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DJC/IRAQ/OPERATIONS

17 October 2005

APS/SofS

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IRAQ: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR MND(SE)

Reference:

D/PJHQ/1C1/30/1 dated 7 Oct 05. - do not use

ISSUE

1. Additional resources to counter the developing threat from Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in MND(SE) and reduce security risks during the roulement of UK forces.

TIMING

2. Routine.

RECOMMENDATION

3. That the Secretary of State **notes**:
 - a. That 14 Warrior armoured fighting vehicles will remain in Iraq following the current roulement and that an additional Merlin helicopter with crews and support will also be deployed to MND(SE).
 - b. That the provision of the additional Merlin aircraft has minimal impact on support to the Agusta Westland capability demonstrations for Combat Search and Rescue – Experimental (CSAR – X) programme in USA.
 - c. That we do not expect there to be any delay to outbound units of 12 Mechanised Brigade as a result of keeping 14 Warriors in theatre. Crews will be provided by utilising inbound 7 Armoured Brigade.

BACKGROUND

4. The background to the increased threat faced by UK forces from IEDs was set out at Reference. In addition to the company from the TELIC Reserve Battalion (TRB), GOC MND(SE) has requested additional Warrior and helicopter support. The required Warrior vehicles are already in theatre and will not now return to the UK, as originally planned during the current roulement, but will remain in Iraq. The Warrior crews will be provided by inbound personnel from 7 Armoured Brigade and will not delay the return of personnel of 12 Mechanised Brigade.
5. The additional Merlin aircraft has been released by reducing DESO support to the Agusta Westland capability demonstrations for Combat Search and Rescue – Experimental (CSAR – X) in USA, originally intended to be 2 aircraft. The demonstrations

5/11 to sub
- Leaving Warriors in theatre to provide armoured protection. 4/5/2
- An extra Merlin helicopter provided by only sending one Merlin to USA for a sales tour
- FCO should be pleased and it bolsters our capacity. H.C.

[Handwritten signature]

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started today (17 Oct 05). The reduction in support to Agusta Westland should have minimal impact and to mitigate against the one remaining aircraft becoming unserviceable there will be an uplift of spares for the aircraft. The basis of our support to the demonstrations was caveated as being subject to operational requirements.

PRESENTATION

6. Secretary of State announced the deployment of a company from the TRB in Cyprus on Mon 10 Oct 05. This uplift of 14 Warrior and a Merlin helicopter is for the same reasons: to counter the ongoing IED threat and reduce reliance on road movement, especially during the roulement of troops. Should this issue come to the attention of the media, we will emphasise these points whilst making clear that these are minor adjustments to ensure security of UK forces.

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Subject: 20051017 Additional resources for Op TELIC

All,

PSA to note submission regarding additional resources for MND(SE).

Regards,

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