Initial Courses of Action: Joint Staff PLANORD for Accelerated Force Drawdown in Iraq

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ed from: Multiple sources
ECL ON: 12 Dec 2015

Iltizam Mushtarak – United Commitment
Directed COA

JS PLANORD (3 Dec 05) directed development of COAs to more rapidly reduce BCTs in Iraq if warranted by post-Election conditions; specifically:

- Directed COA: Increase by 2 BCTs shortly following the elections; reduce to 13 BCTs in Iraq NLT Mar 06; reduce to 10 BCTs in Iraq NLT Jun 06; reduce to 8 BCTs in Iraq NLT Sep 06

- SecDef expects other COAs for consideration as well

Agreed JS J3 / CC J3 suspense is 15 Jan 06
Initial Planning Factors

- Goal: MNF Bde partnered with each Iraqi Army Div HQ
  - Min force: 8 x US BCT, 3 x CF Bdes (1 x Bde / each Iraqi Army Div HQ) + 1.4b
- Sustain the Coalition – requirement remains for 1 x UK Bde, 1 x IT Bde, 1 x PO Bde + 1.4b (at least two non-US Div HQs)
- Identify force reductions outside of BCTs – change the argument from pure BCT focus
- Match off-ramp to ISF assumption of battlespace wherever practical
- Maintain continuity between partnered MNF/IA units to the greatest extent possible
- Consider non-standard BCT structures where practical (redesigned Bdes with Bde HQ, Bn TF, MiTTs / PTTs, enablers)
  - Design plan to permit Bn-level off-ramp
- Fully identify what logistics support we must provide to ISF
- Validate Transition Team requirements; identify additional requirements as required (PTTs, PRTs)

- Build in flexibility; do not design a force structure that significantly limits future options
- Posture forces where their capabilities can best be employed (get Stryker BCT out of Mosul if possible)
- Maintain mix of forces (heavy/light/Stryker); preference to heavier force capability
- Space curtailments / redeployments to support conditions-based reduction strategy; permit time to assess conditions and meter the flow
- Curtailing / BOG out of in-place forces preferred over deploying forces for a short time and then curtailing
- Minimize double-RIPs
- Identify the missions that Force has assigned to Corps and that Corps has assigned to Divisions
  - Identify missions that we no longer need to do.
  - Identify missions Iraqis can assume
- Fully identify risk; project risk mitigation requirements

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Initial Courses of Action

- Base Plan: 10 x US BCTs by Oct 06
- Stretch plan: 8 x US BCTs by Dec 06
- Accelerated Plan: 8 x US BCTs by Sep 06
- Intermediate steps of:
  - 13 BCTs in Mar 06
  - 10 x BCTs in Jun 06
Projections of IA Owned Battlespace (based on Dec 05 TRA)

Projected to own battlespace by Mar 06
Projected to own battlespace by Jun 06
Projected to own battlespace by Oct 06

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COA 1: Base Plan

MNF-I ASSESSMENT

IRAQI CAPABILITY

US SUPPORT LEVEL

= Decision Point

= Decision Made

Deploy 3/101 AA on time

Deploy DRB

Deploy 2/1 AD

Deploy 1/1 ID

Curtail / do not deploy 2 Bdes

Curtail / do not deploy 3 Bdes

~138,000

~138,000(+)

~130,000

~122,000

~106,000

~106,000

17 Brigades

17 (+) Brigades

15 Brigades

13 Brigades

10 Brigades

Potential Reductions

- TF 1-4a
- Corps Separates
- COSCOM
- HQ Consolidation

US Forces

ELECTION WINDOW

AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

CCT

NOV 05 DEC 06

FEB MAR APR MAY JUN 06 JULY AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC 06

US off-ramp strategy linked to development of capable ISF

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Base Plan: 10 BCT Set by Oct 06

- MND-NE
  - 1.4b
- MND-N
- MND-W
  - MNF-W
  - 1 Div
  - 1.4b
- MND-B
  - 1 Div
  - 1.4b
- MND-SE
  - 1.4b
- 4 Divs
- 2 Divs

- Theater Security
- Theater Reserve

- 1/10 ID (Mar 06; 5 months early)
- Rotation 3/4 ID to TOA with 2/28 ID (Apr 06; 2 months early)
- Rotation 2/101 (Aug 06; 1 month early)
- Rotation 4/4 ID (Sep 06; 2 months early)
- Rotation 4/101 (Oct 06; 1 month early)
COA 2: Stretch Plan

MNF-I ASSESSMENT

IRAQI CAPABILITY

US SUPPORT LEVEL

△ = Decision Point

▲ = Decision Made

Potential Reductions
- TF 1-44
- Corps Separates
- COSCOM
- HQ Consolidation

Deploy 3/101 AA on time

Deploy 2/1 AD

Deploy 1/1 ID

Curtail / do not deploy 2 Bdes

Curtail / do not deploy 3 Bdes

Curtail / do not deploy 2 Bdes

~138,000

~138,000(+)

~130,000

~122,000

~106,000

~99,000

17

17 (+)

15

13

10

8

Brigades

Brigades

Brigades

Brigades

Brigades

Brigades

Brigades

Brigades

Brigades

Brigades

ELECTION WINDOW

AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC 05

JAN 06 FEB MAR APR MAY JUN 06 JULY AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC 06

US off-ramp strategy linked to development of capable ISF

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SECRET//REL USA, AUS, GBR
Stretch Plan: 8 BCT Set by Dec 06

- 4 Divs
- 2 Divs
- 1/10 ID (Mar 06; 5 months early)
- Mission 3/4 ID to TOA with 2/28 ID (Apr 06; 2 months early)
- 2/101 AA (Aug 06; 1 month early)
- 4/4 ID (Sep 06; 2 months early)
- 4/101 AA (Oct 06, 1 month early)
- 2 RCT (Dec 06, 1 month early)
- 1/34 ID Theater Security (Dec 06; 3 months early)
COA 3: Accelerated Plan

MNF-I ASSESSMENT

IRAQI CAPABILITY

US SUPPORT LEVEL

△ = Decision Point

= Decision Made

Deploy 3/101 AA on time
Deploy DRB(-)
Deploy 2/1 AD
Deploy 1/1 ID

~138,000

17 (+) Brigades

~130,000

15 Brigades

~122,000

18 Brigades

~111,000

10 Brigades

~99,000

8 Brigades

Potential Reductions
- TF 1-4a
- Corps Separates
- COSCOM
- HQ Consolidation

Iraqi Capability

ELECTION WINDOW

AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JULY AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

US off-ramp strategy linked to development of capable ISF

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Declassified by: MG Michael X. Garrett, USCENTCOM Chief of Staff
Declassified on: 201506

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Accelerated Plan: 8 BCT Set by Sep 06

- 4 Divs
- 2 Divs
- 1 Div
- 1 Div
- 1 Div

Mission 3/4 ID to TOA with 2/28 ID (Feb 06; 4 months early)
- 1/10 ID (Mar 06; 5 months early)
- 4/101 AA (Apr 06; 7 months early)
- 1/101 AA (May 06; 4 months early)
- 2/4 ID (Jun 06; 5 months early)
- 4/4 ID (Jul 06; 4 months early)

Not replace 3/101 AA (Aug 06)
Way Ahead

- Refine COAs with MNC-I
  - Identify future HQ structure
  - Identify other potential force structure reductions
  - Identify requirement for Theater Security Brigade
- Build plan for CG’s approval, presentation to CENTCOM / Joint Staff / SecDef