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D/PJHQ/8135/5/12/1

15 Apr 03

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THE STATEMENT OF REQUIREMENT (SOR) FOR SE IRAQ

BACKGROUND



- There is now a need for an agreed Statement of Requirement (SOR) for the UK AOR.
- COS have been asked to agree that the initial UK AOR should be based on the provinces of Al Basrah and Maysan. However, with Div HQ deployed and probability of additional coalition troops, the UK has the potential to expand the AOR to include 2 other provinces.
- The additional provinces are probably Dhi-Qar and Wasit, although this is not yet formally agreed with CFLCC. For example US forces are now well established in Dhi-Qar and they may not wish to relinquish it in the short term, it is fast-becoming a logistic hub. Therefore, assuming the AO will be

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unbroken the alternatives are the provinces of Diyala to the north, or Al Muthanna to the west.

- The UK should not plan on substantial early coalition augmentation. Whilst we wait for the force to grow, the US have accepted that they should hold the risk in these areas of potential UK responsibility; however, there is no formal agreement on this.
- Efforts to build the Coalition continue, with initial discussions with some countries underway. In all cases they desire to know where they will be asked to operate and the forces required.

PROVINCES

- A simple comparison of provinces, covering Al Basrah, Maysan, Dhi-Qar, Wasit, Diyala and Al Muthanna, is attached at Annex A.
- Basrah City is vital ground, with strong demographic ties to Maysan. The UK choice of initial AOR is sound.
- Distance is a factor if the UK expands its AOR. Logistically, based on the figures below, Dhi-Qar offers the shortest LoC.
 - The LoC from Al Basrah to Dhi-Qar province, and the main city of An Nasiriyah is 165 km.
 - The LoC from the Al Basrah to Diyala province, and the main city of Adb Allah Ba'Qubah Al Aba'iki, is 620 km long. The only major route also passes through Baghdad City.
 - The LoC from Al Basrah to Wasit province, and the main city of Al Kut, is 310 km.
 - The LoC from Al Basrah to Al Muthanna, and the main town of As Samawah is 295 km.
- In terms of consent all less Diyala province should become relatively stable. This includes Dhi-Qar, despite heavy fighting during Phase 3. It should be noted that Wasit has a large Sunni minority, and some retribution between communities can be expected; this threat will diminish in the medium term. Sunni and Shia live in equal proportion in Diyala, and there is the potential for long term tension. The MEK also maintained a strong foothold in the area, and the residue may cause friction.
- Al Muthanna is mostly desert, and has a population of less than 400,000. It is undemanding and potentially unrewarding, although it includes the area of a potential oilfield.
- On the basis of logistic complexity and concern over long term consent levels, Diyala is the only province of the 6 that the UK should actively seek to avoid. On the same basis Dhi-Qar is the most attractive, followed by Wasit or Al Muthanna.

STATEMENT OF REQUIREMENT (SOR)

- Attached at Annex B is the detailed SOR, broken down by province. The SOR also extends to support required by CJTF I and to the Div HQ (that

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would transition to become a multinational division in the south east (MND-SE) HQ).

- The SOR includes the forces needed for Al Basrah and Maysan. These troops will predominately come from the UK, as outlined in the Roulement / Recovery paper now with COS².
- It is early days and Coalition forces do not yet fully control all areas in SE Iraq. Thus, the SOR may change and we will need to remain flexible. Much will depend on detailed ground reconnaissance and the GOC's intent.
- The UK AOR will probably include 4 of the 6 provinces shown below. In broad terms the SOR for each province is as follows:
 - Al Basrah – A Bde HQ, and 3 x BG³ with appropriate integral Combat Support (CS) and Combat Service Support (CSS).
 - Maysan – A single BG, supported by a Formation / Light Reconnaissance (FR) coy. On current plans Maysan is grouped with Al Basrah.
 - Wasit – A Bde HQ, and 2 x BG with appropriate integral Combat Support (CS) and Combat Service Support (CSS).
 - Dhi-Qar – A Bde HQ, and 2 x BG with appropriate integral Combat Support (CS) and Combat Service Support (CSS).
 - Diyala – A Bde HQ, and 3 x BG with appropriate integral Combat Support (CS) and Combat Service Support (CSS).
 - Al Muthanna – A Bde HQ(-), and a single BG, supported by a Formation / Light Reconnaissance (FR) coy and appropriate integral Combat Support (CS) and Combat Service Support (CSS).

FORCE GENERATION

- As the UK generates a force for SE Iraq, this SOR offers a starting point for discussion with potential troop contributing nations (TCN). However, it is a living document and will require refining prior to any force generation conference.
- During low level talks both DK and NL showed preference for Al Basrah province, 'the nearer the sea the better'. This will probably be the trend and will require diplomacy to achieve final agreement.

SUMMARY

- The UK should avoid Diyala province. The final AOR would therefore be based on 4 of the remaining 5 provinces. There are logistic advantages in ensuring that Dhi-Qar is one.
- Wasit or Al Muthanna are the likely options for the 4th province. Both have advantages. Al Muthanna is the simpler task, requiring less troops. Wasit is more demanding, requires more troops, but offers a significant role.

1. DPHG 5000, dated 14 April 02. Para 1. Roulement / Recovery. UK Ex. A Bde – the name is a Battalion Group and used generally for military purposes.

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- The UK should not assume responsibility for more than 2 provinces until additional and appropriate coalition forces are deployed. This needs formal US/UK agreement.
- The preferred UK final AOR needs to be agreed with the US in order to allow the GOC to plan with confidence. This planning will include long term basing, CIS issues and the associated investment.
- The SOR will continue to evolve.

{Signed for CHOTs}

J G REITH
Lt Gen
CJO

Annexes:

- A. An Assessment of Provinces for Inclusion in UK Area of Responsibility.
- B. The Statement of Requirement for MND-SE.

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ASSESSMENT OF PROVINCE IN UK AOR

ANNEX A
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DATED 15 APR 03

Province: Wasit

Area	17,153 km ²
Population	866,000 (population density-50.5/sq km)
Major Cities	Al-Kut; Al Hay; An Nuymaniyah; Az Zubaydiyah
Ethnic Make-up	Shia/Sunni
Factors	
• Economy	Poor. The principle centre of population in the Wasit Governance lies in Al Kut, the total population being roughly 700,000. The population is assessed to be principally Shia, but its geographic position closer to the centre of Iraq could see a greater Sunni percentage than the more southern governates. The region is assessed to have no oil production infrastructure or any major industry. The principle economic influences on the region will be agricultural with extensive irrigated areas in the south of the region. Its position in proximity to Baghdad will enable market access both North and South along the well-established and utilised route 6.
• Infrastructure	<u>Airfields</u> - Ubaydah Bin Al Jarrah, Shakh Mazhar, An Nuymaniyah, Kut Al Hay; Railway – yes.
• Residual Threats	A medium term threat from small groups of irregulars will continue to exist whilst they have any residual support from the local civilian population. As the restructuring work post-war gains momentum and law and order and governmental institutes begin to function again, expect this threat to diminish.
Consent	Low-High levels of consent. Revenge and retribution between communities potentially high; large Sunni population
Assessment	Wasit has the potential to be the most unstable of the 4 governates.

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Province: Al-Basrah

Area	19,070 km ²
Population	1,337,600 (population density-70.1/sq km)
Major Cities	Basrah, Umm Qasr, Safwan
Ethnic Make-up	Shia
Factors	
• Economy	Good. The principle centre of population is Al Basrah, the total population being roughly 1.5M. The region encompasses major oilfields, has a large oil infrastructure and contains the country's only port. The potential for economic growth in this area is probably higher than anywhere else in Iraq.
• Infrastructure	<u>Airfields</u> – Basrah Intl (C5/Antonov), Safwan (C130); <u>Railway</u> – yes; <u>Sea Ports</u> – Umm Qasr (11m/35k dwt), Az Zubayr (9m dwt); <u>Oil facilities</u> – Al Faw, Khawr Al Amaya (non-operational), Mina Al Bakr
• Residual Threats	Iranian backed / influenced groups will continue to try to exert influence in the region; this is expected to be a short to medium term threat. The extent of threat from PMF will be influenced by the tolerance of the community; as confidence in the Coalition's presence builds this threat is expected to diminish.
Consent	High level of consent. Strong economy with potential for rapid growth. Anti-Regime. Border province – Iranian influence.
Assessment	Al Basrah should be the most stable of the provinces in terms of threat environment, but the size of the population will bring its own inherent problems.

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Province: Maysan

Area	16,072 km ²
Population	747,600 (population density-46.5/sq km)
Major Cities	Al Amarah, Ali Al Gharbi, Qal At Salih, Al Majarr Al Kabir
Ethnic Make-up	Shia
Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economy• Infrastructure• Residual Threats
Consent	
Assessment	

Minimal. The principle centre of population is in Al Amarah, the total population being roughly 600 000. Even though the region has no oil production infrastructure or any major industry the majority of the region is agricultural with extensive irrigated areas

Airfields – Al Amarah (C130), Qalat Salih (C5), Railway - Yes

Aside from small groups of irregulars, expect a relatively low level of residual threat in this governate. As for other areas, the ability of these groups to continue to influence and to blend in with the civilian population will diminish as the post-war reconstruction gathers momentum.

Medium-High levels of consent. Tensions between MEK and local population high. Border province – Iranian influence.
Tribes are anti-Regime.

Generally, Maysan should be relatively stable.

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Province: Dhi Qar

Area	12,900 km ²
Population	1,412,600 (population density-109.5/sq km)
Major Cities	An Nasiriyah, Ash Shatrah, Ar Rifa, Qal At Sukkar
Ethnic Make-up	Shia
Factors	
• Economy	Poor. The principle centre of population is in An Nasiriyah, the total population being roughly 800 000. The region has minimal oil production infrastructure and some industry; however, the majority of the region has little agriculture.
• Infrastructure	<u>Airfields</u> - Tallil (C130), Qal At Sikar (C5); <u>Railway</u> – yes.
• Residual Threats	Aside from small groups of irregulars, we expect a relatively low level of residual threat in this governate. As for other areas, the ability of these groups to continue to influence and to blend in with the civilian population will diminish as the post-war reconstruction gathers momentum.
Consent	Medium-High levels of consent. Poor region. Tribal insurrection since 1991. Tensions between MEK and local population high.
Assessment	Generally, Dhi Qar should be relatively stable.

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Province: Al Muthanna

Area	51,740 km ²
Population	484,400 (population density-9.4/sq km)
Major Cities	As Samawah, Al Khidr
Ethnic Make-up	Shia
Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economy Poor. A largely desert area. Some of the national north-south oil pipeline infrastructure runs through As Samawah, but that aside there is no evidence of any significant economic drivers.• Infrastructure There are no airfields or railways of note and no significant highways.• Residual Threats A largely benign area of Iraq which is sparsely populated and bordered by Saudi Arabia. There is a possibility that the long-running border dispute with the Saudis could re-emerge in the aftermath of the war, but this is unlikely to pose a direct threat to Coalition activities. That aside, we assess that there is no discernible threat, residual or otherwise to Coalition forces.
Consent	High level of consent.
Assessment	Al Muthanna should be very stable and require minimal military presence due the large unpopulated parts of the province

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Province: Diyala

Area	17,685 km ²
Population	1,474,00 (population density-83.3/sq km)
Major Cities	Ba' qubah, Khan Bani Sad, Subakhu, Salum
Ethnic Make-up	Shia/Sunni
Factors	
• Economy	Good. The principle city in the region is Ba' qubah which is linked closely to the oil industry. The region has a history of good trade routes and practices despite religious divides.
• Infrastructure	<u>Airfields</u> . Subakhu (C130), Ba qubah (C5), Khan Bani Sad (C130); <u>Railway</u> – No. <u>Oil pipelines</u> to Khanaqin;
• Residual Threats	One MeK camp is located north of Ba'qubah; the current status of the camp is unknown. There is liable to be a degree of Iranian influence due to the proximity of the border, but Shia does not dominate the ethnic mixture in this region, thus any influence exerted by the Iranians will be limited. It is assessed that there is no discernible residual threat to Coalition forces.
Consent	Medium level of consent.
Assessment	Diyala should be stable, but due to the potential for Iranian and MeK interaction and religious differences, the need to maintain a potent military presence is required.

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