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CCJ3 INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: JOINT STAFF QUERIES CONCERNING THE USMC WITHDRAWAL FROM IRAQ

1. PURPOSE. To answer questions for the Joint Staff concerning the USMC withdrawal from Iraq and how it will affect ground security.
2. DISCUSSION: Answers to the following Joint Staff questions are provided below.

- a) Q: "What Marines (units) are actually leaving Baghdad and USMC Sector in Iraq?"
A: No Marine units are in Baghdad as it is presently under the control of V Corps/1 AD. TAB A depicts the remaining I MEF units that are slated to depart the I MEF sector. These units are:

- 1st Reconnaissance Bn
- 2nd Assault Amphibian Bn (-)

TAB B depicts the laydown of the remaining I MEF units. The redeployment order and schedule for the forces which have already departed the I MEF for Kuwait marshalling areas is attached at TABs C, D, and E.

- b) Q: "Are the units leaving, (the) types with other missions, i.e., artillery or aviation?"
A: Yes, Units not needed for stability operations are currently redeploying, these include combat, combat support and combat service support.
- c) Q: "Is there a pause on the exit of USMC units involved in ground security?"
A: Over the past several weeks, the MEF has been transitioning the 1st Marine Division into the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade. This brigade currently has seven battalion sized infantry task forces and two battalion (-) sized light armored reconnaissance (LAR) units remaining in the Southern AO (TABs A & B). These forces will remain in place and any further retrograde of these units will be strictly conditions based. These conditions are as follows:

- Security
 - Coalition Forces have suffered no attacks
 - Sufficient vetted, trained & armed local police
 - MPs in place, conducting joint patrols
 - CMOC secure & rehearsed MP reaction drills
 - Functional fire & ambulance response services
 - Identified UXO, SSE & ASP cleared or secured
- Civil Operations
 - Functioning Advisory Council
 - Operational CMOC & supporting GST

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- No civil service or infrastructure issue that could lead to violence
- Handover
 - Inter-battalion familiarization complete
 - Bn Cmdr assuming new battlespace has met with local leaders
 - C2 infrastructure in place and tested
 - RIP of fixed installations complete

Given the accomplishment of these conditions, I MEF hopes to be down to four battalion sized infantry task forces and one LAR battalion (-) by 01 JUL 03 (TAB F)

- d) Q: "Bottom line, is USMC withdrawal impacting ground security situation?"
A: No. CJTF-4a currently assesses the troops to task ratio as acceptable given the current security conditions in the southern zone.
- e) Q: "At what point during OIF did the Marine Corps have the largest number of Ground Combat Units in IZ?"
A: The MEF had the most combat power on D+10. The breakdown by combat unit is as follows:

- Infantry Bn
- Artillery Bn
- LAR Bn
- Tank Bn
- AAV
- Total



3. RECOMMENDATION: None, for information only.

APPROVED BY: _____ PREPARED BY: _____

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31 MAY 2003

Classified by: MG RENUART, CCJ3, 25 MAY 03
Declassify on: 31 MAY 13

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