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TALKING PAPER

ON

HUMANITARIAN AIR OPERATIONS

Background: In early April, the first humanitarian aid flight occurred to Baghdad. Due to the limited air traffic control and airport capacity all personnel/cargo were approved and prioritized by the humanitarian operations center (HOC) in Kuwait. The HOC would then notify the Regional Movement Coordination Center (RAMCC) who coordinates the airspace necessary to safely move the aircraft through military controlled airspace.

Current Situation: Governmental (GO) and non-governmental (NGO) organizations are flying personnel and cargo into Iraqi airports for humanitarian, economic development and political purposes without centralized control of the personnel and cargo. These flights are often referred to under the generic heading of "Humanitarian Air Operations". Immediate actions are required to establish appropriate customs, immigration, security and coordination procedures.

Roles and responsibilities:

- OCPA will be the approval authority for personnel and cargo movement into Iraq and will establish procedures and policy needed.
- CFLCC will be responsible for terminal operations and executing procedures and implementing policy necessary for the safety and control of personnel and cargo transiting the cargo terminal area (aka NGO Terminal).
- CFACC will be the final approval authority for all aircraft operations within Iraqi airspace to ensure the safe movement of air traffic.

Actions needed:

- OCPA
  - Designate Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs as responsible agent for authorizing movement of humanitarian aid
    - Designate the Iraqi Assistance Center (IAC) as the central control/coordination point to authorize and prioritize personnel and cargo
    - Staff and equip IAC to effectively communicate with GO/NGOs and coalition military units.
  - Establish procedures for coalition military units, ministries and other designated parties to submit requests and priorities to IAC.
  - Establish procedures whereby IAC is the only agency authorized to forward air movement requests and coordinate such requests with RAMCC.
  - Establish procedures and policies necessary for immigration, customs and security at the cargo terminal
  - Notify CFACC and CFLCC by email of approval for any HA flights at least 48 hours prior to the flight's departure time
  - Maintain 24 hour availability of personnel to resolve issues with CFLCC and CFACC

- CFLCC
  - Provide personnel and equipment necessary to execute immigrations, customs and security procedures at the cargo terminal without planned assistance from the TALCE
  - Notify CFACC, OCPA and RAMCC of approval or disapproval of any HA flights within six hours of notification of OCPA approval

(b)(3) 10 USC §130b, (b)(6) USAF/OCPA/Civil Aviation/10 Jun 03/dej/ (b)(2)