MEMORANDUM FOR: DCDR

URGENT

CDR Tasker: See back of attached report.

Iraq Museum Paper. See CDR's comments on attached. What is the plan? Provide data on number of missing items. More information on 1.4b, 1.4d seizure.

Need comprehensive bullet paper on the museum issue, the plan, etc.

(b)(3), (b)(6)

J3/JTACG LEAD

CC: J1 [red]
J2
J3 [red]
J4
J5
J6
J8
CAG

Due 5-29

(b)(3), (b)(6)
Executive Assistant

SECRET-ORCON

527-044
SUBJECT: IRAQ NATIONAL MUSEUM IN BAGHDAD ANTIQUITIES INVESTIGATION

1. Executive Summary: In mid-April, the press reported 170,000 antiquities had been stolen and damaged from the Museum. USCENTCOM sent a team from CCJIACG, consisting of CCJIACG personnel and ICE/US Customs agents, to investigate the theft and begin recovery procedures by identifying the antiquities actually missing. After intensive investigation, the missing items count changed daily because the museum comprises of several departments, each maintaining manual and non-uniform inventory systems. Also, many items moved to other locations as the war commenced.

2. DISCUSSION:
   a. CCJIACG continues the investigation at the Iraq Museum in Baghdad, due to theft reported by the Museum employees and media of a substantial number of priceless artifacts. Negative press reports regarding efforts to prevent the thefts distraction attention from Coalition successes. CCJIACG was directed to plan, coordinate, and execute a preliminary investigation. The team, consisting CCJIACG personnel and ICE/Custs, arrived at the museum 22 Apr 03.

   b. After thorough investigation, the number of missing items, as initially reported, has decreased. Part of the reason for the discrepancy between initial reports and actual number of items missing is based on separate museum departments not coordinating, and each maintaining a manual and non-uniform inventory system. Additionally, many items were moved to other locations prior to the war for “safe-keeping”.

   c. The investigation team continues to make progress. On 22 May, 425 items from the Iraq Museum were recovered at a routine military checkpoint. The major tasks remaining are: 1) Finding the results of the seizure of antiquities, 2) monitoring the opening of the Central Bank vaults, 3) finishing the inventories of various rooms in the museum, 4) updating the Customs, FBI, State, and Interpol web sites, and 5) persuading the museum staff to reveal the “secret” location that items were moved for “safe-keeping” during the war (museum director has provided an inventory of items in the “secret” location).

3. Recommendation: None. For information only.

Approved by: VICTOR E. RENUART, JR.  
(b)(3), (b)(6)  
CHOPS, CCJIACG  
Action Officer  
(b)(3), (b)(6)  
PREPARED BY:  
2nd Platoon, 1st Platoon?