



~~SECRET SENSITIVE~~

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

31 OCT 1977  
SEC DEF HAS SEEN

85 OCT 1977

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CM 1676-77  
25 October 1977

10/25  
For discussion  
with the President  
on Oct 31.

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Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WBS  
Date: SEP 14 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Military Forces Counter-Terrorism Capability (U)

1. (U) This memorandum provides for your information, and for possible discussions with the President, a report on our current capabilities to cope with terrorist actions using military forces and our plans for the improvement of these capabilities.
2. ~~(S)~~ We currently possess a capability to plan and conduct certain counter-terrorist operations. The designated primary ground force is built around the two Ranger battalions augmented by Special Forces and other specialists. One of the Ranger battalions is constantly on alert status. It must be recognized that the Rangers are not organized solely for counter-terrorist operations. Therefore, non-standard exotic type devices and highly qualified experts necessary for the more sophisticated operations must be provided in time to permit force training prior to employment.
3. ~~(S)~~ The US Air Force Special Operations and Military Airlift Command Units have trained personnel and specialized equipment to support such operations to include all-weather low-level approach and darkened airdrop and airlanding capabilities.
4. ~~(S)~~ Command and control will be provided by a well-trained Joint Task Force Headquarters provided by the Readiness Command. A deployable air mobile communications package (Jackpot) is available but is limited in deployability in that it is capable of installation only in a slow C-130 aircraft at this time. A C-141 capability is necessary.
5. ~~(S)~~ Over the past 15 months, counter-terrorists exercises have been conducted by Readiness Command on the average of every two months covering a variety of terrorist situations to include hi-jackings. These exercises are all no-notice in nature and have included specialist augmentation such as nuclear and demolition experts, translators, interrogation, and medical specialists. At Enclosure is a summary of these exercises.

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25 OCT 1977

Classified by CJCS  
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION  
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652  
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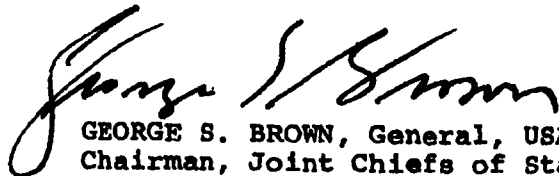
330-80-0077, box 1, 000.5 (Jan-Mar) 1977

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6. (S) While these exercises have demonstrated a credible capability, the availability of special items of equipment, specially skilled personnel from other agencies, and time to conduct effective final integrated training of the force remain a matter of concern. To improve further our capability, the Army is developing a specially trained small force (172 personnel) of experienced and mature personnel with a wartime special operations mission and a capability for the prompt and successful execution of those counter-terrorist missions for which no other DOD force is specifically trained or structured to execute. In the near term, the Army will continue to train and exercise augmentation personnel with their Ranger battalions. ✓  
5-9 months ✓

7. (U) As a related matter, Mr. Brezinski has requested a briefing on our current capabilities and future plans. This presentation will be available later this week. ✓



GEORGE S. BROWN, General, USAF  
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

Attachment  
a/s

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COUNTER TERRORISM EXERCISES

DATE	NAME	UNIT	REMOTE MARSHALL- ING BASE (REMAB)	EXERCISE AREA	SCENARIO	SUPPORTING FORCES
Nov 76	CRUSADER	2/75 Ranger Bn (Bn size)	Fairchild AFB	Ft Lewis	Rescue victim/ nuclear	MAC FORSCOM (XVIII Corps)
Dec 76	GOBLIN SENTRY	1/75 Ranger Bn (Bn size)	Ft Bragg		Hijacked acft/ rescue/nuclear	MAC FORSCOM (XVIII Corps)
Apr 77	CELTIC MURPHY	2/75 Ranger Bn (Bn size)	Holloman AFB NM	Ft Bliss	Mission recovery/ rescue	MAC FORSCOM (XVIII Corps-9 Inf) TAC/REDCOM
Jul 77	BLACK LIGHTNING	2/75 Ranger Bn (Co size)	Fairchild AFB	Ft Richardson	Rescue	MAC 9 Inf/TAC/AAC
Sep 77	RAPID RETRIEVER	1/75 Ranger Bn (Co size)	Hunter AAF	Indian Springs, NV	Hijacked airliner	MAC/FORSCOM

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Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS

Date: 14 Sep 2015 Authority: EO 13526 + 5 U.S.C. 8552

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