

CIA

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Terrorism

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WORKING PAPER
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Conrad

J-3 TP-3-78
11 January 1978
JAN 12 1978

Talking Paper for the Chairman, JCS, on an item to ~~DO~~ ~~SEC~~ ~~HAS~~ ~~BEEN~~ (81)
at a meeting of the NSC SCC on 13 January 1978

SUBJECT: Status of US Military Capabilities to Conduct Counter-Terrorist Operations (U)

PURPOSE: To provide the Chairman, JCS, with the status of US military capabilities to conduct counter-terrorist operations for discussion with the NSC SCC.

CONCEPT PLAN

- A JCS concept plan published on 15 March 1977 provides the concept for US military operations to counter terrorist activities overseas.

- CONPLAN was developed by the Joint Staff and covers a wide spectrum of possible terrorist activities.
- CONPLAN provides National Command Authorities with military options to counter terrorist acts against US citizens and property overseas.

- Unified commands have been tasked to develop supporting plans for conducting counter-terrorist operations.

- JCS has reviewed and approved the plans of USCINCREC, CINCLANT, CINCPAC and USCINCSOUTH, subject to incorporation of certain directed changes.
- USCINCEUR CONPLAN is in final draft form and will be provided JCS for review on 30 Jan 78.
- Pending JCS approval of EUCOM supporting CONPLAN, USCINCEUR will continue to use the counter-terrorist plan prepared by Support Operations Task Force, Europe. (SOTFE CONPLAN 4305)

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Mr. Dungen has 9234

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- There are a number of terrorist acts that might trigger a US military response. Possible military missions range from the rescue of hostages from a hijacked US aircraft to recovery/neutralization/destruction of stolen nuclear weapons. (See TAB A for possible missions.)

- Each terrorist incident involving the US overseas must be analyzed to determine if a military response would be effective.

COMMAND AND CONTROL

- Command and control elements exist on national and unified command level, and have been exercised.

-- On the national level, a terrorist action team has been formed within the Joint Staff to monitor terrorist incidents and to implement NCA decisions for deployment of military counter-terrorist forces.

-- Unified commands have established compartmentalized cells within their crisis action system to respond to terrorist activities.

-- A joint task force (JTF) will be formed by the unified command to conduct counter-terrorist operations.

-- Readiness Command has a small joint operations and intelligence staff, devoted to support of the joint task force. This staff may augment counter-terrorist joint task forces under unified commands.

-- During the execution phase of counter-terrorist operations, Commander, Joint Task Force will be under operational command of a unified command or report directly to NCA through JCS.

- Secure communications links have been established and exercised for control of counter-terrorist operations through the Worldwide Military Command and Control System (WWMCCS).

- A deployable airmobile communications package is available to provide direct communications from NCA to deployed counter-terrorist force.

- Special intelligence data files and procedures have been established by DIA on airfields, civilian and military aircraft, key overseas installations, maps, and terrorist activities.

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CAPABILITIES

- CINCLANT, USCINCEUR, CINCPAC, USCINCREC, and CINCSO, in coordination with CINCAD, CINCMAC, and CINCSAC, are tasked by the Joint Strategic Capabilities Plan 78 (JSCP) to plan, develop, and maintain a capability to conduct counter-terrorist operations outside the United States.

-- Overseas unified commanders have trained and equipped forces to conduct counter-terrorist operations as a secondary mission. (See TAB B for USCINCEUR C-T forces).

- Time permitting, counter-terrorist operations overseas which exceed the capability of the CINC's forces will be conducted by CONUS forces.

-- Selected US military units maintain advance alert status and can be employed in a counter-terrorist role. (See TAB C for specific forces).

--- The two US Army Ranger battalions provide the commando type muscle for counter-terrorist operations.

--- US Forces with specialized training, such as Army Special Forces, Navy SEALs, and Marine Reconnaissance Teams, may be used.

--- US Air Force Special Operations Forces and Military Airlift Command units have trained personnel and specialized equipment to support counter-terrorist operations, to include all-weather, low-level approach and darkened airdrop and air-landing capabilities. (See TAB D for specialized equipment)

- Depending on the nature of the mission, the size of US military forces may range from a small element to a larger task force.

- Over the past 16 months, counter-terrorist exercises have been conducted by USCINCREC on the average of one every two months. (See TAB E for a list of major exercises.)

-- Units were moved to remote sites to prepare for their mission and to protect the secrecy of their operation.

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- All missions required surprise insertion, rapid execution and extraction prior to compromise in the objective area.
- While our exercises have demonstrated a credible capability, the availability of special items of equipment, specially-skilled personnel from other agencies, and final integrated training of the force remain a matter of concern.
- USCINCEUR designated counter-terrorist force (38 Special Action personnel, Berlin Detachment Alpha Special Forces) has concentrated on developing special skills and techniques for conducting such operations.
- All personnel have completed a special demolitions school [REDACTED]
- 4 individuals have completed 7 days of exchange training on counter-terrorism by UK Special Air Service (SAS).
- Cross training on individual specialist skills has been provided FRG Border Group 9 by the Berlin Detachment.
- Hostage rescue training is regularly conducted by the unit on a US Boeing 707 aircraft. An effort is being made to expand the training to include other US aircraft types, including joint training with FRG Border Group 9.
- 20 personnel have attended a two week course conducted by FRG Border Group 9 on counter-terrorist tactics and techniques. 10 additional personnel will complete the training in January.

CURRENT ACTIONS

- For several months, the US military capability to respond to terrorist incidents has been under review. Hijacking of the Lufthansa aircraft highlighted the continuing threat of terrorism throughout the world.
- An American interagency team visited Bonn on 7-8 December 77 and The Hague on 9 December 77 to discuss counter-terrorist operations with FRG and Dutch officials. Valuable lessons were learned from the German operations in Mogadiscio and the Dutch operations against Moluccan terrorists.
- To further improve our counter-terrorist capability, the Army is developing a specially trained, small force (172 personnel) of mature and experienced personnel, dedicated to counter-terrorist operations. (See TAB F for details)

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-- Special Forces Operational Detachment Delta (SFOD-DELTA) will offer a high degree of assurance for the prompt and successful execution of those missions for which no other DOD force is specifically trained or structured to execute. ✓

-- SFOD-DELTA will have an interim capability on 15 July 78 when two teams of 20 men each complete training. The Army Ranger battalions will provide backup for SFOD-DELTA when a larger force with more muscle is required.

- Pending SFOD-DELTA becoming operational, a dedicated force of 75 men from the 5th Special Forces Group at Ft Bragg, NC, ~~has been assigned a primary mission~~ ^{has 15 BANG} to conduct precision counter-terrorist operations. When SFOD-DELTA becomes fully operational, this unit will resume its normal mission.

APPROVED BY *[Signature]* Director, J-3

[Signature] Director, Joint Staff
see comment below

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ATTACHMENTS

- TAB A - Possible US Military Counter-Terrorist Missions
- TAB B - USCINCEUR Counter-Terrorist Forces
- TAB C - US Military Forces with Counter-Terrorist Capabilities
- TAB D - USAF Specialized Equipment
- TAB E - Major US Counter-Terrorism Exercises
- TAB F - Special Forces Operational Detachment Delta

* I am, perhaps, not as confident in our ability as one might read into this point paper. Our exercises have demonstrated good ability to move and insert forces - but not yet have we become ~~as~~ proficient at recovering hostages. Recommend we don't give an overall on our capability - though it is improving all the time.

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V. R.
[Signature]