



~~SECRET SENSITIVE~~

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

Terrorism

Doc #369 - Iran hostage rescue

84

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL  
Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: DEC 1 1 2015

JCSM 166-80  
7 June 1980

MFR: SEC DEF SAW  
EARLIER COPY (ON  
WHICH WAS  
REPLACED BY THIS  
ONE BECAUSE OF  
A TYPO.

Co. 6/9

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Establishment of a Joint Task Force (U)

1. (S) At the time of the seizure of the American Embassy in Teheran, the Joint Chiefs of Staff had a concept plan which provided options to the National Command Authorities (NCA) for a military response to terrorist incidents. In addition, the unified commands had supporting plans for response to terrorist incidents in their assigned areas.
2. (S) A special task force was formed for the hostage rescue mission within the context of the existing plan. This task force, consisting of personnel and equipment from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, was responsible for the planning, training, and conduct of the mission.
3. (S) The Joint Chiefs of Staff have examined the organization established for the rescue of the hostages in Iran and have concluded that a permanently established force is necessary to achieve an effective response to future terrorist incidents.
4. (S) The Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend that you approve the establishment of a Joint Task Force (JTF) with the following mission:
  - Conduct military operations to counter terrorist acts directed against US interests, citizens, and/or property when directed by the NCA, either unilaterally or in support of a unified command(s).
5. (S) The JTF will be under the direction of the NCA through the Joint Chiefs of Staff and commanded by an Army general officer. Headquarters for the JTF will be at Fort Bragg, NC. The headquarters will be manned by assigned personnel from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps. The headquarters will perform joint administrative intelligence, operations, training, logistics, planning, and communications functions for the force.

~~CLASSIFIED BY: CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
DECLASSIFY ON: 6 JUNE 1986~~

15-a-0571

330-82-0216, box 29, 320.2 (Jun) 1980

~~SECRET SENSITIVE~~

6. (S) Pending determination of security aspects, the planning for the establishment of this JTF is being done on a strict need-to-know basis within the Services and the Joint Staff. It is requested that the distribution of information on the JTF be similarly limited within your office.

7. (S) The operating components of the force will consist of specially organized, equipped, and trained forces under the operational control of the Commander, Joint Task Force. Additional forces will be available for assignment to the force if required. Dedicated communications and administrative air transportation support will also be provided for the force. ✓

8. (S) The operational functions of the JTF will be performed by Service components. These components will be:

(S) Army. 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta. ✓

(S) Navy. SEAL command organized from Navy assets. ✓

(S) Air Force. A composite command of fixed and rotary wing aircraft organized from Air Force assets. ✓

MFI  
PB  
ON  
OR.


9. (S) The JTF established for the hostage rescue mission has been retained. Its mission and worldwide counterterrorism operations will be assumed by the JTF described above when it is operational. ✓

"FREE  
ACT  
WILL  
FOU  
INT"

10. (S) The impact of the establishment of a JTF on presently authorized appropriations and manpower has not yet been determined. Should fiscal initiatives or billets be required, they will be coordinated with the Services and subsequently submitted to you.

11. (S) The establishment of the proposed JTF is a matter of high priority for the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

  
LEW ALLEN, JR., General, USAF  
Chief of Staff

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL  
Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: DEC 1 1 2015

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
FOR POLICY

6/10

MEMO FOR

*Sacby*

RB

As I noted before, the issue is whether the forces assigned and the VTF HQ will be dedicated, or composed primarily of earmarked forces which also have other missions. If the latter, fine. If the former, here's another "special mission" VTF being set up (probably out of our own hide) at the expense of something else.

Therefore, I believe your approval should be either (1) "in principle, subject to specifics on funding and people"; or (2) "as long as the people and units involved are earmarked from existing assets".

*RWK*

7 JUN 1980

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

6/7

Memo For \_\_\_\_\_

This should be shown to

C Smith — Looks OK; shall have a memo. Co's

P. Hamilton PBT

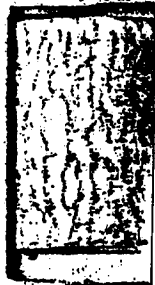
R. Komer

W. G. Clayton

I plan to approve, based on my discussions with Dave Jones, after they above have a chance to comment.

HB

No comments - I think this is a good idea and should be implemented w/ 6/9



320.2

J

DOCUMENT IS JCSM-166-80

Page determined to be Unclassified  
Reviewed Chief, RDD, WHS  
IAW EO 13526, Section 3.5  
Date: DEC 11 2015

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
Date: 11 Dec 2015 Authority: EO 13526  
Declassify: X Deny in Full: \_\_\_\_\_  
Declassify in Part: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason: \_\_\_\_\_  
MDR: 15 -M- 0571

50-506552



7/1/80

X08901