

# DECLASSIFIED

## FORCE PROTECTION OF UK CAMPS IN IRAQ

CDS introduced CJO's paper on 'Force Protection of UK Camps in Iraq' noting that there was an ongoing programme of compartmentalisation in all UK camps but that the introduction of CITADELS<sup>2</sup> was not recommended. COS were invited to consider this recommendation, particularly in view of the risk to our forces and the degree of additional protection that might be afforded by CITADELS; the length of time that UK forces will remain in Iraq; the cost of procuring and setting up CITADELS; the message that might be sent by building CITADELS this far into the campaign; and the consequences of an AIF attack similar to that which the US have experienced.

In discussion, it was highlighted that future attacks were likely to be of short duration and without warning. Approximately 60% of attacks seen thus far have been in Al Amarah; this trend was likely to continue, with less chance of an escalation such as that experienced in Aug 04. CITADELS would provide increased protection against indirect fire in sleeping accommodation, but not in dining, recreation or work areas; and the standard of accommodation would be more cramped than current facilities. Compartmentalisation would offer a 10 - 80% reduction in casualty rates and was likely to be complete by the end of Apr 05.

COS noted that in view of the potential to draw down to SS by mid-05, providing CITADELS would mean fortifying our camps just as our troops were ready to leave Iraq; only if the campaign were to be drawn out would this investment be worthwhile. It was also considered that fortifying camps at this stage would send the wrong message to all parties and run counter to any announcements on draw-down. The unanimous view was that compartmentalisation and active force protection measures would provide a significant reduction in the risk to UK forces but that the provision of CITADELS would not be of great benefit at this stage of the campaign. **CDS directed that CJO should prepare a Ministerial submission on Force Protection of UK Camps in Iraq which should contain a clear explanation of both compartmentalisation and the CITADEL concept, and the statistical analysis from earlier QinetiQ work. Public handling of the issue would also need to be developed.**

<sup>2</sup> CITADEL is a prototype, modular, ISO container based, protected sleeping accommodation design. Ninety two ISO containers provide accommodation for 192 personnel at a cost of £715K. This would equate to approximately £35M for provision for the 8500 deployed personnel in Iraq.

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