

DECLASSIFIED



D/VCDS/4/4/2

7 Apr 06

CJO
DCDS(EC)

Copy to:

CDS
PUS
CNS

CGS
CAS
CINCFLEET

CINCLAND
CINCSTC
DCDS(C)

Pol Dir
ACDS(RP)
DOC

QUANTIFYING ISTAR SHORTFALLS ON CURRENT OPERATIONS

1. When DOC's TELIC Lessons Study Vol 3 was discussed on 4 Apr there was debate about shortfalls in ISTAR assets and how these might best be addressed. I undertook to scope this issue. It was also raised during the HERRICK 'O' Group later that day when CDS accepted that any new substantial request for UOR funding in relation to Predator B should not be pursued for the moment.
2. In the COS(R) CDS expressed interest in the ISTAR plan for Afghanistan and I know CJO is on the case. As a first step I should like visibility of CJO ISTAR assessment for Iraq and Afghanistan which should also reveal:
 - a. What is the requirement now, what are the shortfalls, how *critical* are they, and what is being done now to ameliorate them?
 - b. Given what we know (shift to Operational Overwatch (OO) in Iraq, our enduring commitment in Afghanistan), what is our projected requirement likely to be (might it even increase during OO when we have fewer boots on the ground?). Where do we see any shortfalls emerging, what is their criticality, and what plans do we have in place to address these?
 - c. How coalition/alliance assets may realistically be able to assist.
3. Moving to how any gaps may be filled, against the requirement baseline, you should consider the full range of potential solutions, including Merlin Mk 1F and AH.
4. For DCDS(EC). As we discussed, given the COS debate on Predator B, it will be useful to understand more fully what the OCD could realistically deliver to address known and projected shortfalls in the timescales we are talking about.
5. Given that CJO is on the case, I should be grateful for both your views by 10 May.

T
VCDS

DECLASSIFIED