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

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
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25 July 1980

SECDEF HAS SE
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CS-
I'd like
discuss this
with RWIC +
if he's around
you. Then put
a note in for
the President.
the issue + w
I intend to.

Done
RFB
31 Jul

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force: Clarification of Mission and Command Relationships (U)

- (U) The Joint Chiefs of Staff have undertaken a careful review of the Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force (RDJTF) concept. This review has been conducted in light of current developments in the southwest Asia (SWA) region* and the experience gained during the first few months since HQ RDJTF was formally established. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have concluded that certain changes in the current mission of the RDJTF and clarification of the current command arrangements and relationships for the RDJTF are required to facilitate the ability to focus planning and employment of US forces in this area of the world. *lean* *propo* *since* *change* *UCP of* *involve* *don't* *it requ* *explicit* *President* *appro*
- (S) The Joint Chiefs of Staff believe that there is a need to focus the mission of the RDJTF exclusively on SWA contingencies. Consequently, the RDJTF task must be to plan and train for this third prospective theater of war. Commanders of unified commands will retain responsibility for contingency planning in that portion of their assigned areas of operations not included within the SWA region.
- (S) Regarding the command relationships issue, all believe that there is a need to clarify the existing arrangement and to precisely define the operational lines of authority. The Joint Chiefs of Staff, less the Commandant of the Marine Corps, believe that this clarification should place the Commander, RDJTF, under the operational command (OPCOM) of USCINCREP for all predeployment planning, training, exercises, and preparation for employment. The views of the Commandant of the Marine Corps are in Appendix B.

* SWA region is defined as all states on the Arabian Peninsula south of the northern borders of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait; the countries of Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan on the Middle East landmass; Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, and Kenya on the Horn of Africa; and the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf and adjacent waters.

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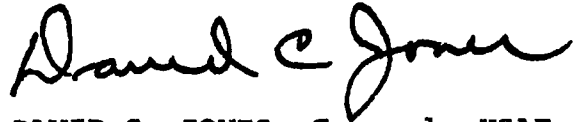
4. (U) The strengths of this command arrangement are:
- a. ~~(S)~~ It is consistent with good command arrangements. It clearly defines HQ RDJTF command relationships with USREDCOM and other unified and specified commands. The RDJTF is thus allowed to function smoothly within and through the unified command structure rather than through the duplicative and competitive structure under the current RDJTF terms of reference (TOR).
 - b. ~~(S)~~ USREDCOM is in a better position to deal with other unified commands than HQ RDJTF and should be able to achieve effective solutions to the development of memorandums of understanding and command arrangements agreements for operations, while ultimate approval authority rests with the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This arrangement will insure that viable OPCOM of the HQ RDJTF is exercised in peacetime, while preparing it for wartime employment and possible transition to an effective unified command.
 - c. (U) It provides USREDCOM with the authority to function as the senior headquarters in accordance with the definition of OPCOM and thereby establishes a clean military line of command.
 - d. ~~(S)~~ It provides HQ RDJTF with the CINC-level command, control, communications, and intelligence (C3I) support it requires for its SWA missions. C3I requirements, as well as Joint Communications Support Element (JCSE) support and joint unconventional warfare support, are conveniently furnished through established staff and staff lines that require no new internal or external organizational relationships.
5. ~~(C)~~ A proposed revision of the RDJTF TOR reflecting these conclusions is in Appendix A for your review. In addition to clarifying the mission and OPCOM of the RDJTF to insure that SWA orientation and preparation are the dedicated focus of all RDJTF activities, it also provides for Service component planning headquarters so that HQ RDJTF is able to plan, train for, and execute joint employment operations. Provisions are also made for the RDJTF Washington Liaison Office to continue to function in its present role as the agency to support contingency planning in SWA and to provide adequate politico-military interface with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and OSD.

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6. (U) With your concurrence, the Joint Chiefs of Staff will publish the revised TOR and make revisions to appropriate Joint Strategic Planning System documents reflecting these changes.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:



DAVID C. JONES, General, USAF
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

Attachments DN ←

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