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02 Dec 2003 - Commander's Update Notes, Camp As Saliyah, Qatar

Primary attendees: GEN Abizaid, Lt Gen Smith, MG Sattler, ADM Robb, BG Custer

PA - Two Washington Post Articles "Battle Reveals..." lays out a play-by-play of Sammara w/accuracy. "Council in Iraq..." discusses governance in Iraq. GEN Abizaid described the situation, "The big problem now [in Iraq] is governance."

- Joe Galloway visit today; traveling with GEN to Iraq tomorrow.

J2 -

- Latest enemy TTP indicates a new willingness to stand and fight. Lt Gen Smith: "Let's hope they stay with that - because when they do they lose every time."

- Oxford Poll of Iraqi citizens is getting ready for release - will be all over the news

- IGC divided over Sistani concerns - forms committee to address; see slide in intel section of Ops/Intel Brief

J3 - 1 KIA, 15 incidents in Iraq; Operation Rifle Blitz ended, Operation Buford on/order

- Two incidents in Afghanistan - 1 AMF KIA

- Full Operation Avalanche concept of operations; see drill down in Ops/Intel Brief

Lt Gen Smith - discussed engagement with [1.4b] on border issues

- Amb. Bremer decision to NOT capture SADR - Bremer says now is not a good time.

GEN Abizaid on accelerating the ICDC: Amb. Bremer specifically stated that he does not want ICDC programs accelerated.

GEN Abizaid - We need a Ministry of Defense in Iraq; we need to ask for guidance from Washington

- We need to do some CENTCOM - [1.4b] work; one of us [CDR/DCDR] needs to pay them a visit, we need them to stay on for another six months beyond their current commitment (which expires in July 04).

GEN Abizaid to J5 - I need a one page paper on the CERF program - is there a problem?

GEN Abizaid-

- HQ rationalization - CJTF [1.4a] needs to be a standing HQ that could be there 100 years; "I'm ready to look at CENTCOMs' architecture. The core [or COPRS] hq needs to be stand alone and manned primarily from CFLCC assets but with full capability [air and maritime components], I'm ready to institute the 'Smith Plan'."
- "We must continue to work peripheral issues, i.e. Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, because there is a gold mine there."

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- "We must take advantage of the terrorist activity that is angering so many moderate Muslims."
- "We have got to get Iraq and Afghanistan Headquarters's to stand alone -- where we provide strategic guidance vs. tactical guidance. We do much of the tactical piece now because they are so undermanned. We need to resource Afghanistan, restructure Iraq, and cut 1.4a back to EUCOM for engagement."
- New Iraqi Defense establishment -- what is the bridging mechanism?
- "Nobody has as much to do as we do. If we can restructure we can get back to strategic planning, guidance, and engagement."
- "There hasn't been a political process in Iraq that didn't involve a gun."

END

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