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DELIVER DURING NORMAL DUTY HOURS

PERSONAL FOR

CJCS, GEN MEYERS; INFO USEUCOM, GEN JONES; CUSNC, VADM NICHOLS; CUSMARCENT
LTGEN GREGSON FROM GEN ABIZAID
MSGID/GENADMIN/USCENTCOM/OCT//

SUBJ/REVIEW OF USEUCOM AND USCENTCOM ESG/MEU PRESENCE (S) //

RMKS/1. (S) MR. CHAIRMAN, I CONCUR WITH YOUR DESIRE TO EXPLORE METHODS BY
WHICH WE CAN REDUCE THE STRAIN ON OUR FORCES INCURRED THROUGH THE EXECUTION
OF OPERATIONS OIF AND OEF. THE EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES IS NECESSARY TO
ACHIEVE THIS GOAL, AND I WILL PERSONALLY ENSURE OUR STAFFS CONTINUE TO WORK
TOGETHER TO APPROPRIATELY APPORTION FORCES.

2. (S) GIVEN THE INHERENT CAPABILITIES OF THE ESG/MEU, THE HIGHLY
UNPREDICTABLE ENVIRONMENT THROUGHOUT THE CENTCOM AOR AND THE REPEATED USE
OF ESG/MEU FORCES, I CANNOT CONCUR WITH A REDUCED ESG/MEU PRESENCE FOR THE
FORESEEABLE FUTURE. ESG/MEU FORCES HAVE CONDUCTED COMBAT OPERATIONS IN
IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN AS WELL AS SUPPORTED MIO, NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE AND
THEATER ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES THROUGH CENTCOM'S ROBUST BILATERAL EXERCISE
PROGRAM. LAST AUGUST, MY STAFF PLANNED A POTENTIAL TIME SENSITIVE MISSION IN HOA
THAT EMPLOYED SUB-OPTIMUM ASSETS AND INVOLVED AWKWARD FORCE MOVEMENTS THAT
NEGATIVELY IMPACTED ONGOING OIF/OEF OPERATIONS, BECAUSE CENTCOM DID NOT HAVE AN ESG/
MEU. TODAY, AFTER ONLY A WEEK IN THE AOR ESG 1 IS PARTICIPATING IN OPERATION
SWEENEY IN DIRECT SUPPORT OF OIF AND, IF NECESSARY, I WILL DEPLOY AS THE THEATER
RESERVE TO RAPIDLY AUGMENT GROUND FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN. THE ESG/MEU IS NOT ONLY
FILLING A PRESENCE ROLE, THEY ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN COMBAT OPERATIONS. THE
REQUIREMENT TO HAVE A RAPIDLY DEPLOYABLE FORCE TO SUPPORT GWOT OPERATIONS IN IRAQ,
AFGHANISTAN AND HOA HAS BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE ESSENTIAL TO THE CENTCOM AOR.

3. (S) AS THE SITUATION IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN IMPROVES, OWING TO THE
HERCULEAN EFFORTS OF OUR TROOPS BOTH ON THE GROUND AND AFLOAT, I WILL
REASSESS FORCE REQUIREMENTS. I AM COMMITTED TO REDUCING THE STRAIN ON
FORCES ALREADY STRETCHED THIN BY ONGOING OPERATIONS. VERY RESPECTFULLY,
JOHN. //

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