

27 Oct 03

~~(S//NF)~~ **AI Rasheed Hotel Security Precautions (S//NF)**

~~(S//NF)~~ **Purpose.** To answer VCJCS' questions,

1. "Should we allow the hotel management team that has been in place since Saddam's time to stay in place or should a new management team come in?"
2. "Should we move back in to the hotel or should we look to disperse our folks and visitors into separated locations?"
3. "Should the adequacy of the security procedures that lead to the opening of the road and the attack be investigated?"

(U) **Issue.** None. For information only.

~~(S//NF)~~ **Bottom Line**

- ~~(S//NF)~~ 1. CPA officials recommend hotel management be retained while AFOSI agents continue vetting Iraqi nationals.
- ~~(S//NF)~~ 2. The Al-Rasheed continues to have vulnerabilities. CENTCOM and CPA are reviewing alternatives. Currently the hotel remains the best most available location. Due to its size profile and location, it will continue to be susceptible to standoff weapons attack.
- ~~(S//NF)~~ 3. The analysis of the local commander supported the decision to open the roads. Investigation into the attack on 27 October continues.

~~(S//NF)~~ **Background.**

- ~~(S//NF)~~ 1. CPA officials have not changed their assessment of the Al-Rasheed Hotel (b)(6) (b)(6) They recommend he and his immediate staff be retained. AFOSI continues to

conduct investigations on employees to determine whether or not they should remain on the hotel staff. There are less than 500 unvetted Iraqi nationals employed as hotel staff.

- ~~(S//NF)~~ 2. Al-Rasheed remains a high profile target. CENTCOM/CPA have not yet been able to find locations which provide better security (both living compound and the transportation routes). Dispersion would remove the high profile Al-Rasheed as a target. Given the current operational/tactical environment dispersion may not prevent CPA personnel/U.S. and Coalition forces from being targets.
- ~~(S//NF)~~ 3. The opening of the road was a carefully considered decision. That decision will continue to be reassessed as part of CPA and CJTF (b)(6) ongoing efforts to mitigate potential threats.
- ~~(S//NF)~~ Additional security measures implemented to protect Al-Rasheed include; increased Iraqi police patrols on road west of hotel, Iraqi police increased patrols in residential areas near hotel, U.S. forces have increased mounted and dismounted patrols, military dogs patrolling and searching vehicles, perimeter and personnel.

**COORDINATION:**

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