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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Rapid Deployment Forces (U)

(8) I have reviewed JCSM-334-79 and JCSM-318-79, which respond to my October 22 memorandum requesting a detailed plan for establishing a joint task force to control the RDF and plan for Middle East contingency operations. It is evident that we have made considerable progress in the development of the RDJTF. My decisions are as follows:

1. Establish the Joint Task Force (JTF) headquarters at Readiness Command at Tampa, Florida on or about March 1, 1980.

2. Establish a JTF liaison office in Washington (headed by a general or flag officer) to support JTF responsibilities, especially those for contingency planning. There will need to be adequate politico-military interface with the JCS/Joint Staff and OSD on these matters, especially in the light of the early RDF focus on the Middle East/Persian Gulf area. The liaison office will therefore have to be appropriately staffed, and in my judgment this will require on the order of 15-20 people.

3. Develop Terms of Reference (TOR) for the JTF for my review by February 1, 1980. Include in the TOR clear statements of the responsibility of the Commander, JTF, as directed in my memorandum to you of October 22, 1979. In particular the Commander should be responsible for developing plans for the deployment and employment of forces for major contingencies in the Middle East/South Asian area and adjacent waters.

4. I approve your plan for initial subordination of the RDJTF headquarters to USCINCREC, recognizing that, when deployed, the RDJTF will transfer to the appropriate CINC or will report directly to the National Command Authorities, depending upon circumstances. Therefore, write into the TOR a chain of command mechanism by which the RDJTF Commander could report directly to the NCA, and not be dependent upon another CINC.

5. Provide the Commander, JTF, an exercise budget.

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
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MDR: **15 -M- 1715**
Review: 26 Jan 1986

Harold Brown

15-M-1715

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