

28 October 2014

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
National Security Council (NSC) Meeting on Ebola Response
29 October 2014, 1350-1435, WHSR

(U) **PURPOSE:** Prepare CJCS for NSC meeting on Ebola response.

(U) **ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:** Provide DoD updates, if requested.

(U) **PARTICIPANTS:**

- (U) NSC; OSD: SecDef; JS: CJCS.

(U) **STRATEGIC CONTEXT / BACKGROUND / OVERVIEW:**

DoD Domestic Response Activities

- **DoD Medical Support Team:** In response to an HHS request for assistance, DoD trained a team of 30 personnel (5 infectious disease doctors, 10 critical care nurses, 10 registered nurses and 5 infectious disease specialist trainers) to be prepared to augment U.S. civilian healthcare professionals in treating EVD patients by serving as care givers, and advisors and trainers for civilian hospital medical staff. Training was complete as of 27 Oct.
- **Transport of EVD Blood Samples:** DoD provided Presidentially-directed, short-notice airlift support (standby DV aircraft from Andrews AFB) to transport Ebola samples from New York and New Jersey to the CDC in Atlanta, GA on 23 and 24 Oct. OSD, JS and TRANSCOM are engaged with the White House Military Office and HHS/CDC to identify ongoing requirements and determine more optimal sourcing solutions for any future missions.

DoD International Response Activities

- As of 29 October, a total 1,104 DoD personnel are in West Africa (983 in Liberia and 121 in Senegal).
- Healthcare worker training program: First Monrovia-based class underway with 68 students at National Police Training Center. Classes will reach target of 200 pax by 10-14 Nov.
- Monrovia Medical Unit: construction estimated completion date 5 Nov; full operational capability for EVD treatment 8 Nov. Medical care to be provided by US Public Health Service.
- DoD Mobile Medical Labs for Ebola Diagnostic Testing
 - USAID has validated the requirement for up to 6 mobile labs. DoD has a total of 10 labs with eight labs available. Of those eight, six are committed to support USAFRICOM. Two are in theater and have been sourced by the Army and Navy.

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- The US Army has six mobile labs and the US Navy has four mobile labs with two of the four tied to OPLANS.
- These labs are ad-hoc and non-doctrinal, created out of the US Army 1st Area Medical Laboratory (AML) and US Naval Medical Research Command (NMRC); a combination of DoD deployable laboratory units and TDA laboratories.

Follow-up Action Items from 21 Oct PC Meeting

- At 21 Oct PC meeting, Principals could not agree on options to mitigate risks of importation of Ebola by restricting visas.
- Only 30% of the travelers arriving in the US from Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea have visas. The remainder are US citizens, US lawful permanent residents and other third-country nationals.
- Three visa options:
 - Maintain Current Visa Posture – rely on exit and entry screening. This option is consistent with current diplomatic messaging and reflects confidence in our newly enhanced screening procedures.
 - Curtail, Limit, and Annotate New Visas – suspend routine visas and only allow visas for individuals in direct support of efforts to control the Ebola outbreak or other activities that the Chief of Mission or senior consular officer determine to be in the US national interest. Further, visas would be limited to one month, single entry and to one of the five US designated airports. This option would reduce the number of new visas holders who engage in nonessential travel to the US; is easy to message; reinforces arrival at the five US screening airports and allows travel for limited purposes.
 - Suspend Use of Previously Issued Visas – would require current visa holders to seek new limited entry visas as described above. Once the Ebola crisis has abated, the suspension would be lifted. This option would be tantamount to a blanket revocation of existing visas and would be perceived as a travel ban.
- Concerns: a) other countries will likely follow our lead which would effectively isolate the three countries and constrain or disallow the movement of their citizens; b) the international community's ability to support relief efforts will be negatively affected if airlines cannot fill planes and decide to cancel/limit all flights in and out of the three countries;
- For DoD, an important exception for the visa restrictions would be participants in International Military Education and Training (IMET).

(U) STAKEHOLDER VIEW AND FRICTION POINTS: The NSC is assembled to provide Principals with an update to USG visa option for Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. DOS does not support visa restrictions.

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