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*CENTCOM CCJ3 Info Paper*  
**SYRIAN MILITARY OPTIONS**

3 Aug 2005

**Overview:** Provide SECDEF background of ongoing CENTCOM Syria planning efforts in preparation for Syrian Principles Committee (PC) on 5 Aug. Efforts cover military options to compel Syria to reduce the Foreign Fighter (FF) flow into Iraq and degrade Former Regime Elements (FRE) safe havens in Syria.

**Background:**

- Syria has not exhausted its capability to stop FF flow into Iraq or degrade FRE network in Syria
- 65-75 % of FF into Iraq is from Syria; virtually all suicide bombers are FF
- 321 Iraq suicide bombers Jan 05 - Jun 05
- Damascus identified as funnel point for FF entry to Syria; from there FF flows to eastern border
- Restricting flow on 600K eastern border is difficult; must focus on Damascus as the entry point
- FRE key leaders and network in Syria support Iraqi insurgency by funding and organizing
- Targeting challenges: lack of locatable targets, FF and FRE blend into population, porous borders

**Methodology:**

- Options against Syria are escalatory in nature and range from least provocative to most severe
- Concepts include not only action against Syria but also indirect effects on FF flow or FRE
- Concepts are not designed to cause regime collapse

**Spectrum of Military Options:**

- **Demonstration:** No violation of Syrian geographic sovereignty
  - Show of air and naval force (i.e. naval maneuvers, disruption of illegal sea traffic)
  - Increased air, ground and ISR (i.e. increased troop patrols and air recce in Iraq)
  - PSYOPS against Syrian leadership (i.e. threats on leadership cell phones and e-mail)
- **Non-Kinetic Attacks:** Violation of Syrian sovereignty with no physical damage
  - Computer network attacks (i.e. disrupt military or commercial radar)
  - Intrusive ISR (i.e. Global Hawk flights over low threat areas of eastern Syria)
- **Kinetic Attacks:** Physical damage with conventional military attacks
  - Increased maritime operations (i.e. naval blockade)
  - Strike primary FF entry points (i.e. crater Damascus Airport, C2 infrastructure)
  - Strike select Syrian military targets (i.e. attack IADS, C2 and support)

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