

DRAFT/UNCLASSIFIEDHumanitarian Relief Planning Press Briefing**General:**

- The USG recognizes the potential for adverse humanitarian consequences in the event of military action in Iraq. Unprecedented planning and interagency coordination has been focused on preventing and mitigating any such consequences.
- Of course, adverse humanitarian impact of any military action is not completely within our control; much depends on the behavior of Saddam Hussein and his regime, including co-location of military assets with civilians, targeting of civilians, and WMD use.

USG strategy and planning rests on six key principles:**I. Minimize Disruption and Displacement/Protect Humanitarian Infrastructure**

- Campaign planning for the liberation of Iraq is carefully tailored to minimize impact on civilian populations.
- Through the prompt provision of aid and the rapid restoration of services, the USG and international community would hope to minimize population displacements. This would require the creation of safe space for humanitarian IOs and NGOs to do what they do best - provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations.
- Through its humanitarian mapping program, the USG has gone to unprecedented lengths to work with humanitarian and other actors to identify and locate humanitarian and cultural sites for protection to the extent possible.
- The USG recognizes the potential for Saddam Hussein to target his own civilian population and campaign planning has aimed, to the extent possible, to deny this capability.
- Information campaigns would inform the people of Iraq that they are safe in their homes in order to prevent large-scale population displacements.

II. Maximize Civil-Military Coordination

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- The USG has taken a coordinated interagency approach to planning for relief and reconstruction in Iraq, with civilian agencies and personnel in the lead.
- The USG is training and preparing a 50-person Disaster Assistance Response Team that would deploy to the region along-side military forces to coordinate U.S. relief efforts. This civilian team is made up of humanitarian emergency professionals from multiple civilian agencies.
- Coordination structures such as Humanitarian Operations Centers (HOC) and Civil-Military Operations Centers (CMOC) have been established with the cooperation of regional governments. For example, the USG is supporting operation of a Humanitarian Operations Center in Kuwait City. This is a key central hub for information-sharing, de-confliction, and coordination between the US military and Kuwaiti officials, USG civilian representatives, UN agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and coalition partners regarding humanitarian issues. We expect similar centers would be established elsewhere in the region.
- The US military does not seek a lead role in humanitarian relief activities and would rely on the expertise of USG civilians and other humanitarian actors. The goal of the US military would be to facilitate early secure access, space, and information for USG civilian teams and UN/international/non-governmental humanitarian agencies to fulfill their humanitarian mandates.
- The US military has conducted significant outreach efforts with UN agencies and NGOs/Interaction to answer questions and facilitate their ability to fulfill their humanitarian mandates with independence.
- In certain emergency circumstances, when no other humanitarian actors are available, the military may be required to provide limited, temporary humanitarian relief until efforts can be transitioned to USG civilian or international/non-governmental actors.

III. Pre-position USG relief supplies

- The USG is stockpiling and pre-positioning relief supplies for up to 1 million persons to respond to emergency humanitarian needs. These supplies address health, shelter, and

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water/sanitation needs. [If asked, OFDA stockpiles include plastic sheeting, blankets, hygiene kits, medical kits, and water containers.]

- The USG is also stockpiling and pre-positioning up to 2.89M Humanitarian Daily Rations to be used to meet limited and temporary emergency food needs.
- The USG is working with other donors and humanitarian actors to encourage stockpiling of relief supplies and has contributed \$[need to get most up to date number as of Tuesday, because AID may make an additional contribution in the meantime. Current figure is \$18.5] million to international organizations for this purpose and more is in the pipeline.

IV. Facilitate/Fund International and Non-governmental Organizations

- The USG has no desire or intention to 'go-it-alone' with regard to humanitarian relief. We recognize the unparalleled expertise and capacity of the United Nations, other IOs, and NGOs in this field and aim to facilitate and fund their efforts to the greatest extent possible.
- The USG will provide civilian experts to liaise with these organizations and will support and staff various civil-military coordination centers (HOC-Kuwait, CMOCs) in order to facilitate humanitarian efforts through the sharing of critical information regarding access, security, and populations in need.
- The USG initiated and continues to engage in unprecedented outreach to regional governments, UN agencies, other international organizations, and non-governmental organizations. This outreach has served to standardize planning assumptions and lay the groundwork for operational cooperation.
- The USG is streamlining OFAC licensing procedures to expedite the issuance of licenses to NGOs so they may operate inside Iraq, once security conditions permit.
- Pre-positioning of relief supplies will be critical to the speed with which the humanitarian community can respond to needs in Iraq. The USG has encouraged others to contribute to

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these critical contingency planning and preparedness efforts. [If asked, refer you to the aid agencies for information on funds they have received from others.]

V. Rapid Resumption of the Food Ration Distribution System

- 100% of Iraqis benefit from the Oil-for-Food ration distribution system and up to 60% rely on it for sustenance. A tremendous effort is being made to minimize disruption to this system and to ensure its rapid resumption.
- The USG and relevant international organizations are developing a plan for rapid resumption in the event of a disruption in the OFF network - this is a key element of all relief planning.

VI. Immediate transition from Relief to Reconstruction

- In the view of the USG, the reconstruction of Iraq starts on Day 1 and the USG is devoting unprecedented resources and planning to this effort. Relief planners and reconstruction planners are meeting regularly to coordinate their efforts.

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