Din• JAM defends Sadr City<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reinforce Sadr City defensesEmplace EFPs along AAsConsolidate fighters in Sadr CityControl movement into Sadr City	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AQI shifts focus to Sunni Belt<ul style="list-style-type: none">M&I Campaign against local leaders• JAM launches January Offensive<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increase EFPs along LOCs, focus areasIncrease IDF against CF FOBsIncite Shia demonstrations in Baghdad and in south (Diwaniyah, Najaf, al Kut) to disrupt FOM
Key Red Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none">EFPs concentrated east of TigrisDeath squads reduced west of TigrisIncrease in HP attacks in MND-N	Key Red Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased EFPs in focus areasIncreased Shia IDP out of Sunni BeltShia populace demonstrations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VBIEDs built inside Baghdad will continue to be emplaced; target selection will be limited by CF/ISF operations• Snipers will focus on barrier checkpoints• AQI will attempt to attack barrier checkpoints with SVBIEDs and infiltrate SVESTs into Baghdad	





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Troop-to-Task

Current Operations

MND-N:

Operation SNAKE HUNTER

Operation BLACK GOLD

Operation COMBINED CREDENTIALS

Operation HAIL STORM

MND-B:

Operation COUGAR

Operation EAGLE THUNDER

Operation BEAST MASTER III

Operation ICE FOG

Operation WOLF

MNF-W:

Operation AL MAJID

Operation Squeeze Play

Duration

Framework 11 Nov-Ongoing

Framework 24 Sep-Ongoing

COIN-02 Dec- Ongoing

Counter IDF - Ongoing

COIN-10-15 Dec

Counter VBIED-16 Dec

COIN-13 Dec

COIN-10-11 Dec

COIN-12 Dec

09 Nov-20 Jan

27 Nov-09 Jan

Forces (Co)

MND-wide

1xPit

5xBn (3/1 Cav)

1xBtry

1xBn

1xBn

2xCo/1xBn IA

1xBn

2xCo/2 Co NP

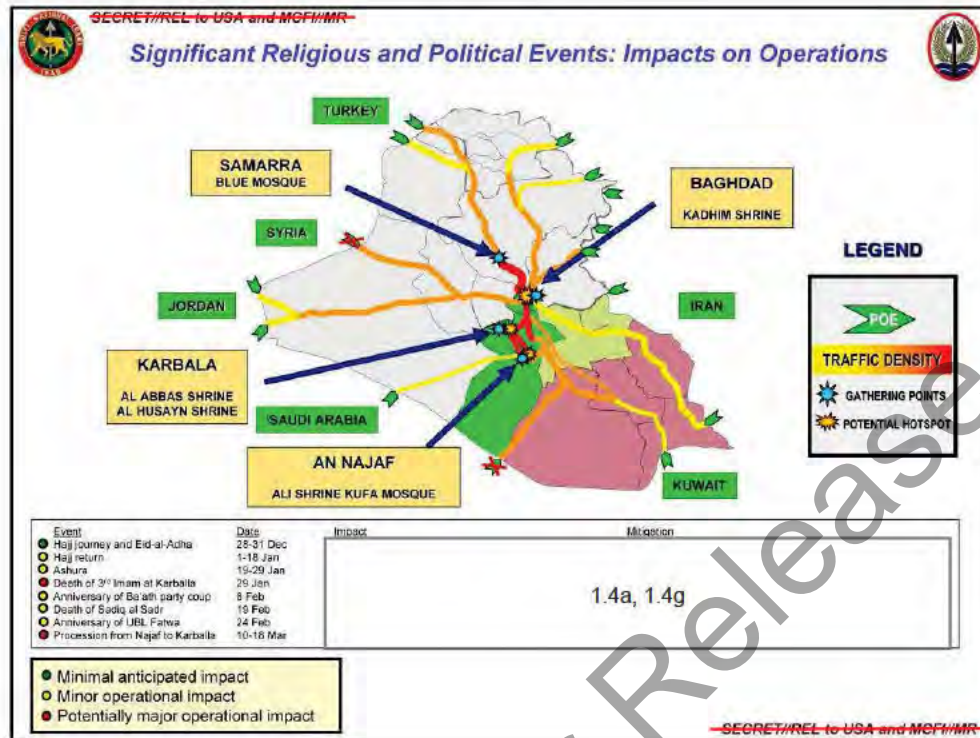
1xRCT/1xIA Bde

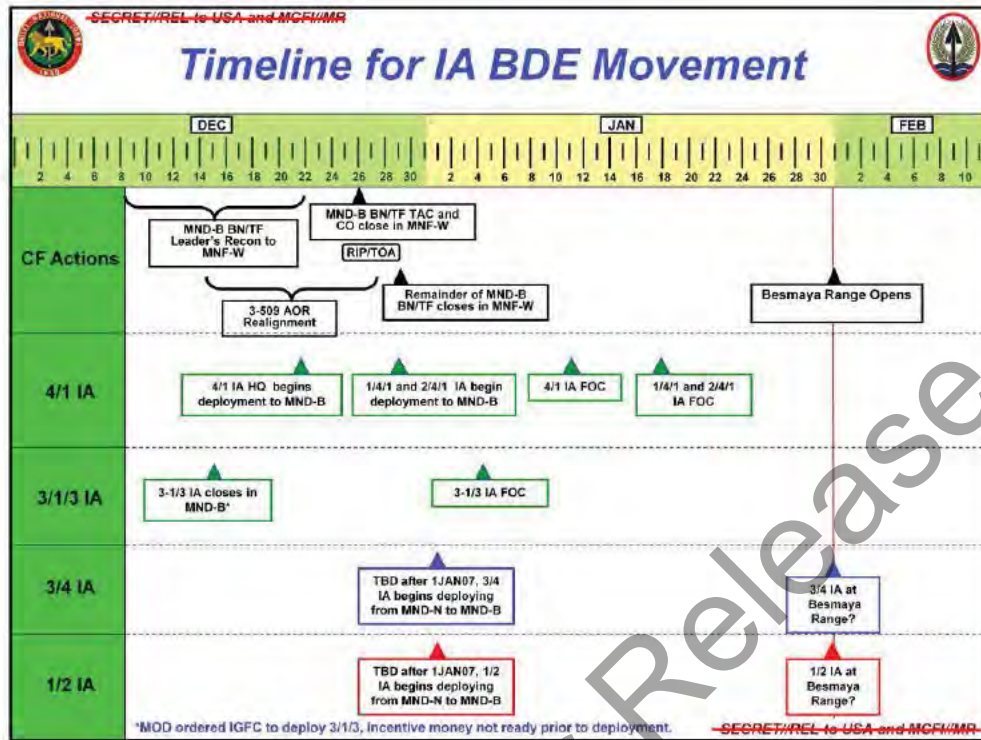
1xRCT/2xIA Bde/IPS Bn


	Log Support	Support to TTs	C4ISR	FP	Gov. Building	General Eng.	Offensive Operations	Stability Security & Support Opns
MND-B (Companies)	41.9	7.6	32.6	43	3.9	32.8	32.5	16.9
MND-N (Companies)	24.1	13.2	22.9	22.4	4.7	2.3	23.7	30.6
MNF-W (Companies)								

Still Working


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Facts



- ISF
 - Iraqi population views ISF operating in conjunction with CF as impartial
- CF
 - MNDs are already conducting operations on a regular basis in the areas under consideration
 - Current mission requirements in MND-N, MNF-W, and MND-SE prohibit the reallocation of combat power from those units to MND-B
 - Existing MNC-I aviation assets already committed to critical missions
 - ISR requirements increase in Baghdad to support offensive operations

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Constraints

- Must operate within current basing footprint
- Must obtain PM approval for kinetic and SOF operations
- Additional forces committed to Iraq from outside the theater must adhere to existing JRSOI timeline

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Assumptions


- Threat
 - Disrupting the VBIED network will contribute to a decrease in popular Shia support of JAM
 - Disrupting EJK activity will contribute to a decrease in popular Sunni support of AQI
 - JAM led death squad activity west of the Tigris River will continue to perpetuate the sectarian cycle of violence in Baghdad
 - AQI and JAM will continue to contest control of the Baghdad Belts to secure LOCs in and out of Baghdad
 - Sunni extremists will continue to perpetuate the sectarian cycle of violence in Baghdad by attempting to cause mass casualty attacks against Shia
 - Shia extremists will find sanctuary in areas east of the Tigris River while Sunnis will move outside of Baghdad for sanctuary
 - MOI/MOT vehicles will continue to be used by militant forces to conduct EJK
- ISF
 - NP and IP units are heavily infiltrated by Shia militias; IA units are less infiltrated by militias, but are vulnerable to sectarian influences
 - IA BDE move:
 - Under current timeline, 3 IA Bns ready for operations in and around Baghdad by mid-January (1-4/1, 2-4/1, 3-1/3)
 - 2 additional IA BDEs (elements from 3/4 IA and 1/2 IA) ready for operations by February at the earliest
 - Under current timeline, only 1 of the 3 IA BDEs (4/1 IA with 2 Bns) scheduled to redeploy to Baghdad will be available for operations
 - Strike Force will be available for operations ICW CF
 - As IA take the lead in operations, its units will incur more losses due to EFP attacks

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Assumptions

- GOI
 - GOI will not impede or undermine the operation once it is underway
- CF
 - Forces from outside Iraq are available if required
 - Increasing the frequency and pace of CF operations against VBIED and EFP networks may require a decrease in targeting standards

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 **Tasks** 

- Specified (from MG Fastabend email)
 - Integrate operational activity in Baghdad belts, on the barrier, and in key focus areas in the city
 - Integrate on-going CF, IA Combined Ops
 - Integrate operational focus of Defeat AQIZ in Balad-Baghdad-Muqhdadiya Triangle
 - Integrate IA units recently deployed to Baghdad into operations (*work to involve elements of 4-5 IA Divisions into operations*)
 - Conduct information operations that highlight the activities and successes of the ISF
 - Consider tying operations to a "major clamp down" on 1.4b border
- Implied
 - Disrupt VBIED networks that exacerbate sectarian tensions in and around Baghdad
 - Disrupt EJK activity, focusing on groups on both sides of the sectarian divide
 - Disrupt EFP networks
 - Employ CF and ISF in combined operations
 - Partner CF with ISF units operating in and around Baghdad to the fullest practical extent
 - Continue to build capacity of the ISF
 - Isolate extremists in and around Baghdad
 - Conduct strike operations
 - Control access through access through the Baghdad barrier
 - Strengthen the Baghdad barrier to make it more difficult to penetrate
 - Clear and secure focus areas in Baghdad and the Baghdad Belts, expanding on the concept of "gated communities"
 - Posture forces for the accelerated transition of security self-reliance to the ISF
 - Engage MNF-I with a view toward re-focusing TFI 4a operations against the EFP network in Baghdad
 - Coordinate with MNF CM for ISR reprioritization and synchronization- Initial increase in effort toward target development

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Critical Conditions

Required for Beginning the Operation

- Concurrence from GOI, including a strong statement of support from the PM
- Declaration of martial law in Baghdad and in the Baghdad Belts
 - GOI agreement regarding vehicle ban, curfew, random searches, and control of access
- CF available to establish an effective cordon around Baghdad in the vicinity of the existing barrier
 - Ability to surge counter-mobility capabilities shortly afterwards to improve the barrier and further control access
- CF available to immediately begin operations ICW ISF in focused areas of the city
 - Authorization to conduct operations in all areas of Baghdad, including Sadr City
- TF ~~1.42~~ focused on VBIED and EFP networks in Baghdad
- Communications plan established; messages ready to be broadcast to target audiences (Iraqi populace, external actors, potential political participants)
- Agreement reached with MOD and MOI regarding C2 relationships (CF – IA unit C2 relationships, MNC-I coordination with MOD and MOI)

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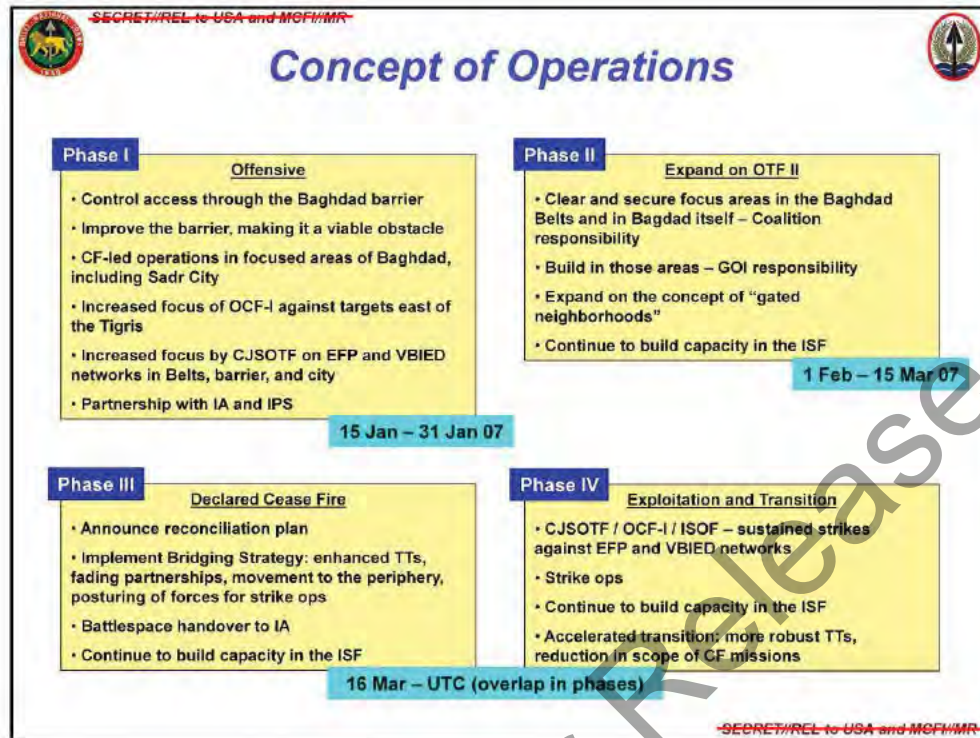


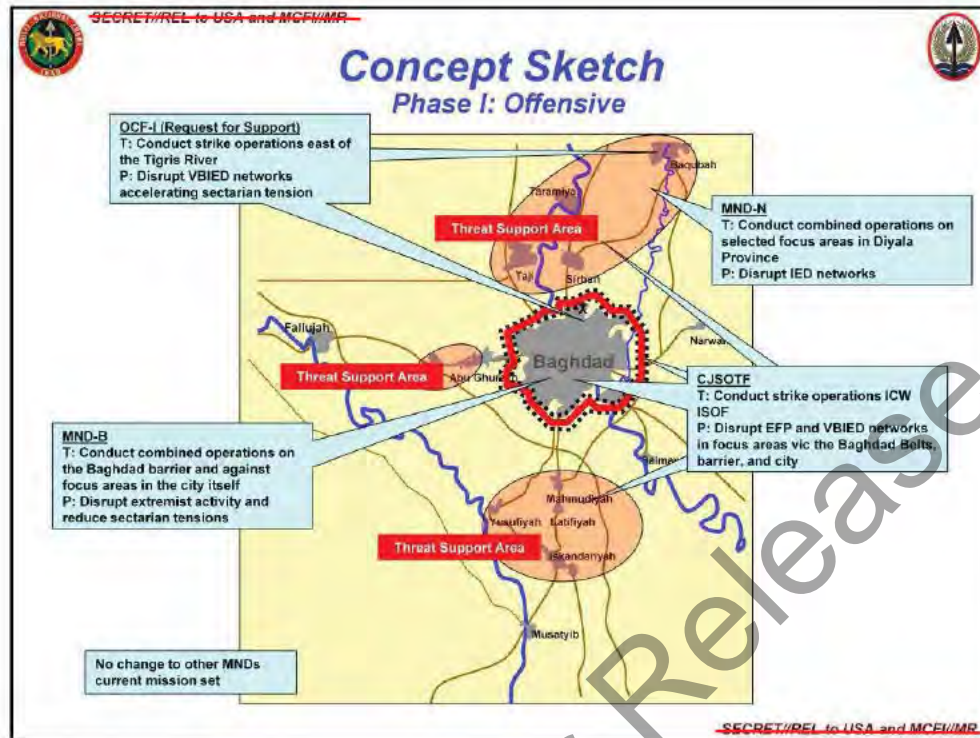
Critical Conditions

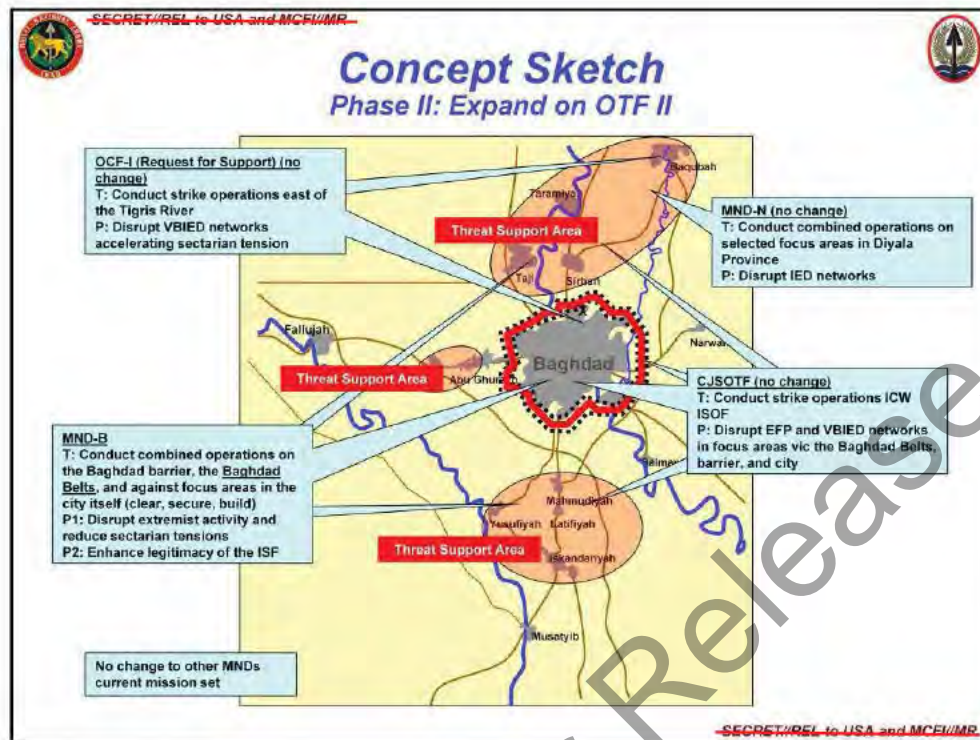
Required for Achieving the Endstate

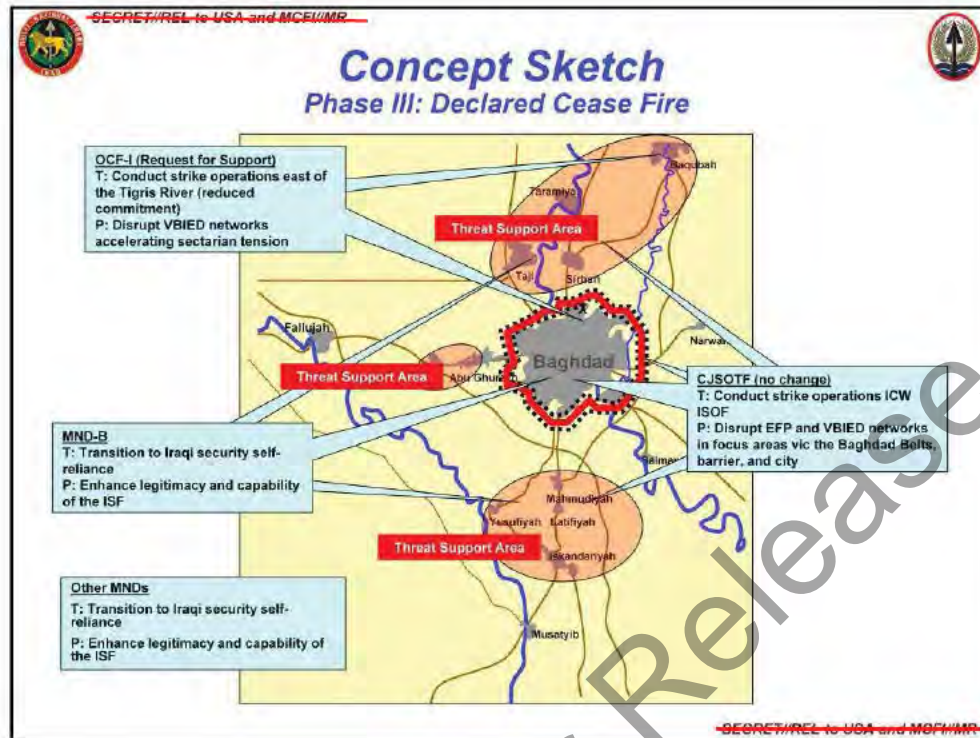
- GOI and MNF-I develop an agreeable endstate and way ahead
- GOI must agree to Bridging Concept and sign an MOU that clearly articulates responsibilities in preparation for its execution
- GOI releases statement supporting MOU and explaining importance for all Iraqis
- GOI announces and institutes a plan for the near-term (Cease Fire), mid-term (Amnesty Program), and endstate for all militias
- CF develop a Strategic Communications plan to ensure Coalition and Iraqi people understand the purpose of the Bridging Strategy as the "Logical Next Step"
- GOI institutes genuine and transparent MOI reform and develops a plan for the improvement of ministerial capacity in Industry, Transportation, and Health
- GOI dictates command & control lead for Baghdad and how it should evolve, pursuant to CF relocation to the periphery (e.g., MOD to MOI to PDoP)
- GOI releases DFI Funds to Anbar & Tall Afar in order to build trust and confidence of Sunnis
- Unambiguous agreement concerning CF enabler support and a plan to transition all to GOI
- Agreement on the gradual reallocation of MNC-I's non-military tasks; guidance specifying support role to PRTs and IRMO (GOI agrees to assume phased responsibility for "build" projects and plans)

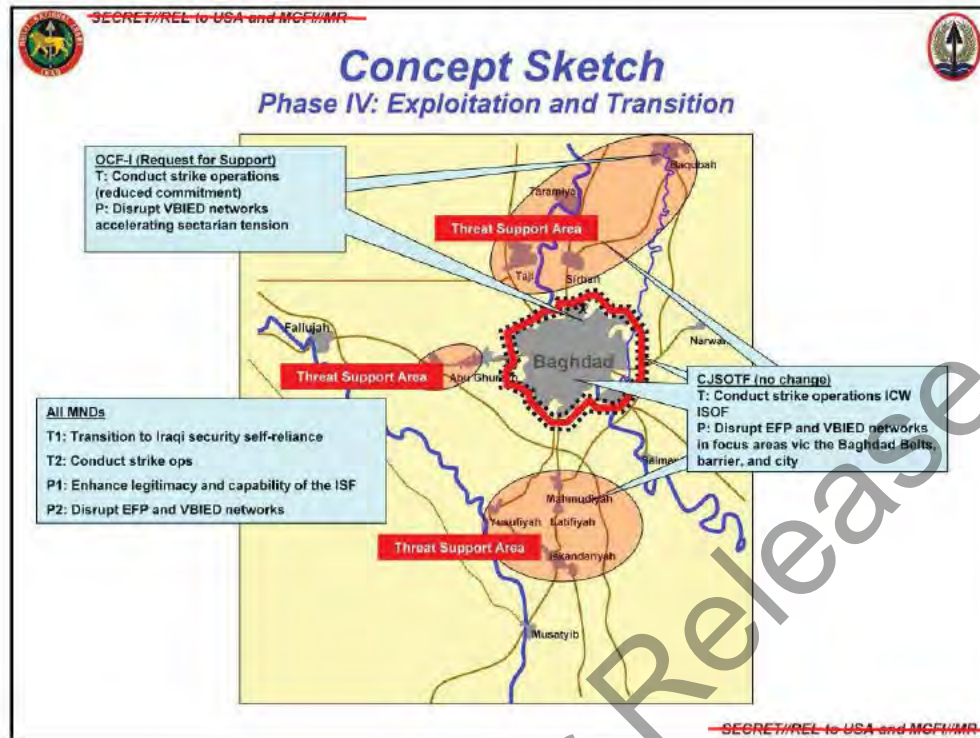
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Options / Considerations

- **Partnership Ratio**
 - 1 x U.S. Company partnered with each IA Bn within the Baghdad barrier
 - 1 x U.S. Battalion partnered with each IA Bn within the Baghdad barrier
 - 1 U.S. Company partnered with each IA Bn within the Baghdad barrier; 2 U.S. Strike Bns – 1 on each side of the Tigris River
- **Border Operations**
 - No shaping operation on the border
 - 1 x U.S. Battalion (Stryker) committed to border operations in Wasit Province
 - Lighter force committed to border operations in Wasit Province
- **Boundary Change**
 - Expansion of MND-B AO to the north, to include Baqubah and perhaps Balad
- **"Hot-seating" equipment to sustain the surge**

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Options to Generate Additional Maneuver Capability

- **Potential Maneuver Capabilities**

1.4a, 1.4g
- **Issues**
 - Basing
 - Sustainment
 - TPE sets (APS-3/5 ?)
 - Crew
 - Heavy Machine Guns
 - BFT/FBCB2/Comms
 - Strategic transportation
 - Intra-Theater transportation

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MNF-I Reinforcing Effects


- Gaining GOI concurrence with the operation
- Achieving agreement with the GOI on a legislative agenda addressing:
 - Militias
 - Reconciliation
 - Provincial elections
 - Ceasefire, followed by some form of disarmament policy
- Exploit the execution of Saddam as a springboard for reconciliation; mark the event with a GOI announcement on a new approach to de-Ba'athification
- Focusing TFI 4 on VBIED and EFP networks in Baghdad
- Assisting with MOI reform and the continued development of the industry, agriculture, and health ministries
- Achieving agreement with GOI on the release of DFI Funds to Anbar and Tall Afar in order to build trust and confidence of Sunnis

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Risk





- Overplaying the importance of the operation from an IO and PA perspective may lead to a quicker degradation of GOI and ISF legitimacy if it fails to visibly reduce sectarian violence
- Escalation of U.S. involvement in kinetic operations will appear to contradict our stated intent to transition control to the Iraqis – even if that remains our ultimate objective
- Collateral damage resulting from a surge in kinetic operations in urban areas may exacerbate sectarian tensions and alienate the GOI from sections of the populace, particularly if Sunni and Shia perceive CF and ISF operations as biased or unbalanced
- The declaration of martial law may exacerbate sectarian tensions and alienate the GOI from sections of the populace, particularly if Sunnis perceive a partial GOI as clamping down overbearingly in Sunni areas
- GOI interference may hamstring CF activity and result in the perception of an unbalanced operation
- Manpower-intensive operation will limit CF operational and tactical flexibility (i.e. the ability to surge against cross-border activity)
- Failure to commit enough forces to the operation may result not only in a misuse of combat power but may also exacerbate sectarian tensions (i.e. declaring martial law without delivering on enhanced security)

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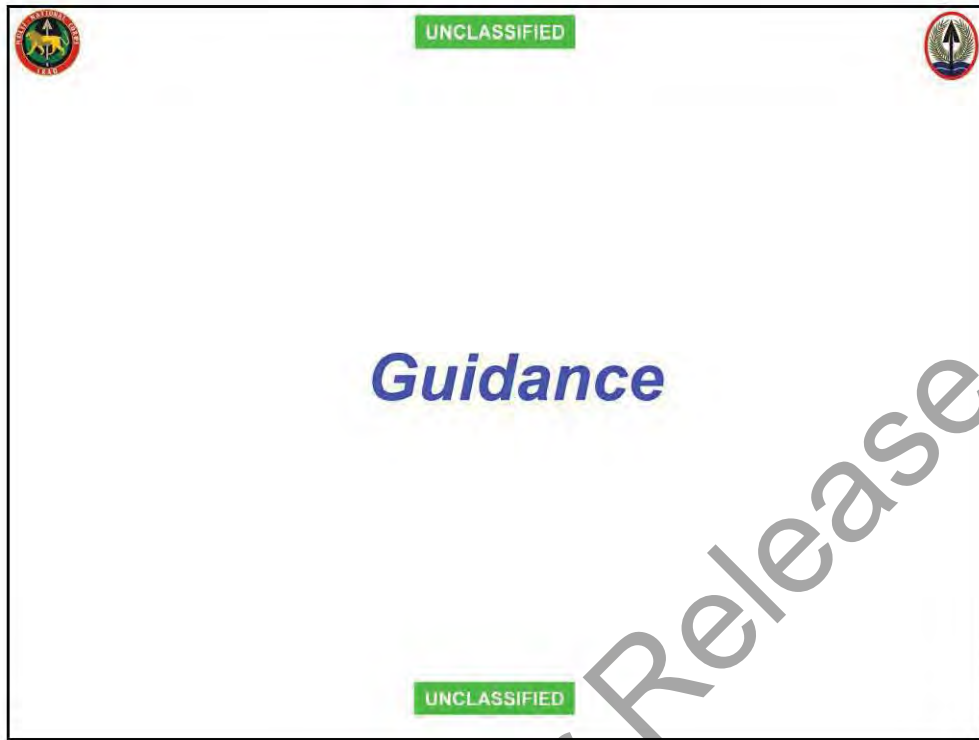
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 **Risk** 

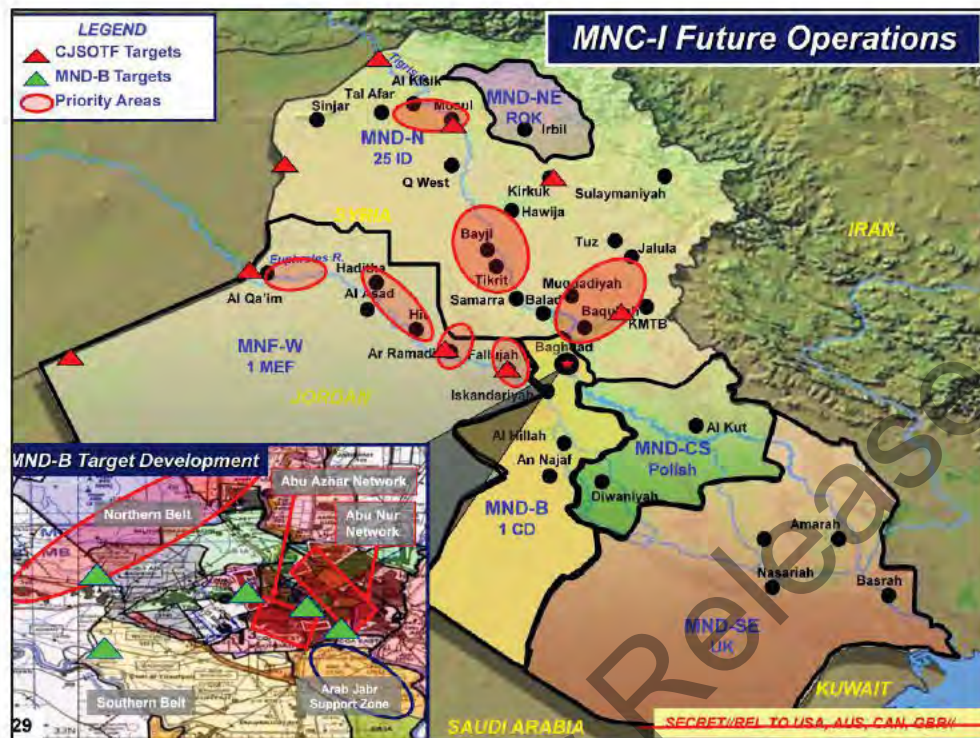
- Imposition of martial law and tighter access controls may have a negative economic impact on certain communities and may also result in a more sustained disruption of basic needs
- The escalation of kinetic operations may lead to negative global media coverage and result in the imposition of constraints
- The escalation of ISF activity in and around Baghdad will expose these forces to more frequent attacks, perhaps resulting in the unstoppable disintegration of certain units
- Interdiction of CF LOCs
- Surge in CF activity may trigger a parallel surge in

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This slide depicts the areas that the MSCs will be conducting shaping operations and coordinating support for OCF-I targeted Ops.

MND-N

•In Bayji, which is quickly becoming a focal point in MND-N, the MSC has suffered a significant blow to its leadership picture as well. The normal composition of the Bayji MSC is 8 voting members (4 representatives from AAS and 4 representatives from AQIZ). Due to recent operations the leadership has been cut in half with 4 members KIA or detained. In lieu of pressure being put on the MSC's, significant AQ figures are still active in the AO. Most notably is [REDACTED] 1.4c

[REDACTED] 1.4c who has direct ties with AAM. Reporting indicates that [REDACTED] 1.4c operates mainly in the Tikrit River Valley (TRV) while making trips to Baghdad) to meet with other senior AQ officials.

•In addition to significant pressure being put on AQ leadership, the identification of the financial networks in the MND has begun. With the recent success of the operation conducted on the [REDACTED] 1.4a

[REDACTED] 1.4a (Facility has ties to [REDACTED] (b)(6) SSE includes 55 ledgers, 2 computers, and several other pieces of media. Translation of materials complete, exploitation now being conducted. Will take several months before anything is produced from this), CF is beginning to take a look at

how to influence and disrupt the financial network. The Bayji Oil Refinery particularly will be looked at due to the sheer amount of smuggling that goes on from that facility.

•**CJSOTF**

•**MND-B**

- MND-B will look to increase offensive operations against Abu Nur and Azhar VBIED networks (Rusafa, New Baghdad, Karada, Doura, and Mansoor districts).
- They will continue security operations and will conduct shaping operations in: The Shakariya triangle - YTPP,

MNF-W

- Out west, the focus remains Ramadi but they continue to apply pressure along the Hit- Haditha corridor. They will go into more detail on activities in their AO.

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ISR Concept of Support

- **ISR requirements increase in Baghdad to support offensive operations**
 - Support shaping and decisive operations with ISR ISO operations to capture/kill T&FF and Extremist cells/leaders, locate weapons caches, and neutralize the IED networks
 - Support CJSOTF operations focused on VBIED networks
 - Provide ISE to DIV MITTs to provide intelligence in support of force protection and intelligence sharing (must be internally sourced)
 - Provide contingency support as required to unplanned events
- **Coordinate with MNF CM for ISR reprioritization and synchronization- Initial increase in effort toward target development**
- **No ISR assets in reserve**
 - 1.4c posture focused on target development
 - 1.4c capacity adequate to support CF operations; shift efforts to assist MITT and ISF operations

1.4c

Problem Set

- AQI & T&FF Sanctuary and AA
- Iraqi Insurgency
 - Sunni engagement
 - IED Fight
- Militias
- Control of Iraq's Borders

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ISR Concept of Support

MiTT Teams- Intelligence Augmentation

Current Situation:

1.4c

Recommendation:

- Augment MiTTs with an ISE (internally sourced by supporting Division/BCT)
 - ISE will provide MiTTs with force protection Intelligence
 - ISE will provide MiTT and intelligence sharing capability
 - ISE will required communication package and access to interpreter support
- Formalized intelligence training and standards- Develop Division G2/S2 METL and supporting tasks

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Proposed Mission Statement



MNC-I conducts combined operations in Baghdad and the Baghdad Belts from 15 JAN 07 to 15 MAR 07 in order to reduce sectarian tensions and enhance GOI and ISF legitimacy; on order, execute the Bridging Strategy in order to facilitate accelerated transition to ISSR


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Proposed Commander's Intent





- **Purpose**
 - Reduce sectarian tensions in Baghdad and in other Sunni-Shia fault line areas; isolate extremists
 - Demonstrate the GOI seizing the initiative and taking offensive action against AIF; change the dynamics in Baghdad in order to exploit momentum along these lines, setting the conditions for a cease fire and paving the way for national reconciliation
- **Key Tasks**
 - Conduct predominantly U.S.-led operations in the Baghdad belts and barrier, and against focused areas within the city itself
 - Use a balanced approach in operations, targeting both Sunni and Shia extremists – particularly those involved in networks employing VBIEDs and EFPs respectively
 - Maximize the "Iraqi face" on operations and exploit the information operations opportunity stemming from a surge in ISF activity
 - ICW MNF-I, assist the GOI with the development of a substantial political package leading immediately to a cease fire and, ultimately, reconciliation
- **Endstate**
 - Violence in Baghdad reduced to a level manageable for the ISF
 - Iraqis view the ISF as the dominant security force
 - GOI perceived as taking the issue of sectarian violence seriously and seen as acting to reduce it
 - Process of reconciliation initiated under the auspices of a GOI-brokered cease fire
 - MOI reform underway; improvements in the capacity of the Ministries of Health, Industry, and Agriculture initiated
 - Transition to ISSR accelerated IAW the Transition Bridging Strategy
 - CF positioned on the periphery of urban areas, postured to disrupt irreconcilable groups that threaten ISSR and Iraqi reconciliation

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Considerations / Issues

- Consider the use of CJSOTF and OCF-I (as well as ISOF) as a shaping operation
- Role of police???? (secure)
- Develop an improvement package for DBE and POE forces as part of the Transition Bridging Strategy
- Role of National Police
- Develop options to sustain surge periods in focus areas (i.e. equipment-sharing)

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Concept Sketch

- Sketch – a multi-divisional effort
- Include task and purpose for subordinate units
- Additional COAs?
 - Strike operations
 - Control with strike ops
 - Clear
 - Combined
- Possible focus areas
 - Southern Sunni Belt
 - Eastern Diyala (esp. Baqubah)
 - Southern Salah ad Din (esp. Taji and Balad)
 - Abu Ghraib
 - Selected areas in Baghdad
 - Others?
- Timeframe: 15 Jan – 15 Mar

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