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 Wednesday, June 02, 2010 5:57 PM
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 Lt Col USJFCOM J7;(b)(6) CTR USCENTCOM CCCI/SC;(b)(6) COL MIL USA
 OCPA;(b)(6) Maj IMA USMC USCENTCOM
 CCCI/SC;(b)(6) DMA-Alex/ DV;(b)(6) DSCA/LPA;(b)(6)
 CIV USSOCOM HQ;(b)(6) CIV CHINFO;(b)(6) Major;(b)(6)
 LTC SJS OCJCS PA;(b)(6) CIV USJFCOM J7; Crowley, PJ, Asst. Sec.;
 (b)(6) Major;(b)(6) Maj MIL USAF USCENTCOM CCD/LA;
 (b)(6) CIV USJFCOM JPASE;(b)(6) LTC MIL USA OCPA;(b)(6)
 Ms;(b)(6) Ms CTR US USA OCPA;(b)(6) COL-0-6, DMA-Alex;
 (b)(6) DMA-Alex;(b)(6) LTC MIL USA OCPA;(b)(6)
 Major;(b)(6) Mr., CIV, OSD-DPMO;(b)(6) CTR USCENTCOM
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 USCENTCOM CCCI/O;(b)(6) Col Mil USAF SAF/PA;(b)(6) LCDR;
 (b)(6) CIV CHINFO OI-7, PTGN; McDew, Darren W Maj Gen JCS J5;
 (b)(6) Ms CIV NG NGB ARNG;(b)(6) Major, USMC;(b)(6)
 (b)(6) CDR; National Guard;(b)(6) DMA-Alex/NEWS;(b)(6) Civ
 SAF/PA;(b)(6) LTC MIL USA OCLL;(b)(6) CIV JCS SJS OCJCS PA;
 (b)(6) Captain (USN-CHINFO); Pittman, Harold E RDML MIL USN
 USCENTCOM CCCI/SC;(b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY;(b)(6) CIV USJFCOM
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 (b)(6) Lt Col/O-5, DMA/AFRTS;(b)(6) Ms CIV DOD JIEDDO;(b)(6)
 (b)(6) LTC;(b)(6) Major;(b)(6) DSCA/LPA;(b)(6) LTCOL

To: USSOCOM HQ (b)(6) CTR, OSD-ATL (b)(6) MAJ USMC IIC (b)(6)
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 Jones, Nathan E RDML; Kirby, John F Capt JCS SJS OCJCS PA (b)(6) LTCOL MIL
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Subject: Here is the World Defense News Update for 6.2.10
Attachments: World_Defense_News_Update_for_06022010.doc

Afghanistan/Pakistan:

- Numerous sources reported on the finding by a senior United Nations official on the growing use of armed drones by the United States to kill terrorism suspects, and that it "is undermining global constraints on the use of military force." (moderate coverage, New York Times selected)

- Agence France-Presse noted that Pakistan and Spain signed a broad bilateral agreement aimed at enhancing cooperation on security, trade and other issues. (moderate coverage, AFP selected)

U.S. Military:

- The Los Angeles Times cited a new Rasmussen Reports survey of 1,000 adult Americans that found fully three-out-of-four have a favorable opinion of the military, almost exactly the same as the last two years. (Los Angeles Times)

- **Wired.com's "Danger Room" reported that DARPA plans to host a workshop for a new program, called "Prophecy," that aims to develop methods to predict the rate, location, and likely mutations of viral agents. (Wired.com)**

Cybersecurity:

- **Senator Joe Lieberman and Senator Susan Collins co-sponsored a draft bill that will give federal authorities the power to take over the security of civilian networks in the event of an "imminent cyber threat." (Wired.com's "Danger Room")**

Iran:

- **Iran's envoy told the IAEA that it is enriching nuclear material to higher levels as a backup plan because it fears it will not receive foreign fuel for a medical research reactor. (Reuters)**
- **A senior Iranian envoy accused IAEA inspectors of falsely reporting that equipment was removed from a laboratory suspected of undeclared nuclear experiments. (AP)**
- **Various sources highlighted the vote on a new UN Iran sanctions resolution "will likely be pushed back due to diplomatic fallout from the Israeli raid on the Gaza aid flotilla, among other reasons." (moderate coverage, Politico.com selected)**

Iraq:

- **General Ray Odierno gave President Obama a positive report on security in Iraq as U.S. combat troops prepare to exit within three months. (AFP)**
- **Numerous sources cited White House spokesman Bill Burton's report that General Ray Odierno delivered a "positive assessment" of the Iraq War in his meeting today with President Obama. (heavy coverage, FOXNews.com selected)**
- **According to United Press International, Jafar Mustafa, a minister overseeing the Kurdish military in Iraq, told the semiofficial Fars News Agency that the claims that Iranian soldiers have entered Iraqi territory were "baseless." (very light coverage, UPI selected)**

Israel:

- **Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stood by the flotilla raid and said the naval blockade of the Gaza Strip prevents arms smuggling and Iranian influence in the Hamas- controlled territory. (Bloomberg)**
- **Israel dropped to prosecute pro-Palestinian activists, opting instead to deport them all immediately, in an effort to minimize diplomatic damage. (AP)**

Japan:

- **Both Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama and Democratic Party of Japan**

Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa said they would resign over the confusion regarding the planned Futenma relocation. (Yomiuri Shimbun)

- White House spokesman Bill Burton said the leadership change in Japan would not weaken U.S.-Japan relations. (Reuters)

Kyrgyzstan:

- Kyrgyzstan's interim government says it has not yet begun talks with Washington on a new fuel supply deal for the U.S. military base. (AP)

Piracy:

- The crew of a Libyan-owned cargo ship that was hijacked by pirates regained control of the ship. (AP)

South Korea:

- The aircraft carrier USS George Washington may be deployed to the Korean Peninsula to participate in joint exercises. (AP, ABC News online)

- South Korea's main opposition party looked set for a surprise victory in local elections, dealing a blow to President Lee Myung-bak's reform drive and tough stance on North Korea. (Yonhap News Agency)

Terrorism:

- Yemeni security officials detained an Australian woman in connection with an investigation into al-Qaida's growing presence in the country. (AP)

Turkey:

- Iraqi Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani's first visit to Ankara since the U.S. invasion in 2003 is a breakthrough for regional stability. The Turkish government has long claimed that Mr. Barzani is a sympathizer with Turkey's Kurdish rebels and a supporter of Kurdish separatists. (Reuters)

**Sent with the approval of [REDACTED] Director for Public Affairs
Research and Analysis**

[REDACTED]

Media Analyst

OSD Public Affairs, The Pentagon

[REDACTED]

WORLD DEFENSE NEWS UPDATE: JUNE 2, 2010 AS OF 1600

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- Israel dropped to prosecute pro-Palestinian activists, opting instead to deport them all immediately, in an effort to minimize diplomatic damage. (*AP*)

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- White House spokesman Bill Burton said the leadership change in Japan would not weaken U.S.-Japan relations. (*Reuters*)

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- Kyrgyzstan's interim government says it has not yet begun talks with Washington on a new fuel supply deal for the U.S. military base. (*AP*)

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- The crew of a Libyan-owned cargo ship that was hijacked by pirates regained control of the ship. (*AP*)

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- The aircraft carrier USS George Washington may be deployed to the Korean Peninsula to participate in joint exercises. (*AP, ABC News online*)

- South Korea's main opposition party looked set for a surprise victory in local elections, dealing a blow to President Lee Myung-bak's reform drive and tough stance on North Korea. (*Yonhap News Agency*)

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- Yemeni security officials detained an Australian woman in connection with an investigation into al-Qaida's growing presence in the country. (*AP*)

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- Iraqi Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani's first visit to Ankara since the U.S. invasion in 2003 is a breakthrough for regional stability. The Turkish government has long claimed that Mr. Barzani is a sympathizer with Turkey's Kurdish rebels and a supporter of Kurdish separatists. (*Reuters*)

Afghanistan/Pakistan

U.N. Report Highly Critical of U.S. Drone Attacks

New York Times | *Charlie Savage*

In a 29-page report to the United Nations Human Rights Council, the official, Philip Alston, the United Nations special rapporteur on extrajudicial executions, called on the United States to exercise greater restraint in its use of drones in places like Pakistan and Yemen, outside the war zones in Afghanistan and Iraq. The report — the most extensive effort by the United Nations to grapple with the legal implications of armed drones — also proposed a summit of “key military powers” to clarify legal limits on such killings.

Spain, Pakistan pledge to fight against terrorism

Agence France-Presse | *Unattributed*

The deal came during a meeting between Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero and his Pakistani counterpart Yousuf Raza Gilani, who is on the highest level visit to Spain since then-president Pervez Musharraf in 2007.

“The commitment by both governments in the fight against terrorism is a commitment to collaborate,” Zapatero, whose country holds the rotating presidency of the EU, told a joint news conference after the talks.

“I am very grateful to Pakistan and thank you for the efforts you have made to fight against radicalism and terrorism in the region... I would like you to know that you can count on Spain for the stability of Pakistan.”

Gilani noted that Spain and Pakistan “have both been victims of terrorism, and both countries are cooperating to root out this menace.”

U.S. Military

Top of the Ticket: Pessimism on war but support for U.S. military high and steady

Los Angeles Times | *Andrew Malcolm*

While the favorable opinions of Americans about their commander-in-chief have dwindled since soon after Barack Obama took office last year, a new poll finds the country has a remarkably high -- and steady -- opinion of its military forces.

A new Rasmussen Reports survey of 1,000 adult Americans finds fully three-out-of-four have a favorable opinion of the military, almost exactly the same as the last two years. That number is all the more striking because only 41% believe the ongoing war in Afghanistan is winnable. About 13% have no opinion about the U.S. military and 12% think unfavorably of American troops.

Darpa Wants to Predict Deadly Pathogens with ‘Prophecy’

Wired.com's “Danger Room” | *Katie Drummond*

Right now, preparing for new viral threats means looking to the past, creating hypotheses based on how pathogens have changed before. Now Darpa wants to reverse that strategy: test every possible outcome, to create a prophetic almanac that warns of viral mutations and outbreaks in advance — giving scientists the chance to change the course of the future before illness strikes.

Cyber Security

Lieberman Bill Gives Feds ‘Emergency’ Powers to Secure Civilian Nets

Wired.com's “Danger Room” | *Noah Shachtman*

Joe Lieberman wants to give the federal government the power to take over civilian networks’ security, if there’s an “imminent cyber threat.” It’s part of a draft bill, co-sponsored by Senators Lieberman and Susan Collins, that provides the Department of

Homeland Security broad authority to ensure that "critical infrastructure" stays up and running in the face of a looming hack attack. The government's role in protecting private firms' networks is one of the most contentious topics in information security today. Several bills are circulating on Capitol Hill on how to keep power and transportation and financial firms running in the event of a so-called "cybersecurity emergency."

Iran

Iran says enriching to higher levels as backup plan

(Reuters... Sylvia Westall)

Iran started refining uranium to 20 percent purity in February saying it wanted to produce fuel for a reactor that makes isotopes for treating cancer after talks over a fuel swap deal proposal with big powers stalled. The move sparked Western concerns as it brings the material closer to the level of refinement needed for atomic arms.

Iran accuses nuclear agency of false reporting

(AP... George Jahn)

A senior Iranian envoy accused the International Atomic Energy Agency on Wednesday of false reporting in saying that agency inspectors probing a laboratory for suspected undeclared nuclear experiments found some equipment removed. Ali Ashgar Soltanieh declined a direct answer when asked if he was blaming the agency for a mistake or if he was suggesting another reason for the alleged false finding. But Soltanieh, Iran's chief IAEA delegate, said his country would be asking for a formal correction in a letter to agency chief Yukiya Amano within the next week.

UN Iran sanctions vote likely pushed back

Politico | Laura Rozen

The Obama administration had been planning to bring a new Iran sanctions resolution to a vote at the UN Security Council on Thursday, but diplomatic sources said the vote is no longer likely to take place this week.

"I don't see how [the vote] happens Thursday," one Washington source who advises one Security Council member state said Wednesday. A diplomatic source cited neutral "process" reasons for the delay – including the need to get final consensus among the 15-member body on the annexes to the resolution, which detail the specific entities that would be subject to sanctions under it. But Turkish officials made no secret of their fury at the Israeli raid on the Gaza aid flotilla that killed four Turkish citizens early Monday, and their irritation at the Americans for their muted reaction to the incident. Turkey is among the ten non-permanent members of the Security Council.

Iraq

Odierno gives Obama 'positive' report on Iraq security

(AFP... unattributed)

US commander in Iraq General Ray Odierno Wednesday gave President Barack Obama a "positive" report on security as American combat troops prepare to exit within three months. "General Odierno provided a positive assessment of the current security conditions and the ongoing transition of responsibilities to Iraqi security forces," White House deputy spokesman Bill Burton told reporters.

Obama receives "positive assessment" on Iraq

Fox News | Unattributed

President Obama met this morning with General Ray Odierno in the Oval Office to discuss the mission change in Iraq. According to White House spokesman Bill Burton, General Odierno gave a "positive assessment" of the security conditions on the ground and the transition effort.

Kurds deny Iranian troop incursion

United Press International | Unattributed

Kurdish military officials said there is nothing to support claims that Iranian soldiers have entered Iraqi territory, Iranian news outlets claimed Wednesday. Iranian forces allegedly crossed the border with Iraq during late Monday clashes with militants of the Party for Free Life in Kurdistan, or PJAK. Jafar Mustafa, a minister overseeing the Kurdish military in Iraq, told the semiofficial Fars News Agency that the claims were baseless.

Israel

Netanyahu Says Israeli Blockade Stops Iranian Control (Update)

(Bloomberg... Gwen Ackerman)

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the Israeli naval blockade of the Gaza Strip prevents arms smuggling and Iranian influence in the Hamas- controlled territory. "Our responsibility is to examine every ship going to Gaza, to stop the weapons and to let other cargo enter," Netanyahu said today in a nationally televised address from Jerusalem. "If we don't do that the result is going to be an Iranian port in Gaza."

Israel trying to limit diplomatic damage from raid

(AP... Mark Lavie)

In an attempt to limit the diplomatic damage from its deadly raid on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, Israel dropped plans Wednesday to prosecute dozens of pro-Palestinian activists, opting instead to deport them all immediately. The stunning reversal came as Israel faced increasingly sharp international condemnation for Monday's high-seas raid that ended when Israeli commandos killed nine activists. The outcry included accusations of war crimes and a decision by Nicaragua to break diplomatic relations with Israel over the raid.

Japan

Hatoyama quits as PM / Ozawa resigns as DPJ No. 2 as party woes grow

(The Yomiuri Shimbun... unattributed)

Just 8-1/2 months after taking office, Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama said Wednesday he would resign to take responsibility for the confusion regarding the planned relocation of a U.S. base in Okinawa Prefecture and a political funds scandal. Hatoyama also said Democratic Party of Japan Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa would resign from the party's No. 2 post.

Change in Japan will not weaken alliance: White House

(Reuters... Alister Bull)

"Japan is one of our best friends in the world and that alliance is not going to change because of a change in leadership in that country," White House spokesman Bill Burton told reporters aboard Air Force One.

Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyzstan: no talks yet on new fuel deal with US

(AP... unattributed)

Kyrgyzstan's interim government says it has not yet begun talks with Washington on a new fuel supply deal for the U.S. military base. Spokesman Farid Niyazov says U.S. authorities have yet to respond to the provisional government's queries about fuel contracts signed with firms controlled by the toppled Kyrgyz president's son.

Piracy

Cargo boat crew take back ship from Somali pirates

(AP... Malkhadir M. Muhumed)

The crew of a Libyan-owned cargo ship pounced on their sleeping Somali captors Wednesday, disarmed the pirates and killed five of them, regaining control of their vessel that had been hijacked almost three months earlier, officials said. A sixth pirate

who survived the attack by the MV Rim crew managed to lock himself in a room and call other pirates to say they had been overpowered before the crew took him hostage, said Abdiaziz Aw Yusuf, the Garacad district commissioner. Garacad is the coastal town near which the MV Rim has been anchored.

South Korea

US considers sending carrier to Korea

(AP... Anne Flaherty, Pauline Jelinek)

U.S. defense officials say they may deploy the massive aircraft carrier USS George Washington off the Korean Peninsula in the Yellow Sea, where North Korea allegedly sank a South Korean warship. The deployment would be a show of force by the U.S., which has vowed to protect South Korea and is seeking to blunt aggression from North Korea. An international investigation last month blamed North Korea for torpedoing the Cheonan warship in March, killing 46 sailors.

U.S. to Join South Korean Military Exercise Off North Korea Coast

(ABC News online... Luis Martinez)

The U.S. aircraft carrier USS George Washington will participate in a joint naval exercise with South Korea next week in the Yellow Sea, the same waters west of the Korean peninsula where North Korea is accused of sinking a South Korean warship last March, ABC News has learned. A U.S. official said the carrier, which operates from its home port in Japan, "will be sent to the waters off South Korea within coming days to participate in joint exercises" with the South Korean navy.

Main opposition heading for stunning victory in local elections (2nd LD)

(Yonhap News Agency... Lee Chi-dong)

SEOUL, June 3 -- South Korea's main opposition party looked set for a surprise victory in local elections, dealing a blow to President Lee Myung-bak's reform drive and tough stance on North Korea. The liberal Democratic Party (DP) is certain to win at least six mayoral and gubernatorial posts, while the ruling Grand National Party (GNP) secured five seats, according to data by the National Election Commission.

Terrorism

Yemen detains Australian woman in al-Qaida probe

(AP... Ahmed Al-haj)

Yemeni security officials say authorities have detained an Australian woman in connection with an investigation into al-Qaida's growing presence in the country. The two officials say she was among a number of foreigners either detained or put under surveillance as part of an investigation coordinated with foreign intelligence agencies. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not permitted to brief journalists.

Turkey

Iraqi Kurdish leader in Turkey for landmark visit

(Reuters... Ayla Jean Yackley)

Turkey and Iraq already enjoy burgeoning trade and security cooperation, but Iraqi Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani's first visit to Ankara since the U.S. invasion in 2003 is a breakthrough for regional stability. Turkey's political and military establishment has long reviled Barzani, president of Iraq's Kurdish autonomous government, as a sympathizer with Turkey's Kurdish rebels and a supporter of Kurdish independence. Barzani, who arrived in Ankara on Wednesday, is expected to discuss cooperation with Turkey in its fight against Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) guerrillas who attack Turkish forces from bases in northern Iraq, and his visit will also help break down barriers between the Turkish state and its own ethnic minority.

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 Thursday, June 03, 2010 4:52 PM
 (b)(6) CTR OSD PA; (b)(6) Mr OSD PA; (b)(6) IV OASN
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 COL MIL USA OCPA; (b)(6) Maj IMA
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 (b)(6) CIV CHINFO OI-7, PTGN: McDew, Darren W Maj Gen JCS J5;
 (b)(6) Ms CIV NG NGB ARNG; (b)(6) Major, USMC; (b)(6)
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 SAF/PA; (b)(6) LTC MIL USA OCLL; (b)(6) CIV JCS SJS OCJCS PA;
 (b)(6) Captain (USN-CHINFO); Pittman, Harold E RDML MIL USN
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 (b)(6) Lt Col/O-5, DMA/AFRTS; (b)(6) Ms CIV DOD JIEDDO; (b)(6)
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 (b) Hoehne, Stephanie L SES CIV USA OCPA (b)(6) Ms. (non-lethal weapons
 center) (b)(6) Colonel (b)(6) COL; Jones, Nathan E RDML; Kirby,
 John F Capt JCS SIS OCJCS PA (b)(6) LTCOL MIL NG NGB ARNG; (b)(6)
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 Col. (b)(6) MGySgt (b)(6) CIV JCS DOM SIS US CENTCOM
 LNO (b)(6) CIV USJFCOM J00

Subject:

Here is the World Defense News Update for 06_03_10

Attachments:

World_Defense_News_Update_06_03_10.doc

Afghanistan/Pakistan:

Reuters reported on Afghan National Army members experiencing trouble as "novice" IED sweepers, saying that they "will soon face an enemy that has mastered the art of bomb-making and becoming more creative." (Reuters)

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Europe and the United States on Thursday agreed to a common strategy in the fight against terror. (light coverage, Agence France-Press selected)

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. **U.S. and South Korean officials were discussing possibly holding additional special exercises, including some focused on anti-submarine warfare, in the aftermath of the sinking of the Cheonan. (AFP)**

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Sent with the approval of Harold Heilsnis, the Director for Public Affairs
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WORLD DEFENSE NEWS UPDATE: JUNE 3, 2010 AS OF 1630

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Afghanistan/Pakistan

Afghan IED sweepers face cunning Taliban enemy

Reuters | Michael Georgy

"IEDs are constantly a threat out there....," said Canadian Captain Peter Davidson, one of the mentors of the Afghan-led training programme. "It's a cat and mouse game." The problem is novice Afghan army engineers, arguably doing the most vital job in the nine-year war, will soon face an enemy that has mastered the art of bomb-making and becoming more creative. Last month General George Casey, U.S. Army chief of staff, said more than 60 percent of the roughly 400 attacks in one week in Afghanistan were the result of roadside bombs.

Studies: Deaths boost Afghan war support

United Press International | Unattributed

Canadian war deaths in Afghanistan could increase support for the 9-year-old military operation and support hawkish politicians, two academic studies suggest. Seeing flag-draped coffins could in fact increase war sentiment among people who favor military force to carry out foreign policy, a University of Toronto study indicated. Conservative politicians also do better in election districts where families lost loved ones in the Afghan mission, a separate University of Toronto and Ryerson University study found. The findings, focusing on Canadian public reaction to Canadian soldiers' deaths, run contrary to conventional political wisdom and general U.S. sentiment, where war casualties typically damage politicians' fortunes, the researchers said.

EU, US agree common anti-terror position

Agence France-Presse | Unattributed

The State Department in Washington simultaneously issued a statement reaffirming its commitment to respecting international law and human rights in the fight against terror. The declaration "will help" President Barack Obama as he moves to repair the image of the US in the Muslim world after the Bush years by abandoning the 'war on terror,' said the EU's anti-terrorism coordinator Gilles de Kerchove. "Pakistan is one of the most problematic states in the world," de Kerchove added, warning that the subject would prove to be "one of the toughest topics at the summit" in Brussels.

U.S. Military

Top 10 military spending nations; oil countries post biggest jumps this decade

CS Monitor | Stephen Kurczy

Worldwide military spending jumped 5.9 percent in 2009 to \$1.5 trillion, according to a new report that underscores the long-term decision of many countries to prioritize defense. This is despite a recession that shrunk the global economy 2.2 percent. The US remains by far the biggest military spender, followed by China, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said in its annual report on worldwide military expenditures, released June 2. Last year saw the steepest jump in worldwide military spending since the start of the Iraq War in 2003.

Beach-storming drill returns Marines to roots

Associated Press | Julie Watson

Thousands of Marines and sailors set out to sea Thursday for an exercise to storm a picturesque beach in Southern California in a training mission that comes amid a debate in the military about whether D-Day-style amphibious landings are becoming obsolete in modern-day warfare. The effort is the largest amphibious training exercise on the West Coast since the Sept. 11 terror attacks, involving more than 4,500 Marines and sailors. It also comes at a pivotal time for the Marines, who have complained about how heavy fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan in the last decade has relegated them to the status of a kind of second land army. As such, some Marines have spent little time inside a ship, much less landing on a beach. Defense Secretary Robert Gates has raised questions about whether amphibious skills are becoming outdated in an era marked by landlocked conflict in places like Afghanistan and when enemy anti-ship technology has become increasingly sophisticated, making beach invasions much more difficult to pull off.

Cybersecurity

Introducing U.S. Cyber Command

Wall Street Journal | William Lynn III

The eye blinks in just over 300 milliseconds. In that time a computer message can travel twice around the world, transmitting a virus or malicious computer code across the Internet to disrupt or destroy crucial military networks.

Military computers, just like your home computer, are subject to viruses and malware that can adversely affect their operation. Military networks are also vulnerable to intrusion and theft, but not only by identify thieves and credit card scammers. More than 100 intelligence agencies and foreign militaries are actively trying to penetrate our systems, and weapons-system blueprints are among the documents that have been compromised. Many countries are also developing offensive cyber capabilities.

NSA chief: U.S. carefully monitoring military computer networks for sabotage

Washington Post | *Ellen Nakashima*

The U.S. government is seeing "hints" that adversaries are targeting military networks for "remote" sabotage, said the head of the Pentagon's recently launched Cyber Command in his first public remarks since being confirmed last month.

"The potential for sabotage and destruction is now possible and something we must treat seriously," said Gen. Keith Alexander, who also heads the National Security Agency, the nation's largest intelligence agency. "Our Department of Defense must be able to operate freely and defend its resources in cyberspace."

Iran

Iran says UN watchdog misinterpreted Tehran tests

Associated Press | *Nasser Karimi*

Iran's atomic energy chief claimed on Thursday that the U.N. nuclear watchdog misunderstood the nature of the experiments at a Tehran laboratory mentioned in the agency's latest report.

The report underscored the West's concerns about Iranian nuclear ambitions and came as the U.N. Security Council inches toward imposing a new round of sanctions on Tehran for refusing to suspend its nuclear enrichment.

Ali Akbar Salehi said the International Atomic Energy Agency's report earlier this week made a "misinterpretation" in a reference about pyroprocessing — a procedure that can be used to purify uranium metal used in nuclear warheads.

Salehi, according to the semiofficial Isna news agency, said the Tehran lab experiments deal with uranium production, not pyroprocessing.

Iraq

PKK rebels say scrap ceasefire on Turkish forces

Reuters | *Shamal Aqrawi*

ARBIL Iraq - Kurdish militants from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) have scrapped a year-old unilateral ceasefire and resumed attacks against Turkish forces, a PKK spokesman said on Thursday. The move follows an escalation in violence with the onset of summer between Turkish armed forces and PKK guerrillas fighting from bases in the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region of northern Iraq. "Two days ago, we started waging attacks against the Turkish army in response to their repeated military attacks against the party and political attacks facing Kurds in Turkey," PKK spokesman Ahmed Danees told Reuters in Kurdistan.

Israel

US-Turkish man killed in Israeli flotilla raid

Associated Press | *Matthew Lee and Robert Burns*

WASHINGTON — A 19-year-old man with dual U.S.-Turkish citizenship was among the nine people killed in the Israeli raid on an aid flotilla in the eastern Mediterranean, the State Department said Thursday. That potentially complicates the Obama administration's attempts to remain neutral in the crisis. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the victim was Furkan Dogan and that U.S. authorities in Turkey had met with Dogan's father to express condolences and to offer U.S. consular services. She added that two other American citizens had been injured in raid and in a subsequent protest and the U.S. was seeking information about all three from Israel.



Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyzstan's government blocks fuel supplies to US airbase

Telegraph (U.K.) | Richard Orange

Kyrgyzstan's government, swept to power in the April revolution, has started blocking fuel supplies to the US Manas airbase, temporarily disabling a crucial hub for its ongoing war in Afghanistan, it has emerged. Edil Baisalov, chief of staff for the landlocked Central Asian country confirmed that the authorities had blocked Manas's fuel sub-contractors, which are believed to have links to Maksim Bakiyev, the son of Kurmanbek Bakiyev, the previous President.

Piracy

Somali Pirates Kill Ship Captain, Forces Free Vessel (Update1)

Bloomberg | Hamsa Omar

Somali pirates killed the captain of a hijacked ship after coastguards from the country's semi-autonomous Puntland region stormed the vessel, Transport Minister Mohamed Rage said. "The pirates killed the captain of the ship before our forces took control," Rage said. The captain [*sic*] was a Pakistani national.

South Korea

US, South Korea weigh more joint exercises: Gates

AFP | Dan de Luce

The United States and South Korea may hold additional military exercises in response to North Korea's alleged sinking of one of Seoul's warships, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said on Thursday. US and South Korean officials were discussing possibly holding special exercises, including some focused on anti-submarine warfare, in the aftermath of the sinking of the Cheonan, Gates told reporters on his plane before arriving in Singapore.

North Korea Says War With South Korea Could Begin 'Any Moment'

Bloomberg | Bill Varner

A North Korean diplomat today said war on the Korean peninsula could begin at any time over accusations that the government in Pyongyang ordered the sinking of a South Korean warship. "The present situation is so grave that a war may break out at any moment," Ri Jang Gon, North Korea's deputy ambassador to United Nations offices in Geneva told a conference on nuclear disarmament there, according to a text of his remarks provided by the UN.

Turkey

Ankara's assertiveness shifts balance of power

Financial Times | Roula Khalaf in London and Heba Saleh in Cairo

In a new Middle East crisis in which the cast of characters unusually does not involve Arabs, Turkey's leading role – in backing the aid flotilla raided by Israeli commandos and demanding punishment of Israel – is boosting its popularity in the Arab world, and consolidating its status as a regional power. For ordinary Arabs, particularly Islamists already impressed by the democratic rise of Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party, the Gaza aid flotilla has been a reminder of the weakness of their own governments.

PKK rebels say scrap ceasefire on Turkish forces

Reuters | Shamal Agrawi

Kurdish militants from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) have scrapped a year-old unilateral ceasefire and resumed attacks against Turkish forces, a PKK spokesman said on Thursday. The move follows an escalation in violence with the onset of summer between Turkish armed forces and PKK guerrillas fighting from bases in the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region of northern Iraq. "Two days ago, we started waging attacks against the Turkish army in response to their repeated military attacks against the party and political attacks facing Kurds in Turkey," PKK spokesman Ahmed Danees told Reuters in Kurdistan.

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CIV OSD PA (US)

From:

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Sent:

Saturday, June 05, 2010 5:33 PM

To:

Doug.wilson@osd.mil; Whitman, Bryan Mr OSD PA; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Agarwal, Sumit CIV OSD PA; (b)(6) COL OSD PA; Floyd, Price B Mr OSD PA; Lapan, David COL OSD PA; (b)(6) CIV OSD PA; (b)(6) Ms OSD PA; Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA; (b)(6) MS OSD PA; (b)(6) Ms OSD PA; (b)(6) MAJ OSD PA; (b)(6) Mr OSD PA; (b)(6) CTR OSD PA; (b)(6) CTR OSD PA; (b)(6) CTR OSD PA; (b)(6) CTR OSD PA; (b)(6) CTR OSD PA; (b)(6) CTR OSD PA

Subject:

Secretary's Trip | Singapore 6.5.10, as of 1500

Attachments:

SecDef_Trip06052010.doc

THE SECRETARY'S TRIP | SINGAPORE

JUNE 5, 2010, AS OF 1500

Overview: Coverage focused primarily the secretary's comments at the security summit on China and North Korea. Reporting highlighted Secretary Gates' remarks that military relations between China and the U.S. were important for stability in the region, and Beijing's reaction to U.S. weapon sales to Taiwan "made little sense" since these sales have occurred for decades. Traveling press also cited China's statement that the sales went against their "core" interests and China was not to blame for the tension. Several outlets also mentioned an exchange between Secretary Gates and General Zhu Chenghu in which the Chinese general accused the United States of hypocrisy and pointed to Washington's differing reactions to the South Korean ship sinking and Israel's deadly raid of an aid flotilla. Reports noted that Secretary Gates responded that an investigation has not yet been conducted on the Israeli raid, and North Korea carried out a surprise attack while Israel gave warnings to the ship before their raid.

Reports also highlighted the secretary's remarks that the U.S. is considering new measures against North Korea without giving any details about what they could entail. Several stories mentioned that Washington has few options because of Pyongyang's isolation and often erratic behavior, but is postponing joint military exercises with South Korea to allow time for diplomacy. They added that South Korea might use a less confrontational approach by requesting a U.N. letter denouncing North Korea's action. Additionally, outlets emphasized Secretary Gates' comments that Asia should respond strongly to North Korea's actions, with most reporting that these words were aimed at China.

Other coverage included AFPS reports on the U.S. military strategy for the region as described by Secretary Gates in a speech; a declaration of solidarity by the American, Japanese, and South Korean defense ministers; and remarks by Admiral Willard about cooperation and security in the region. Kyodo also reported that the new Japanese government will adhere to the latest U.S. base agreement.

The following outlets filed stories: Agence France Presse (2), American Forces Press Service (5), Asahi Shimbun (0), Associated Press (4), BBC (1), Kyodo (1), NPR (0), Reuters (3), Washington Post (0), and Yomiuri Shimbun (0).

Sent with the approval of (b)(6) the Director for Public Affairs Research and Analysis

(b)(6)

Media Analyst
OSD Public Affairs, The Pentagon

ON THE ROAD

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Republic of Korea Defense Minister Kim Tae Young, left, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and Japanese Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa shake hands during a trilateral meeting at the 9th International Institute for Strategic Studies, The Shangri-La Dialogue, in Singapore, June 5, 2010. DoD photo by U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Jerry Morrison

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(Trip total: 7)

Arms to Taiwan no reason to suspend US-China ties: Gates

SINGAPORE — Defense Secretary Robert Gates on Saturday chided China for suspending military ties over US arms sales to Taiwan, saying Beijing's stance "makes little sense".

Renewing his call for stronger relations between the Chinese and US militaries, Gates said such a dialogue should not be "held hostage" over the weapons sales.

The sales have been going on for decades and Washington has made clear that it does not support independence for Taiwan, Gates said in a speech at a security conference in Singapore.

"Chinese officials have broken off interactions between our militaries, citing US arms sales to Taiwan as the rationale," he said.

"For a variety of reasons, this makes little sense."

But a top Chinese officer at the conference rejected Gates' view, saying Beijing was not to blame and that arms sales to Taiwan and US naval ships in the South China Sea were undermining military relations.

"We do not regard US arms sales to Taiwan as something normal," General Ma Xiaotian, deputy chief of staff of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), said at the Shangri-La Dialogue, an annual high-level security forum.

"The United States says it does not support Taiwan independence. We hope it's not simply... lip service," he said.

Gates had planned to travel to Beijing as part of an Asian tour that began Thursday in Singapore. But China rebuffed the defence secretary and called off the visit.

As a result, Gates chose not to meet the Chinese military delegation at the Singapore conference.

After his speech, an uncomfortable exchange between a Chinese general and Gates illustrated the often tense relations between the two countries' militaries.

Major General Zhu Chenghu, speaking in English, asked Gates to explain what he called a contradiction between the US condemnation of North Korea over the sinking of Seoul's Cheonan warship and a more cautious US reaction to a deadly raid by Israel against a Gaza-bound aid ship.

"I think it (the Israeli raid) needs to be investigated and we will withhold judgement until that investigation is complete. But I think there is no comparison whatever between what happened in the eastern Mediterranean and what happened to the Cheonan," said Gates.

The South Korean ship was the target of a surprise attack, Gates said, while the Israelis issued warnings to the aid ship before their raid.

After his remarks, Gates walked over and shook hands with General Ma, the head of the Chinese delegation.

In his speech, Gates said President Barack Obama's decision to approve an arms package for Taiwan in January should have come as no surprise, as it was in keeping with long-standing US policy.

He said Washington had declared publicly for years that it did not endorse independence for Taiwan.

Gates said China's on-off approach would not persuade Washington to alter its policy and argued that US weapons sales to Taiwan helped maintain regional peace given China's growing military buildup.

Gates on Thursday suggested a rift between Chinese civilian and military leaders on the issue, saying the People's Liberation Army was much less interested in building US ties than the political leadership.

Along with calls for cooperation, Gates also said the United States would retain its elaborate military presence across the region.

"We are, and will remain, a Pacific power," he said.

While Ma voiced concern over US operations in the South China Sea, Gates called for unfettered access to the resource-rich area and said Washington objected to any effort to "intimidate" US energy firms in the region.

The South China Sea was the subject of "growing concern" due to various territorial disputes in the region, which could pose a threat to free navigation and "economic development", he said.

US mulls options against North Korea

SINGAPORE — The United States demanded North Korea pay a price for allegedly sinking a South Korean warship even as Washington and its Asian allies brace for possible "provocations" by the Pyongyang regime.

In a show of solidarity, US, Japanese and South Korean defence chiefs met in Singapore to discuss punitive steps against North Korea as the UN Security Council prepares to take up the crisis triggered by the sinking of the Cheonan.

US Defense Secretary Robert Gates told his counterparts that "it's important we have a unified front to deter further provocations," his press secretary, Geoff Morrell, told reporters.

While condemning North Korea's alleged torpedo attack, which left 46 South Korean sailors dead, Washington and Seoul have called for calm and avoided talk of a military response.

But given the North's volatile reputation, the United States and its allies have to be prepared for possible violence, Morrell said.

"When you're dealing with a regime as unpredictable as (North Korea), that's always a concern," he said.

Tensions have soared on the peninsula since a multinational probe last month concluded a North Korean torpedo sank the Cheonan, triggering trade reprisals by South Korea and threats of war by the communist North.

In a speech to the security conference in Singapore, Gates said the US administration was looking at "additional options" against the North, apart from UN diplomacy and planned military exercises with South Korea.

He did not specify what the measures might be and US officials acknowledged that finding leverage against a country already accustomed to international isolation was a challenge.

"There has to be a consequence," Morrell said. "But a traditional consequence might not have an effect."

South Korea laid out its evidence against North Korea in meetings with defence officials gathered for the conference, seeking to pile pressure on Russia and China -- which have yet to pin blame on the North.

In a speech apparently aimed at China and Russia, Gates warned of the risks of inaction and after his meeting with the South Korean and Japanese ministers said: "To do nothing would set the wrong precedent."

South Korea on Friday formally asked the UN Security Council to respond to the sinking, after President Lee Myung-Bak called the attack on the Cheonan corvette a "military provocation".

Addressing the Singapore conference, Lee dismissed Pyongyang's denials of involvement as "laughable" but stopped short of calling for additional sanctions on the North.

US officials said Seoul and Washington were considering training exercises as well as a major show of force.

But a joint anti-submarine drill set for next week was postponed, as Gates suggested a delay would allow time for UN diplomacy to play out.

Gates also said that Seoul might seek a Security Council letter denouncing Pyongyang instead of a full-fledged UN resolution.

Such a diplomatic strategy is "not a manifestation of a lack of recognition of the nature of the provocation we have seen from North Korea, but may be more addressed to the worry about provoking further instability and further provocations from the North", he said on Friday.

Seoul's ambassador to the UN, Park In-kook, said he had handed a letter to Mexican ambassador Claude Heller requesting "action by the Security Council commensurate with the gravity of the situation".

Heller, who is chairing the Security Council this month, said he would begin consultations with other Council members.

In his letter, Park described North Korea's "armed attack" against the Cheonan as "a flagrant violation" of the UN Charter, the 1953 armistice accord that ended the Korean War, and a 1992 bilateral non-aggression pact.

American Forces Press Service – John Banusiewicz

(Trip total: 10)

Gates Urges Positive US-China Military Relations

Economic and political cooperation between the United States and China has flourished despite differences over U.S. arms sales to Taiwan, and the same should be true of the military relationship between the two countries, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said here today.

In a speech opening the first plenary session of the ninth annual "Shangri-La Dialogue," an Asia security summit organized by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, Gates noted that although the arms sales have been going on for decades, China has cited them as its reason for breaking off interactions between the U.S. and Chinese militaries.

"For a variety of reasons," Gates said, "this makes little sense." He pointed out that U.S. arms sales to Taiwan have been going on throughout the decades since the 1979 normalization of relations between the United States and China. In addition, he said, the United States has demonstrated for years that it does not support independence for Taiwan.

"Nothing – I repeat, nothing – has changed in that stance," he said.

And because China's accelerating military buildup focuses largely on Taiwan, Gates added, U.S. arms sales are important to maintaining peace and stability across the Strait of Taiwan and throughout the region.

Considering all this, he said, President Barack Obama's decision in January to sell selected defensive weapons to Taiwan should have come as no surprise.

"It was based on well-established precedent and the longstanding belief of the U.S. government that a peaceful and non-coerced resolution to the Taiwan issue is an abiding national interest, and vital for the overall security of Asia," the secretary said.

Though the United States and China disagree on this matter, Gates told the delegates, U.S. arms sales to Taiwan over the decades since normalization have not impeded closer political and economic ties or closer ties in other security arenas of mutual interest.

"Only in the military-to-military arena has progress on critical mutual security issues been held hostage over something that is, quite frankly, old news," he said. "It should be clear to everyone now – more than 30 years after normalization – that interruptions in our military relationship with China will not change United States policy toward Taiwan."

Obama and Chinese President Hu Jintao have advocated a positive military-to-military relationship between their countries, Gates noted. "The United States Department of Defense wants what both Presidents Obama and Hu want; sustained and reliable military-to-military contacts at all levels that reduce miscommunication, misunderstanding and miscalculation," he said.

The absence of military-to-military relationships between the United States and China has a cost, Gates added. "I believe they are essential to regional security and essential to developing a broad, resilient U.S.-China relationship that is positive in tone, cooperative in nature and comprehensive in scope," he said. "The United States, for its part, is ready to work toward these goals."

Gates had hoped to visit Beijing while he was in the region to attend the Shangri-La Dialogue, but Chinese officials conveyed the message recently that the timing wasn't right. While en route to Singapore earlier this week, the secretary expressed his chagrin to reporters.

"I'm disappointed that the [People's Liberation Army] leadership has not seen the same potential benefits from this kind of a military-to-military relationship as their own leadership and the United States seem to think would be of benefit," he said.

Gates Describes US Approach to Deterrence in Asia

A U.S. defense posture in Asia that is more geographically distributed, operationally resilient and politically sustainable is necessary in deterring conflict in today's world, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said here today.

Gates addressed the first plenary session of the ninth annual "Shangri-La Dialogue," an Asia security summit organized by the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Conventional military bases, Gates said, are not the sole yardstick for measuring the U.S. presence in the region and its associated impact and influence. "Rather," he said, "we must think about U.S. 'presence' in the broader sense of what we achieve in the region: the connections made, the results accomplished."

This, he explained, includes the work of medical teams and engineers, as well as partner militaries that are more professional and capable of contributing to international efforts to deal with the most vexing challenges the United States and its Asian partners face.

"These kinds of activities reflect a priority of the overall United States security strategy: to prevent and deter conflict by better [employing] and integrating all elements of our national power and international cooperation," the secretary said. "As we have learned, military capabilities are critically important, but by themselves, [they] do not deter conflict. Sustained diplomatic, economic and cultural ties also play vital roles in maintaining stability and improving relationships.

"The history of the past 60 years in this part of the world," he continued, "has proven that historic tensions can be overcome, instability can be avoided, and strategic rivalries are not inevitable."

The U.S. approach to its policy in Asia and its overall defense posture has been shaped by a series of strategy reviews over the past year, Gates said. "These reviews were shaped by a bracing dose of realism, and in a very sober and clear-eyed way assessed risks, set priorities, made tradeoffs, and identified requirements based on plausible real-world threats, scenarios and potential adversaries."

An effective and affordable U.S. defense posture, the secretary explained, requires a broad and versatile portfolio of military capabilities across the widest possible spectrum of conflict. With regard to Asia, he said, the United States is increasing its deterrent capabilities in the region.

"First, we are taking serious steps to enhance our missile defenses with the intent to develop capabilities in Asia that are flexible and deployable – tailored to the unique needs of our allies and partners and able to counter the clear and growing ballistic missile threats in the region," he said.

The United States is renewing its commitment to a strong and effective deterrence that guarantees the safety of the American people and the defense of its allies and partners, Gates said. President Barack Obama is committed to reducing the role of nuclear weapons in the quest for a world without them, he noted. "But as long as these weapons exist," he added, "we will maintain a safe, secure and effective nuclear arsenal."

The forward presence of substantial U.S. forces is another example of the strong U.S. commitment and deterrent power in the region, as has been the case for six decades, Gates said, though a global posture review scheduled to be completed by the year's end already has made one general trend clear.

"The U.S. defense posture in Asia is shifting to one that is more geographically distributed, operationally resilient and politically sustainable," he said. "The buildup on Guam is part of this shift, as well as the agreement reached on basing with Japan – an agreement that fittingly comes during the 50th anniversary of our mutual security alliance and transcends any individual policymaker." Plans call for more than 8,000 U.S. Marines to move to Guam from the Japanese island of Okinawa by 2014, and for a U.S. Marine air base on Okinawa to relocate on the island.

Gates noted that the economic growth and political development the Asia-Pacific region has enjoyed over the last several decades was not a foregone conclusion.

"Rather," he said, "it was enabled by clear choices about the enduring principles that we all believe are essential to peace, prosperity and stability." Those principles, he said, include:

– Free and open commerce;

– A just international order that emphasizes rights and responsibilities of nations and fidelity to the rule of law;

-- Open access by all to the global commons of sea, air, space, and now, cyberspace; and

-- The principle of resolving conflict without the use of force.

"Simply put," he said, "pursuing our common interests has increased our common security. Today, the Asia-Pacific region is contending with new and evolving challenges, from rising powers and failing states to the proliferation of nuclear and ballistic missiles, extremist violence and new technologies that have the ability to disrupt the foundations of trade and commerce on which Asia's economic stability depends."

Confronting those threats, he told the delegates, is not the responsibility of a single nation acting alone.

"Rather," he said, "our collective response will test our commitments to the principles I just mentioned -- principles that are key to the region's continued prosperity. In this, all of us have responsibilities we must fulfill, since all will bear the costs of instability as well as the rewards of international cooperation."

US, Japan, South Korea Express Solidarity

The top defense officials of the United States, Japan and South Korea today pledged their nations' continued solidarity in the aftermath of North Korea's sinking of the freighter Cheonan on March 26 that killed 46 South Korean sailors.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, Japanese Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa and South Korean Defense Minister Kim Tae-young made brief statements before their trilateral meeting as part of the "Shangri-La Dialogue" Asia security summit here.

Gates noted that the first such meeting took place during last year's Shangri-La Dialogue, and said it proved to be an ideal forum for discussing a range of common security interests.

"Obviously, today's conversation, like last year's, will largely focus on North Korea and its ongoing threat to regional stability, as highlighted by the unprovoked attack on the Cheonan," the secretary said.

Gates said he told Kim yesterday and reiterated to South Korean President Lee Myung-bak today that "the United States stands by and steadfastly supports our ally," and added that he's pleased Japan also has stood by South Korea in response to the incident.

"Attacks like that on the Cheonan undermine the peace and stability of not just the Korean peninsula, but the region as a whole," he said. "To do nothing would set the wrong precedent. The international community can and must hold North Korea accountable. The United States will continue to work with the Republic of Korea, Japan and our other partners to figure out the best way to do just that."

Speaking through a translator, Kitazawa noted the importance of today's trilateral meeting against the backdrop of rising tension on the Korean peninsula.

"I trust that this will serve as a strong message to the international community as well as to North Korea," he said, "and I very much hope that the three countries will be able to show our strong determination."

Also speaking through a translator, Kim expressed delight that the three defense leaders could meet here again, as they did last year.

"I also believe that we are creating great momentum, especially at a time when the security situation in the peninsula and the region are so sensitive," he said. He added that through the Cheonan incident, the three nations are able to further strengthen their security cooperation ties through close coordination and cooperation.

Kim thanked the United States and Japan for their support of South Korea. "And I would like to ask you again for your continued cooperation and support as we take this matter to the United Nations Security Council, and as we take other measures as well," he added.

Asia-Pacific Nations Must Address Provocations

Asian nations must act in the face of provocations as part of their responsibility to preserve peace and reinforce regional stability, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said here today.

In remarks opening the first plenary session of the "Shangri-La Dialogue," an Asia security summit organized by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, Gates specifically referred to North Korea's sinking of the freighter Cheonan on March 26 that left 46 South Korean sailors dead.

"This sinking is far more than a single, isolated incident with tragic results for the sailors and their families," he said. "It is, rather, part of a larger pattern of provocative and reckless behavior. As I pointed out last year at this forum, North Korea has for some time faced the choice of continuing as a destitute, international pariah or charting a new path. Since then, the North Korean regime has only further isolated itself from the international community."

The United States and other nations have consulted closely with South Korean officials since the sinking, Gates said.

"My government has offered full support to our ally in this difficult hour," he said. "We will conduct combined military exercises with South Korea and support action in the United Nations Security Council. At the same time, we are assessing additional options to hold North Korea accountable."

All nations in the region share the task of addressing such provocations, the secretary said. "Inaction would amount to an abdication of our collective responsibility to protect the peace and reinforce stability in Asia," he said. "North Korea must cease its belligerent behavior and demonstrate clearly and decisively that it wants to pursue a different path."

Pacific Command Chief Shares Views on Regional Issues

The U.S. military's top officer in the Pacific region shared his views on North Korean provocation, Japan's new government and the stalled military relationship between the United States and China in a session today with reporters who traveled here with Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates for the 9th International Institute for Strategic Studies Asia Security Summit: The Shangri-La Dialogue.

Navy Adm. Robert F. Willard said he has seen no indication that North Korea is planning another provocation in the wake of its March 26 sinking of the naval vessel Cheonan that killed 46 South Korean sailors.

"But I think everyone in the region is watching North Korea very closely," Willard added, "given their unpredictability and the concern that what had been perpetrated on South Korea was so egregious."

The admiral declined to speculate on any possible additional military exercises involving U.S. and South Korean forces in response to the Cheonan's sinking.

"First of all, the Republic of Korea is in the lead in terms of the responses to this act that was perpetrated on them," he said. "We're certainly planning with them, discussing with them, their desires in terms of their own readiness, training and exercise needs, and what we might do as an alliance together to meet those needs. ... There are many capabilities that both sides bring ... in terms of our ability to exercise together, and that range of capabilities is certainly up for discussion at any time when we're planning to exercise with one another."

Willard said recent belligerent North Korean rhetoric is nothing new, but that Pacom is ready for anything that comes along.

"We're prepared for any contingency in this region," he said. "It's my responsibility that we are. And we're committed elsewhere, as we are in Iraq and Afghanistan right now, with about 35,000 of the 330,000 I command in Pacom. I mitigate the loss of those troops by at times demanding more of the troops left behind. In this case, the Navy and the Air Force make up for the commitment of [Army] brigade combat teams into Iraq and Afghanistan that we've experienced for the length of time that we have. Pacific Command is very ready."

When the discussion turned to Japan, Willard noted that despite political turmoil that led to Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama's resignation this week, the military-to-military relationship between U.S. and Japanese forces never wavered.

"This alliance is a cornerstone of security in Northeast Asia, and remains so," the admiral said. The strong relationship between Pacom and the Japanese self-defense forces will remain strong with newly appointed Prime Minister Naoto Kan's administration, he added.

One factor that contributed to Hatoyama's resignation was the decision to relocate U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma on the Japanese island of Okinawa as previously agreed, rather than move it off the island. Though discussions still are ongoing, Willard said, he doesn't expect that process to be disrupted by a new Japanese administration coming into office.

"The plan to relocate Futenma ... was an agreement reached by both governments, mainly a choice by the Japanese regarding the most-optimum location to place that airfield in support of our Marines that remain on Okinawa," he said. "It still remains the best location, as I think [was] reaffirmed by the ongoing discussions over the last several months that arrived at the same conclusion.

"This was a conclusion arrived at by the government of Okinawa, as well as the government in Tokyo, and with the concurrence of the United States," he continued, "so this is an agreement between the two countries that has been long in discussion, long [in] coming, and we believe -- and I think the Japanese believe as well -- that the Futenma [relocation] as agreed to is the best option for both parties." In discussing the stalled military-to-military relationship between the United States and China, Willard said he attended the strategic and economic dialogue conference in Beijing last week at the invitation of Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"I was struck by the sophistication and maturity of engagement between the U.S. and [China] in all other areas," he said, noting "considerable contrast between the maturity of dialogue that's going on between the U.S. and China across all of our areas of government and economy, and the military-to-military relationship that is lagging considerably behind."

Whatever differences exist between the two countries, Willard said, he hopes the People's Liberation Army adopts an approach that builds on U.S.-Chinese common interests.

"When you think about proliferation concerns, ... when you consider humanitarian assistance, disaster response, counter-piracy, maritime security, many areas of common concern between the U.S. and China -- we believe that the foundation of a [military-to-military] dialogue that is continuous and effective should be those areas of common concern," he said.

"In other areas that challenge the relationship," Willard continued, "we ought to look for opportunities for frank dialogue in those areas and see if we can't find common ground there. That is our viewpoint. Clearly, the viewpoint of the PLA is different on that, and they've chosen those areas of challenge to terminate at different times the [military-to-military] dialogue that would benefit both countries and the region as a whole."

This is Willard's first opportunity to attend the Shangri-La Dialogue as Pacom's commander, and he said he's enjoying the opportunities it presents.

"It's been terrific to be here," he said. "I've had the opportunity to engage with some of my counterparts who are generally the chiefs of defense from the nations in the region, as well as to sit in on some of the discussions with Secretary Gates at the ministerial level. So it's a great education for me, and certainly a good opportunity to engage with chiefs of defense from across the region."

Asahi Shimbun – Hiroshi Ito

No coverage found thus far.

Associated Press – Anne Gearan

(Trip total: 12)

Gates prods China on NKorea, military ties to US

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates challenged China to deal realistically with the short-term question of how to respond to an antagonistic North Korea and the longer-term issue of whether Beijing's expanding military can establish more durable ties with the U.S.

Asian nations cannot stand by in the face of North Korea's alleged sinking of a South Korean warship, Gates said during an international security summit Saturday that was dominated by questions about the North.

"To do nothing would set the wrong precedent," Gates said.

The U.S. and South Korea want China to back a new international condemnation or punishment of the North.

Gates joined South Korea in trying to marshal world support for the conclusion that North Korea was to blame for the sinking and should be held to account. South Korean officials handed out glossy pamphlets containing the results of an international investigation that found North Korea blew the warship Cheonan apart with a torpedo.

China, the North's closest ally, has not assigned blame for the sinking in March that killed 46 South Korean sailors.

Gates met several times with South Korean officials over two days here, including a symbolic three-way discussion Saturday with officials from South Korea and Japan. Washington is pledged to defend both nations as a legacy of U.S. wars in the Pacific.

Gates made the point during that session that the three nations "have to have a united front to deter further provocation," Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell said afterward.

South Korea referred the sinking to the U.N. Security Council on Friday. The council has the power to impose penalties. China is one of five veto-holding members of the council.

China is the communist North's largest patron, giving it economic and political pull over an otherwise reclusive government. The U.S. and South Korea want China to use that clout to rein in the North Koreans.

At the security summit, Gates did not mention China's financial and diplomatic support for North Korea but said "the nations of this region share the task of addressing these dangerous provocations."

In a tense exchange following his address to the conference, Gates dismissed suggestions by a Chinese general that Washington was being hypocritical in criticizing North Korea but not Israel for its commando raid on an aid flotilla in the Mediterranean Sea this past week.

"There is a wide gap in the U.S. attitude and policy to the two instances," said Maj. Gen. Zhu Chenghu of China's National Defense University.

Gates said the attack on the warship was a surprise operation conducted "without any warning." Israel had issued several warnings to the flotilla not to enter its territorial waters, he said.

"I won't make judgment on responsibility or fault" about that incident, Gates said, adding that he favors an international investigation to determine responsibility.

The general also took on Gates over the issue of U.S. arms sales to Taiwan, a constant irritant to Beijing, and Gates' assertion that China's military is balking at forging more durable ties with the United States.

"The Chinese are taking the Americans as a partner, as friends, and Americans take the Chinese as enemies," Zhu said.

Gates challenged China to resume military cooperation suspended after the Obama administration went ahead with a planned weapons sale to Taiwan worth more than \$6 billion. The two powers cannot afford to misunderstand one another, Gates said.

Zhu said some contacts have continued since January, and made no promises.

Gates: NKorea must face account in ship sinking

In a clear challenge to China, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Asian nations cannot stand by in the face of North Korea's alleged sinking of a South Korean warship.

The attack, which killed 46 South Korean sailors in March, was part of a reckless pattern of aggression by North Korea, Gates charged Saturday.

"The question people have to contemplate is, what are the consequences for a North Korea of an unprovoked attack on a neighbor? For nothing to happen would be a very bad precedent here in Asia," Gates said, addressing an international security summit.

He did not mention China's financial and diplomatic support for North Korea but said "the nations of this region share the task of addressing these dangerous provocations."

The United States and South Korea want China to approve a new international condemnation or punishment of the North. South Korea took its case to the U.N. Security Council on Friday. China is one of five veto-holding members of the council.

China is the communist North's closest ally and largest patron, giving it economic and political pull over an otherwise reclusive and antagonistic regime. The United States and South Korea want China to use that clout to rein in the North Koreans.

In a tense exchange during the defense conference in Singapore, Gates dismissed suggestions by a Chinese general that Washington was being hypocritical in criticizing North Korea but not Israel for its commando raid on an aid flotilla in the Mediterranean Sea this week.

"There is a wide gap in the U.S. attitude and policy to the two instances," said Maj. Gen. Zhu Chenghu of China's National Defense University. He did not endorse the U.S.-backed international finding that the North sunk the warship Cheonan with a torpedo.

Gates said the attack on the warship was a surprise operation conducted "without any warning." Israel had issued several warnings to the flotilla not to enter its territorial waters, he said.

"I won't make judgment on responsibility or fault" in the Mediterranean incident, Gates said, adding that he favors an international investigation to determine responsibility.

"But I think there is no comparison whatsoever between what happened in the eastern Mediterranean and what happened to the Cheonan," he said.

He denied that the sinking revealed holes in the security the large U.S. military presence in Asia is supposed to provide for allies such as South Korea.

"What it demonstrates is that a surprise and unprovoked attack is very difficult to defend against," Gates said.

Gates also said, without elaboration, that the U.S. is considering "additional options to hold North Korea accountable."

A delegate to the International Institute for Strategic Studies gathering asked Gates to explain.

"You teased us a little," she said.

"I would prefer just to tease you," Gates replied to laughter. He offered no further explanation.

The United States and South Korea have already said they plan joint military exercises in response to the Cheonan's sinking, although Gates has said those exercises would probably wait until the Security Council looks at the case.

Beyond the show of force and solidarity from those planned exercises, options are limited. Nearly any response could provoke the North further, something Gates and other U.S. officials say they want to avoid.

Still, the United States is already beefing up its missile defenses in Asia, and could send additional weaponry or warships to the area.

The United States already has already applied trade and other sanctions to North Korea. Additional punishment could include the U.S. putting North Korea back on its list of state sponsors of terrorism, although legal opinions differ on whether the Cheonan attack was terrorism.

Gates accuses NKorea of reckless aggression

The sinking of a South Korean warship is part of a reckless pattern of aggression by North Korea, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Saturday, as the U.S. and its allies turned up the rhetorical heat on the communist country.

"This sinking is far more than a single, isolated incident," Gates told Asian defense officials at a conference in Singapore. Answering questions from delegates later, Gates said there must be consequences for what he called an unprovoked assault.

"For nothing to happen would be a very bad precedent," he said.

When a female delegate told Gates "you teased us a little" by talking about consequences without elaborating, he replied: "I would prefer just to tease you," drawing laughter and no further comments.

He called the March sinking of the 1,200-ton patrol ship Cheonan unprovoked and "part of a larger pattern of provocative and reckless behavior" that leaves the destitute country an international pariah.

Gates' harsh assessment reflects the Obama administration's pessimism about persuading the North to end its nuclear weapons program.

Pyeongyang has walked away from an agreement that would dismantle its nuclear facilities in exchange for economic and political aid, and the White House holds little hope that the diplomatic effort can be revived.

"North Korea must cease its belligerent behavior and demonstrate clearly and decisively that it wants to pursue a different path," Gates said.

The United States wants China to pressure North Korea to back down, and it wants Chinese support for action at the United Nations Security Council against North Korea.

In his address, Gates did not mention China's financial and diplomatic support for North Korea but said "the nations of this region share the task of addressing these dangerous provocations."

After the March sinking, suspicions immediately focused on North Korea. Last month, an international team of investigators issued a report saying that the South Korean warship was most likely torpedoed by a North Korean mini-sub. Pyongyang has angrily rejected the allegation.

South Korea took its case against the North to the Security Council on Friday. China is one of five veto-holding members of the council.

Gates also dismissed suggestions by a Chinese general that Washington was being hypocritical in criticizing North Korea but not Israel for its commando raid on an aid flotilla in the Mediterranean Sea this week.

Replying to Maj. Gen. Zhu Chenghu of China's National Defense University, Gates said the attack on Cheonan was a surprise operation conducted "without any warning" whereas Israel had issued several warnings to the flotilla not to enter its territorial waters.

"I won't make judgment on responsibility or fault" in the Mediterranean incident, Gates said, adding that he favors an international investigation to determine responsibility.

"But I think there is no comparison whatsoever between what happened in the eastern Mediterranean and what happened to the Cheonan," he said.

Gates promised continued U.S. support for its ally South Korea and said the two nations are planning joint military exercises in response to the sinking. But he said earlier the U.S. and South Korea are holding off on those exercises until after the United Nations has a chance to respond to the crisis.

He added, without elaboration, that the U.S. is considering "additional options to hold North Korea accountable."

The United States already has applied trade and other sanctions. Additional punishment could include the U.S. putting North Korea back on its list of state sponsors of terrorism, although legal opinions differ on whether the Cheonan attack was terrorism.

Meanwhile, Gates' speech appealed to China's military leaders to restore ties with their U.S. counterparts. China ended cooperation on strategic issues following the Obama administration's decision in January to go ahead with arms sales to Taiwan worth \$6.4 billion.

The arms sale issue is a red herring, Gates said Saturday.

"Taiwan arms sales over the decades have not impeded closer political and economic ties," Gates told the conference, sponsored by the International Institute for Strategic Studies. "Only in the military-to-military arena has progress on critical mutual security issues been held hostage over something that is, quite frankly, old news."

Gates: No comparison between Israel, NKorea

Defense Secretary Robert Gates says there is no comparison between North Korea's alleged sinking of a South Korean warship and Israel's attack on an aid flotilla.

Gates was commenting Saturday on a question by a Chinese general at a security summit in Singapore, where he had delivered a speech.

Gates says the attack on the South Korean corvette Cheonan that killed 46 sailors in March was a surprise operation "without any warning." An international probe found that a North Korean submarine torpedoed the warship.

He says Israel's commando raid on the flotilla this week took place after warnings were issued to the aid ships. Gates says "there is no comparison whatsoever between what happened with Cheonan and in the Mediterranean."

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. Check back soon for further information. AP's earlier story is below.

SINGAPORE (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates says the sinking of a South Korean warship doesn't show gaps in the security that U.S. forces in the Pacific are supposed to provide for allies.

Gates says what the fatal sinking shows is simply that a surprise attack can be very effective.

Gates laid blame for the sinking squarely on North Korea. He told a conference of Asian defense chiefs that there must be consequences for what he called an unprovoked assault.

Gates warned the group that "for nothing to happen would be a very bad precedent."

BBC – Nick Childs

(Trip total: 3)

US mulls new North Korea measures

The US is considering further steps to hold North Korea to account for the sinking of a South Korea warship, Defense Secretary Robert Gates says.

He told an Asian security conference in Singapore that inaction would set a "bad precedent", but did not say if the US was considering more sanctions.

Seoul has asked the UN Security Council to take action against the North.

South Korean President Lee Myung-bak has described Pyongyang's denial of sinking the ship as "laughable".

During the conference, Mr Gates also urged China to restore military ties with the US, saying their suspension was damaging security in Asia.

Tensions between the two Koreas have increased since the sinking of the Cheonan near the inter-Korean maritime border on 26 March, in which 46 sailors were killed.

'Belligerent behaviour'

North Korea has consistently denied involvement, but an international inquiry found evidence that a North Korean torpedo had destroyed the warship.

South Korea has asked the UN to take action over the Cheonan

Mr Gates said the act was "part of a larger pattern of provocative and reckless behaviour" by the North.

"North Korea must cease its belligerent behaviour and demonstrate clearly and decisively that it wants to pursue a different path," Mr Gates said.

South Korea has not specified what action it wants the security council to take, but diplomatic efforts are focused on China, the North's closest ally.

Without Beijing's backing, analysts say any international effort to tackle Pyongyang is doomed to failure.

On China's suspension of military ties, Mr Gates said the policy made "little sense".

"There is a real cost to any absence of military-to-military relations," he said.

He added that China's suspension of ties "will not change United States policy toward Taiwan".

The head of the Chinese general staff, who was also present at the conference, responded by saying the arms sales went against China's "core" interests.

Kyodo – Yushin Sugita

(Trip total: 2)

Kitazawa confirms Japan will follow latest US base agreement

Japanese Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa in talks here Saturday with U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates confirmed that the Cabinet of Japanese Prime Minister-elect Naoto Kan would stick to the latest bilateral accord on the relocation of the U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station in Okinawa Prefecture.

At the meeting on the sidelines of a regional security conference, Gates indicated that the relocation should be promptly processed.

The new agreement came after the Japanese government, led by the Democratic Party of Japan which came to power last September, had reviewed the 2006 accord with a view to possibly moving Futenma out of Okinawa or even abroad, only to come full circle.

In a later trilateral meeting with South Korean Defense Minister Kim Tae Young, Gates said they agreed that North Korea's alleged sinking of a South Korean warship in March is an act that is difficult to forgive. They also agreed to fully support South Korea's decision to refer the issue to the United Nations Security Council.

In addition, the three ministers agreed to regularize talks between the defense ministers of the three nations.

In a speech earlier in the day at the security conference, Gates blasted China's decision in January to suspend military exchanges with the United States in protest at Washington's arms sales to Taiwan, saying the move "makes little sense."

U.S. President Barack Obama and Chinese President Hu Jintao agreed last November to advance "sustained and reliable military-to-military relations" between the two countries, Gates said.

"Regrettably, we have not been able to make progress on this relationship in recent months," he said of the suspension of the bilateral military exchanges.

Gates pointed out that the Chinese military's decision was wrong as U.S. arms sales to Taiwan have continued for decades and Washington does not support independence for Taiwan at all.

"Nothing -- I repeat, nothing -- has changed in that stance," he said.

Gates also said China's accelerating military buildup is largely focused on Taiwan and that makes U.S. arms sales to Taiwan "an important component of maintaining peace and stability in cross-strait relations and throughout the region."

The U.S. defense secretary is stepping up criticism against China apparently as the country recently rejected his offer to visit Beijing.

He expressed dissatisfaction particularly over the military's response, noting that although Washington and Beijing clearly disagree on the matter, U.S. arms sales to Taiwan over the decades "have not impeded close political and economic ties."

Gates also voiced concern over the expansion of Chinese military activity in the South China Sea, saying, "This sea is not only vital to those directly bordering it, but to all nations with economic and security interests in Asia."

Underlining U.S. support for South Korea's decision to refer the issue of North Korea's alleged sinking of a South Korean warship to the U.N. Security Council, Gates said the United States is considering additional options to punish Pyongyang.

"We will conduct combined military exchanges with South Korea and support action in the United Nations Security Council. We are considering additional options to hold North Korea accountable," he said at the annual Asian security summit in Singapore organized by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Pyongyang "must cease its belligerent behavior and demonstrate clearly and decisively that it wants to pursue a different path," Gates said.

He said North Korea's alleged sinking of the Cheonan on March 26, killing 46 South Korean sailors, was "far more than a single isolated incident, it is rather part of a larger pattern of provocative and reckless behavior."

"The attack on the Cheonan was a surprise attack without any warning," he emphasized.

He also expressed concern in response to a question from the floor later about North's Korea's alleged proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to other countries.

"This has been one of our concerns...a willingness to sell anything they have to anybody who has the cash to buy it," he

said.

Gates is visiting Singapore on the first leg of a world tour that will also take him to Azerbaijan, Britain and Belgium.

NPR – Rachel Martin

(Trip total: 2)

No coverage found as of 1500.

Reuters – Adam Entous

(Trip total: 14)

US says weighing new options over North Korea

The United States said on Saturday it is weighing new options beyond the United Nations to punish North Korea, which South Korea blames for the sinking of a warship that has escalated tensions on the peninsula.

Seoul has complained to the U.N. Security Council over the sinking of the corvette Cheonan in March, killing 46 sailors. South Korea and its main ally, the United States, blame the shadowy North for torpedoing the ship, although it is unclear what concrete action, if any, the U.N. will take.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates told a security conference in Singapore it was the "collective responsibility" of Asian states to address North Korean "provocations", increasing pressure on a reluctant China to rebuke its long-time ally.

"To do nothing would set the wrong precedent," Gates said at a meeting with his South Korean and Japanese counterparts.

In private, Gates told the ministers it was critical to show a "united front to deter further provocations" by the unpredictable North, said Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell.

Gates said the United States would conduct more joint military exercises with South Korea and support "action" by the Security Council in response to the Cheonan attack.

"At the same time, we are assessing additional options to hold North Korea accountable," he said, suggesting the United States and its allies could act unilaterally or in concert.

Officials said Washington was looking at a range of options, which could include tightening economic sanctions, expanding searches of North Korean vessels and holding more large-scale shows of military force to try to deter future attacks.

North Korea denies responsibility for sinking the Cheonan and accuses South Korean President Lee Myung-bak of staging the incident to help his chances in local elections this week.

In increasingly shrill rhetoric, the North has warned several times that "war could break out at any moment".

Lee pledged to clamp down on any action deemed threatening but dismissed the likelihood of open conflict.

"There is no possibility of a war. There has been occasionally and locally peace-threatening behaviour but we will strongly suppress it," Lee's spokesman, contacted by telephone, quoted him as telling businessmen at the Singapore summit.

"UNPREDICTABLE"

U.S. military officials, including Admiral Robert Willard, head of the U.S. Pacific Command, have also played down the risk of a major conflict, saying there were no signs North Korea was preparing a nuclear test or moving troops towards the South.

But another attack cannot be ruled out, officials said. "When you're dealing with a regime as unpredictable as (North Korea), that is always a concern," Morrell said.

Though stretched by wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. military insists that it is ready for any eventuality on the Korean peninsula. "American military power, and particularly conventional military power, is in my view as strong today as it has ever been in the Pacific. We are looking at ways to strengthen it further," Gates said.

But in talks with Asian leaders, Gates and other officials have made it very clear their goal is to avoid an escalation, diplomats said.

The United States and South Korea face a difficult balancing act -- finding a way to punish the North without provoking another attack. Underscoring those concerns, Gates raised the possibility that Seoul would stop short of seeking a full-blown Security Council resolution.

Planned U.S.-South Korea military drills might also be put off, at least until it becomes clear what action the United Nations is prepared to take, officials said.

The big question facing the United States, South Korea and Japan is how to gain leverage over a regime that appears to be indifferent to international pressure and responds in such seemingly erratic ways.

China, North Korea's only major ally and benefactor, may be the central player, although some U.S. intelligence officials have questioned how much sway it really has.

As a permanent member of the Security Council, China can veto any proposed U.N. resolution or statement chastising the North.

Without referring to China by name, Gates pointedly told Asian leaders in Singapore that all the nations in the region "share the task of addressing these dangerous provocations".

"Inaction would amount to an abdication of our collective responsibility to protect the peace and reinforce stability in Asia," he said.

Beijing has so far declined publicly to join international condemnation of Pyongyang, saying it is assessing the evidence.

FRICION

U.S. officials say it remains to be seen what position China will ultimately take but acknowledge it appears reluctant to embrace tough measures at the United Nations.

Likewise, Russia has yet to fully sign onto South Korea's version of events about the sinking, raising questions about its position at the United Nations, they cautioned.

Beijing broke off military ties with Washington after it told Congress in January of a plan to sell Taiwan, which Beijing regards as a renegade state, up to \$6.4 billion worth of arms.

At the annual conference, known as the Shangri-La Dialogue, Gates urged Beijing to accept the "reality" that Washington is committed to arming Taiwan, like it or not.

That drew a sharp challenge from Major General Zhu Chenghu of China's National Defense University. He said continued arms sales to Taiwan sent the message that America saw the Chinese as "enemies". Gates rejected that characterization, saying China and the United States were partners in many areas.

US concerned over impact of South China Sea disputes

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said on Saturday the United States was increasingly concerned about disputes over sovereignty in the South China Sea and the impact they could have on economic activity.

He warned parties against trying to "intimidate" U.S. companies involved in projects there.

Vietnam, China and other countries have longstanding competing claims of sovereignty over parts of the sea, including the potentially oil- and gas-rich Spratly and Paracel island chains.

U.S. military officials have singled out China's naval buildup and activities in the area as a concern both to the United States and its Asian partners.

"The South China Sea is an area of growing concern. This sea is not only vital to those directly bordering it, but to all nations with economic and security interests in Asia," Gates told a security conference in Singapore.

He said the United States believed it was essential to maintain "stability, freedom of navigation, and free and unhindered economic development" in the sea, and objected to "any effort to intimidate U.S. corporations or those of any nation engaged in legitimate economic activity".

"We do not take sides on any competing sovereignty claims," Gates said, urging all sides to "work to resolve differences through peaceful, multilateral efforts".

Admiral Robert Willard, head of the U.S. military's Pacific Command, cited China's increased maritime "assertiveness" in the South China Sea and East China Sea as a concern and "increasing encounters" with neighbours in the region, including Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Japan.

US appeals to China to restore military ties

The United States appealed to China on Saturday to restore military ties despite discord over U.S. arms sales to Taiwan and said it was considering options beyond the United Nations to punish North Korea over the sinking of a South Korean ship.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said China's decision to break off military-to-military contacts between the Pacific powers earlier this year could undercut regional stability.

He urged Beijing to accept the "reality" that Washington is committed to arming Taiwan, like it or not.

"It has been clear to everyone during the more than 30 years since normalization that interruptions in our military relationship with China will not change United States policy toward Taiwan," Gates told a security conference in Singapore.

China broke off military-to-military contacts after the Obama administration notified Congress in January of a plan to sell Taiwan up to \$6.4 billion worth of arms.

To underscore its displeasure over the continued sales, China took the extraordinary step of turning down a proposed fence-mending visit by Gates during his trip to Asia.

"There is a real cost to any absence of military-to-military relations," Gates told the conference, where he held talks with top ministers from across Asia with the exception of the Chinese, who sent a lower-level representative.

Gates said "sustained and reliable" contacts between the two militaries were needed to reduce the risk of "miscommunication, misunderstanding and miscalculation" that could lead inadvertently to conflict.

He also called it the "collective responsibility" of Asian states to address North Korean "provocations", increasing pressure on a reluctant China to rebuke its long-time ally.

But Gates and other U.S. officials suggested the United States was looking beyond measures in the U.N. Security Council and could act unilaterally or in concert with its allies to increase Pyongyang's isolation.

CRITICAL ISSUES

Gates has singled out China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) as the main obstruction in the way of improved relations, saying its position was at odds with that of the country's political leadership, which he has said supports closer military ties.

"Only in the military-to-military arena has progress on critical mutual security issues been held hostage over something that is, quite frankly, old news," Gates said.

He said arms sales to Taiwan have spanned decades and were "an important component of maintaining peace and stability in cross-strait relations and throughout the region" because China's own military buildup is largely focused on the self-ruled island.

Gates said this should not be seen as threatening to China because the United States has long made clear it does not support independence for Taiwan, which Beijing regards as a renegade province to be united with the mainland, by force if necessary.

A senior member of the Chinese delegation, Major General Zhu Chenghu of the National Defense University, challenged Gates directly after his speech, saying his country was not to blame for stalling military-to-military ties.

He said U.S. arms sales to Taiwan ran counter to Beijing's "core" interests and sent the message that America saw the Chinese as "enemies."

Gates chaffed at the characterization: "I would just like to state for the record that the United States does not consider China as an enemy but as a partner in many areas."

After his speech, Gates shook hands with the head of the Chinese delegation, General Ma Xiaotian, deputy chief of the PLA's general staff, Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell said.

Ma played down the extent to which Beijing has scaled back contacts with the U.S. military, saying only high-level visits have been "temporarily suspended".

Some U.S. officials saw the friction with China as particularly worrisome given heightened tensions in the region after the United States and South Korea concluded that North Korea was behind the sinking of the South Korean corvette Cheonan in March, killing 46 sailors.

Seoul has referred the matter to the U.N. Security Council, but it is unclear what action, if any, the body will take.

Beijing, which is North Korea's only major ally and which fought alongside the North in the Korean War, has declined publicly to join international condemnation of Pyongyang, saying it is still assessing the evidence.

As a permanent member of the Security Council, China can veto any proposed resolution or statement.

Pentagon strategists have voiced alarm at what they see as China's faster-than-expected military build-up, from powerful anti-ship missiles to an advanced combat jet that may rival the premier U.S. fighter, Lockheed Martin Corp's (LMTN) F-22 Raptor, within eight years.

Admiral Robert Willard, head of the U.S. military's Pacific Command, said there were concerns across the region about the "intent" of China's "profound" military buildup and increased maritime "assertiveness."

Washington Post – Craig Whitlock

(Trip total: 4)

No coverage found as of 1500.

Yomiuri Shimbun – Satoshi Ogawa

No coverage found thus far.

(b)(6)

CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b)(6) CTR OSD PA
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2010 5:04 AM
To: Whitman, Bryan Mr OSD PA; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA (b)(6) CIV OSD PA;
Merritt, Roxie T Ms OSD PA (b)(6) COL OSD PA (b)(6) MS OSD PA;
Floyd, Price B Mr OSD PA; Lapan, David COL OSD PA (b)(6) MAJ OSD PA;
(b)(6) CIV OSD PA; Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA; Wood, Carl R Mr OSD PA;
Agarwal, Sumit CIV OSD PA (b)(6) Ms OSD PA (b)(6) Ms OSD PA;
(b)(6) MAJ OSD PA (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) CIV OASN (I&E), OASN (I&E) (b)(6) Lt Col OASD-PA (b)(6)
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(b)(6) CIV CHINFO OI-7, PTGN; McDew, Darren W Maj Gen JCS J3 (b)(6)
(b)(6) Ms CIV NG NGB ARNG (b)(6) DMA-Alex/NEWS (b)(6) CIV
JCS SJS OCJCS PA (b)(6) Captain (USN-CHINFO) (b)(6) DMA-
Alex/AFRTS-D (b)(6) Major (b)(6) LTC MIL USA OCPA (b)(6)
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(b)(6) CTR OSD PA (b)(6) DMA-ALEX/MC (b)(6) DMA-
ALEX/MO (b)(6) LTC MIL USA OSA-OBT;
(b)(6) Maj (b)(6) Mr
CIV USA SECARMY (b)(6) Cdr (b)(6) Cdr.; CENTCOM CCPA Duty;
(b)(6) COL (b)(6) Civ AFPAA; (b)(6) Col (b)(6)
(b)(6) Mr (b)(6) CDR (b)(6) LTC (b)(6)
(b)(6) CIV USJFCOM JPASE; Eder, Mari, MG (b)(6) Ctr SAF/PAX;
(b)(6) Maj SAF/PA (b)(6) LTJG CHINFO (b)(6) GySgt;
(b)(6) Mr (b)(6) Ctr SAF/PAX (b)(6) Major (b)(6) CDR
CHINFO, OI-5 (b)(6) CIV USJFCOM JPASE (b)(6) CDR JCS SJS
Public Affairs (b)(6) Hoehne, Stephanie L SES CIV USA OCPA;
(b)(6) Ms. (non-lethal weapons center) (b)(6) COL; Jones, Nathan
E RDML (b)(6) Col.; Kirby, John F Capt JCS SJS OCJCS PA (b)(6)
LTCOL MIL NG NGB ARNG; (b)(6) Mrs CIV USA OCPA (b)(6)
(b)(6) Mr CIV DIA USCENTCOM CCI2/JOW; (b)(6)
(b)(6) COL USA USSOUTHCOM/SC-CC (L) (b)(6)
(b)(6) CIV AF/SGL (b)(6) Civ SAF/PA (b)(6)
(b)(6) CIV USA NORAD USNORTHCOM HQs PA (b)(6)
Phillips, Jeffrey E BG MIL USA OCPA; (b)(6) Civ AF/SGL (b)(6) Col.;
(b)(6) LCDR CHINFO, OI-3 (b)(6) CDR;
(b)(6) (with SAF/PA) (b)(6) CIV USSOCOM HQ (b)(6) Lt Col

Cc:

SAF/PAO; Smith, Gregory J RDML USN (b)(6) LTJG CHINFO, OI-3 (b)(6)
 (b)(6) Captain: (b)(6) Col. (b)(6) Col AF/A2CM (b)(6)
 (b)(6) CDR CHINFO, OI-5 (b)(6) Civ AF/SGL (b)(6)
 (b)(6) Col. (b)(6) MGvSot (b)(6) CIV USJFCOM J00 (b)(6)
 CTR OSD PA (b)(6) Mr CTR US USA OCPA (b)(6) Mr OSD PA;
 (b)(6) Ctr USAF SAF/PAX (b)(6) CTR OSD PA (b)(6)
 (b) COL-0-6, DMA-Alex; (b)(6) Rangel, Robert CIV SD;
 (b)(6) DMA-ALEX/CNS (b)(6) Ms CIV DOD JIEDDO (b)(6)
 LTC OSD PA: Brooks, Rosa CIV OSD POLICY (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY;
 (b)(6) CPT (USA) OSD POLICY (b)(6) MAJ OSD PA (b)(6)
 (b)(6) USA COL USA USFOR-A; USF-I PRESS DESK (b)(6)
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 PLA - YA (b)(6) Pittman, Harold E RDML MIL USN
 USCENTCOM CCCI/SC (b)(6) DSCA/LPA (b)(6) DMA-Alex (b)(6)
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 (b)(6) (b)(6) Ms CTR US USA OCPA (b)(6)
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 Laurence K SIS OSD OUSD (b)(6) CIV OSD PA (b)(6)
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 OSD PA (b)(6) CIV SD (b)(6) CTR OSD PA;
 (b)(6) LTC OSD PA; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) Lt Col USJFCOM J7 (b)(6) Ms CTR US
 USA OCPA (b)(6) CIV OSD PA

Subject: Weekly Morning Headlines Snapshot, 6/1-6/4
Attachments: Morning Headlines Report 6.1-4.10.doc

Morning Headlines
 June 1 - 4, 2010
 Summary

Defense related coverage in the morning headlines remained at a similar percentage compared to last week. There were 13 DoD-related headlines this week (without counting DoD-related headlines on Monday, which were not recorded due to the holiday), compared to 17 last week. Secretary Gates's trip to Singapore was only mentioned by FOX on Friday. No other DoD officials garnered attention. No other governmental departments were cited in the morning headlines this week, which were dominated by developments related to the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, and the deadly Israeli raid on the flotilla of activists bound for Gaza.

Outlets were relatively consistent in their defense coverage this week. On Tuesday, all outlets highlighted the death of the number three Al Qaeda operative, and FOX mentioned President Obama's speech at Andrews Air Force Base. Each outlet also headlined the Taliban attack near the "peace jirga" in Afghanistan on Wednesday, and three of the four stations ran headlines on Japanese Prime Minister Hatoyama's resignation over the Futenma Air Station relocation controversy.

FOX led other outlets with five defense related headlines, followed by NPR and CBS each with three; and CNN with two.



Morning Headlines

June 1 - 4, 2010

Summary

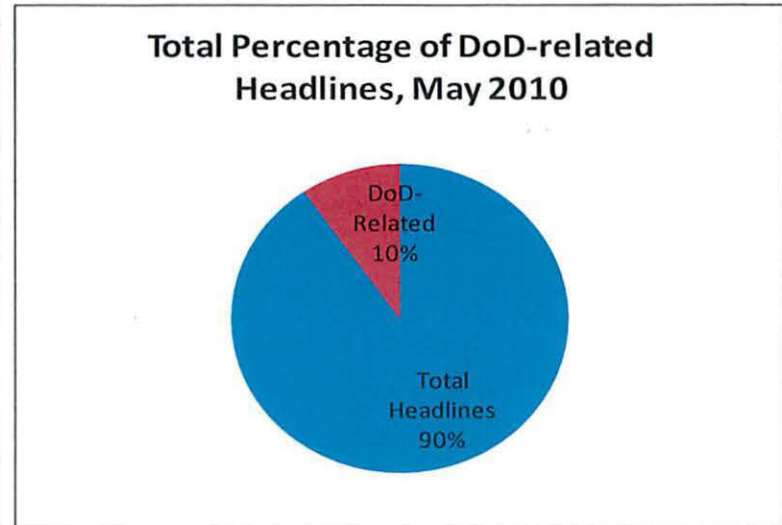
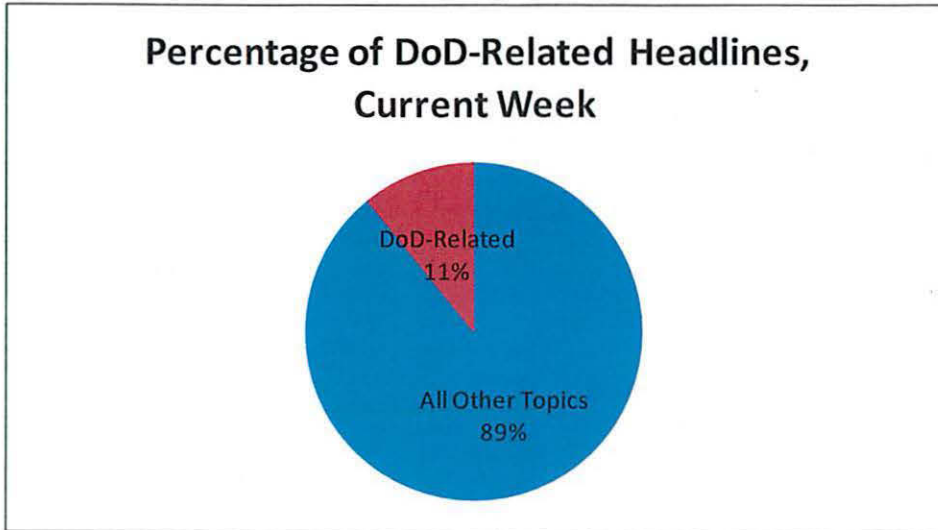


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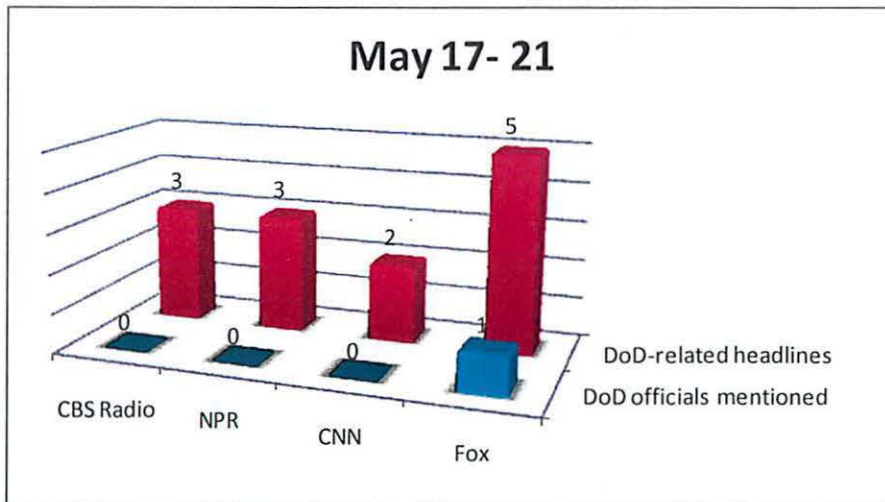
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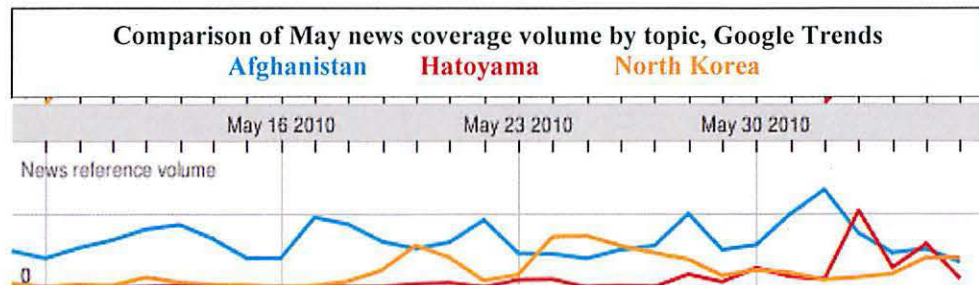
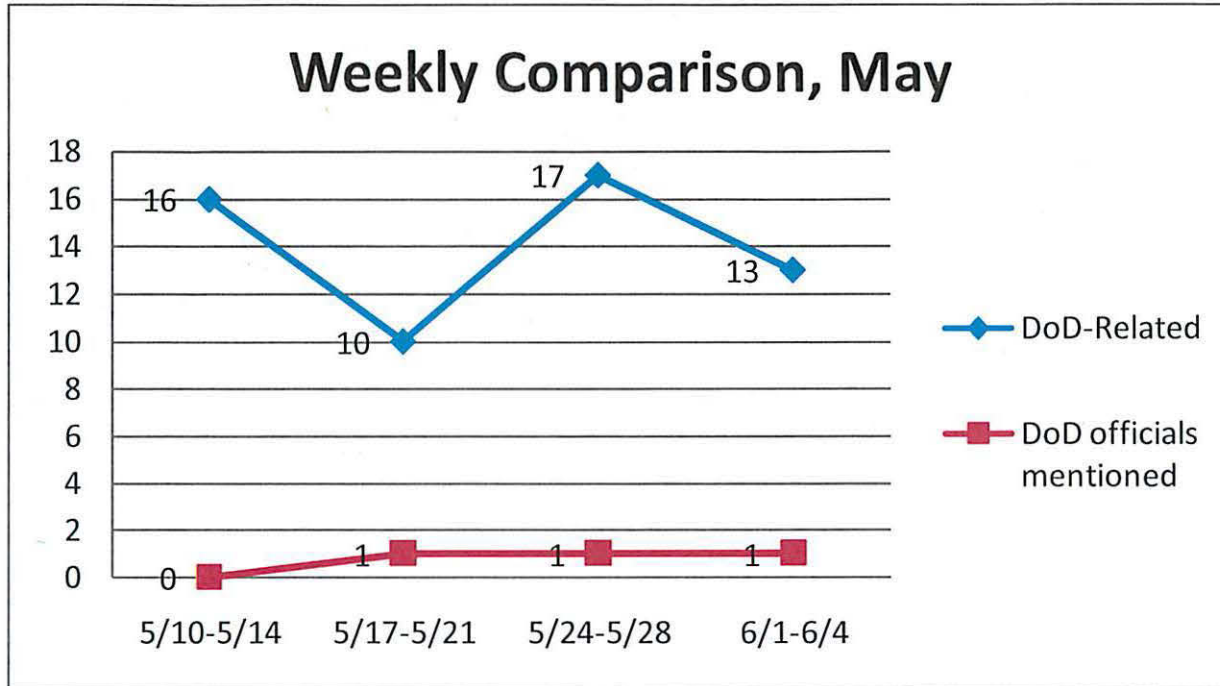
Percentage of DoD-related Headlines (June 1-4)



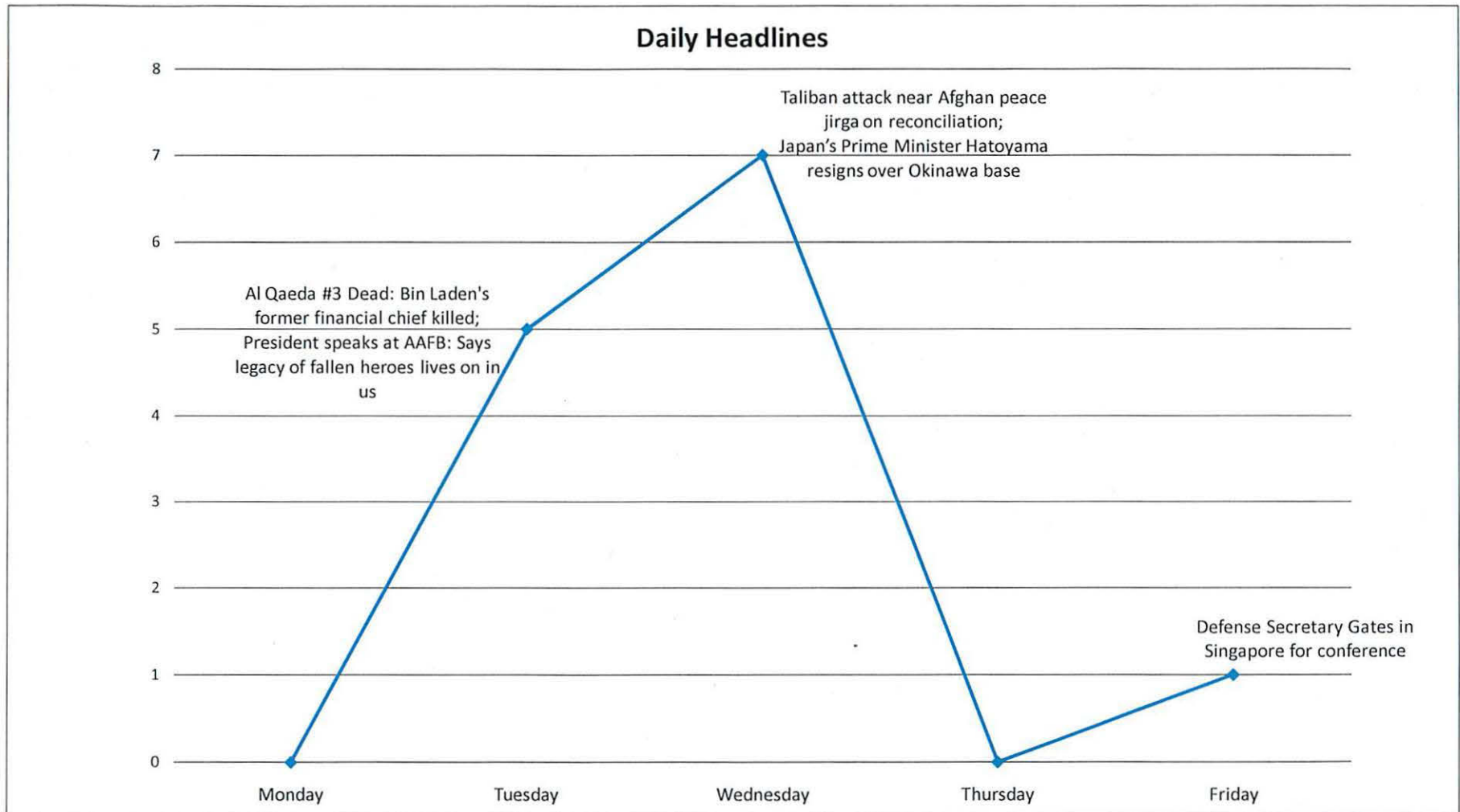
Number of DoD-related Headlines by Outlet



DoD related Headlines: Trends



Breakdown of Headlines by Day



Doc 5

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CIV OSD PA (US)

From:

(b)(6) CTR OSD PA

Sent:

Tuesday, June 08, 2010 6:18 AM

To:

Whitman, Bryan Mr OSD PA; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA (b)(6) CIV OSD PA; Merritt, Roxie T Ms OSD PA (b)(6) COL OSD PA; (b)(6) MS OSD PA; Floyd, Price B Mr OSD PA; Lapan, David COL OSD PA (b)(6) MAJ OSD PA; (b)(6) CIV OSD PA; Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA; Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA; Agarwal, Sumit CIV OSD PA (b)(6) Ms OSD PA; (b)(6) Ms OSD PA;

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(b)(6) MAJ OSD PA
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Subject:

Analyst Commentary Report, 6/1-7

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Analyst Commentary Report | Other Topics June 1-7, 2010

Summary

There was a moderate amount of analyst commentary over the last week. Afghanistan and the Israeli activist flotilla raid generated the most interest. Commentary on Afghanistan was spread out over a number of subtopics. Thomas Ruttig and Caroline Wadhams predicted that the "peace jirga" discussing reconciliation in Afghanistan was likely to fail because it did not involve enough "relevant political forces" or "create a concrete peace plan." They also said that the jirga was merely an attempt by President Karzai to "enhance" his "prestige." In a book review in Foreign Affairs, Seth Jones urged the coalition to emphasize a local approach to governance. Anthony Cordesman said that reporting on the capacity of Afghan forces has been exaggerated, while Anne Marlow warned that the strategy in Afghanistan is really just a "set of tactics," Washington has failed to prove that it "takes good governance seriously," and President Karzai "has no vision his country's future." Robert Haddick cautioned that further reports of Afghan corruption could lead to weakening U.S. domestic support for the war. Bruce Riedel said the killing of Al Qaeda's third in command represents "a significant but not fatal setback" for the group, and proves the worth of using drones, although they are only "one tool in a broader diplomatic and military offensive."

Commenting on the U.S.-Israeli relationship in the wake of Israel's deadly raid on the Gaza activist flotilla, analysts agreed that the costs of friendship between the two countries is becoming too high, and they urged Washington to pressure Tel-Aviv into making better strategic decisions. Other defense-related topics that produced discussion included the National Security Strategy's emphasis on the economic constraints faced by the defense budget; the role of the Marine Corps; the resignation of Japan's prime minister over the relocation of Futenma Air Station and the future of the U.S.-Japan alliance; and the post-election fallout in Iraq.

Analysis appeared in the following major outlets: AFP, AP, Foreign Affairs, ForeignPolicy.com, Los Angeles Times, New York Times, Reuters, Washington Post, and Wall Street Journal.

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ANALYST COMMENTARY REPORT | OTHER TOPICS

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Analyst Commentary

Afghanistan

- **Thomas Ruttig (Afghan Analysts Network), ForeignPolicy.com, 6/2:** The Peace Jirga that began today in Kabul, will fail its declared main aim: To establish a real national consensus on talks with the Taliban. There are too many relevant political forces absent -- and those who are in attendance are massively monitored and manipulated. The jirga does not bring an end -- or at least a reduction -- of violence closer.
 - Facing a general perplexity when it comes to Afghanistan, the Western governments are all too ready to be duped by Karzai's big shows -- be they elections or jirgas. Karzai taking the lead is a prerequisite for exiting the Afghan quagmire into which they have helped to manoeuvre the country themselves. Where Karzai is leading to -- and what really is stirring in the big jirga pot -- seems to be of secondary concern under these circumstances. The reaction of the West will show whether Karzai again can mingle through with his façade democracy.
- **Caroline Wadhams (CAP), ForeignPolicy.com 6/4:** After all of the speeches, tweeting, and media coverage of the jirga, it is difficult to believe that Afghanistan is any closer to peace. The jirga itself was not a genuine attempt to engage Afghanistan's stakeholders or to create a concrete peace plan. While reports indicate that the discussions were lively and unrestricted within the breakout sessions, the jirga was not sufficiently inclusive, thereby failing to create true national consensus or provide legitimacy to a peace plan. While the 1,600 delegates came from all

over Afghanistan, the majority were reportedly handpicked by Karzai and his allies, with political rivals and civil society activists largely excluded from the process. Moreover, representatives of the main insurgent factions (Afghan Taliban, the Haqqani network and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-i-Islami) were left out.

- These recommendations largely echo the details of the Karzai plan (except for the final two), which remains a fundamentally flawed framework for peace. The plan avoids tackling the political grievances that drive the insurgency, and instead moves from the premise that economic factors are the primary drivers for insurgent recruitment and that insurgents can be co-opted through financial incentives. This flies in the face of numerous assessments of the insurgency that indicate that fighters join the insurgency for more complex reasons than job opportunities. Many have joined due to their anger with the Afghan government, which they perceive as corrupt, illegitimate, and predatory. In addition, the plan utilizes the government figures perceived by the insurgency to be corrupt and abusive as the main interlocutors in the reintegration process. It also relies on weak community authorities to implement reintegration, lacks clarity on who is eligible for reintegration and ignores the organizational coherence of the insurgency itself.
 - With just three brief days of meetings, an unrepresentative assembly, and only able to issue non-binding recommendations, the jirga gave little serious scrutiny to the Karzai plan, nor did it attempt to provide meaningful alternatives. The real objective instead was to enhance Karzai's prestige before the international community and maintain their support. With no meaningful domestic checks on his policies, the process demonstrated again that the international community remains Karzai's most important constituency, not the Afghan people. Karzai is relying on the fact that we aren't paying too much attention to the details. Unless we start asking -- and empowering a wider range of Afghan actors to ask for themselves -- tougher questions about how to achieve a sustainable security in Afghanistan, it's hard to see how this session's ringing endorsements of peace will be borne out in actual changes in policy and practice.
- **Seth Jones (RAND), Foreign Affairs, 6/3:** Afghan social and cultural realities make it impossible to neglect local leaders, since they hold much of the power today. The old monarchy's model is useful for today's Afghanistan. It combined top-down efforts from the central government in urban areas with bottom-up efforts to engage tribes and other communities in rural areas. The central government has an important role to play. National army and police forces can be critical in crushing revolts, conducting offensive actions against militants, and helping adjudicate tribal disputes when they occur. But the local nature of power in the country makes it virtually impossible to build a strong central government capable of establishing security and delivering services in much of rural Afghanistan -- at least over the next several decades. Afghans have successfully adopted this model in the past, and they can do so again today.
 - **Anthony Cordesman (CSIS), Agence France Presse, 6/7:** "The system deliberately exaggerated the combat capacity of Afghan troops, and it disguised the true level of attrition and desertion," said Anthony Cordesman, of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.
 - **Anne Marlowe (Hudson Institute), Wall Street Journal, 6/3:** Mr. Karzai has no vision of his country's future. But he's adept at playing off all the actors, including the U.S., against each other in the hope he will be the only one left standing. His strange lack of urgency about the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan, according to Abdullah Abdullah, the leader of the Afghan democratic opposition, stems from his underlying belief that the U.S. decision to gradually withdraw next summer is a bluff. Many Afghans think the U.S. is there for ulterior motives (Afghanistan's small oil and gas reserves, coal, taking Afghan farmland) and will stay forever.
 - I've seen our military do what the Field Manual says is right over the course of six embeds from the summer of 2007 onward, long before Gen. McChrystal took command on June 15, 2009. I've seen successes at the local and even provincial level -- but nothing that has lasted even a year. In nearly every province and district of Regional Command East and Regional Command South, the security situation is either the same as it was in 2007 or significantly worse. The reason is that counterinsurgency is a set of tactics, not a strategy. It tells you how to persuade the population to embrace a good government, but it can't make a government acceptable to the people.

- Anywhere counterinsurgency has worked there has been a good government in place. The Karzai government has become more egregiously corrupt and incompetent in the last three or four years. Fraud in the Aug. 20, 2009, election soured large segments of the population on the government and even the democratic process. Cynicism has replaced hope among young people, and conspiracy theories about American motives have gained ground.
- Now Mr. Karzai and American leaders are pushing negotiations with the Taliban, a terrible idea for many reasons, practical and moral. It's part of the same confusion of process with vision that we're seeing from American leaders. Mr. Karzai and the Taliban aren't the only alternatives in Afghanistan. The U.S. has stupidly refused to show the Afghans that it takes good governance seriously. Talking about the "war of perceptions" is not enough. Washington needs a political strategy before it, and the Afghan people, lose.
- **Robert Haddick (Foreign Policy), Small Wars Journal Blog, 6/7:** One conclusion we might be able to draw from Filkins' article is that the Taliban are not overly concerned about ISAF's strategy. Having influence with the Afghan logistics and security firms, the Taliban are opting for the moment to take the bribes and allow the convoys to pass. If the coalition's military pressure on the Taliban became painful enough, we would expect to see a different Taliban calculation, with more attacks on the convoys, perhaps enough to constrain ISAF operations. If this conclusion is true, it would reveal a broader point – that the Taliban retain the initiative and retain the ability to regulate not only their own operations but ISAF's as well.
 - More importantly, Filkins' story has the potential to damage political support for the war inside the U.S. As stories such as this reinforce the impression (true or not) that the war in Afghanistan is descending into murky corruption, more of the public is likely to throw up its hands in disgust.
 - Murky corruption, side deals, tangled relationships, and the power of money are all integral elements of irregular warfare. After a decade of renewed experience, many U.S. soldiers are very good at the game. But what remains unknown is whether all of America is ready for the murky deals that irregular warfare requires. America's adversaries don't think so, which is why America has found itself on this playing field.
- **Bruce Riedel (Brookings), ForeignPolicy.com, 6/2:** The death of Mustafa Ahmed Mohammad Uthman Abu al-Yazid, also known as Sheikh Saeed al-Masri, al Qaeda's operational commander in Afghanistan, in a drone attack in Pakistan last month is a significant but not fatal setback for the group – and another sign that the Obama administration's stepped-up pressure is having a real impact and disrupting the group's activities. Al Qaeda announced his death in a message released on May 31 – and though the terrorist group is hurting, it is likely far from being on the ropes.
 - Thus, though Yazid's death is a significant scalp, both bin Laden and Zawahiri are still very much active. The drones will not defeat al Qaeda by themselves. Nor are they intended to; Obama's strategy uses them as one tool in a broader diplomatic and military offensive. But this campaign, which is showing signs of progress, has a long way to go yet.

Israel

- **James Dobbins (RAND), Los Angeles Times, 6/2:** "The costs of alignment with Israel are becoming ever more apparent, and the benefits are becoming harder to identify," said James Dobbins, who was an envoy for both the Clinton and George W. Bush administrations and now heads Rand Corp.'s International Security and Defense Policy Center.
- **Anthony Cordesman (CSIS), Wall Street Journal, 6/2:** Many defense analysts questioned the tactics. "Relying on commando raids means that you are relying on people who are involved in aggressive tactics. They are not thinking of political fallout or diplomatic risk," said Anthony Cordesman, a military analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.
- **Anthony Cordesman (CSIS), CSIS.org, 6/2:** The depth of America's moral commitment does not justify or excuse actions by an Israeli government that unnecessarily make Israel a strategic liability when it should remain an asset. It does not mean that the United States should extend support to an Israeli government when that government fails to credibly pursue peace with its neighbors. It does not mean that the United States has the slightest interest in supporting Israeli settlements in the West Bank, or that the United States should take a hard-

line position on Jerusalem that would effectively make it a Jewish rather than a mixed city. It does not mean that the United States should be passive when Israel makes a series of major strategic blunders—such as persisting in the strategic bombing of Lebanon during the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict, escalating its attack on Gaza long after it had achieved its key objectives, embarrassing the U.S. president by announcing the expansion of Israeli building programs in east Jerusalem at a critical moment in U.S. efforts to put Israeli-Palestinian peace talks back on track, or sending commandos to seize a Turkish ship in a horribly mismanaged effort to halt the “peace flotilla” going to Gaza.

- It is time Israel realized that it has obligations to the United States, as well as the United States to Israel, and that it become far more careful about the extent to which it test the limits of U.S. patience and exploits the support of American Jews. This does not mean taking a single action that undercuts Israeli security, but it does mean realizing that Israel should show enough discretion to reflect the fact that it is a tertiary U.S. strategic interest in a complex and demanding world.
- The United States does not need unnecessary problems in one of the most troubled parts of the world, particularly when Israeli actions take a form that does not serve Israel’s own strategic interests. This Israeli government in particular needs to realize that as strong as U.S.-Israel ties may be, it is time to return to the kind of strategic realism exemplified by leaders like Yitzhak Rabin. No aspect of what happened this week off the coast of Gaza can be blamed on Israeli commandos or the Israel Defense Forces. Israel’s prime minister and defense minister had full warning about the situation, and they knew the flotilla was deliberately designed as a political provocation to capture the attention of the world’s media in the most negative way possible. They personally are responsible for what happened, and they need to show far more care and pragmatism in the future.
- **Max Boot (CFR), Wall Street Journal, 6/2:** As it does too often, Israel took a narrow military operational approach to what is a broader strategic problem. Hamas, Hezbollah and other terrorist groups are conducting a skillful “information war” that is making Israel a pariah state in the international community. Israel, like the United States and other democratic nations, is at a severe disadvantage trying to combat a ruthless foe willing to sacrifice its own people to score propaganda points.
 - There are no perfect counter-tactics available, but whenever Israel does use military force it needs to be more aware of the political ramifications. That awareness appeared to be lacking during the botched 2006 war against Hezbollah -- and in the boarding of the Gaza flotilla.
 - One wonders if it wouldn’t have been possible for Israeli agents to sabotage the ships before they left port so that this incident would never have occurred? Or failing that, to allow the ships to be off-loaded in Gaza and then disable them so as to prevent any further trips.
 - That is only speculation from afar. Neither I nor any other outsider can know all the factors that went into Israeli planning. But, whatever the intent, the outcome was a fiasco that Israel doesn’t need when its relations with the United States, its most important (and virtually sole) ally, are already at a low point.
- **Daniel Levy (NAF), New York Times, 6/6:** “America has three choices. Either say, it’s politically too hot a potato to touch, and just pay the consequences in the rest of the world. Or try to force through a peace deal between Israelis and Palestinians, so that the Palestinian grievance issue is no longer a driving force or problem.” The third choice, he said, “is for America to say, we can’t solve it, but we can’t pay the consequences, so we will distance ourselves from Israel. That way America would no longer be seen, as it has been this week, as the enabler of excesses of Israeli misbehavior.”
 - Unsurprisingly, Mr. Levy advocates the second choice. But he warns that the third may become more palatable to Americans if Mr. Netanyahu’s government stays on its present course.
- **Ken Adelman, Washington Post, 6/6:** Nonetheless, as Israel’s best if not only real friend, we should “pause and reflect” together.
 - That would reveal Israel to be adept at the tactical and (most of the time) operational levels. It’s at the strategic level that it fails -- miserably, and to all our misery.
 - Most critical to Israel are the United States and Turkey. Yet one tactical move after another -- whether on housing announcements, or settlement agreements, or ship boardings -- have bitterly alienated both the United States and Turkey. Israeli leaders make it hard to be Israel’s friend nowadays.

National Security Strategy

- **Lawrence Korb (CAP), Reuters, 6/4:** "I think this will help (his agenda), particularly in dealing with the deficit problem," said Lawrence Korb, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, a Washington-based think-tank.
 - "He is laying the foundation for an argument that 'as part of our deficit reduction I have got to reduce defense spending and this will make us safer'," said Korb,
- **Reginald Dale (CSIS), Reuters, 6/4:** "It affects the whole image of the United States and of U.S. power around the world if the U.S. is heading toward becoming an economic basket case," said Reginald Dale, senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think-tank.
 - "If you owe all this money you become less independent in the broader sense because you have to worry about where you are going to raise the next loan," he said.
- **Gary Schmitt (AEI) and Thomas Donnelly (AEI), Weekly Standard, 6/7:** The secretary—along with the Obama administration—wants Americans to believe there is no choice but to cut the defense budget given economic and fiscal realities. Just as there is no crying in baseball, however, there are no inevitabilities in politics. The administration is indeed squeezing defense spending more and more tightly, but that is a product of decisions made and policies chosen. They can and should be revisited.
 - Seen from this perspective, it should come as no surprise that the National Intelligence Council's *Global Trends 2025* report, reflecting the broad consensus across the U.S. intelligence community, concluded that the demand for American security guarantees would only rise in the future. What the Obama administration is creating is a gap between resources and strategy so significant that it will be impossible for the United States to meet those demands.
 - The just-released Obama National Security Strategy reflects a drift toward a quite different approach, however. While it asserts that "there should be no doubt: the United States of America will continue to underwrite global security," it proceeds immediately to sigh, "We must recognize that no one nation—however powerful—can meet global challenges alone."
 - But rather than have an honest debate over grand strategy, the administration is pursuing its vision by consigning the discussion of the defense budget to the narrow band of our country's financial health, as though our economic problems could be solved by reining in our supposed "imperial overstretch." But that is false. Defense spending is not the reason America's fiscal house is in disorder, and cutting defense could only be at best a marginal palliative.
 - Undermining America's ability to be the primary guarantor of global security, moreover, will create the conditions for greater competition among states and a more chaotic international environment. And it will inevitably lead the United States, for want of military capacity, to put off addressing security challenges until they became more difficult and costly to deal with.
 - Gates's speech at the Eisenhower Library was off the mark in many respects. The United States never became the "garrison state" many feared at the start of the Cold War, and even in the wake of the attacks of 9/11, the re-balancing of civil liberties and security has been minimal. Nor is the "military-industrial complex" a real problem. Defense companies now amount to less than 2 percent of Standard & Poor's total market capitalization for the country's 500 largest companies—hardly the dark and dangerous behemoth many on the left imagine.
 - But Gates was right in one respect: The nation is at a critical juncture when it comes to defense resources. The problem is the administration's response. If Obama and his team prevail, they will have created a spending dynamic that puts the United States on the same road as the countries of Europe, where domestic welfare crowds out all but minimal spending for defense. America's role in the world will decline, not because we have tried to do too much abroad, but because we have chosen to do too much at home. For less than a nickel on the dollar of U.S. GDP, we can maintain our preeminence in the world and, with prudent taxing and spending at home, revive America's economy as well. This shouldn't be an either/or choice. It hasn't been in the past, and America and the world have been the better for it.

Marine Corps

- **Loren Thompson (Lexington Institute), Associated Press, 6/3:** "The United States' Marine Corps has been conducting amphibious operations for 200 years. It's a unique capability and there is no analytical basis for arguing that capability won't be needed in the future," said Loren Thompson, a defense analyst for the Lexington Institute. "Everyone we are likely to fight in the future is going to be close to the sea ... like Iran, like North Korea, like Vietnam, like almost any place you can mention other than Afghanistan."
 - And he added: "If the EFV is canceled, many marines will die in the future for lack of an adequate vehicle."
- **James Jay Carafano (Heritage), Associated Press, 6/3:** Defense analyst James Carafano of the Heritage Foundation said the United States cannot take its military strength for granted.
 - "Gates has got the brilliant idea that we can waltz in everywhere we go. You know what? The enemies are not going to let us into the ports and we're going to be sitting there like in the 1920s, rowing ashore with a row boat," he said. "I think Gates is incredibly short sighted. The Marines are not idiots. They are not doing this simply because they have always done this. We are a great power, but if you don't have amphibious capabilities, you are not a great power anymore."

Civil-Military Relations

- **Peter W. Singer (Brookings), Brookings.edu, 6/1:** Titles 10 and 50 were meant to be something different, and that difference remains very important both politically and legally. Double-hatting the NSA and military Cyber Command has raised deep concerns about the militarization not just of cyberspace, but of an intelligence agency's core function of collection and analysis. By contrast, double-hatting the CIA into an operational air war command means its director (a former congressman from California) and his general counsels now handle not only weapons of war, but also issues of war, such as operational concept and strategy, rules of engagement, etc., that they do not have the background or mandate to perform. Indeed, if we are honest, the CIA has created the 21st century equivalent of the equally not-so-covert fleet of repainted B-26 bombers it sent to the Bay of Pigs invasion — and we remember how that one turned out.
 - And finally double-hatting civilian contractors into government jobs has repeatedly led not only to money gone missing and embarrassing episodes of contractors gone wild, but also places the contractors themselves into roles of war for which their legal status remains murky.
 - That we aren't ready for these dilemmas isn't surprising, as this strange morphing of uniformed military, civilian intelligence and private business roles seems to be driven more by bureaucratic expedience rather than strategic planning. We double-hatted the NSA and military's Cyber Command because, well, they were the only ones who were organized already. We double-hatted the CIA into a war-fighting command because, well, no one wanted to have a public debate about the use of force in a third country, when we were already fighting in two. And we have double-hatted contractors into all these national security roles because, well, it avoids harder decisions about shifting roles and missions. But the result is an ever-building thicket of legal and policy questions that we'll need either to disentangle or simply cut, à la the Gordian knot. Some have argued for the former, that we should junk the old laws. Washington Post columnist David Ignatius, for example, has cited government officials arguing for the creation of a new "Title 60" that paints over the old divisions of Title 10 and 50.
 - That may work, but it ignores the fundamental point that someone wearing two hats has a balancing act in identity and status that usually leaves one of the roles either falling by the wayside or hidden under the other.
 - Call me old fashioned, but I prefer the method of one hat to one person, where warriors fight wars, rather than gather intelligence; intelligence officers gather intelligence, rather than fight wars; and contractors work in the workplace, rather than the battle space.

Japan

- **Dan Twining (George Marshall Fund), ForeignPolicy.com, 6/2:** First, Hatoyama misread the domestic politics of the U.S.-Japan alliance, which polling shows to have stronger support in Japan than at almost any time in the past. Hatoyama's decline and fall were due in large measure to the crisis in U.S.-Japan relations he helped create by opposing a carefully negotiated plan for the redeployment of American forces on Okinawa. His missteps in

first blowing up the deal -- then after nine painful months coming around to embrace it after inflating the expectations of the Okinawan people and his own party -- put him on the opposite side of both the United States and a still pro-American Japanese public. The good news is that the political logic of maintaining strong U.S.-Japan ties overcame that of running against the U.S. for political gain.

- Second, in a perverse way we may have Kim Jong-Il to thank for this turn of events. North Korea's sinking of the South Korean destroyer *Cheonan* and ensuing threats to bring war to East Asia should South Korea retaliate reminded Japan's leaders and people that they continue to live in a very dangerous neighborhood. Aggressive Chinese naval maneuvers in waters near Japan have also reminded Tokyo that Hatoyama's lofty rhetoric about "East Asian fraternity" has its limits. North Korean and Chinese bullying underscored how potentially risky Japan's alliance dispute with America was, and how necessary it was to move rapidly to repair it by agreeing to the U.S. troop realignment on Okinawa. But Hatoyama's abrupt about-face in securing it only hastened his political downfall.

Iraq

- Anthony Cordesman (CSIS), Associated Press, 6/1: Negotiations likely will stall the government for at least another six weeks, and possibly for months more, said Anthony Cordesman, an Iraq war expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.
 - "This is not going to be quick," Cordesman said after the court ruling was announced. "Given the politics involved, an awful lot of the positions are likely to change. ... It's easy to talk about a national unity government. The real question is whether you can actually build one."

Doc 6

(b)(6)

CIV OSD PA (US)

From:
Sent:
To:

(b)(6) Mr OSD PA
 Friday, June 11, 2010 5:16 PM
 (b)(6) CIV OASN (I&E), OASN (I&E) (b)(6) TC OSD PA; (b)(6)
 (b) Lt Col OASD-PA; (b)(6) TR USCENTCOM CCJ2/JOW; (b)(6)
 MAJ OSD PA; (b)(6) Lt Col OSD PA; (b)(6) CAPT USN IJC; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) Mr OSD PA; (b)(6) MAJ OSD PA; (b)(6) TC OSD PA;
 (b)(6) Ms OSD PA; (b)(6) LTC MIL USA OCPA; (b)(6) Mr OSD PA;
 (b)(6) CIV OSD PA; (b)(6) CIV OSD PA; (b)(6) CIV OSD PA;
 (b)(6) CIV OSD PA; (b)(6) Ms OSD PA; (b)(6) Ms OSD PA;
 Civ USAF SAF/PAO; (b)(6) CDR OSD PA; (b)(6)
 LCDR OSD PA; (b)(6) Ms OSD PA; (b)(6) CIV OSD PR; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) Ms OSD PA; (b)(6) CIV OSD PA; (b)(6) CDR OSD PA;
 Merritt, Roxie T Ms OSD PA; (b)(6) Mr OSD PA; (b)(6) CTR OSD PR;
 (b)(6) SSG MIL USA OCPA; (b)(6) CIV OSD PA; (b)(6)
 Mr OSD PA; (b)(6) Col MIL USAF SAF/PA; (b)(6) Ms OSD PA;
 (b)(6) DMA-Alex; (b)(6) CIV OSD PA; (b)(6) LTC OSD PA;
 (b)(6) CIV OSD PA; (b)(6) MAJ OSD PA; (b)(6) Mr
 OSD PA; (b)(6) Ms OSD PA; (b)(6) Mr OSD PA; (b)(6) Ms OSD PA;
 (b)(6) Mr OSD PA; (b)(6) MAJ OSD PA; (b)(6) LTC USAF IJC;
 (b)(6) Lt Col OSD PA; (b)(6) COL OSD PA; (b)(6) TC OSD
 PA; (b)(6) Col SAF/PAO; (b)(6) CDR MIL USN USCENTCOM
 CCDC/TPSE; RSS - SAF/PAX Research & Assessment; (b)(6) Lt Col
 USJFCOM J7; (b)(6) Mr CIV NG NGB ARNG; (b)(6) CTR USCENTCOM
 CCCI/SC; (b)(6) COL MIL USA OCPA; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) Maj IMA USMC USCENTCOM CCCI/SC; (b)(6) DMA-Alex/ DVI; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) DSCA/LPA; (b)(6) CIV USSOCOM HQ; (b)(6) CIV CHINFO;
 (b)(6) Major; (b)(6) LTC SJS OCJCS PA; (b)(6) CIV
 USJFCOM J7; Crowley, PJ, Asst. Sec.; (b)(6) Major; (b)(6) Maj
 MIL USAF USCENTCOM CCDC/LA; (b)(6) CIV USJFCOM JPASE; (b)(6) Ms.;
 (b)(6) Ms CTR US USA OCPA; (b)(6) COL-0-6, DMA-Alex;
 (b)(6) DMA-Alex; (b)(6) LTC MIL USA OCPA; (b)(6)
 Major; (b)(6) Mr., CIV, OSD-DPMO; (b)(6) CTR USCENTCOM
 CCDC/TPSE; (b)(6) LTCOL USSOCOM HQ; (b)(6) CAPT MIL USN
 USCENTCOM CCCI/A; (b)(6) CAPT (Navy); (b)(6) CTR
 USCENTCOM CCCC/CIG; (b)(6) Cdr.; (b)(6) LT USN USF-I
 Public/Legislative Affairs Officer/CMD GRP; (b)(6) CTR USCENTCOM
 CCDC/TPSE; (b)(6) CIV SD; (b)(6) Lt Col MIL USMC
 USCENTCOM CCCI/O; (b)(6) Col Mil USAF SAF/PA; (b)(6) LCDR;
 (b)(6) CIV CHINFO OI-7, PTGN; (b)(6) Ms CTR USA OCPA;
 McDew, Darren W Maj Gen JCS J5; (b)(6) Ms CIV NG NGB ARNG; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) Major, USMC; (b)(6) CDR, National Guard; (b)(6) DMA-
 Alex/NEWS; (b)(6) Civ SAF/PA; (b)(6) LTC MIL USA OCLL; (b)(6)
 (b) CIV JCS SJS OCJCS PA; (b)(6) Captain (USN-CHINFO); Pittman, Harold E
 RDML MIL USN USCENTCOM CCCI/SC; (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b)(6)
 (b) CIV USJFCOM J00; (b)(6) DMA-Alex/AFRTS-D; (b)(6) MIL JCS
 DOM PACC; (b)(6) LTC; (b)(6) CTR OSD ATL; (b) Col; (b)(6)
 Ms CTR DOD JIEDDO; (b)(6) Ms CTR US USA OCPA; (b)(6) Mr
 CTR USA OCPA; (b)(6) Lt Col/O-5, DMA/AFRTS; (b)(6) Ms CIV DOD
 JIEDDO; (b)(6) LTC; (b)(6) Major; (b)(6) DSCA/LPA; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) LTCOL USSOCOM HQ; (b)(6) CTR, OSD-ATL; (b)(6) MAJ

To: USMC IJC (b)(6) LTC USAF IJC (b)(6) CAPT JCS DOM (b)(6)
 LTC MIL USA OCPA; (b)(6) Mr CIV USAF USCENCOM CCDC/LA (b)(6)
 (b)(6) CIV OSD PA; (b)(6) DMA-Alex/Public Web (b)(6) Mr OSD
 PA; (b)(6) DMA-Alex; (b)(6) DMA-Alex/AFPS; (b)(6) DMA-
 alex/New Media; (b)(6) DMA-Alex/DefenseLINK/AFPS; (b)(6) CIV OSD
 PA; (b)(6) DMA-Alex; (b)(6) CTR OSD PA; (b)(6) CTR OSD PA;
 (b)(6) CTR OSD PA; (b)(6) Mr OSD PA; (b)(6) CTR OSD
 PA; (b)(6) DMA-ALEX/MO; (b)(6) CTR OSD PA; (b)(6) Mr OSD PA;
 (b)(6) CTR OSD PA; (b)(6) Maj OCJCS PA DOM (b)(6)
 LTC MIL USA OSA-OBT (b)(6) LtCol JCS OVJCS (b)(6) Maj (b)(6)
 (b)(6) Mr CIV USA SECARMY; (b)(6) Cdr.; (b)(6)
 Cdr.; CENTCOM CCPA Duty; (b)(6) COL (b)(6) Civ AFPAA; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) LCDR; (b)(6) Maj (b)(6) CIV USJFCOM JPASE; Eder,
 Mari, MG; (b)(6) Ctr SAF/PAX; (b)(6) Maj SAF/PA; (b)(6)
 LTJG CHINFO; (b)(6) GySgt (b)(6) Ctr SAF/PAX; (b)(6)
 Major; (b)(6) CDR CHINFO, OI-5; (b)(6) CIV USJFCOM JPASE;
 Hanley, Paul @ PACOM (b)(6) CDR; (b)(6) Hoehne,
 Stephanie L SES CIV USA OCPA; (b)(6) Ms. (non-lethal weapons center);
 (b)(6) Colonel; (b)(6) COL; Jones, Nathan E RDML; Kirby, John F
 Capt JCS SJS OCJCS PA; (b)(6) LTCOL MIL NG NGB ARNG; (b)(6) Mrs
 CIV USA OCPA; (b)(6) Mr CIV DIA USCENCOM CCJ2/JOW;
 (b)(6) COL USA USSOUTHCOM/SC-CC (L);
 (b)(6) Civ AF/SGL; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) Civ SAF/PAR; (b)(6) CIV USA NORAD USNORTHCOM HQs PA;
 (b)(6) Phillips, Jeffrey E BG OCPA; (b)(6) Civ AF/SGL; (b)(6)
 Col. (b)(6) LCDR CHINFO, OI-31; (b)(6) (with SAF/PA); (b)(6)
 (b) CIV USSOCOM HQ; (b)(6) Lt Col SAF/PAO; (b)(6) Maj USAF; Smith,
 Gregory J RDML USN; (b)(6) LTJG CHINFO, OI-3; (b)(6) CTR
 USJFCOM J7; (b)(6) Captain; (b)(6) LTC MIL USA OCPA; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) Col AF/A2CM; (b)(6) CDR CHINFO, OI-5; TF134 PAO;
 (b)(6) Civ AF/SGL; (b)(6) Col. (b)(6) MGySgt;
 (b)(6) CIV JCS DOM SJS US CENTCOM LNO; (b)(6) CIV USJFCOM
 J00

Subject: World Defense News Update for 06 11 2010
Attachments: World Defense News Update for 06 11 2010a.doc

- Afghanistan/Pakistan:
- . The U.S. and NATO allies acknowledged that progress in the war in Afghanistan was tentative and Gen. McChrystal told alliance ministers that he is confident there will be progress by year's end (heavy coverage, Reuters cited)
 - . Secretary Gates urged allies to contribute resources to accelerate efforts in strengthening Afghan forces (moderate coverage, AP cited)
 - . Local Afghan officials express concern over offensives against the Taliban possibly pushing insurgents to new areas
 - . Missile strikes reportedly killed 15 militants in northwestern Pakistan (moderate coverage, AP cited)
 - . Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari addressed the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and called for greater regional cooperation against terrorism (limited to moderate coverage, Pakistan's The Daily Mail cited)
 - . Pakistani police arrested Taliban militants suspected of planning an attack in Karachi (moderate coverage, AFP cited)

Defense Department:

. Lockheed Martin removed components on the Joint Strike Fighter to "trim 11 pounds and \$1.4 million from each aircraft," but the cuts make it harder for the JSF to withstand a hit from an anti-aircraft weapon. Mr. Michael Gilmore, the DoD's chief weapons tester, recommended to Congress last month "that these features be reinstated" (very limited coverage, Wired.com's Danger Room cited)

Iran:

. The EU is set to boost new UN sanctions against Iran with extra measures, notably in the key energy sector (heavy coverage, AFP cited)
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. Mohammad Javad Larijani, secretary-general of the Iranian High Council for Human Rights, alleges that the U.S. kidnaps and detains Iranians (limited coverage, Reuters cited)

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. A suicide bomber hit a convoy of Humvees and Stryker vehicles in the town of Jalula, killing two Americans and three Iraqis on patrol, in addition to wounded another six American troops (moderate coverage, AP cited)

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. Rioting and ethnic clashes have led to nearly 40 deaths and 600 wounded. Reportedly, the conflict threatens the interim government's viability (heavy coverage, AP cited)

Asia/Pacific:

. Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan warned of the country's debt problem and that it could face a financial crisis similar to the one in Greece (limited to moderate coverage, New York Times cited)
. Burma's junta denied any nuclear intentions and denied working with North Korea on building nuclear capabilities (limited coverage, AFP cited)

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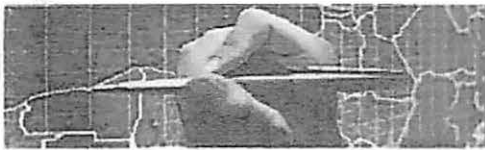
. Israel is setting up an probe to the "Freedom flotilla" raid, which European and U.S. diplomats have been involved in helping set up the inquiry (heavy coverage, Christian Science Monitor cited)

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Piracy:

. Somali pirates released a British flagged ship after a ransom was paid to the pirates (limited coverage, CNN International cited)



WORLD DEFENSE NEWS UPDATE: JUNE 11, 2010 AS OF 1530

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Piracy:

- Somali pirates released a British flagged ship after a ransom was paid to the pirates (*limited coverage, CNN International cited*)

Afghanistan/Pakistan

U.S., NATO urge patience with slow Afghan progress

Reuters | Adam Entous, David Brunnstrom

The United States and its NATO allies acknowledged on Friday that progress in the war in Afghanistan was tentative and that success in the nearly nine-year-old war was not yet assured, appealing for patience.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said the U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan, General Stanley McChrystal, had told alliance ministers at a closed-door meeting in Brussels that he was confident he would be able to show progress by year's end. However, Gates told a news conference that ministers also realized the road ahead would be "long and hard."

NATO: Developments now favor alliance war effort

AP | Anne Gearan, Slobodan Lekic

NATO leaders declared Friday that the alliance had regained the initiative in the Afghan war, promising that the gains could result in a handover of security responsibilities in some parts of the country to local authorities by year's end. U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates urged his alliance counterparts to seize the moment and to provide the resources needed to accelerate efforts to bolster Afghan security forces. NATO wants Afghan troops to replace its forces in the war against the Taliban, thus providing the linchpin of the alliance's exit strategy.

Afghan officials: insurgency growing in southwest

AP | Heidi Vogt

The governing council of a once peaceful province in southwestern Afghanistan has fled to Kabul after the Taliban killed one of their members and threatened the others with death. They fear U.S.-led offensives to the east may simply be pushing insurgents into new areas... A spokesman for U.S. Marines based in Nimroz insists security has improved in the remote province along the border with Iran and Pakistan.

Officials: US missiles kill 15 in NW Pakistan

AP | Rasool Dawar

A volley of U.S. missiles killed 15 alleged militants in an extremist stronghold in northwestern Pakistan on Friday, the second such strike in less than 12 hours, officials said... Six missiles were fired in Friday's attack on a house in a village close to the border, two intelligence officers said. They were not authorized to give their names.

Pakistan can't fight terror alone: President

Pakistan's *The Daily Mail* | unattributed

Reiterating his strong stance to fight militancy, President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday again made it clear that Pakistan will continue to play its role in fight against terrorism urging for greater regional cooperation in this regard. Addressing the 10th summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation here at the Capital of Uzbekistan, President Zardari said the regional countries must also join hands to address the root causes adding that not one single country can counter this global manners.

Pakistan arrests Taliban planning Karachi attacks: officials

AFP | unattributed

Pakistani police said they had arrested two Taliban militants on Friday who were planning "terror attacks" in the prosperous financial hub Karachi. The two members of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) were arrested during a police raid in the Baldia area, senior police official Omar Shahid told AFP... Pistols, explosives and bomb-making accessories had been recovered in the raid, he said. The men were planning to bring a suicide bomber to the city from North Waziristan, but "the arrests foiled their attempts to strike terror in Karachi," Shahid said.

Defense Department

Gajillion-Dollar Stealth Fighter, Now Easier to Shoot Down

Danger Room (*Wired.com* blog) | Noah Shachtman

So Lockheed decided "to trim 11 pounds and \$1.4 million from each aircraft by removing shutoff valves for engine coolant and hydraulic lines and five of six dry bay fire-suppression systems," according to InsideDefense.com. But those cuts made it much harder for the Joint Strike Fighter to withstand a hit from an anti-aircraft weapon... Michael Gilmore, the Defense Department's chief weapons tester, recommended in a letter to Congress last month "that these features be reinstated." The amount saved by trimming these components, he noted, would be more than made up, if just two aircraft were lost.

Iran

EU set to target Iran with extra sanctions: diplomats

AFP | *unattributed*

The European Union is set to boost new UN sanctions against Iran, over its nuclear programme, with extra measures, notably in the key energy sector, diplomats said Friday... If a draft text, seen by AFP, is endorsed by the 27 EU nations Europe will go further, particularly in "key sectors of the oil and gas industry with prohibition of new investment, transfers of technologies, equipment and services".

Ahmadinejad calls UN resolution 'worthless paper'

AP | *Elaine Kurtenbach*

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Friday dismissed new sanctions aimed at punishing his country for failing to halt part of its nuclear program, calling the latest U.N. resolution "a worthless paper." During a visit to China's financial hub of Shanghai, Ahmadinejad also accused the United States of hypocrisy for leading the drive to censure Iran and accused President Barack Obama of pursuing the same "bullying" tactics of his predecessor, George W. Bush.

Iran says U.S. kidnaps, illegally detains Iranians

Reuters | *Stephanie Nebehay*

Mohammad Javad Larijani, secretary-general of the Iranian High Council for Human Rights, said U.S. authorities were holding six or seven Iranians, including a nuclear scientist who disappeared a year ago. "The United States should be accountable for kidnapping our citizens here and there," Larijani told reporters in Geneva, a day after addressing the U.N. Human Rights Council.

Iraq

Bomb kills 2 Americans, 3 Iraqis on joint patrol

AP | *Adam Schreck*

A suicide attacker in an explosives-rigged car bombed U.S. and Iraqi forces on joint patrol Friday, killing two Americans and at least three Iraqis.

The bomber struck the convoy of Humvees and Stryker vehicles in the town of Jalula, about 80 miles (125 kilometers) northeast of Baghdad, not far from the Iranian border, according to Iraqi officials. The U.S. military, which confirmed the casualties, said another six American troops were wounded in the attack.

Kyrgyzstan

39 killed, nearly 600 wounded in Kyrgyz rioting

AP | *Leila Saralayeva, Peter Leonard*

Mobs of armed men torched Uzbek neighborhoods in southern Kyrgyzstan on Friday in ethnic clashes that officials said left at least 39 people dead and nearly 600 wounded. A state of emergency was declared in the Central Asian nation that hosts U.S. and Russian military bases. The rioting in Osh, the country's second-largest city, is the heaviest violence since former President Kurmanbek Bakiyev was toppled in a bloody uprising in April and fled the country. The intensity of the conflict, which pits ethnic Kyrgyz against minority Uzbeks, appeared to have taken authorities by surprise and threw the fragile interim government's prospects for survival into doubt.

Asia/Pacific

Japan Refocuses on Debt Problems

New York Times | Hiroko Tabuchi

Japan could face a financial crisis of Greek proportions if it does not tackle its colossal debt, the nation's new prime minister said Friday, signaling a renewed focus on rebuilding Tokyo's finances amid global jitters over governments' balance sheets.

Myanmar denies nuclear cooperation with North Korea

AFP | *unattributed*

Myanmar's ruling junta said Friday it had no intention of building an atomic bomb, brushing aside Western concerns about possible nuclear cooperation with North Korea. The denial came after the United States raised concerns about "growing military ties" following a report that Myanmar had begun a nuclear weapons programme with Pyongyang's help. In a statement carried by state media, Myanmar's foreign ministry said: "These reports were baseless accusations that are politically motivated."

Israel

Israel to set up inquiry on 'Freedom Flotilla' raid

Christian Science Monitor | Joshua Mitnick

Israel was expected to appoint an inquiry panel on Friday to investigate its fatal intercept last week of the Gaza-bound "Freedom Flotilla," responding to pressure from allies abroad to account for the violence that sparked an international uproar. Nine of the more than 700 pro-Palestinian activists who challenged Israel's naval blockade of Gaza were killed in the raid. Both US and European diplomats have been involved in helping Israel set up the inquiry.

Russia

Russia Presses For French Warship Technology

AP | Angela Charlton

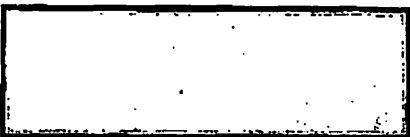
Russian decision-makers pressed France on Friday for access to warship technology, while France's biggest company sought a bigger chunk of Russia's oil and gas business. No breakthrough announcements were made on either front, but Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin looked confident of France's economic loyalty during a trip to Paris dominated by talk of trade. Putin and French President Nicolas Sarkozy agreed that a pending deal to build four French Mistral-class warships for Russia's navy would be a "50-50" project, according to Sarkozy's office. The project, what would be the largest military deal between a NATO country and Moscow, has worried Russia's neighbors such as Georgia and some of France's NATO partners.

Piracy

UK-flagged ship released by pirates after ransom drop

CNN International online | *CNN wire staff*

The European Union's naval force patrolling the waters off Somalia announced that a British-flagged ship was released Friday after a ransom drop was made to the pirate gang holding the merchant vessel. The amount of the ransom was not announced. The hijacked vessel -- MV Asian Glory -- had been held near Garacad on the Somalian coast, the European Union Naval Force in Somalia said in a news release.



(b)(6)

CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b)(6) CTR OSD PA on behalf of Media Analysis
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2013 4:08 PM
To: Warren, Steven H COL OSD PA; Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA; Wood, Carl R Mr OSD PA; (b)(6) CIV OSD PA; Little, George CIV OSD PA; (b)(6) CIV OSD PA; (b)(6) CIV OSD PA; (b)(6) Ms OSD PA; Bardorf, Rene CIV OSD PA; (b)(6) Col OSD PA; (b)(6) COL OSD PA; (b)(6) CIV OSD PA; (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) Mr. OSD PA; Lapan, David A COL USMC JS OCJCS (US) OSD PA CNS Distro Group
Subject: Here is the News Hawk for March 29 2013
Attachments: News Hawk for March 29 2013.docx

Note: Today's news has focused on the North Korea threat, the gay marriage debate, the hospitalization of Nelson Mandela, a dentist accused of exposing patients to HIV and/or hepatitis, and a slur uttered by Rep. Don Young (R-AK).

DoD/Military

- The Hill: "A group of bipartisan senators from states with high veteran populations told Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel to help address the backlog of veterans' disability claims."
- A Harvard University study said the Iraq and Afghanistan wars will cost the United States between \$4-6 trillion in the long term, constraining the government's budget for decades to come. (AFP)
- Continued - but light - coverage on the 40th anniversary of the troop withdrawal from Vietnam, including stories of a few of the people who experienced a part of the Vietnam War firsthand. (AP cited)
- The office of Rep. Matt Cartwright (D-PA) told the Times-Tribune of Scranton that civilian employees at a northeastern Pennsylvania military base will have fewer unpaid furlough days in the next six months than they were previously told under automatic federal spending cuts that took effect March 1.

Afghanistan/Pakistan

- Washington Post profiled Abdullah Amini, "one of the longest-serving Americans at NATO's military headquarters and the only person to have advised the last seven U.S. commanders."
- Ten people were killed in Peshawar, Pakistan when a suicide bomber attacked a paramilitary police convoy. (Reuters)

Africa

- The Red Cross in the Central African Republic said it had found some 78 bodies in the streets of the capital Bangui since it fell to rebels last weekend. (AFP)

Cyber

- A quarter of companies that are members of the American Chamber of Commerce in China have been victims of data theft, a report by the group said Friday, "amid growing vitriol between Beijing and Washington over the threat of cyber attacks." (Reuters)

East Asia

- AP: "Even as North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is issuing midnight battle cries to his generals to ready their rockets, he and his million-man army know full well that a successful missile strike on U.S. targets would be suicide for the outnumbered, out-powered North Korean regime."
- AFP: "Russia warned Friday that a flare-up in tensions between North Korea and the United States could spin out of control, urging all sides involved in the standoff to refrain from muscle-flexing."

Iran

Iran said Friday it is hopeful "forward movement" continues during talks with major world powers over its controversial nuclear drive, Iranian state media reported. (AFP)

Iraq

A series of car bombs near Shiite mosques targeting worshippers attending weekly prayers killed at least 18 people on Friday. (light coverage, AFP cited)

Israel

Turkey and Israel will meet next week for talks on compensation for the families of victims of a deadly 2010 flotilla raid for which Israel apologized last week. (AFP)

AFP: "Palestinians and Israeli forces clashed in the West Bank city Hebron on Friday as Israel deployed significant security reinforcements ahead of a day of demonstrations."

Syria

Rebels reportedly took control of the city of Dael in southern Syria in what the Washington Post called "a notable victory for the opposition in a conflict that has left at least 70,000 Syrians dead."

Reuters: "Turkish authorities said they had seized thousands of guns in a warehouse by the Syrian border, and a local news agency said the weapons had been destined for Turkey's war-torn neighbor."

Israel could withstand any attack involving Syrian chemical weapons, Major-General Eyal Eisenberg said Friday, though he added it was improbable that Damascus would order such a strike. (Reuters)

Terrorism

AP: "Bulgaria says it won't initiate a push to declare Hezbollah a terror group after last summer's bombing that killed five Israeli tourists and a Bulgarian bus driver."

The News Hawk
Friday, March 29, 2013 - 1600



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East Asia

- AP: "Even as North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is issuing midnight battle cries to his generals to ready their rockets, he and his million-man army know full well that a successful missile strike on U.S. targets would be suicide for the outnumbered, out-powered North Korean regime."
- AFP: "Russia warned Friday that a flare-up in tensions between North Korea and the United States could spin out of control, urging all sides involved in the standoff to refrain from muscle-flexing."

Iran

- Iran said Friday it is hopeful "forward movement" continues during talks with major world powers over its controversial nuclear drive, Iranian state media reported. (AFP)

Iraq

- A series of car bombs near Shiite mosques targeting worshippers attending weekly prayers killed at least 18 people on Friday. (light coverage, AFP cited)

Israel

- Turkey and Israel will meet next week for talks on compensation for the families of victims of a deadly 2010 flotilla raid for which Israel apologized last week. (AFP)
- AFP: "Palestinians and Israeli forces clashed in the West Bank city Hebron on Friday as Israel deployed significant security reinforcements ahead of a day of demonstrations."

Syria

- Rebels reportedly took control of the city of Dael in southern Syria in what the *Washington Post* called "a notable victory for the opposition in a conflict that has left at least 70,000 Syrians dead."

- *Reuters*: “Turkish authorities said they had seized thousands of guns in a warehouse by the Syrian border, and a local news agency said the weapons had been destined for Turkey’s war-torn neighbor.”
- Israel could withstand any attack involving Syrian chemical weapons, Major-General Eyal Eisenberg said Friday, though he added it was improbable that Damascus would order such a strike. (*Reuters*)

Terrorism

- *AP*: “Bulgaria says it won’t initiate a push to declare Hezbollah a terror group after last summer’s bombing that killed five Israeli tourists and a Bulgarian bus driver.”

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DOD/U.S. Military

Senators tell Hagel that VA backlog is 'simply unacceptable'

The Hill | *Ramsey Cox*

A group of bipartisan senators from states with high veteran populations told Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel to help address the backlog of veterans' disability claims.

Sens. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), John Cornyn (R-Texas), Bill Nelson (D-Fla.), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) sent a letter to Hagel on Thursday, requesting that he work with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) so that veterans with disabilities don't have to wait years to receive their benefits.

"We represent states with some of the largest populations of veterans in the country," the senators wrote. "Tragically, these men and women are also waiting years to access the benefits they need and deserve — 449 days on average in New York, 506 days in Los Angeles, and 439 days in Waco, according to VA. This is simply unacceptable."

The senators said that they believe some of the delay is caused because the Department of Defense takes too long to send military and medical records of the disabled veteran to the VA.

"We are concerned that lengthy delays by the Department of Defense in gathering and sharing military service records with VA are contributing to lengthy processing timeframes and, in turn, to the increase in the disability claims backlog," the letter stated. "This is troubling particularly because such delays can prevent veterans from obtaining the benefits they deserve."

The letter cited a Government Accountability Office report saying a change on how records are transferred, which the Defense and Veterans Affairs departments have said they will implement, would reduce the waiting time by 60 to 90 days. But the lawmakers said that is still too much of a delay for those waiting more than a year.

"These are important steps, but it is clear that more must be done to improve the timeliness of record exchanges and to expand cooperation between VA and the Department of Defense," the senators wrote. "As such, we ask that you affirm your commitment to eliminating the disability backlog through continued and greater collaboration with VA."

Read more: <http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/senate/291009-senators-tell-hagel-that-va-backlog-is-simply-unacceptable#ixzz2OxT2hYdj>

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Iraq, Afghan wars to cost US up to \$6 trillion: study

Agence France Presse | *Unattributed*

The Iraq and Afghanistan wars will cost the United States between \$4-6 trillion in the long term, constraining the government's budget for decades to come, a study said.

Harvard University scholar Linda Bilmes concluded that the United States will face increasing costs to care for an estimated 2.5 million veterans, and to pay down debt incurred by borrowing to pay for the wars.

"As a consequence of these wartime spending choices, the United States will face constraints in funding investments in personnel and diplomacy, research and development and new military initiatives," said the report released Thursday.

"In short, there will be no peace dividend, and the legacy of Iraq and Afghanistan wars will be costs that persist for decades," it said.

Bilmes, who served in government under former president Bill Clinton, calculated that the United States has already spent nearly \$2 trillion directly for the two wars launched by former president George W. Bush.

But Bilmes' study said the biggest cost would be medical care and disability benefits, saying that more than half of the 1.56 million troops discharged from service have already been granted benefits for life.

Bilmes, who called the numbers unprecedented, said that costs will climb over decades. She wrote that the peak year for disability payments over World War I, which ended in 1918, was 1969 as veterans became elderly.

"The magnitude of future expenditures will be even higher for the current conflicts, which have been characterized by much higher survival rates, more generous benefits and new, expensive medical treatments," she said.

Bilmes also factored in debt, finding no precedent for a time when the United States went to war while lowering taxes, with the possible exception of the Revolutionary War when US colonies borrowed from France.

The study also looked at social costs, with families burdened with the effects of the deaths or injuries of service members.

The United States is expected to maintain a limited military presence in Afghanistan after 2014, when President Barack Obama plans to withdraw combat troops first sent after the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Opinion polls show that most of the US public has grown weary of the longest US war, in Afghanistan, and is critical of Bush's decision to invade Iraq a decade ago.

Donald Rumsfeld, the defense secretary under Bush, said before the invasion that the Iraq war would cost around \$50 billion and called higher estimates "baloney."

40 years on, US troop withdrawal from Vietnam still holds great meaning for those who lived it
Associated Press | Jay Reeves and David Dishneau

The last U.S. combat troops left Vietnam 40 years ago Friday, and the date holds great meaning for many who fought the war, protested it or otherwise lived it.

While the fall of Saigon two years later is remembered as the final day of the Vietnam War, many had already seen their involvement in the war finished -- and their lives altered -- by March 29, 1973.

U.S. soldiers leaving the country feared angry protesters at home. North Vietnamese soldiers took heart from their foes' departure, and South Vietnamese who had helped the Americans feared for the future.

Many veterans are encouraged by changes they see. The U.S. has a volunteer military these days, not a draft, and the troops coming home aren't derided for their service. People know what PTSD stands for, and they're insisting that the government takes care of soldiers suffering from it and other injuries from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Below are the stories of a few of the people who experienced a part of the Vietnam War firsthand.

'PATRIOTISM NEEDS TO BE CELEBRATED'

Jan Scruggs served in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970, and he conceived the national Vietnam Veterans Memorial as a tribute to the warriors, not the war.

Today, he wants to help ensure that veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan aren't forgotten, either.

His Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is raising funds for the Education Center at the Wall. It would display mementos left at the black granite wall and photographs of the 58,282 whose names are engraved there, as well as photos of fallen fighters from Iraq and Afghanistan.

"All their patriotism needs to be celebrated. Just like with Vietnam, we have to separate the war from the warrior," Scruggs said in a telephone interview.

An Army veteran, Scruggs said visitors to the center will be asked to perform some community service when they return home to reinforce the importance of self-sacrifice.

"The whole thing about service to the country was something that was very much turned on its head during the Vietnam War," Scruggs said.

He said some returning soldiers were told to change into civilian clothes before stepping into public view to avoid the scorn of those who opposed the war.

"What people seemed to forget was that none of us who fought in Vietnam had anything to do with starting that war," Scruggs said. "Our purpose was merely to do what our country asked of us. And I think we did it pretty well."

'MORE INTERESTED IN GETTING BACK'

Dave Simmons of West Virginia was a corporal in the U.S. Army who came back from Vietnam in the summer of 1970. He said he didn't have specific memories about the final days of the war because it was something he was trying to put behind him.

"We were more interested in getting back, getting settled into the community, getting married and getting jobs," Simmons said.

He said he was proud to serve and would again if asked. But rather than proudly proclaim his service when he returned from Vietnam, the Army ordered him to get into civilian clothes as soon as he arrived in the U.S. The idea was to avoid confrontations with protestors.

"When we landed, they told us to get some civilian clothes, which you had to realize we didn't have, so we had to go in airport gift shops and buy what we could find," Simmons said.

Simmons noted that when the troops return today, they are often greeted with great fanfare in their local communities, and he's glad to see it.

"I think that's what the general public has learned -- not to treat our troops the way they treated us," Simmons said.

Simmons is now helping organize a Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day in Charleston that will take place Saturday.

"Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another. We stick with that," said Simmons, president of the state council of the Vietnam Veterans of America. "We go to the airport. ... We're there when they leave. We're there when they come home. We support their families when they're gone. I'm not saying that did not happen to the Vietnam vet, but it wasn't as much. There was really no support for us."

A RISING PANIC

Tony Lam was 36 on the day the last U.S. combat troops left Vietnam. He was a young husband and father, but most importantly, he was a businessman and U.S. contractor furnishing dehydrated rice to South Vietnamese troops. He also ran a fish meal plant and a refrigerated shipping business that exported shrimp.

As Lam, now 76, watched American forces dwindle and then disappear, he felt a rising panic. His close association with the Americans was well-known and he needed to get out -- and get his family out -- or risk being tagged as a spy and thrown into a Communist prison. He watched as South Vietnamese commanders fled, leaving whole battalions without a leader.

"We had no chance of surviving under the Communist invasion there. We were very much worried about the safety of our family, the safety of other people," he said this week from his adopted home in Westminster, Calif.

But Lam wouldn't leave for nearly two more years after the last U.S. combat troops, driven to stay by his love of his country and his belief that Vietnam and its economy would recover.

When Lam did leave, on April 21, 1975, it was aboard a packed C-130 that departed just as Saigon was about to fall. He had already worked for 24 hours at the airport to get others out after seeing his wife and two young children off to safety in the Philippines.

"My associate told me, 'You'd better go. It's critical. You don't want to end up as a Communist prisoner.' He pushed me on the flight out. I got tears in my eyes once the flight took off and I looked down from the plane for the last time," Lam recalled. "No one talked to each other about how critical it was, but we all knew it."

Now, Lam lives in Southern California's Little Saigon, the largest concentration of Vietnamese outside of Vietnam.

In 1992, Lam made history by becoming the first Vietnamese-American to be elected to public office in the U.S. and he went on to serve on the Westminster City Council for 10 years.

Looking back over four decades, Lam says he doesn't regret being forced out of his country and forging a new, American, life.

"I went from being an industrialist to pumping gas at a service station," said Lam, who now works as a consultant and owns a Lee's Sandwich franchise, a well-known Vietnamese chain.

"But thank God I am safe and sound and settled here with my six children and 15 grandchildren," he said. "I'm a happy man."

ANNIVERSARY NIGHTMARES

Wayne Reynolds' nightmares got worse this week with the approach of the anniversary of the U.S. troop withdrawal.

Reynolds, 66, spent a year working as an Army medic on an evacuation helicopter in 1968 and 1969. On days when the fighting was worst, his chopper would make four or five landings in combat zones to rush wounded troops to emergency hospitals.

The terror of those missions comes back to him at night, along with images of the blood that was everywhere. The dreams are worst when he spends the most time thinking about Vietnam, like around anniversaries.

"I saw a lot of people die," Reynolds said.

Today, Reynolds lives in Athens, Ala., after a career that included stints as a public school superintendent and, most recently, a registered nurse. He is serving his 13th year as the Alabama president of the Vietnam Veterans of America, and he also has served on the group's national board as treasurer.

Like many who came home from the war, Reynolds is haunted by the fact he survived Vietnam when thousands more didn't. Encountering war protesters after returning home made the readjustment to civilian life more difficult.

"I was literally spat on in Chicago in the airport," he said. "No one spoke out in my favor."

Reynolds said the lingering survivor's guilt and the rude reception back home are the main reasons he spends much of his time now working with veteran's groups to help others obtain medical benefits. He also acts as an advocate on veterans' issues, a role that landed him a spot on the program at a 40th anniversary ceremony planned for Friday in Huntsville, Ala.

It took a long time for Reynolds to acknowledge his past, though. For years after the war, Reynolds said, he didn't include his Vietnam service on his resume and rarely discussed it with anyone.

"A lot of that I blocked out of my memory. I almost never talk about my Vietnam experience other than to say, 'I was there,' even to my family," he said.

NO ILL WILL

A former North Vietnamese soldier, Ho Van Minh heard about the American combat troop withdrawal during a weekly meeting with his commanders in the battlefields of southern Vietnam.

The news gave the northern forces fresh hope of victory, but the worst of the war was still to come for Minh: The 77-year-old lost his right leg to a land mine while advancing on Saigon, just a month before that city fell.

"The news of the withdrawal gave us more strength to fight," Minh said Thursday, after touring a museum in the capital, Hanoi, devoted to the Vietnamese victory and home to captured American tanks and destroyed aircraft.

"The U.S. left behind a weak South Vietnam army. Our spirits was so high and we all believed that Saigon would be liberated soon," he said.

Minh, who was on a two-week tour of northern Vietnam with other veterans, said he bears no ill will to the American soldiers even though much of the country was destroyed and an estimated 3 million Vietnamese died.

If he met an American veteran now he says, "I would not feel angry; instead I would extend my sympathy to them because they were sent to fight in Vietnam against their will."

But on his actions, he has no regrets. "If someone comes to destroy your house, you have to stand up to fight."

A POW'S REFLECTION

Two weeks before the last U.S. troops left Vietnam, Marine Corps Capt. James H. Warner was freed from North Vietnamese confinement after nearly 5 1/2 years as a prisoner of war. He said those years of forced labor and interrogation reinforced his conviction that the United States was right to confront the spread of communism.

The past 40 years have proven that free enterprise is the key to prosperity, Warner said in an interview Thursday at a coffee shop near his home in Rohrerstown, Md., about 60 miles from Washington. He said American ideals ultimately prevailed, even if the methods weren't as effective as they could have been.

"China has ditched socialism and gone in favor of improving their economy, and the same with Vietnam. The Berlin Wall is gone. So essentially, we won," he said. "We could have won faster if we had been a little more aggressive about pushing our ideas instead of just fighting."

Warner, 72, was the avionics officer in a Marine Corps attack squadron when his fighter plane was shot down north of the Demilitarized Zone in October 1967.

He said the communist-made goods he was issued as a prisoner, including razor blades and East German-made shovels, were inferior products that bolstered his resolve.

"It was worth it," he said.

A native of Ypsilanti, Mich., Warner went on to a career in law in government service. He is a member of the Republican Central Committee of Washington County, Md.

A DIFFERENT RESPONSE

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Duane Johnson, who served in Afghanistan and is a full-time logistics and ordnance specialist with the South Carolina National Guard, said many Vietnam veterans became his mentors when he donned a uniform 35 years ago.

"I often took the time, when I heard that they served in Vietnam, to thank them for their service. And I remember them telling me that was the first time anyone said that to them," said Johnson, of Gaston, S.C.

"My biggest wish is that those veterans could have gotten a better welcome home," the 56-year-old said Thursday.

Johnson said he's taken aback by the outpouring of support expressed for military members today, compared to those who served in Vietnam.

"It's a bit embarrassing, really," said Johnson. "Many of those guys were drafted. They didn't skip the country, they went and they served. That should be honored."

ANTI-WAR ACTIVISM

John Sinclair said he felt "great relief" when he heard about the U.S. troop pull-out. Protesting the war was a passion for the counter-culture figure who inspired the John Lennon song, "John Sinclair." The Michigan native drew a 10-year prison sentence after a small-time pot bust but was released after 2 1/2 years -- a few days after Lennon, Stevie Wonder and others performed at a 1971 concert to free him.

"There wasn't any truth about Vietnam -- from the very beginning," said Sinclair by phone from New Orleans, where he spends time when he isn't in Detroit or his home base of Amsterdam.

"In those times we considered ourselves revolutionaries," said Sinclair, a co-founder of the White Panther Party who is a poet and performance artist and runs an Amsterdam-based online radio station. "We wanted equal distribution of wealth. We didn't want 1 percent of the rich running everything. Of course, we lost."

The Vietnam War also shaped the life of retired Vermont businessman John Snell, 64, by helping to instill a lifetime commitment to anti-war activism. He is now a regular at a weekly anti-war protest in front of the Montpelier federal building that has been going on since long before the start of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Haslett, Mich., native graduated from high school in 1966 and later received conscientious objector status. He never had to do the required alternative service because a foot deformity led him to being listed as unfit to serve.

"They were pretty formative times in our lives and we saw incredible damage being done, it was the first war to really show up on television. I remember looking in the newspaper and seeing the names of people I went to school with as being dead and injured every single week," said Snell, who attended Michigan State University before moving to Vermont in 1977.

"Things were crazy. I remember sitting down in the student lounge watching the numbers being drawn on TV, there were probably 200 people sitting in this lounge watching as numbers came up, the guys were quite depressed by the numbers that were being drawn," he said. "There certainly were people who volunteered and went with some patriotic fervor, but by '67 or '68 there were a lot of people who just didn't want to have anything to do with it."

Dishneau reported from Hagerstown, Md., and Reeves reported from Birmingham, Ala. Also contributing to this report were Associated Press writers Chris Brummitt in Hanoi, Jocelyn Gecker in Bangkok, Gillian Flaccus in Tustin, Calif., Lisa Cornwell in Cincinnati, Kevin Freking in Washington, Wilson Ring in Montpelier, Vt., Susanne M. Schafer in Columbia, S.C., and Jeff Karoub in Detroit.

Unpaid furlough days scaled back at military electronics maintenance base in Pa. *Associated Press | Unattributed*

TOBYHANNA, Pa. (AP) - Civilian employees at a northeastern Pennsylvania military base will have fewer unpaid furlough days in the next six months than they were previously told under automatic federal spending cuts that took effect March 1.

U.S. Rep. Matt Cartwright's office told the Times-Tribune of Scranton on Thursday (<http://bit.ly/YksuVy>) that the depot workers must take 14 unpaid furlough days through Sept. 30. The Pentagon initially ordered 22 days.

The furlough days apply to Tobyhanna's entire civilian workforce of about 5,100 employees. Tobyhanna, in Monroe County, is the military's largest electronics maintenance facility and is a major employer in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Base officials have already announced layoffs of more than 400 civilian contract workers in response to a declining workload and the spending cuts.

Afghanistan/Pakistan

Nebraska kebab-maker now top U.S. adviser in Afghanistan

Washington Post | Kevin Sieff

KABUL — The man who once owned the only Afghan restaurant in Omaha is known for a different distinction here: He's one of the longest-serving Americans at NATO's military headquarters and the only person to have advised the last seven U.S. commanders.

Gen. John R. Allen called Abdullah Amini "my mentor." To Gen. David H. Petraeus, he was "my wise counsel." Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal wrote to him, "Your friendship means more to me than I'll ever be able to explain."

Over nearly a decade in Afghanistan, Amini has become a key player in the American mission, helping top generals navigate a culture in which misunderstandings and perceived insensitivity can have deadly consequences. But his ascent to the halls of power was much different from theirs. And now, as the U.S. military prepares to withdraw, he faces his greatest test as a cultural conduit: watching as the troops of his adopted United States leave the nation of his birth to an uncertain fate.

The men he advised went to prestigious military academies and earned recognition by leading thousands of soldiers and Marines. Amini fought his first battles with a Kalashnikov and no uniform, as a 21-year-old in the mountains of his native southwestern Afghanistan during the Soviet occupation.

At times, Amini's dual identity has put him in a difficult spot — when relatives complained about the behavior of U.S. troops, or when he had to face a roomful of Afghans who were livid that American soldiers had burned Korans.

Amini is outspoken about the successes of the United States' longest war: the millions of children in school, the growth of Afghan security forces. But he frets about the dozens of siblings and other relatives he will leave behind when he, too, departs in 2014.

"We must be hopeful. We must win. We don't have any other option," he said. "But when I think as a non-member of the coalition, as a regular Afghan, really I'm worried."

An emissary and a critic

When Amini returned to Afghanistan in early 2002, he saw the U.S. intervention as the best chance for the country to move beyond decades of war. But he had never met an American soldier or Marine.

A decade later, he has served for nearly the duration of the war, alongside some of the conflict's most prominent American figures. He has been an interpreter in significant meetings, an emissary when things go wrong and a critic when U.S. generals make poor decisions.

"The first thing I did when I arrived in Kabul is go to Abdullah's office," said Marc Chretien, the political adviser to Allen, whose Afghan tour ended in February.

That office is many miles and decades removed from Amini's roots in remote Farah province. War cut short his studies, but as a young mujaheddin fighter he always remembered one image from a geography textbook: the soaring skyline of New York City.

In 1988, he arrived in the United States as a refugee with \$7 in his pocket. In the months that followed, he was rejected from every job he applied for in Omaha, where he had relatives.

But by 2001, he had accomplished most of his goals. He was a U.S. citizen. His three American-born children spoke perfect English. He owned a restaurant where business soared — even Nebraska's governor was a customer.

But the news from Afghanistan in the 1990s had haunted him. Twenty of his relatives were killed during the civil war. The Taliban rose to power, demolishing the values of the country he remembered. He was thriving in the United States while his native country was being destroyed. He feared he would never return.

On Sept. 11, 2001, the distance between Afghanistan and Nebraska was suddenly shortened. His native country was back in the headlines, but for an unimaginable reason. He worried, with a restaurant named Afghani Kebab, that he would be a target.

"I thought someone might show up with a gun and shoot me," he said.

Instead, he got a flurry of phone calls expressing support. He was shocked when business quintupled on Sept. 12.

Then there were more phone calls from American officials and contractors. The United States was going to war in Afghanistan, they said. Would Amini be interested in working with U.S. troops on the ground?

Amini had grown embittered toward U.S. foreign policy when the country turned its back on Afghanistan after the Soviet withdrawal in 1989. But a return to his home country would mean a chance to rebuild the battered cities he had once fought to defend.

The night he closed his kebab restaurant in 2002, a local television news crew interviewed Amini, wearing his usual black bow tie and white button-down shirt, surrounded by dozens of his customers.

"Everyone else from around the world wants to help this poor country," he said, tearing up. "Why not me?"

'Everything was in ruins'

In 2002, Amini arrived in Kandahar, a longtime Taliban stronghold, to work as a cultural adviser and interpreter. He couldn't believe what had become of the country.

"Everything was in ruins," he said.

Amini watched as U.S. officials made gains and errors — building schools and encouraging civil society while also awarding positions in the new government to corrupt Afghans. It sometimes felt like cultural awareness was being sacrificed for political expediency.

"If this is not right for this mission, I will fight you all the way to the White House," he recalled telling his bosses.

His willingness to speak up earned him respect. By 2005, he had nearly unlimited access to top officials. When Hillary Rodham Clinton came to the country as secretary of state, Amini was her intermediary with a group of Afghan women. He took Vice President Biden to meet soldiers in eastern Afghanistan. He went with then-Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates to volatile Wardak province.

But Amini's brothers and sisters were ordinary Afghans living in a remote province in one of the world's poorest countries. Sometimes they called him to complain about the actions of U.S. troops.

"My children almost died today," his sister told him one day in 2009. A NATO convoy had held up traffic for more than seven hours. Cars with no air conditioning and no access to water were stuck on the road in scorching heat.

Amini told McChrystal, then the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, the story.

"We are losing the support of the public," Amini recalled saying. "We are losing hearts and minds."

Within days, McChrystal issued a directive that would prevent those protracted bottlenecks. He would later write in his memoir, "My Share of the Task," that he relied on Amini's "ability to parse interactions I had with Afghans for revealing cues I overlooked."

Amini reviewed the speeches of U.S. commanders, crossing out lines that might be perceived as culturally insensitive. In some cases, Amini was blunt: "Sir, I will not translate that," he would say.

Amini grew to admire his bosses, men who he says understood the importance of personal relationships in Afghanistan. When each new general arrived — as Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr. did in February — Amini would dole out the same advice: "Through friendship, an Afghan will sacrifice his life for you. Through bad relations, he will turn into your enemy."

Amini was always there when the relationship between his two countries had to be patched. When violent protests broke out after U.S. troops burned hundreds of Korans at a base last year, Allen dispatched Amini to speak with Afghans on the general's behalf. When photos of soldiers urinating on dead insurgents surfaced and civilian casualties threatened U.S. relations with President Hamid Karzai, Amini conveyed apologetic messages to Afghan leaders.

Still, he and other cultural advisers wonder how those incidents could happen after 11 years of U.S. troops working with Afghans. And they have wondered what the dwindling appetite for an American presence in Afghanistan will bring.

Amini has decided to remain in Kabul until at least 2014, when the majority of U.S. troops are due to withdraw. He has always encouraged American generals to exercise patience with their Afghan counterparts. Now he is trying to accept his own advice, staying as anxiety here grows.

The men he works alongside have encouraged him to be optimistic as his long tour nears its conclusion, knowing well that Amini's ties to Afghanistan are unlike theirs, that the lives of his relatives hinge on the war's outcome.

"I look forward to when you can simply drive across this country to visit your family," Dunford wrote to him recently. "We'll get there."

Amini read the e-mail out loud at his desk. Then the phone rang. It was Karzai's palace on the line. There were problems to resolve between Amini's two countries, and as it often does, reconciliation began with a call to his office.

Suicide bomber kills 10 in Pakistan

Reuters / Jobran Ahmad

(Reuters) - Ten people were killed in Pakistan on Friday when a suicide bomber attacked a paramilitary police convoy, security officials said.

The assault took place in the northwestern city of Peshawar, about 200 meters (yards) from the U.S. consulate but there was no indication the compound was the target.

Abdul Majeed Marwat, a commander for the Frontier Constabulary, said he was the target. Two members of the force and eight civilians were killed and 15 people were wounded, said the security officials.

Pakistan's Taliban have carried out similar attacks on security forces as part of their campaign to topple the U.S.-backed government and impose their brand of Islam.

Peshawar, an ancient trading city and gateway to the Khyber Pass and Afghanistan, has been a focus of militant violence.

(Reporting by Jobran Ahmad; Writing by Michael Georgy; Editing by Robert Birsell)

Africa

Scores of bodies discovered in C. Africa capital *Agence France Presse | Patrick Fort*

The Red Cross in the Central African Republic said Friday it had found some 78 bodies in the streets of the capital Bangui since it fell to rebels last weekend, as jittery residents waited to hear about a new government.

"Since Saturday until today, our volunteers have found 78 bodies that were taken to the morgues.... We ask the population to come to these sanitary institutions to identify the bodies with a view to taking them away for burial," a Red Cross official Albert Yomba Eyamo told AFP.

The United Nations meanwhile has warned tens of thousands of people in the impoverished and notoriously unstable country face severe food shortages.

Drinking water and electricity were cut off in parts of Bangui, whose seizure on Sunday by the Seleka rebel coalition, led by strongman Michel Djotodia, forced president Francois Bozize to flee and sparked a rampage by groups of armed looters.

Many claimed to be members of the Seleka, which means "alliance" and was formed by three rebel movements.

News of the death toll from the Red Cross cast a shadow over celebrations for Central African Republic's national day Friday -- named after the nation's founder Barthelemy Boganda, who paved the way for independence from France in 1960.

Only about 300 people attended a small ceremony in memory of Boganda, one resident explaining that people were still fearful after Sunday's coup.

"Usually, there are more people, but today people can't get around and they are frightened of moving around," said the resident, who asked not to be named.

Boganda "is a symbol, he did a great deal for our country," said Peter Banguima, a butcher, who said he was concerned to see what he called "the Muslims" of the Seleka coalition in power.

People waited for news of a new government from Prime Minister Nicolas Tiangaye, who has been reappointed to the post he held for just two months as head of a national unity government following a peace pact signed by the rebels and Bozize's regime in Libreville in January.

Bangui city centre was quiet on Friday and a handful of taxis had the streets to themselves as looting and unrest petered out.

Business and administrative activities are due to resume on "Tuesday at the latest," a day after Easter Monday, Seleka spokesman Christophe Gazam Betty said earlier this week.

The rebels toppled Bozize on the grounds that he had failed to honour the terms of the Libreville accord. Bozize fled to Cameroon and has asked for asylum in Benin, according to Benin's Foreign Minister Arifari Bako.

Djotodia, a former diplomat and civil servant who went into rebellion in 2005, said on Monday that he intended to lead the country for three years, until elections are organised.

Many political figures have said they will work with Djotodia to restore order.

Gathered at a Bangui hotel which the rebels use as a base, Cyriaque Gonda, who led the presidential majority under Bozize, said he and his colleagues "have decided to make ourselves available", because Djotodia has said he is ready to work within the spirit of the Libreville accords and "he has open arms".

The Central African Republic has been highly unstable since its independence in 1960.

Coups d'etat, mutinies, persistent pay strikes and rebellions have prevented the exploitation of potential national wealth in the shape of uranium, gold and diamonds. Bozize himself initially took power in a coup in 2003.

Cyber

Quarter of U.S. companies in China face data theft-business lobby

Reuters | Michael Martina

BEIJING, March 29 (Reuters) - A quarter of companies that are members of a leading U.S. business lobby in China have been victims of data theft, a report by the group said on Friday, amid growing vitriol between Beijing and Washington over the threat of cyber attacks.

The American Chamber of Commerce in China said 26 percent of members who responded to an annual survey said proprietary data or trade secrets had been compromised or stolen from their China operations.

"This poses a substantial obstacle for business in China, especially when considered alongside the concerns over IPR (intellectual property rights) enforcement and de facto technology transfer requirements," the Chamber said.

In February, a U.S. computer security company, Mandiant, said a secretive Chinese military unit was likely behind a series of hacking attacks that targeted the United States and stole data from more than 100 companies.

That set off a war of words between Washington and Beijing.

U.S. Representative Dutch Ruppersberger said last month American companies suffered estimated losses in 2012 of more than \$300 billion due to trade secret theft, much of it the result of Chinese hacking.

China says the accusations lack proof and charged that it is also a victim of hacking attacks, more than half of which originate from the United States.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei called the survey a "completely irresponsible action".

"We hope the relevant side doesn't politicise financial and trade problems, does not exaggerate the so-called issue of online leaks and does more conducive things for China and the United States," Hong told reporters.

The Chamber conducted its survey among 325 members across China late last year, before the release of Mandiant's report.

Only 10 percent of companies in the survey said they would use China-based cloud computing services, with most citing cyber security concerns as a reason. Blocked Internet searches in China had impeded business for 62 percent of respondents.

U.S. officials have pressed China to address Internet attacks and cyber spying against American companies. U.S. President Barack Obama raised hacking concerns in a phone call with Chinese President Xi Jinping earlier in March.

A recent assessment by U.S. intelligence leaders said for the first time cyber attacks and cyber espionage had supplanted terrorism as the nation's top threat.

INVESTMENT STAGNATION

Most firms expressed optimism about the business outlook in China, with many reporting higher margins for their China units.

But companies gave lower expectations for investment and cited rising labour costs as a top concern. Perceptions that China's investment environment is stagnating are increasing, according to the survey.

"Members ... have not felt over the last four or five years that there have been commercially significant positive changes in the business environment or the investment environment," Chamber president Christian Murck told reporters.

"When you have an economy which is making a transition to a market economy, but which is not yet there, there is a feeling that if you are not moving forward with an indicated path of future policy that you are effectively moving backward," he said at a briefing on the survey.

The Chamber's survey also cited a steep rise in concerns over IPR enforcement, with 72 percent of respondents saying enforcement was ineffective or totally ineffective, an increase of 13 percentage points over last year.

Perceptions that technology transfer was increasingly a requirement for access to China's market also jumped 10 points to 37 percent, the Chamber said, with higher rates of concern reported in the aerospace, automotive, chemical in information technology sectors.

(Additional reporting by Sui-Lee Wee; Editing by Paul Tait and Miral Fahmy)

East Asia

Analysis: Despite North Korea's battle cries, no one wants or expects another Korean War
Associated Press | Jean H. Lee

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - Across North Korea, soldiers are gearing up for battle and shrouding their jeeps and vans with camouflage netting. Newly painted signboards and posters call for "death to the U.S. imperialists" and urge the people to fight with "arms, not words."

But even as North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is issuing midnight battle cries to his generals to ready their rockets, he and his million-man army know full well that a successful missile strike on U.S. targets would be suicide for the outnumbered, out-powered North Korean regime.

Despite the hastening drumbeat of warfare, none of the key players in the region wants or expects another Korean War -- not even the North Koreans.

But by seemingly bringing the region to the very brink of conflict with threats and provocations, Pyongyang is aiming to draw attention to the tenuousness of the armistice designed to maintain peace on the Korean Peninsula, a truce North Korea recently announced it would no longer honor as it warned that war could break out at any time.

It's all part of a plan to force Washington to the negotiating table, pressure the new president in Seoul to change policy on North Korea, and build unity at home -- without triggering a full-blown war if all goes well.

In July, it will be 60 years since North Korea and China signed an armistice with the U.S. and the United Nations to bring an end to three years of fighting that cost millions of lives. The designated Demilitarized Zone has evolved into the most heavily guarded border in the world.

It was never intended to be a permanent border. But six decades later, North and South remain divided, with Pyongyang feeling abandoned by the South Koreans in the quest for reunification and threatened by the Americans.

In that time, South Korea has blossomed from a poor, agrarian nation of peasants into the world's 15th largest economy while North Korea is struggling to find a way out of a Cold War chasm that has left it with a per capita income on par with sub-Saharan Africa.

The Chinese troops who fought alongside the North Koreans have long since left. But 28,500 American troops are still stationed in South Korea and 50,000 more are in nearby Japan. For weeks, the U.S. and South Korea have been showing off their military might with a series of joint exercises that Pyongyang sees a rehearsal for invasion.

On Thursday, the U.S. military confirmed that those drills included two nuclear-capable B-2 stealth bombers that can unload the U.S. Air Force's largest conventional bomb -- a 30,000-pound super bunker buster -- powerful enough to destroy North Korea's web of underground military tunnels.

It was a flexing of military muscle by Washington, perhaps aimed not only at Pyongyang but at Beijing as well.

In Pyongyang, Kim Jong Un reacted swiftly, calling an emergency meeting of army generals and ordering them to be prepared to strike if the U.S. actions continue. A photo distributed by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency showed Kim in a military operations room with maps detailing a "strike plan" behind him in a very public show of supposedly sensitive military strategy.

North Korea cites the U.S. military threat as a key reason behind its need to build nuclear weapons, and has poured a huge chunk of its small national budget into defense, science and technology. In December, scientists launched a satellite into space on the back of a long-range rocket using technology that could easily be converted for missiles; in February, they tested an underground nuclear device as part of a mission to build a bomb they can load on a missile capable of reaching the U.S.

However, what North Korea really wants is legitimacy in the eyes of the U.S. -- and a peace treaty. Pyongyang wants U.S. troops off Korean soil, and the bombs and rockets are more of an expensive, dangerous safety blanket than real firepower. They are the only real playing card North Korea has left, and the bait they hope will bring the Americans to the negotiating table.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said North Korea's "bellicose rhetoric" would only deepen its international isolation, and that the U.S. has both the capability and willingness to defend its interests in the region.

Narushige Michishita, director of the Security and International Studies Program at Japan's National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, isn't convinced North Korea is capable of attacking Guam, Hawaii or the U.S. mainland. He says Pyongyang hasn't successfully tested an intercontinental ballistic missile.

But its medium-range Rodong missiles, with a range of about 800 miles (1,300 kilometers), are "operational and credible" and could reach U.S. bases in Japan, he says.

More likely than such a strike, however, is a smaller-scale incident, perhaps off the Korea's western coast, that would not provoke the Americans to unleash their considerable firepower. For years, the waters off the west coast have been a battleground for naval skirmishes between the two Koreas because the North has never recognized the maritime border drawn unilaterally by the U.N.

As threatening as Kim's call to arms may sound, its main target audience may be the masses at home in North Korea.

For months, the masterminds of North Korean propaganda have pinpointed this year's milestone Korean War anniversary as a prime time to play up Kim's military credibility as well as to push for a peace treaty. By creating the impression that a U.S. attack is imminent, the regime can foster a sense of national unity and encourage the people to rally around their new leader.

Inside Pyongyang, much of the military rhetoric feels like theatrics. It's not unusual to see people toting rifles in North Korea, where soldiers and checkpoints are a fixture in the heavily militarized society. But more often than not in downtown Pyongyang, the rifle stashed in a rucksack is a prop and the "soldier" is a dancer, one of the many performers rehearsing for a Korean War-themed extravaganza set to debut later this year.

More than 100,000 soldiers, students and ordinary workers were summoned Friday to Kim Il Sung Square in downtown Pyongyang to pump their fists in support of North Korea's commander in chief. But elsewhere, it was business as usual at restaurants and shops, and farms and factories, where the workers have heard it all before.

"Tensions rise almost every year around the time the U.S.-South Korean drills take place, but as soon as those drills end, things go back to normal and people put those tensions behind them quite quickly," said Sung Hyun-sang, the South Korean president of a clothing maker operating in the North Korean border town of Kaesong. "I think and hope that this time won't be different."

And in a telling sign that even the North Koreans don't expect war, the national airline, Air Koryo, is adding flights to its spring lineup and preparing to host the scores of tourists they expect to flock to Pyongyang despite the threats issuing forth from the Supreme Command.

War or no war, it seems Pyongyang remains open for business.

Lee is chief of AP's bureaus in Pyongyang, North Korea, and Seoul, South Korea. She can be followed on Twitter at twitter.com/newsjean. Eric Talmadge in Tokyo contributed to this report.

Russia fears 'out of control' N. Korea situation
Agence France Presse | Unattributed

Russia warned Friday that a flare-up in tensions between North Korea and the United States could spin out of control, urging all sides involved in the standoff to refrain from muscle-flexing.

"Unilateral actions are being taken around North Korea which manifest themselves in an escalation of military activity," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said.

"We can simply see the situation getting out of control, it would spiral down into a vicious circle," he told reporters at a news conference alongside his Ukrainian counterpart.

"We believe it is necessary for all not to build up military muscle and not to use the current situation as an excuse to solve certain geopolitical tasks in the region through military means," he said, calling on all sides to create conditions for the resumption of talks.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un earlier Friday ordered missile units to prepare to strike the US mainland and military bases in the Pacific after US stealth bombers flew over South Korea.

The flights were part of annual drills between the United States and South Korea, which North Korea each year denounces as rehearsals for war.

Pyongyang has been particularly irate this time, angered by UN sanctions imposed after its long-range rocket launch in December and the third nuclear test last month.

But a Russian military source, speaking to the Interfax news agency, dismissed North Korea's promise to strike as an empty threat.

"So far North Korea does not have a delivery vehicle which could reach the United States or its bases in the Pacific Ocean," said the source, who was not named.

"North Koreans are also far from creating a nuclear warhead which could be put on an intercontinental ballistic missile," the source told the news agency.

North Korean state media issued two photos Friday that appeared to show plans for striking the United States.

One picture showed Kim sitting at a desk in what looked like a military operations room. A map is shown in the picture with the unambiguous title: "Strategic Forces' US Mainland Striking Plan."

The Russian source dismissed the pictures as "bogeyman stories".

"I do not believe in the possibility of such strikes," he said, noting that North Korea's threats gave Washington an excuse to increase its military presence in the Pacific.

"Thanks to their rhetoric, the North Koreans in fact play into the hands of Americans, giving them a great excuse to ramp up missile defence capabilities in the Asia-Pacific region," the military source said.

Iran

Iran hopes 'forward movement' continues in nuclear talks
Agence France Presse | Unattributed

Iran said on Friday it is hopeful "forward movement" continues during talks with major world powers over its controversial nuclear drive, the state broadcaster and ISNA news agency reported.

"Almaty I meeting bore positive results, and we also hope that in Almaty II this forward movement continues," IRIB's website reported Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi as saying in Dushanbe, where he is attending a ministerial meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue.

He was referring to a meeting in the Kazakh capital with the P5+1 group (Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States and Germany), which offered to ease non-oil or financial sector-related sanctions in exchange for concessions over Tehran's sensitive uranium enrichment operations.

The offer also demanded a tougher nuclear inspection regime and the interruption of enrichment operations at the Fordo bunker facility where 20-percent enrichment goes on.

The two sides are to meet again in Almaty on April 5 and 6.

However, Salehi said: "This issue will not be solved overnight, and understanding this issue is very important and opens the way" to a solution.

"The process of solving this issue has begun," he was quoted by ISNA as saying, without elaborating.

After the first Almaty meeting in February, a meeting of experts was held in Istanbul.

Chief Russian negotiator Sergei Ryabkov said those talks were positive in tone but produced no breakthrough.

Salehi's comments come a week after supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say over Tehran's nuclear programme, for the first time signalled openness to US offers to hold direct talks on the matter, but voiced pessimism over the chances of a breakthrough.

The two governments have had no diplomatic relations for more than three decades.

The West, spearheaded by Iran arch rivals Washington and Israel, suspect Tehran is using its nuclear programme as cover for a weapons capability. Iran strongly denies that.

Iran is under multiple rounds of UN sanctions over its refusal to suspend uranium enrichment, as well as additional unilateral sanctions imposed by the United States and the European Union targeting its oil income and access to the global banking system.

Iraq

Car bombs kill 18 at Iraq Shiite mosques

Agence France Presse | Salam Faraj

A series of car bombs near Shiite mosques targeting worshippers attending weekly prayers killed at least 18 people on Friday, the latest in a spike in unrest ahead of Iraq's first polls since 2010.

The blasts, which also wounded more than 100 people, struck within an hour of each other in the Baghdad neighbourhoods of Binook, Qahira, Zafraniyah and Jihad, as well as in an area of southern Kirkuk city.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks, but Sunni militants linked to Al-Qaeda frequently target Shiite Muslims whom they regard as apostates and supporters of the Shiite-led government.

In Baghdad, four car bombs were detonated near Shiite mosques across the capital, leaving at least 14 people dead and 35 wounded, security and medical officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

And in Kirkuk, 240 kilometres (150 miles) north of the capital, four people died and 72 were hurt by another car bomb targeting a Shiite mosque, provincial health chief Sadiq Omar Rasul said.

"I was praying inside the Husseiniyah (Shiite mosque) during Friday prayers," said Salim Aziz al-Bayati, a worshipper who was wounded.

"Then, all of a sudden, a great, horrible explosion happened, and the roof fell on our heads."

Also wounded was Mohsen al-Battat, a representative of Iraq's most revered Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali Husseini al-Sistani, who had been leading the prayers.

Bayati continued: "I saw the imam (Battat) was lying on the floor, and blood was on everyone's bodies. When they (paramedics) were taking me away, I saw a fire covering the Husseiniyah, and nearby houses and cars."

In Baghdad's Qahira neighbourhood, an AFP reporter described seeing pools of blood and massive damage to nearby cars, houses and shops. Several residents were crying as soldiers imposed a heavy security presence in the area.

Security forces elsewhere in the capital threatened to detain AFP journalists for attempting to film and take photographs of the aftermath of the bombings.

Also on Friday, a gunman killed two primary school teachers who were gathering materials for a demonstration against the local education department in the town of Kut, south of Baghdad.

The attacks come amid a spike in violence nationwide as the country prepares for its first elections in three years – provincial polls that will be held in 12 of Iraq's 18 provinces on April 20.

Questions have been raised over the credibility of those polls as elections have been postponed in two provinces roiled by months of protests, and at least 11 candidates have been killed.

The vote is seen as a key barometer of support for Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki as he grapples with criticism from within his unity cabinet and protests in the minority Sunni Arab community.

The attack in Kirkuk is also likely to raise tensions in a city at the heart of a long-running dispute over territory between the central government in Baghdad and the country's autonomous Kurdistan region.

The unresolved row is often cited by officials and diplomats as the biggest long-term threat to Iraq's stability and, at its worst, Iraq's parliament speaker warned it could lead to civil war.

Iraq's military and police are consistently described by Iraqi and American officials as capable of maintaining internal security, but are not yet fully able to protect the country's borders, airspace and maritime territory.

And while violence is down from its peak in 2006 and 2007, attacks remain common, with this month's death toll of 261 already the highest since August, according to figures compiled by AFP.

The latest unrest comes days after the 10th anniversary of the US-led invasion which ousted dictator Saddam Hussein and had sought to establish a stable, democratic ally in his place but instead unleashed brutal violence and endless political disputes.

Israel

Israel, Turkey to discuss raid compensation next week

Agence France Presse | Fulya Ozerkan

Turkey and Israel will meet next week for talks on compensation for the families of victims of a deadly 2010 flotilla raid for which the Jewish state apologised last week, the Turkish deputy prime minister said Friday.

"A delegation from Israel will travel to Turkey next week to work out the compensation issue," Bulent Arinc said in televised remarks.

Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu and Israeli Justice Minister Tzipi Livni had agreed to swiftly work out the compensation issue "as soon as possible" during a telephone conversation on Monday, which marked the first contact between the two sides after the Israeli apology, a Turkish diplomat told AFP.

Ties between Israel and Turkey plummeted in May 2010 when Israeli commandos staged a botched pre-dawn raid on a six-ship flotilla to the Gaza Strip, killing nine Turkish nationals.

The assault triggered an international outcry and severely damaged relations between regional allies Turkey and Israel, with Ankara demanding a formal apology and compensation for the families of the victims.

Arinc declined to say how much compensation would be paid out by Israel, adding the exact amount would be clarified after talks with the lawyers of victims' families.

Until last week, Israel had refused to apologise for the raid and had instead expressed regret for the deaths.

But last Friday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu apologised to Turkey, a breakthrough brokered by US President Barack Obama during his visit to Israel.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan accepted the apology "in the name of the Turkish people" but said the country's future relationship with Israel would depend on the Jewish state.

Israel also expects Turkey to drop legal proceedings, in particular the high-profile trial in absentia of four Israeli ex-military chiefs by an Istanbul court that opened in November.

Prosecutors are seeking life sentences for the four over the night-time assault in international waters in the Mediterranean Sea that plunged relations between Israel and its closest Muslim ally into deep crisis.

"It's out of the question for the government to cancel the trial at the Istanbul court," Ramazan Arirturk, one of the lawyers for the nine Turkish victims, told AFP.

"There is no return from the case which has to be concluded under the existing Turkish laws," he said.

The defendants are former military chief of staff Gaby Ashkenazi, former navy chief Eliezer Marom, former military intelligence head Amos Yadlin and former air force intelligence chief Avishai Levy.

They did not appear in the dock, after Israel ruled that those who took part in the raid did nothing wrong.

A diplomatic source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said: "We'll examine all cases one by one. We don't expect a serious problem," without elaborating.

Clashes in Hebron as Israel boosts security for 'Land Day'

Agence France Presse / Unattributed

Palestinians and Israeli forces clashed in the West Bank city Hebron on Friday as Israel deployed significant security reinforcements ahead of a day of demonstrations.

Palestinian security forces in Hebron said that hundreds of people took part in two demonstrations, one inside the city and one south of it, and threw stones at Israeli security forces who responded with tear gas and dyed water.

An Israeli military spokeswoman told AFP that "150 Palestinians threw stones at the forces, who responded with riot dispersal means."

Both sides said there were no arrests or injuries.

Weekly demonstrations against the separation barrier near Bilin and Nilin farther north in the West Bank took place with no special incidents reported, an AFP correspondent said.

In Jerusalem, some 5,000 Palestinians participated in Friday prayers, which again passed without incident, a police spokeswoman told AFP.

Earlier, thousands of police reinforcements were deployed in Jerusalem "following information that groups of Palestinians were ready to engage in violent demonstrations" during Land Day commemorations on Saturday, spokeswoman Luba Samri said.

The annual demonstration marks the deaths of six Arab Israeli protesters at the hands of Israeli police and troops during mass protests in 1976 against plans to confiscate Arab land in Galilee.

Samri said that security had also been strengthened at the main checkpoints between annexed Arab east Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank.

An officer told army radio that the military also deployed reinforcements to the West Bank.

"Very often the mere presence of these forces acts as a deterrent and, in case of violent demonstrations, the security forces who have taken up positions in the field have an advantage over troublemakers," the officer said.

Demonstrations were expected on Saturday in the Arab-Israeli town Sakhnin and throughout the West Bank and Gaza.

Syria

Rebels claim to take key city in southern Syria

Washington Post | Babak Dehghanpisheh

BEIRUT — Rebels took control of the city of Dael in southern Syria on Friday, according to activists and rebel fighters, a notable victory for the opposition in a conflict that has left at least 70,000 Syrians dead.

Dael is located on the strategic highway connecting Damascus to the Jordanian border, which is about 13 miles south of the city.

The reported capture of Dael, which rebel fighters say has a population of approximately 45,000, comes less than a month after rebels took control of the city of Raqqah in northern Syria. Government forces launched a fierce counterattack there with aerial bombing and shelling, but rebels have managed to keep control of the city.

Jabhat al-Nusra, a religious extremist group that the United States has blacklisted for its alleged links to al-Qaeda, played a key role in the battle for Raqqah. But the group, also known as the al-Nusra Front, and other extremist organizations were not involved in the takeover of Dael, according to rebel fighters.

Rebels have been able to capture and hold large swaths of territory in northern and eastern Syria but have yet to establish a solid foothold in the south. Taking over Dael could signal a rebel push to make larger inroads in the southern portion of the country.

On Thursday, Walid al-Zohbi, a Syrian lawmaker from Daraa province, where Dael is located, warned in a parliamentary session broadcast live on state television that rebels are gaining ground quickly in the area.

He said rebels are making gains "in all towns and villages in Daraa province, which is torn from east to west after the army withdrew from many positions," according to the Agence France-Presse news service.

Zohbi added: "They may have pulled out for tactical reasons; we don't know."

Dael, 58 miles south of Damascus, is also about 18 miles east of Syria's border with Israel in the Golan Heights, an area that has become increasingly unstable as rebels fighters have ramped up their attacks.

Last Sunday, Israeli troops destroyed a machine-gun position inside Syria after they were reportedly fired on.

"Any . . . fire from the Syrian side will be answered immediately by silencing the sources of fire when we identify them," Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon said in a statement after the incident, according to the Reuters news agency.

Rebel fighters launched the offensive to take over Dael because of its key location, and they engaged in fierce clashes with government troops at three checkpoints around the city, according to opposition activists and fighters.

"The Free Syrian Army attacked the city because of its important position," said a spokesman for the rebel force in Daraa who uses the alias Ahmed Rayes. "There was fierce resistance and clashes with the regime army."

At least 16 rebel fighters and 12 army troops died in the fighting, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based group that monitors the conflict.

One video posted online Friday shows a smoking tank with its turret blown off, surrounded by several buildings damaged in fighting at the northern checkpoint of Dael.

A separate video posted Thursday shows the bodies of two soldiers in green camouflage uniforms at the southern checkpoint of the city after rebels took over the area.

"Take note, soldiers, and to the families whose children are still working with the regime," a man says in the video, "this is the fate of those who collaborate with [Syrian President] Bashar al-Assad."

Turkish police seize firearms cache on Syrian border
Reuters | Kadir Celikkan

AKCAKALE, Turkey, March 29 (Reuters) - Turkish authorities said they had seized thousands of guns in a warehouse by the Syrian border, and a local news agency said the weapons had been destined for Turkey's wartorn neighbour.

The firearms - including more than 5,000 shotguns and rifles, starting pistols, gunstocks and 10,000 cartridges - were discovered during a raid in a village on the edge of the Turkish town of Akcakale and displayed to journalists on Friday.

The Dogan News Agency said the weapons were being stored on the edge of the border town, awaiting delivery to Syria, and that the 35-year-old depot owner had been detained.

It quoted police sources as saying the firearms had a market value of around 3 million lira (\$1.7 million).

Turkey is a staunch supporter of the uprising against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, now in its third year, and has harboured Syrian refugees and rebels crossing over the two countries' porous 900-km (550-mile) border.

But it has ruled out arming rebel fighters, fearing it could be drawn into a destabilising regional conflict.

Turkey has a number of firearms manufacturers and the starting pistols found in the warehouse could easily be converted to fire live ammunition.

(Reporting by Kadir Celikcan; Writing by Nick Tattersall; Editing by Ece Toksabay and Andrew Roche)

Israel could withstand Syrian chemical weapons - general

Reuters | Unattributed

JERUSALEM, March 29 (Reuters) - Israel could withstand any attack involving Syrian chemical weapons, an Israeli general said on Friday, adding it was improbable that Damascus would order such a strike.

The fate of Syria's reputed chemical arsenal is a focus of international concern. Israel has threatened to go to war to prevent Islamist militants or Hezbollah guerrillas in neighbouring Lebanon from getting such weapons.

Some Israeli officials have also suggested that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, battling a two-year-old uprising against his rule, could launch a chemical strike against the Jewish state in a suicidal gesture of defiance.

But Major-General Eyal Eisenberg, commander of Israel's home front forces, described the latter scenario as unlikely. "I don't foresee a chemical war being initiated against us," he told Haaretz newspaper in an interview.

He said there was a "certain possibility" of chemical arms being used against Israel were they to fall into "the wrong hands" but added: "This would not defeat the State of Israel. We know how to deal with this kind of event and are ready for it."

Israel's government has issued gas masks to some 60 percent of its citizens, mostly those living in urban areas likeliest to be targeted in a future war. Rather than equip the rest, Israel should invest in better air raid alerts, Eisenberg said.

Assad's government has publicly hedged on whether it has chemical weapons, while saying it would only use such an arsenal to fend off foreign foes. Israel is assumed to have the region's sole nuclear arsenal, a deterrent to non-conventional attack.

In the Haaretz interview, Eisenberg expressed greater worry about Hezbollah's arsenal, which Israel says includes 60,000 rockets - a more formidable capacity than when the Iranian- and Syrian-sponsored group last fought the Israelis in a 2006 war.

The Lebanese front has been mostly quiet since, but Israel believes Hezbollah guerrillas might lash out in reprisal should it launch a long-threatened strike on Tehran's nuclear projects.

Among Hezbollah's rockets are 5,000 with explosive payloads of between 300 kg (660 lb) and 880 kg (1,940 lb) and capable of reaching Tel Aviv, Israel's commercial capital, Haaretz quoted Eisenberg as saying.

"I am preparing for a scenario in which more than 1,000 missiles and rockets are fired at the home front on each day of fighting," he said, adding that Israel could suffer more casualties in its civilian interior than on its front lines.

Israel's technologically advanced military includes Iron Dome interceptors that can shoot down most rockets used by Hezbollah and Palestinian guerrillas in the Gaza Strip. The Israelis have so far deployed five of the interceptors, well short of the 13 they say they would need for nationwide defence.

Eisenberg said that, in any war, he would recommend that key Israeli industrial areas and military bases, rather than civilian centres, get preferential Iron Dome protection.

(Writing by Dan Williams; Editing by Alistair Lyon)

Terrorism

Bulgaria will not push to declare Hezbollah a terrorist organization

Associated Press / Unattributed

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) - Bulgaria says it won't initiate a push to declare Hezbollah a terror group after last summer's bombing that killed five Israeli tourists and a Bulgarian bus driver.

The government, however, says it will hand to its partners all evidence collected during the investigation into the attack. An official Bulgarian report last month said investigators had reasons to suggest the bombing suspects belonged to Hezbollah's militant wing.

Marin Raykov, appointed interim prime minister pending elections in May, says his country "will not initiate an EU procedure for blacklisting persons and organizations." Raykov made his remarks Friday during a farewell ceremony for the Lebanese ambassador, who pledged Lebanon's full support for the investigation.

In the European Union, only the Netherlands lists Hezbollah as a terrorist group, while Britain blacklists its military wing.

(b)(6) CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b)(6) CTR OSD PA on behalf of Media Analysis
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2013 10:54 AM
To: Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA (b)(6) Ms OSD PA; Warren, Steven H COL OSD PA;
 (b)(6) CIV OSD PA; (b)(6) CIV OSD PA
Cc: OSD PA CNS Distro Group; OASD PA Press Officers
Subject: Gaggle Prep Notes for Wednesday May 15 2013
Attachments: Gaggle Prep Notes for Wednesday May 15 2013.docx
Signed By: (b)(6)

Gaggle Prep Notes for Wednesday, May 15, 2013

Breaking News as of 1045 | Articles posted/updated since 0800

DOD/U.S. MILITARY/VETERANS AFFAIRS

Continued heavy coverage of the U.S. Army investigating a sergeant first class assigned at Fort Hood, Texas, for "pandering, abusive sexual contact, assault and maltreatment of subordinates"; and Secretary Hagel's prompt response in issuing sweeping changes. (multiple, U.S. News & World report cited) In addition:

- o An administration official told CNN's Barbara Starr it's possible that prostitution-related activity was involved, but the scope and details have not yet been determined.
- o MSNBC's Jim Miklaszewski noted that lawmakers believe training will not necessarily fix the problem, but what must be addressed is the military justice system which leads attackers to believe that they'll be able to get away with the crimes.
- o Tweet from Leo Shane of Stars and Stripes: "@SenatorDurbin vows the Army will face 'tough questions' on Fort Hood sex assault allegations during next week's scheduled budget hearing."
- o AP: "One of several people charged as part of a federal investigation into an alleged \$10 million kickback scheme targeting the Navy is scheduled to change his plea to guilty on tax evasion charges."
- o John T. Bennett, Defense News tweeted at 9:07 AM: "House Democrats issue sequester economic impact report, appear poised to run on issue in 2014 midterms. Story soon at <http://DefenseNews.com>"
- o Leo Shane, Stars & Stripes tweeted at 9:19 AM: "Senate Veterans Affairs hearing on pending legislation, originally scheduled for 10am, then 2pm, has now been postponed until a later date."

AFGHANISTAN/PAKISTAN

- o "Two bombs exploded at a checkpoint outside a provincial governor's compound in eastern Afghanistan on Wednesday, killing at least one police officer and wounding nine people, an official said." (multiple, ABC News.com cited)
- o Tweet from Paul McLeary of Defense News: "Number of SEAL platoons in Afghanistan to be cut in half by end of year."

EAST ASIA

- o AP: "China is trying to strengthen its claim on tiny, uninhabited, Japanese-controlled islands by raising questions about the much larger Okinawa chain that is home to more than a million Japanese along with major U.S. military installations."
- o AFP: "Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Wednesday he may meet North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un if it could help resolve the longstanding issue of Pyongyang's kidnapping of Japanese citizens."

IRAQ

- o Yesterday, Iraqi gunmen killed 12 people in an attack on at least nine liquor stores in the Zayona district of eastern Baghdad. (Al Jazeera English)

ISRAEL/PALESTINE

. Reuters: "Palestinians clashed with Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday during demonstrations to mark 65 years since what they call the Nakba (Catastrophe) when Israel's creation caused many to lose their homes and become refugees."

. Rival Palestinian factions, Fatah and Hamas, have agreed to form a national unity government and hold legislative and presidential elections within three months. (Al Arabiya)

. The International Criminal Court is opening a preliminary examination into Israel's raid in 2010 of a humanitarian aid flotilla bound for the Gaza strip, in which nine Turks were killed. (Reuters)

NIGERIA

. Yesterday, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan ordered the Army to intervene in three states after a series of violent attacks by Boko Haram. (Reuters)

SYRIA

. Secretary Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov discussed the revival of a peace initiative based on last year's Geneva conference; and outlined how a transitional government could be formed in Syria. (CNN.com)

. The U.N. General Assembly is expected to approve a Syria resolution; the draft resolution, which is opposed by Russia, condemns the Syrian government and accepts the Syrian National Coalition as a party to a potential political transition. (multiple)

. AP: "Syrian rebels launched a coordinated assault on the main prison in the northern city of Aleppo Wednesday in an attempt to free hundreds of regime opponents believed to be held in the facility, activists said."

. "The Israeli military said several stray rockets from Syria landed in the Golan Heights Wednesday morning but no damage or injuries were reported." (multiple, UPI cited)

. According to Syrian residents and the U.S.-based Internet monitoring company Renesys Corp., Syria went offline at 10:00 a.m. local time Wednesday. Syria's state news agency, SANA, said there were technical problems and maintenance teams were working on the issue. (CNN.com)

DOD/U.S. MILITARY/VETERANS AFFAIRS

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From: (b) (6) (b) (6)
To: (b) (6)
Subject: FW: Flotilla set for final leg of Gaza blockade-busting bid
Date: Friday, May 28, 2010 8:20:28 AM

I am assuming you are handling Israel related stuff? I am pushing you a note on SIPR. Don't think there's anything we can say but just wanted you to see the report for SA.

Thanks.

-----Original Message-----

(b) (6) From: (b) (6) CDR JCS DOM OCJCS PA
(b) (6) Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 8:19 AM
(b) (6) To: (b) (6) LTC SJS OCJCS PA
Subject: Flotilla set for final leg of Gaza blockade-busting bid

As background....

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALegM5j377ZuFo20ydZBwobWpOaiGtsnWw>

Flotilla set for final leg of Gaza blockade-busting bid By Charlie Charalambous (AFP) – 54 minutes ago
NICOSIA — Hundreds of activists on Friday braced for the final leg of their attempt to bust the Gaza Strip embargo, a bid Israel vowed to defeat as each side accused the other of violating international law.

Two cargo ships and five smaller boats loaded with thousands of tonnes of supplies and hundreds of passengers steamed towards a rendezvous point off the Cyprus coast where they planned to regroup before setting out for the Palestinian territory.

Organisers said an eighth ship, the Rachel Corrie that had left from Ireland, was lagging behind and would travel towards Gaza separately.

The ships will meet in international waters, they said. "The Cypriot government does not want us to leave from Cyprus. I can only assume pressure was put on them," said Audrey Bomse, one of the coordinators.

A Cyprus government official said of the flotilla that Cyprus had not received any formal request from the Palestinian Authority for humanitarian aid.

Israel earlier told the ambassadors of Cyprus, Turkey, Greece, and Ireland -- the countries from which the ships set sail -- it "issued warrants that prohibit the entrance of the vessels to Gaza" and that the flotilla would be breaking international law.

Israel made it clear it intends to halt the vessels and detain the hundreds of people aboard in the port of Ashdod before deporting them.

Bomse suggested this may just be "sabre rattling."

"We are planning on getting there and staying in Gaza for two days," she said.

But Israel has stepped up its warnings in recent days and readied naval forces.

Organisers dismissed the claim that their blockade-busting bid is illegal.

"Most despicably of all, Israel claims that we are violating international law by sailing unarmed ships carrying humanitarian aid to a people desperately in need," the Free Gaza Movement said in a statement.

"These claims only demonstrate how degenerate the political discourse in Israel has become."

Israel imposed a crippling blockade on Gaza in 2007 after Hamas -- an Islamist movement committed to the destruction of Israel -- violently seized power in the impoverished, overcrowded Palestinian territory. Because of the blockade, only limited reconstruction has been possible in the wake of the devastating 22-day offensive Israel launched on December 27, 2008.

In New York, UN chief Ban Ki-moon on Thursday appealed to all sides to act with care and responsibility.

"We strongly urge that all involved act with a sense of care and responsibility and work for a satisfactory resolution," Ban's spokesman said.

Pro-Palestinian activists have landed in Gaza five times, with another three attempts unsuccessful since their first such sea voyage in August 2008.

To date, the aid has been largely symbolic, but organisers say the flotilla now under way is laden with 10,000 tonnes of aid, ranging from pre-fabricated homes to pencils.

(b)(6)

(b) (6)

CIV OSD PA (US)

From: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 5:46 AM
To: Kirby, John F Capt JCS SJS OCJCS PA; Whitman, Bryan Mr OSD PA; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
Cc: Rangel, Robert CIV SD; Flournoy, Michèle A HON OSD POLICY
Subject: Re: IDF Spokesperson Announcement: IDF Forces Met with Pre-Planned Violence when attempting to Board Flotilla

Thanks John, Copying Robert and Michele FYSA

From: Kirby, John F Capt JCS SJS OCJCS PA
To: Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA; Whitman, Bryan Mr OSD PA; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
Sent: Mon May 31 05:02:14 2010
Subject: Fw: IDF Spokesperson Announcement: IDF Forces Met with Pre-Planned Violence when attempting to Board Flotilla

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Fyi gents. Mullen speaking with his counterpart at 0630.

Vr/John

----- Original Message -----

From: Gilday, Michael M CAPT JCS OCJCS
To: Kirby, John F Capt JCS SJS OCJCS PA
Sent: Mon May 31 04:18:38 2010
Subject: FW: IDF Spokesperson Announcement: IDF Forces Met with Pre-Planned Violence when attempting to Board Flotilla

-----Original Message-----

From: Burgess, Richard J [<mailto:BurgessRJ@state.gov>]
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 4:14 AM
To: Arquette; @Steven.J.Brig.Gen.JCS.J3.NMCC; Gilday, Michael M CAPT JCS OCJCS; Sturdevant; @Gregg.A.JCS.BGen.NMCC; Fulmer@II; .Jack.D.Lt.Col.JCS.NMCC; Schlereth, Frank G
Subject: Fw: IDF Spo <<image001.jpg>> <<image001.jpg>> kespersion Announcement: IDF Forces Met with Pre-Planned Violence when attempting to Board Flotilla

Mike, all, update below. Call set for 0630 with prebrief at 0615.

From: lfrd <lfrd@idf.gov.il>

To: lfrd <lfrd@idf.gov.il>

Sent: Mon May 31 10:13:12 2010

Subject: IDF Spokesperson Announcement: IDF Forces Met with Pre-Planned Violence when attempting to Board Flotilla

May 31st, 2010

IDF Forces Met with Pre-Planned Violence when attempting to Board Flotilla

Early this morning, IDF Naval Forces intercepted six ships attempting to break the naval blockade of the Gaza Strip. This happened after numerous warnings from Israel and the Israel Navy that were issued prior to the action. The Israel Navy requested the ships to redirect toward Ashdod where they would be able to unload their aid material which would then be transferred over land after undergoing security inspections.

During the intercept of the ships, the demonstrators onboard attacked the IDF Naval personnel with live fire and light weaponry including knives and clubs. Additionally one of the weapons used was grabbed from an IDF soldier. The demonstrators had clearly prepared their weapons in advance for this specific purpose.

As a result of this life-threatening and violent activity, naval forces employed riot dispersal means, including live fire.

According to initial reports, these events resulted in over ten deaths among the demonstrators and numerous injured, in addition, more than four naval personnel were injured, some from gunfire and some from various other weapons. Two of the soldiers are moderately wounded and the remainder sustained light injuries. All of the injured, Israelis and foreigners are currently being evacuated by helicopter to hospitals in Israel.

Reports from IDF forces on the scene are that it seems as if part of the participants onboard the ships were planning to lynch the forces.

The events are ongoing, and information will be updated as soon as possible. Israeli Naval commander, Vice Admiral Eliezer Marom is overseeing the events.

In the coming hours, the ships will be directed to the Ashdod port, while IDF naval forces will perform security checks in order to identify the people on board the ships and their equipment. The IDF Spokesman conveys that this event is currently unfolding and further details will be provided as soon as possible.

This IDF naval operation was carried out under orders from the political leadership to halt the flotilla from reaching the Gaza Strip and breaching the naval blockade.

The interception of the flotilla followed numerous warnings given to the organizers of the flotilla before leaving their ports as well as while sailing towards the Gaza Strip. In these warnings, it was made clear to the organizers that they could dock in the Ashdod sea port and unload the equipment they are carrying in order to deliver it to the Gaza Strip in an orderly manner, following the appropriate security checks. Upon expressing their unwillingness to cooperate and arrive at the port, it was decided to board the ships and lead them to Ashdod.

IDF naval personnel encountered severe violence, including use of weaponry prepared in advance in order to attack and to harm them. The forces operated in adherence with operational commands and took all necessary actions in order to avoid violence, but to no avail.

(b)(6)

(b) (6) CIV OSD PA (US)

From: Whitman, Bryan Mr OSD PA
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 7:39 AM
To: Kirby, John F Capt JCS SJS OCJCS PA; Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA
Subject: Re: IDF Spokesperson Announcement: IDF Forces Met with Pre-Planned Violence when attempting to Board Flotilla

Press reports I've seen so far are far more critical of IDF actions that these facts would support.

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From: bounce-849221-2274996@list.whitehouse.gov on behalf of White House Press Office
To: (b) (6) (b) (6) CIV OSD PA
Subject: Readout of the President's Call with Prime Minister Erdogan of Turkey
Date: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 5:59:14 PM

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 1, 2010

Readout of the President's Call with Prime Minister Erdogan of Turkey

The President spoke today with Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan to express his deep condolences for the loss of life and injuries resulting from the Israeli military operation against the Turkish-flagged ship bound for Gaza. The President told Prime Minister Erdogan that the United States is working in close consultation with Israel to help achieve the release of the passengers, including those deceased and wounded, and the ships themselves. He also affirmed the United States position in support of a credible, impartial, and transparent investigation of the facts surrounding this tragedy. The President affirmed the importance of finding better ways to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza without undermining Israel's security. He underscored the importance of a comprehensive peace agreement which establishes an independent, contiguous, and viable Palestinian state as the way to resolve the overall situation and the United States' continuing commitment to achieving that goal by working closely with Turkey, Israel, and others with a stake in a more stable and secure Middle East.

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From: bounce-849281-2274996@list.whitehouse.gov on behalf of White House Press Office
To: (b) (6) (b) (6) CIV OSD PA
Subject: Press Gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Bill Burton Aboard Air Force One En Route Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Date: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 1:19:48 PM

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 2, 2010

PRESS GAGGLE

BY DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY BILL BURTON

Aboard Air Force One

En Route Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

11:59 A.M. EDT

MR. BURTON: Thanks for making the flight. It's a short one, so I wanted to get back here early, so sorry to get between you and the food.

To start, I've got a readout for you on the President's meeting with General Odierno, which he made -- which he had before we left. The President met today with General Odierno to review security and political progress in Iraq. General Odierno provided a positive assessment of the current security conditions and the ongoing transition of responsibilities to Iraqi security forces ahead of the change of mission of U.S. forces at the end of August. The President and General Odierno also discussed the encouraging step taken by Iraq's federal supreme court to certify election results, as well as U.S. support for an inclusive government formation process. The President thanked General Odierno for his service to the nation.

And with that.

Q Is it going to be released in a statement form and email form?

MR. BURTON: It will be transcribed by some of the best professionals in the country.

Q On the Israeli-Gaza situation, Abbas said that when he comes here next week he's going to ask the President to take bold action. Any indication about what he means? And is the President prepared to take bold action on the Israeli-Palestinian situation?

MR. BURTON: Well, the President thinks it's critically important that we move in the process to find stability and security in that region. In terms of this incident, what's most important to the President is that events like the one that transpired a couple nights ago don't transpire again, that we're protecting the security of Israel, and that we're getting aid to the folks who need it in Gaza.

Q When he spoke with the Turkish Prime Minister, did the Prime Minister specifically ask him to condemn the Israeli forces' actions?

MR. BURTON: I wasn't on the call, so I don't know.

Q Could you check on that?

MR. BURTON: Sure.

Q On the oil spill, can you talk a little bit about --

MR. BURTON: Hold on one quick second. But just on that point, I wouldn't necessarily read out something that the Prime Minister of Turkey had to say. That would be up to their government to read out.

Q On the oil spill, can you talk a little bit about why Holder was sent to the region and why this probe was launched yesterday, about the timing of this and --

MR. BURTON: Well, in terms of timing, I would direct you to the Department of Justice. But what they're doing is checking out what laws were broken and what possible steps need to be taken in order to make sure that the law is upheld, and if people broke the law, that they're treated accordingly.

Q Is it important as part of this for sort of the public to know that, as a part of your message to the public that the White House is on top of this and is going to be holding them accountable?

MR. BURTON: Sometimes, when the Justice Department is checking out to see if laws are broken, they're just checking out to see if laws were broken. That's what's happening here. They're doing their function in terms of what's important for the Justice Department to be doing and we'll probably be hearing from them soon on what they've concluded.

Q What is your reaction to the Japanese Prime Minister's resignation? And what does this mean for stability in the region?

MR. BURTON: Well, Japan is one of our best friends in the world. And that alliance is not going to change as a result of any change in leadership in that country. We'll watch the political process take its course and be waiting like everybody else to see who the next Prime Minister will be.

Q Bill, last Friday in the Gulf, the President said he's ultimately responsible for the crisis and that the buck stops here. Having cancelled a trip to Indonesia prior -- the first time because of what happened on the health care vote, would it not make sense to do it again as this disaster continues to unfold in the Gulf?

MR. BURTON: Well, obviously, there's a lot of reasons to take the trip. And regardless of any discussions that might have been had on that, as it stands the trip is still on schedule.

Q It is under discussion whether to postpone?

MR. BURTON: I said regardless of any discussions that might have been had, it still is on the schedule.

Q What does that mean?

MR. BURTON: It means that it's still on the schedule.

Q It sounds like you're saying --

Q -- so there have been discussions about taking it off the schedule?

MR. BURTON: I can't be responsible for every conversation that happens inside the White House, so I don't want to say definitively who's talked to who about what. But the bottom line is that it's still on the schedule.

Q Bill, can you go back to the Gaza flotilla for just a moment? Is the U.S. in conversations with the Israelis about what happens the next time an aid ship tries to pass through the blockade and are there measures in place to prevent a similar incident from happening again?

MR. BURTON: Well, I'm not going to get into the specifics of the conversations that we're having with Israel, but I will say it's important to the President and to our country that we don't see the same kind of events unfold like they did the last time. So we are talking to our partners and are hopeful that we won't see a repeat.

Q Does he feel confident then that they're on the same page, that there's a shared sentiment that something like this shouldn't happen again?

MR. BURTON: He feels confident that we're having productive conversations with them.

Q And also the flotilla report, the inquiry that's going on, the fact-finding effort, what's the status of that? Do you know when that report might come back?

MR. BURTON: I don't have a timeline on when that report will come out, but like we said yesterday, the President supports a credible investigation into what happened here.

Q On talking to your partners, has the President spoken to the Israeli leadership since he spoke to them on that day -- I think Monday?

MR. BURTON: There's, of course, conversations that happen at different levels in the government. I'm not sure as to whether or not the President himself has spoken to folks in Israel. I can check on that for you.

Q And on this trip, can you tell us who's along with the President and who he's going to be meeting there?

MR. BURTON: I think in your background guidance you have the list of folks who are going to be there. But it includes -- Senator Specter is on the plane. Congressman Ohlenmeyer will be there. I know the mayor will be there. But I don't have that list right in front of me right now, but I'm pretty sure that it was --

Q Was an invitation extended to Congressman Sestak on this trip, and is he here?

MR. BURTON: I had a conversation with Laura about this earlier -- there was a little confusion. He was invited to a political meeting before the speech with some other community leaders from around the state and was certainly welcome to stay for the speech if he was so inclined.

Q He's not on the plane?

MR. BURTON: He's not. Apparently he has a previous engagement.

Q So he's not coming to any part of the event today?

Q Are you making a distinction between invited to the political meeting and invited to the speech? I mean, if there's a meeting at the location of the speech --

MR. BURTON: Yes, I was just trying to help you square the circle on why there might have been a disconnect on that.

Q Okay. I see, okay.

Q Would he have sat in the same area with the President, with Senator Specter, for example?

MR. BURTON: I think if you look at the audience and how it's set up, I don't know for sure, but it would be pretty obvious where all the political leaders would have sat.

Q Who is the audience for this? Is there some kind -- I don't know, is there a conference going on, or who is the group the President is speaking to?

MR. BURTON: Hold on one second. This is in Finkenbinder's pocket. I'll have it for you in a minute. (Laughter.)

Q He was not invited to come on the plane? I just want to make sure I was clear on that.

MR. BURTON: No, I don't believe so.

Q There's a report out of the U.N. Human Rights and they're talking about making recommendations for countries to have to disclose when they use unmanned drones, in particular, to kill terrorists. Is that something the U.S. would support?

MR. BURTON: The President is focused on making sure that he's doing everything in his power to protect the security of our country and to advance our strategic interests. I'm not going to get into an intelligence matter, but I will tell you that the President is going to continue to do everything that he can to protect Americans.

Q On the surface, that recommendation wouldn't present any problems for the U.S.?

MR. BURTON: I'm just not going to get into intelligence matters.

Okay, the audience is about 300 people; 50 percent of the tickets went to the school and then the White House distributed the rest. The audience will be comprised of students, faculty, elected officials and local community and business leaders.

Q Back on the oil spill for just a second. The inquiry that the DOJ is conducting, the target of that could be oil company executives, workers? Could it be regulators? Are there -- can you say anything about that?

MR. BURTON: I would direct you to the Department of Justice for the parameters of what they're looking into. I think the bottom line is they're looking to see if any laws were broken. If there were, they're going to act appropriately.

Q I mean, they wouldn't rule out the possibility that regulators may be implicated here?

MR. BURTON: You'd have to talk to those guys about the scope.

Q And also could you go back to the resignation of the Japanese Prime Minister? Does this have any implications for the Japanese-U.S. alliance? I mean, apparently the Okinawa base was an issue in the Prime Minister's decision.

MR. BURTON: No, our alliance is unshaken. In terms of the base, as their chief minister said this morning, that agreement will be honored.

Q Let me try on the economy and Europe. There's been reports that the Obama administration is urging its European partners to conduct similar bank stress tests as the U.S. did. What would the

White House say about that?

MR. BURTON: Well, the United States is confident that European leaders have been doing the right thing by putting in place reforms that help to keep their financial institutions strong and help to shore up their own economies.

I don't know that I'm going to get into the specifics of private conversations that are had between our nation and other nations, but if you want more on that, I would direct you to the Treasury.

Q Not to belabor the Sestak thing, but you said he was invited to a political meeting prior to the speech? What kind of political meeting?

MR. BURTON: It's the sort of meeting the President has at a lot of these events with local community leaders, often from different parts of the state.

Q This happens behind closed doors? I mean, it's not something we're going to see?

MR. BURTON: That's right.

Q And Sestak declined that invitation, as far as you know?

MR. BURTON: That's right.

Q Does the President think that Mark Kirk misled people about his service record?

MR. BURTON: This is something I haven't talked to him about. I'm not sure if he's even seen the reports about it.

Q Not sure he's what?

MR. BURTON: -- he's even seen the reports about it.

Q Is he following the Illinois Senate race?

MR. BURTON: He is following it, but probably not as closely as those of us who have a lot more time to just read the political news from around the country.

Q Back to the Sestak thing for one second. Do you think that part of it -- the campaign is not the reason that he's not here, it's because he had a prior commitment. But do you think that part of this may be lingering tension between the White House and the Sestak campaign, given the obvious?

MR. BURTON: Nope.

Q Could you elaborate?

MR. BURTON: Really, no. (Laughter.) Okay, let's eat.

END 12:11 P.M. EDT

From: bounce-849606-2274996@list.whitehouse.gov on behalf of White House Press Office
To: (b) (6) CIV OSD PA
Subject: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Robert Gibbs, 6/3/2010
Date: Thursday, June 03, 2010 6:10:59 PM

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 3, 2010

PRESS BRIEFING

BY PRESS SECRETARY ROBERT GIBBS

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

* The amount of the bill sent to BP today is \$69 million, which accounts for 75% of the obligations to date. Actual expenditures will likely vary

from these projections but future invoices will recoup the full costs based on actual expenses incurred. BP was given until July 1 to pay the full \$69 million. Costs included in the \$69 million are:

- \$29 million - For Federal agencies to support operation of ships, aircraft and boats, to support environmental assessment/monitoring, to support deployed personnel, and other expenses.
- \$4 million - For Department of Defense support of salvage and removal efforts, to support operation of ships and aircraft.
- \$29 million - For National Guard Bureau to support activation and deployment of National Guard from LA, MS, AL and FL, to support deployed personnel, and other expenses.
- \$7 million - For states to support removal operations, to support environmental assessment/monitoring, and other expenses.

**Let me clarify, what I mean is President Calderon's courageous efforts to go after the cartels have put them on the defensive and they are reacting violently. As was highlighted during the State Visit, we are committed to working with Mexico to go after the cartels that pose a threat to communities on both sides of the border.

2:27 P.M. EDT

MR. GIBBS: Just one quick scheduling update for you all. Tomorrow before departing for the Gulf, the President will stop with the Vice President at a business in Hyattsville, Maryland, to comment on the May employment numbers that will be, as you know, released tomorrow.

They will visit the K Neal International commercial truck dealership and parts -- truck parts supplier. The President and Vice President will do a tour with workers, and the President will make brief remarks to pooled press.

Mr. Feller.

Q Thank you, Robert. I have a few questions about the Romanoff matter, following up on your e-mail this morning. Did the President sign off on the White House's approaching Romanoff about the prospect of jobs to get into --

MR. GIBBS: The President wasn't aware of that.

Q He wasn't aware?

MR. GIBBS: No.

Q What is his reaction to this?

MR. GIBBS: I haven't talked to him about it today.

Q You don't know of any --

MR. GIBBS: I haven't talked to him about it today.

Q We now have two confirmed cases of the White House actively seeking to encourage Democratic candidates to bow out of primary challenges. How can you contend that this isn't politics as

usual?

MR. GIBBS: Well, Ben, I think the leaders of parties have long had an interest in ensuring that supporters didn't run against each other in contested primaries. That's what was done in this case.

Q Do you think that the White House has been transparent about this? It seems like the details of this, if in fact it's legitimate, have rolled out later only upon --

MR. GIBBS: If in fact what is legitimate?

Q That the -- has the White House been transparent about these offers; if in fact nothing was done wrong, why has it taken so long for all this to come out?

MR. GIBBS: I think you all have received quite a bit of information over the past week on this, and I do believe we've been transparent, yes.

Q You do?

MR. GIBBS: I do.

Q So, overall, does the President stand by these?

MR. GIBBS: Stand by?

Q Stand by these offers to --

MR. GIBBS: Again, the President has, as the leader of the party, has an interest in ensuring that supporters don't run against each other in contested primaries, yes.

Q But that makes it sounds like he did know about them, then.

MR. GIBBS: No, no, he's not aware of the individual circumstances. I don't think it's -- we went through a pretty contested primary. They're not altogether fun things. Again, does the leader of the party have an interest in ensuring that primaries that tend to be costly aren't had so that you're ready

for a general election? Of course.

Q Can you talk about what the President hopes to accomplish on tomorrow's trip? And can you talk a little bit about what he's going to be doing down there? And what does he hope to accomplish that he didn't do on the last two trips?

MR. GIBBS: Well, look, I think -- and we'll have some scheduling details for you all shortly. I think the President will likely see governors again. I think the President will speak with individuals and business leaders likely that have been affected directly by the economic consequences of the spill, and continue to get from Admiral Allen a firsthand update on our progress, both in dealing with the well and in dealing with the spread of pollution that has leaked from the well.

I think the President believed that last week's trip was tremendously productive. We had about a two-hour meeting with parish presidents from Louisiana affected by the spill, senators and a congressman from Louisiana, governors from many of the Gulf states, and I think -- along with the Coast Guard -- and I think the President believed it was a productive atmosphere in ensuring that everybody's causes and concerns were heard and ultimately met.

Q Can you talk about the criticism that the President isn't making that emotional connection with people over the spill?

MR. GIBBS: You know, I -- this one is -- I said this last night -- if jumping up and down and screaming were to fix a hole in the ocean, we'd have done that five or six weeks ago. We'd have done that the first night. I think we're going to be judged and the President will be judged on our response and our recovery efforts to what we all know now is the worst environmental disaster in our nation's history. But pounding on a podium isn't going to fix a hole in the ocean.

I think what the American people and the citizens of the Gulf are expecting are results. And I think that's what the President will be measured by. I'll leave emotional psychiatry to others.

Hold on, I'll get back to you.

Q Can I just ask a quick question about the -- you mentioned the May jobs report and I was wondering where things stand with the effort to get that jobs bill through. Some Democrats are worried about the budgetary implications of that. And tying it into the Gulf, are you concerned that his political capital is a little weakened from this --

MR. GIBBS: How so?

Q Just the fact that he's dealing with a lot of criticism over this right now and that's taking a lot of

time, a lot of White House time, maybe --

MR. GIBBS: No, again, I --

Q -- possibly a distraction?

MR. GIBBS: No. Look, again, I said this earlier this week. I think you -- no White House at any time has the luxury of picking the events that it deals with, both on a domestic and an international -- and on the international scene. That's part of the job.

But the American people don't elect somebody I think that they don't believe can walk and chew gum at the same time. Sometimes it feels like we walk and chew gum and juggle on a unicycle all at the same time. I get that. But I think if you look at the progress that we've made over the -- let's go back the past six weeks, we've seen sanctions introduced in the U.N. Security Council that we believe will be voted on next week and approved by the U.N. Security Council. We've passed financial reform through the Senate, and I think it's likely that that bill will be signed into law before the July 4th recess. We've nominated a Supreme Court justice that I believe will be confirmed before the August recess. We've completed fairly recently a new START treaty that we believe will be ratified by the end of the year. We'll get a chance tomorrow to evaluate the progress that we're making through the jobs report on our economic recovery.

So we have had a very full agenda, not just in the past 44 or 45 days, but for the past 16 months. But I -- there's a whole lot of people working on a whole lot of things in the White House, and we're able to do more than several things at once.

Yes, sir.

Q It's clear that the U.S. government knew about the flotilla before the Israeli army confronted it -

MR. GIBBS: Right.

Q -- the Israeli navy confronted it. What does the administration think the purpose of the flotilla was? Does the administration -- does the Obama administration think it was on a humanitarian mission? Does it think it was trying to provoke Israel into a reaction? What was the opinion of the government when it was talking to Israel about --

MR. GIBBS: I've not asked NSC that directly, Jake. I can try to have NSC find out what -- again, there's a blockade, as you know, to ensure that weapons are not brought in for Hamas.

At the same time, you've heard the President recently, and certainly the Secretary of State, discuss what we believe is an unsustainable humanitarian presence in Gaza.

Q Does the President -- I assume the President knows that one of the dead was an American.

MR. GIBBS: He does.

Q What was his reaction?

MR. GIBBS: I'm told that -- upon being told this, obviously, he expressed his deep condolences, and we certainly express our deep condolences to his family. Obviously, this is extremely -- extremely horrible news for them. Our ambassador has been in touch with his father. And I would reiterate that we have with the U.N. Security Council condemned the acts that have led to these deaths.

Q We talked about this before and I understand that it was written the way it was, but by condemning the acts, that could condemn the people on the flotilla to a degree, but since I know that that's a lane that's not going to lead anywhere, let me just ask this: Does the fact that one of the victims was an American born in Troy, New York, change at all the U.S. view of what happened or the U.S. position on what happened?

MR. GIBBS: Well, not to somewhat go down the lane you were talking about, again, I would reiterate we've condemned the acts and believe --

Q You can go down that lane actually.

MR. GIBBS: I understand. Well, I'm going down the other side of the street that --

Q I already told him it doesn't go anywhere. (Laughter.)

MR. GIBBS: No, but I -- look, we have called for and the U.N. Security Council presidential statement calls for a full and credible investigation so that we have all the facts about what happened, and that is tremendously important and we have -- I said here just a couple of days ago that that could include international participation in that investigation.

Q Doesn't it change it to a degree, the fact that one of the dead, one of those killed by the Israeli armed forces, was an American? Doesn't that by necessity change the view of the U.S. government, of

the American government, as to this?

MR. GIBBS: Well, again, we --

Q It's different. I mean, I don't mean to sound callous, but --

MR. GIBBS: No, no, I understand.

Q -- if 10 Greeks are killed or 10 Turks are killed, the U.S. government might condemn the act and think it's a horrible thing, but it's different than if an American is killed.

MR. GIBBS: Which, Jake, is why I started the answer to this question by expressing the deep condolences of the United States government and the President's condolences.

Yes, sir.

Q Robert, there continue to be concerns about the deepwater moratorium, drilling moratorium, and the impact that it could have over the next 12 to 18 months on jobs, existing jobs, or platforms moving away and what that would mean to high-paying jobs. What is the White House reaction to the potential loss of employment?

MR. GIBBS: Well, Dan, this was something that the President discussed with his team prior to the release of the report that halted the 33 existing drilling actions, a situation we didn't take lightly. But I think it's important that -- I think it's important that we understand exactly why this accident happened and ensure that if there is something that was preventable, that we ensure that every one of these activities, these drilling permits, takes any of that into account.

Understand that what got -- what happened in this incident, on the Deepwater Horizon, was after the drilling reached the reservoir of oil, in the process of capping that well. So each of these 33 deepwater permits are in some -- are at some depth toward reaching that well.

So let's have an investigation to ensure that the capping of those exploratory wells, with proper blowout preventers, failsafe mechanisms that mean failsafe, that we have a full investigation, and that's what the commission is going to look into, a regulatory framework that can ensure safe drilling.

I think that's important. The President thought that was important, and I think the citizens of the Gulf think that's important.

I think will say this. I think Governor Jindal sent that letter. Governor Jindal has been very critical, rightly so, of BP. Four of those drilling permits were either solely or jointly operated by BP. I don't know if he's got more confidence in their drilling procedures than he does in their response efforts, but the President certainly believed that that was something that needed to be looked into before those permits were continued.

Q So the White House acknowledges, then, that there will be a loss of jobs --

MR. GIBBS: I don't think there's any doubt.

Q -- but this investigation has to go forward to prevent this from happening again.

MR. GIBBS: Understand this, there are a loss of jobs because of what's happened, right? Your network and everybody else is interviewing fishermen that can't fish, right? You're interviewing hotel owners whose hotels -- whose reservations have been canceled. So this is not a zero-sum game.

And, again, let's ensure that, as the President outlined and what he wants the commission to look at is that there is a regulatory framework that makes drilling as failsafe as BP and other companies say it is. That's what's important.

Q Does the White House believe that it was a mistake for the President not to meet with fishermen or other local business people during his last visit?

MR. GIBBS: He met with fishermen on May the 1st --

Q The first time.

MR. GIBBS: -- when we went down --

Q What about -- there have been -- some criticize that he did not spend enough time talking to the "real people" on the ground. Was that a decision not to do that?

MR. GIBBS: Well, I will say the Mayor of Grand Isle told -- well, first of all, I think there was pretty large representation of people in that room. The Mayor of Grand Isle, who generally has, as he said, 10,000 people on his beach for Memorial Day weekend wasn't likely to have any, as he said. He talked about putting his own credit card out to help fishermen who can't fish meet their expenses. Similar

stories that the President got several weeks earlier from fishermen in the Gulf region.

The President is well aware of the pain and suffering that this accident is causing. And that is why he's asked that we do everything we can. That's why very early on in this process, the Small Business Administration set up a process for many of those small business owners to obtain very low interest loans while economic damages are recovered from BP.

Q But --

MR. GIBBS: I would say this, too, the federal government will at some point today send what I would call a bill for \$69 million of expenses incurred up to this point to BP to be reimbursed to the taxpayers as a part of the Oil Pollution Act for expenditures in response, for DOD expenditures in moving assets to the region, for a whole host of things that BP will be paying the taxpayers for.*

Q Sixty-nine million?

MR. GIBBS: Sixty-nine million dollars.

Q And how much time do they have to pay that? Is that --

MR. GIBBS: I will -- I don't know what the time limit is on that.

Q Okay, and then --

MR. GIBBS: That is the first bill, yes.

Q And since the White House has been -- or the administration has been calling a lot of the shots on what takes place in this -- in the Gulf, did the White House pressure at all BP to make the kind of public apology that we've been seeing from the CEO in the print and also this video release where he's been saying "I'm sorry"? Was the White House -- did the White House push for this?

MR. GIBBS: I don't know if others had conversations; whether Admiral Allen, who talks with the CEO, has had conversations. I don't think there's any doubt, Dan, that we've seen comments from the CEO that he's apologized for -- rightly so. I don't -- look, I don't think a CEO needs to tell people in the Gulf that there's not any pollution or he'd like his life back. There's 11 people that we'd all like to have their lives back that were killed the very first night of this incident. And the harm that's being done there will take years to fix. We will hold BP responsible throughout this process.

Q Did anyone in the White House yell at him for making those comments?

MR. GIBBS: I don't know the answer to that.

Q Robert, with the President first in the Rose Garden threatening or at least talking about the possibility of criminal action and then Holder, Attorney General Holder opening the criminal investigation, has that made the relationship with BP difficult in any way?

MR. GIBBS: Not that I'm aware of.

Q I mean, there really seems to be a hostile relationship right now between the two.

MR. GIBBS: Not that I'm aware of. How so?

Q Well, when you're talking about bringing criminal charges against someone and then you're trying to work with them as a partner to solve a problem, doesn't that make the situation more difficult?

MR. GIBBS: Well, they have an obligation to fix the hole that's on the bottom of the ocean floor. We have an obligation as the federal government to ensure that the laws of this country have been and are upheld.

Q But does that inevitably --

MR. GIBBS: I don't think so.

Q -- lead to a more difficult relationship and a more difficult time working together to get this done?

MR. GIBBS: Not that I'm aware of, no.

Q Is the President -- does the President believe, as some of his critics say, that he's kind of playing catch up now, that he didn't go very often in the beginning -- this will be only his third trip. Is he going to be going more regularly to --

MR. GIBBS: I don't know -- which critic are you talking about?

Q You could name dozens of them. Let's go with Colin Powell and James Carville, who believe he was too slow out of the --

MR. GIBBS: I mean, best I can -- each has said that we ought to have a comprehensive response. I think --

Q But they also said that he should have done what he did when he went down there, he should have done everything two weeks earlier.

MR. GIBBS: Well, again, I don't know what their critique was on -- when the President was there on May the 1st so -- or May the 2nd, I'm sorry, it was the day after.

Q But you said the visit the other day was a very -- it was a tremendously -- last week was tremendously productive.

MR. GIBBS: It was tremendously productive.

Q Well, if he'd gone two weeks before, wouldn't it have been better -- tremendously --

MR. GIBBS: He went three weeks before, and that visit was also productive.

Q But if it was tremendously productive that Friday, wouldn't it have been more productive to go the week before and the week before?

MR. GIBBS: He went the week before the week before the week before.

Q But he didn't go all those in between.

MR. GIBBS: You're right, he did not go each of the last weeks.

Q Is he going to be in the future, do you think? This is two Fridays in a row.

MR. GIBBS: He will be there as often as the situation dictates. Obviously it is -- we're dealing with the worst environmental disaster in our nation's history. We are -- we have mobilized the largest federal response in our nation's history. And we will continue to make sure that all is being done to plug the leak and to deal with the environmental and economic consequences of what that pollution has caused.

Q Is Indonesia still on?

MR. GIBBS: I don't have any updates on the schedule. As soon as -- if I do or as soon as I do, I'll certainly let you guys know.

Q Just to stay on that theme, how much of the President's schedule is being changed or altered due to the spill at this point? Can you just describe a little bit of how much of the President's day, his schedule --

MR. GIBBS: I mean, he gets an update in the Oval Office each day between the daily intelligence briefing and generally the daily economic briefing.

Q Who does the update?

MR. GIBBS: Carol and John Brennan. And like a whole host of issues, the President gets regular updates on -- the President gets regular updates on a whole host of issues, including oil.

Q Is there -- when you see a Jon Stewart mocking the President's time --

MR. GIBBS: I got to tell you, Chuck, I haven't --

Q I understand but --

MR. GIBBS: I haven't watched TV in two weeks that isn't news, so I --

Q Fair enough.

MR. GIBBS: I love Jon Stewart, he's a funny guy, but I have not watched him recently.

Q He critiques on how much time the President is spending on some of the ceremonial aspects of the presidency that he's had to deal with.

MR. GIBBS: Chuck, we're still the President for -- the President is the President 24 hours a day. I don't think you'd suggest we stop doing intelligence briefings on things like Afghanistan and Pakistan because of what's going on in the Gulf, just like what was going on in Afghanistan and Pakistan didn't limit what -- our response to the Gulf. I mean, this is -- on any given day, the President is working on -- even on the quiet days, and there haven't been many -- even on the quiet days, the President is working on a whole host of issues.

And, again, I'd refer you back to what I said earlier, the notion somehow that our legislative schedule has somehow been curtailed, I don't -- we seem to be well on track to get a new Supreme Court justice by the August recess. My hunch is we'll sign, again, a financial reform bill prior to the July 4th recess. We're going to get U.N. sanctions against Iran, which not a lot of people thought six weeks ago at the beginning of this spill we had a chance of getting. People didn't think we had a chance of getting this at the beginning of the week, I would point out.

So I appreciate that sometimes you guys have one story, you do one story a day. We don't necessarily deal with just one subject every day.

Q A deputy of the Interior Department Sylvia Baca had -- went from the Clinton administration to working for BP; now she's back in the Obama administration in the Interior Department. Have you asked her to take --

MR. GIBBS: Anybody that's in -- nobody that comes into this administration can regulate any employer that they worked for previously.

Q She's totally been off --

MR. GIBBS: Cannot work for anything related to that.

Q And was it -- you say you took -- you quoted Tony Hayward just now about his comments that he made about his own life, trying to get his own life back -- do you think at this point he is no longer a helpful face for BP?

MR. GIBBS: I'm not going to do their PR. They'll make their decisions on who they think should brief, who they think should talk to the American people. I do hope this, I do hope that the company

continues to answer the questions that I think the American people want to know the answers to. That's important to do.

Q And one more thing, have you been briefed on the next plan? You know, every time there seems to be every one of these attempts at stopping the leak, the plan -- the next plan has been in the works -- do you -- are you guys aware of the next plan that's in the works at this phase?

Q Or the next 10 --

Q Or at least the next one --

MR. GIBBS: Well, I'd say this. Look, there are -- there always was -- based on the type of cap that will go on the riser was predicated on the, for lack of a better term, the smoothness of the cut. So I believe there are several different caps that are there. I'm told that they're moving ships into the region -- or I'm sorry, moving ships over the well. The cap will be lowered in slowly to ensure that the hydrates problem that we encountered with previous attempts you minimize.

Look, there are -- there will continue to be contingencies on what happens --

Q The history of the spill already has been each one of these things has failed and then they go to the next thing.

MR. GIBBS: But look, I think it's important -- I do think it's important to understand there is one permanent solution. That's a relief well. BP began to drill that relief well -- I think one of the things that we've certainly already taken from this is you need to have built-in redundancy into the system. That's why we asked them to start drilling a second well. And if for some reason a problem is incurred in either of those first two wells, we'll ask them to drill a third well. So there's a whole host of different scenarios, Chuck, that we're working through.

Jonathan.

Q On Romanoff -- part of the defense on the Joe Sestak matter was that it was an unpaid position and it was done through an intermediary, Bill Clinton. In this case, these were three paid -- potentially paid positions done by the deputy chief of staff. Does that make the Romanoff job offer fundamentally different and perhaps fundamentally more troubling?

MR. GIBBS: Let's be clear. There wasn't a job offer. There wasn't a job promised. Mr. Romanoff applied for a job in government service during the transition. I think that's -- that's the fact pattern.

Q Right, but if I apply for a job and then an employer comes back and says, how about these three, does my application for the job change the fact that I might have been offered those three jobs?

MR. GIBBS: Well, I don't -- let's walk away from your hypothetical, or add to your hypothetical that when you applied for that job you expressed an interest in several different departments like USAID.

Q And on -- I'm sorry, quickly back to BP, I don't know -- have you heard anything from the flow rate people at the U.S. Geological Survey on what they are seeing from the cut riser? And do you feel like the images at least are substantiating what you thought would happen and what BP did not think --

MR. GIBBS: Jonathan, it's a good question, and I will have somebody go -- I do not know of any new estimates on -- from the flow rate technical group. Again, we thought it was important that, based on what we heard from Dr. McNutt at USGS, who's the head of the flow rate technical group, that cutting the top off that riser would likely -- or could increase the amount of hydrocarbon by 20 percent.

I do not know if they have -- and I'm not entirely sure that you could altogether ascertain just from the flat-screen image of the riser cut the degree to which that hydrocarbon flow had indeed increased. But let me check on the flow rate --

Q If the U.S. is in charge of this oil spill, why is the BP corporation being -- going to be giving operational updates?

MR. GIBBS: Well, look, the remotely operated vehicles, the sheer cut operation, is being conducted by them, as we've said, because they have -- they are the only people in this scenario that have the type of technical expertise. In order for a cut with a diamond saw or a sheer cut to happen, the federal on-scene coordinator, Admiral Watson, has to sign off on that -- Rear Admiral Watson, sorry.

Q So you're fine with BP continuing to have a voice as the --

MR. GIBBS: I think it's important that BP continue to have a voice. There are -- I assume that there are -- look, I love Thad Allen, I don't think he's -- there are certainly technical questions that BP can and should answer and, look, I think the American people and the citizens of the Gulf are owed an explanation about -- from BP of what they're seeing and what's going on.

Q Can you be a little more specific about the President's trip tomorrow, what his goals are? What does he hope to accomplish and bring home and see any results?

MR. GIBBS: Well, again, as I said to Caren, I think that the -- evaluating on the ground every effort of the response, both on the surface of the water and in the environmental damage that's been done,

but also in the economic damage that's been and being done in the Gulf to small business owners everywhere down there. I think he'll get a chance, again, to talk to some of those folks and get a chance to get -- talk directly with Admiral Allen again, as well as understand how the -- each state in the Gulf is implementing its own state response plan and whatever concerns they have in wanting to augment the plans developed by them for a spill.

Q So a fact-finding trip?

MR. GIBBS: Well, I think the President will want to hear any update that's going on but also hear directly from -- as he did in the first trip, hear from non-elected individuals who are also suffering firsthand at this, as are those that those officials represent.

Q One quick question on the flotilla. Before this incident happened, the U.S. government urged Israel to exercise caution and restraint. Does the White House feel that Israel heeded those words?

MR. GIBBS: Well, let me just say there are a lot of questions that you all may have that I think will be helped by the investigation that the United States has called for. We would continue to encourage Israel to -- while maintaining a blockade not to have -- I think we all -- none of us want a repeat of what happened.

Wendell.

Q How much meeting of the minds was there in the President's meeting today with Arizona Governor Brewer?

MR. GIBBS: I was not in the meeting, but I think you heard her say and I think there's a readout from our office that will go out discussing efforts that the administration has made along the border with the National Guard and other devices to strengthen border security; obviously a long discussion about comprehensive immigration reform, which, again, I think you heard the governor discuss, which is the only way that we're going to solve this crisis. It is not going to be solved by one method alone.

Q She said that she'd like to see construction of a fence begin in a month or so. Is that likely?

MR. GIBBS: I need to get an update on that. I saw that out of the meeting and I have not had a chance to talk to anybody.

Q On the -- China's decision to rescind the invitation to Secretary Gates, do you see that as a direct result of the Taiwan arms sale? Is there another reason for it?

MR. GIBBS: I don't know. I'd direct you to the Department of Defense on that.

Q Does it have implications for U.S.-China relations?

MR. GIBBS: Well, again, we have -- there was a -- you have two countries that disagreed on our arms sales, and countries like China and the United States are going to have times in which, whether it's North Korean sanctions in front of the U.N. last year or Iran sanctions in front of the U.N. this year, where we agree, and there will be issues that we disagree on. And that's what you have in international relations.

Q A couple of questions on the commission -- the oil spill commission. Does the President believe everything should be on the table in terms of the recommendations that the commission might ultimately come to in regards to future of oil drilling?

MR. GIBBS: Yes.

Q And so does that include the possibility that they could recommend that the risks of drilling in deepwater are simply too great and that it should be stopped?

MR. GIBBS: Well, look, I assume they will look at that, and I think the President would want to be assured -- as he certainly said in meetings here -- that at the very least, you have to have a plan, a credible plan for responding to what potentially could happen to ensure that you can stop something that you start, which 45 days later we know BP is not showing good results on.

I will say this. We have -- there are thousands of wells in the Gulf. And we have -- as we have slowed deepwater permits, we have continued exploratory drilling in shallow water. That continues, and they're evaluating -- continue to evaluate permits to continue to drill in shallow water because we -- I think the last time I saw the number was around 60 percent of our oil is imported from overseas. We have to break our dependence on foreign oil. The President outlined a comprehensive strategy that included more drilling because -- well, because we have to -- we're going to have to take steps to break our dependence on foreign oil.

That's why we've invested in a whole host of clean energy projects through the Recovery Act. But at the same time, we're all still driving cars.

Q So I guess that almost suggests that he -- that if they were to come back and say, look, as there are environmentalists and others out there who say drilling is just too dangerous, fundamentally in that deep of water just is never going to be safe --

MR. GIBBS: Well, look, I think the President -- I think the President has been very candid in both -- in asking this commission to look at not just the companies, but obviously he's not spared the government the rod on this as well, in terms of ensuring that there's a regulatory framework that works for the American people.

Again, we -- there are, as I -- there are thousands of wells down there that are producing oil that we're going to use right now. So the commission has a lot of breadth in dealing with and in examining that regulatory framework.

Q One last question on the setting up the commission, do you have any guidance on when he's going to be naming the rest of the folks? And in terms of the --

MR. GIBBS: In the next couple of days. I think they're finishing that up now.

Q And the staff that -- I mean, they have to find the place to meet and all that --

MR. GIBBS: They will find an executive director and relevant staff, too, to begin to handle a whole host of questions, one of which they'll look at which are these -- which are the 33 current permits that have been frozen.

Q Robert, you just said earlier that you're very confident that the U.S. will be able to get through an Iran sanctions resolution through the U.N.

MR. GIBBS: Yes.

Q Are you saying then that the Israeli flotilla incident had no effect at all on our efforts on Iran?

MR. GIBBS: Well, I've obviously not spoken with each member -- each of the 15 members of the U.N. Security Council. I think the President and the team here remain confident that we start with the P5-plus-1 in support of that resolution and believe that when that resolution is voted on, likely within the next week, that they will have a number that will pass that resolution.

Q And back to taking the President's emotional temperature, I just want to get back to something that Jake asked you about on the American who was killed in the flotilla. You said the President was very sorry. Was he angry?

MR. GIBBS: I was told he expressed his condolences. I was not -- this I think was during the PDB, and I was not in the PDB.

Q Briefly, Robert, on the Romanoff issue, are there other offers that have been made to clear primary opponents away?

MR. GIBBS: I'm sorry?

Q Besides the two that we know about, are there other offers?

MR. GIBBS: Not that I'm aware of.

Q Okay, your defense of this practice, can we expect the White House staff will continue to look on that as a possible means of preventing people running against each other?

MR. GIBBS: Again, I think we've -- I would draw you to the circumstances that we've talked about in each one of these cases, Mark.

Q They're peculiar, they're not -- those circumstances are not likely to be repeated? I mean, is this likely to happen again?

MR. GIBBS: Again, I would point you to the -- I would point you to the fact pattern in each one of them.

Q Robert, a quick question on the meeting with the Governor of Arizona. She said the solution for the illegal immigration problem should be border security first, and then immigration reform. Does the President believe in that for the solution?

MR. GIBBS: Well, I think the President believes that there are -- those things have to happen together. Look, if there was one solution to this crisis, my guess is somebody would have either tried it or done it long ago. We know that's not the case. I think the President has outlined his beliefs on this. His record in the Senate demonstrate this. And the work that he's done here to encourage a bipartisan solution to a very emotional issue is something he continues to work on.

Yes, ma'am.

Q Thank you, Robert. On North Korea, the United States has existing economic sanctions against North Korea under the U.N. Security Council Resolution 1874. Will the U.S. continue to provide

humanitarian aid to North Korea?

MR. GIBBS: Let me check with NSC on that. I don't know of any change in that, but I will double-check on that.

Q Thank you.

MR. GIBBS: Yes.

Q Robert, question on the National Guard troops heading down to the border. In his news conference last week, the President said this wasn't a response to the Arizona immigration law; in fact, it was part of a plan that had been discussed since as early as last year. So my question is, what is it a response to? What happened to make him think the border wasn't secure enough right now?*

MR. GIBBS: Well, again, I think you -- I don't think this is a problem that has -- this is a problem that has -- I think if you go back several administrations you see that at different time periods there have been more National Guard on the border. During the Clinton administration, I think at four different times they moved members of the National Guard to the border; several different times during the Bush administration.

Obviously, what has the -- what President Calderón has done to fight crime and gangs is something that has caused increased violence as well.

Yes.

Q Robert, the full and credible report on the flotilla incident, just for timing purposes -- well, first of all, who's doing it? Do you know who is actually --

MR. GIBBS: It's an Israeli investigation.

Q It's an Israeli investigation?

MR. GIBBS: That's my understanding, yes.

Q Well, wait, you guys didn't support -- you guys came out supporting for an independent investigation, correct?

MR. GIBBS: Well, which is why I said two days ago that that could include international participation. I would point you to that.

Q Do you know anything about the timing of a report like that?

MR. GIBBS: No.

Q Are we talking about like a week or --

MR. GIBBS: I don't know.

Q Another scheduling thing -- the Indonesia trip is still on the schedule?

MR. GIBBS: Yes, I said earlier to Chip --

Q I think my hearing isn't working, I don't know -- it's still on the schedule?

Q I spoke in Indonesian. (Laughter.)

MR. GIBBS: Yes, exactly. If anything changes, we'll let you know.

Q Okay, and also just could you say how the meeting with Governor Brewer came about? Was that by -- did the White House invite her, and why?

MR. GIBBS: I think she requested the meeting. I don't know when she requested it. I saw an e-mail several days ago that we were adding that meeting.

Q And why did the President decide he wanted to do that meeting?

MR. GIBBS: Well, look, I -- look, you're not going to deal with the immigration issue without dealing with what's happening along the border, and certainly Arizona is a big part of that.

Obviously, Arizona has taken -- because of a lack of a federal response in comprehensive immigration reform, has pointed to state efforts that the President believes could be harmful. And the Justice Department is evaluating that law for further action. But, look, I don't think you're going to deal with comprehensive immigration reform and the circumstances around the border without dealing with Arizona.

Yes, ma'am.

Q Thanks. Two-parter. I think even after seeing Governor Brewer come back out, many of us are not really clear what the point -- I mean, did anything actually get accomplished in there? Does he feel that he's of any closer of a mind with her on some of these conflicts? And do you expect that we'll see any other follow-ups with her? She said some officials are going down there. He's not going down there, is he? I mean --

MR. GIBBS: Not that I'm aware of.

Q -- did anything actually happen? Or did they just like talk a lot? (Laughter.)

MR. GIBBS: I'm not going to be -- what are meetings like at McClatchy? Because I -- (laughter.) I don't know -- I don't -- maybe I'm going to the wrong meetings. You know, occasionally we look at our -- well, more than occasionally we look at our BlackBerries, but I -- look, there are viewpoints that she has, clearly, and were expressed in her signature on a law about how we deal with immigration.

As was said earlier, she's got a point of view that you have to do border security first. The President has a view that we have to have comprehensive immigration reform. I'll say this, Margaret, I saw the Governor say that one of the results of the meeting is I think she believes will be better communication between the administration and her state. And I think that's always a positive development.

But, look, the President has talked about this, the President talked about this at the Republican Caucus, and the President has talked about it here at the White House. John McCain was very instrumental in getting immigration reform to the point that it was in 2005, 2006 and 2007. I doubt we're going to get comprehensive immigration reform if we don't have John McCain doing what he believed in those years. She's the governor of that state, and hopefully will let both the senators of Arizona and throughout the country know that the way to best deal with immigration reform is to do it comprehensively at a federal level.

Q Another quick question.

MR. GIBBS: Yes.

Q When was the planning for the summer --

MR. GIBBS: I do want to know about the McClatchy meetings, by the way --

Q Anytime you'd like to --

MR. GIBBS: That sounds --

Q -- spend the morning at our shop, you're formally welcome. When it comes to the Obamas planning their summer, is there any discussion now in light of the oil spill to them perhaps vacationing on a Gulf beach? Maybe that would be disruptive, but is that something that --

MR. GIBBS: I have not been involved in their August plans. I don't know the answer to that.

Q Thanks.

Q Thank you, Robert. Two brief questions. You said it was in the President's interest to see that supporters of his are not in a political conflict. Does that mean he's fully committed to campaigning for and supporting Congressman Kendrick Meek, the certain Democratic nominee for the Senate in Florida?

MR. GIBBS: He supports his campaign for Senate, yes.

Q Okay. And he'll campaign for him?

MR. GIBBS: I don't have a campaign schedule in front of me, but we're supportive of Congressman Meek.

Q And the other thing I wanted to ask you was, I forwarded you my correspondence from KBR, the spinoff company from Halliburton, which won a bid in a competitive contract, had it retained in an apparent no-bid contract. Could you address that?

MR. GIBBS: Well, I think as you mentioned in that e-mail, it appeared as if the contract was simply -- was, as you said, retained after a competitive bidding process, which I think is consistent with

everyone's viewpoint. And I don't know if DOD has anything else to offer on that.

Q Okay. So you don't see it as contradicting the President's statement about no-bid?

MR. GIBBS: I don't. I don't.

Q A purely factual question: \$69 million -- can you break that down for us in a way that we can sort of extrapolate the rate at which the government is spending money and they're going to be billing BP?

MR. GIBBS: We have -- I left one sheet on my desk on this but I think LaBolt has that. Give me one second and I'll --

Q And is that the sum total of the costs incurred so far?

MR. GIBBS: Up to this point, yes. Let me get --

Q By the government --

MR. GIBBS: By the U.S. government, yes. Let me -- give me one second and I'll -- Ben LaBolt, please come to the front. (Laughter.)

Q See if he's watching.

Q Robert, we've heard --

MR. GIBBS: I was going to say, that's a big test. (Laughter.) Poor guy.

Q Robert, we've heard the President say over and over again around the country in these speeches that he's -- where he decries sort of the Washington business as usual culture, and your defense of these two incidents with Sestak and Romanoff, if I understand them, is essentially that this is Washington business as usual. Do you think that undercuts his larger argument and do you think there's any hypocrisy there?

MR. GIBBS: No, look, I think the -- the ethics laws that we have that our administration lives by; the transparency of allowing you to understand who comes into this White House, who they meet with, and when they come; not taking political contributions during the campaign from lobbyists and PACs, are differences in the way that Washington work, Glenn, and those are efforts that we're quite proud of.

Q But we're not just talking about necessarily laws, we're talking about sort of the optics of the situation, and this is --

MR. GIBBS: What I just outlined --

Q But this is --

MR. GIBBS: -- none of those are laws.

Q But this is something --

MR. GIBBS: Those were executive orders and decisions that the President made.

Q But this is more than just sort of procedures and structure. This is an article of faith for the President. He talks about this stuff all the time. Does this disturb him at all? Does he want to --

MR. GIBBS: Again, I did not talk to him about this.

Q Well, wait a minute, about Sestak you didn't talk -- you don't have his opinion? He asked specifically about Romanoff, but did he have an opinion about what happened with the Sestak situation?

MR. GIBBS: I have not talked to him about Sestak -- on Friday I was with him in the Gulf and we were working on oil.

Q And other than those two, Robert, you guys have not tried to dissuade others --

MR. GIBBS: Not that I'm aware of.

Q What about Paterson?

MR. GIBBS: Not that I'm aware of.

Q You ticked off a bunch of the things that you guys have been doing, but you didn't mention Guantanamo. Have you put that on the shelf, closing Guantanamo, or where does that stand right now?

MR. GIBBS: No, and in fact I think a report was recently I think sent to Congress and recently made public of the evaluations that were done of the inmates at the Guantanamo prison. I have not heard any updates on decisions about criminal trials, though -- I have not heard that.

Q Robert, does the news about a death of an American change the White House's perspective? As you know, the Turks were among the most vocal in criticizing the response from the White House. Is there any talk about maybe reevaluating, going back at this, and making either another statement or weighing in somehow?

MR. GIBBS: Well, again, I think we -- our statement and the actions of the Security Council and -- obviously the President had a good conversation two days ago with Prime Minister Erdogan and I think it is important, as I've said before, that a full and credible investigation be had to understand exactly what the facts are.

Go ahead, and then I'll go to Sam.

Q Robert, Senator Webb outlined in Bangkok his reasons for cancelling his Burma visit, and I wonder is the President still committed to the dialogue --

MR. GIBBS: LaBolt is missing, so we'll get back to you, I'm sorry. (Laughter.) The guy's working until like 10:00 at night and he probably found lunch. Sorry, go ahead.

Q Sorry about that. Is the President still committed to the dialogue with Burma's military government? And is there consideration being given to the special envoy that Senator Webb also --

MR. GIBBS: Let me check with -- I just saw briefly that but I have not a lot of guidance on that.

Q Thank you, Robert. You, again -- you listed a number of things that you plan to do legislatively. Is there anything specifically that you want to accomplish before the visit of the Russian President expected later this month?

MR. GIBBS: Well, I don't think there will be -- I don't think anything legislatively prior to that. I know that we've certainly sent the START -- the New START treaty and the material up to the Senate, just as it has been done in Russia, and expect that we will continue to make progress and see that that treaty is ratified by year's end.

Sam.

Q Back on Sestak and Romanoff, I understand that the White House wanted to avoid a costly primary fight in each of those races, but what kind of message does this offering or dangling of job opportunities send to the people in those states who actually wanted a choice for their candidate, considering that both Specter and Michael Bennet were neither elected -- both were pushed -- not pushed -- let into office either through a party switch or an appointment from the governor?

MR. GIBBS: I'm sorry, what's the question?

Q What kind of message is sent to the voters in those states who didn't -- who wanted a choice for their candidate for Senate -- the Democratic primary --

MR. GIBBS: Obviously Pennsylvania is -- we've had a primary and that's been done. Again, the President is supportive of -- as we said months ago -- supportive of incumbent Senator Michael Bennet, somebody who has done groundbreaking work first as a superintendent and is involved with a whole host of things that the President is supportive of, particularly as it relates to ethics reform.

Q But the argument among people like -- including a defender of yours, Richard Painter, the Bush ethics lawyer who actually defended the practice, is that it's seedy in the sense that you're not giving people a choice in the primary.

MR. GIBBS: Tim, I think that's a -- each individual state decides I believe how a vacancy is going to be filled and I'm not going to get into those 50 state decisions.

Thanks, guys. We'll get you the --

Q Hey, Robert, instant replay in baseball?

MR. GIBBS: Well -- (laughter.) I'll say this --

Q That's my team now, be careful.

MR. GIBBS: Which one?

Q Detroit.

MR. GIBBS: Well, you and I --

Q All right, all right. (Laughter.)

MR. GIBBS: A couple of things.

Q Are you speaking for yourself here?

MR. GIBBS: I'm speaking with the full weight of the federal government -- (laughter) -- for whatever that's worth. No, let me say -- I'll say a couple things. I hope that baseball awards a perfect game to that pitcher.

Q They're not going to do it.

MR. GIBBS: They're not going to do it?

Q They're not going to do it.

MR. BURTON: No, no, no, it's early.

MR. GIBBS: All right, we're working on -- we're going to work on an executive order. (Laughter.) But I will say this -- I think that -- I have a six-year-old right now who's playing baseball.

Q You have a son? (Laughter.)

MR. GIBBS: I missed his game. Yes, I've seen a few pictures of your kids, too. (Laughter.)
Something we can all be proud of.

I missed his game last night -- three hits, just saying. But I think everybody that watched what happened and understood -- there's been 20 perfect games in the history of baseball. To watch an umpire take responsibility and to watch a pitcher do what he did, the type of sportsmanship that was exhibited there -- I think that gives a lot of heart, whether you're a six-year-old just learning how to play baseball, Kirk, whether you're somebody like you or I who have -- who watch baseball for the sheer enjoyment of the game -- I think it's tremendously heartening to see somebody understand that they made a mistake and somebody accept the apology from somebody who made that mistake. I think that's a good lesson in baseball. It's probably a good lesson in Washington.

Thanks, guys.

Q What did the President have to say about it?

MR. GIBBS: I haven't talked to him about it.

END 3:22 P.M. EDT

From: bounce-849809-2274996@list.whitehouse.gov on behalf of [White House Press Office](#)
To: (b) (6) (b) (6) CIV_OSD_PA
Subject: Statement on the Gaza Flotilla by National Security Council Spokesman Mike Hammer
Date: Friday, June 04, 2010 6:48:02 PM

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 4, 2010

Statement on the Gaza Flotilla by National Security Council Spokesman Mike Hammer

The Government of Israel has stated its desire to avoid a confrontation and a repeat of Monday's tragic events on the Mavi Marmara. It remains a U.S. priority to provide assistance to the people of Gaza. In the interest of the safety of all involved, and the safe transmission of assistance to the people of Gaza, we strongly encourage those on board the Rachel Corrie and other vessels to sail to Ashdod to deliver their materials to Gaza.

We are working urgently with Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and other international partners to develop new procedures for delivering more goods and assistance to Gaza, while also increasing opportunity for the people of Gaza and preventing the importation of weapons. The current arrangements are unsustainable and must be changed. For now, we call on all parties to join us in encouraging responsible decisions by all sides to avoid any unnecessary confrontations and to ensure the safety of all involved.

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b) (6) (b) (6) CDR OSD PA
Sent: Sunday, June 06, 2010 10:04 PM
To: Lapan, David COL OSD PA
Subject: Re: Q from EUCOM Cdr on Gaza blockade

Thx for providing, sir. Vn (b) (6) (b) (6)

----- Original Message -----

From: Lapan, David COL OSD PA
To: Buclatin, Ed D. CAPT
Cc: (b) (6) CDR OSD PA; Belk (b) (6) Lt Col OASD-PA; (b) (6) CIV; (b) (6) LTC OSD PA; (b) (6) CDR OSD PA
Sent: Sun Jun 06 18:29:42 2010
Subject: Fw: Q from EUCOM Cdr on Gaza blockade

Ed: Here's the latest guidance from NSC. However, since we haven't been commenting from DoD, recommend that the CDR not comment in detail and refer mostly to State or the WH.

r/DAL

Col Dave Lapan, USMC
Director, Defense Press Operations
The Pentagon (2D961)
Washington, DC. 20350-1400
david.lapan@osd.mil
703-697-2300

----- Original Message -----

From: Hammer, Michael A. <Michael_A._Hammer@nss.eop.gov>
To: Lapan, David COL OSD PA; Chang, Benjamin <Benjamin_Chang@nss.eop.gov>; CrowleyPJ@state.gov <CrowleyPJ@state.gov>
Cc: Whitman, Bryan Mr OSD PA
Sent: Sun Jun 06 17:48:05 2010
Subject: Re: Q from EUCOM Cdr on Gaza blockade

Latest guidance:

Q: What is your reaction to the Flotilla incident?

The United States, with the other members of the U.N. Security Council, said very clearly that we condemned all the acts that led up to this violence.

It was a tragic situation and the loss of life was unnecessary.

That's why we are calling for an effective, Israeli-lead investigation of everything that happened with international elements.

Q: Does there need to be fundamental change in Gaza policy?

Currently we've got a situation in which Israel has legitimate security concerns when they've got missiles raining down on cities along the Israel-Gaza border.

If you visit those towns and you will see the holes that were made by missiles coming through people's bedrooms. So Israel has a legitimate concern there.

On the other hand, you've got a blockade up that is preventing people in Palestinian Gaza from having job opportunities and being able to create businesses and engage in trade and have opportunity for the future.

We are working urgently with Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and other international partners to develop new procedures for delivering more goods and assistance to Gaza, while also increasing opportunity for the people of Gaza and preventing the importation of weapons. The current arrangements are unsustainable and must be changed. For now, we call on all parties to join us in encouraging responsible decisions by all sides to avoid any unnecessary confrontations and to ensure the safety of all involved.

We need to use this tragedy as an opportunity to break out of the current impasse so that we figure out how can we meet Israel's security concerns but at the same time start opening up opportunity for Palestinians.

We'll do so by working with all parties concerned -- the Palestinian Authority, the Israelis, the Egyptians and others -- and I think Turkey can have a positive voice in this whole process once we've worked through this tragedy -- and bring everybody together to figure out how can we get a two-state solution where Palestinians and Israelis can live side by side in peace and security.

Q: What assistance has been provided to the family of Furkan Dogan?

Our Ambassador in Turkey has been in contact with the his family and will provide all appropriate consular assistance. We have offered our heartfelt condolences to his family.

Q: Impact on proximity talks

This incident underscores the need to move forward with negotiations to resolve the conflict and establish a comprehensive peace in the region.

We remain committed to proceeding with ongoing negotiations as soon as possible. Senator Mitchell was in the region this past week to conduct the third round of proximity talks. He also attended the Palestinian Investment Conference in Bethlehem to underscore our commitment to improving economic conditions for Palestinians.

Q: Press reports indicate that the US has warned Israel to avoid a repeat performance if another boat tries to break the blockade. How specifically have we told them to do that?

In conversations with Israel, my team discussed the importance of finding better ways to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza while prohibiting the importation of arms.

----- Original Message -----

From: Lapan, David COL OSD PA <david.lapan@osd.mil>
To: Hammer, Michael A.; Chang, Benjamin; 'CrowleyPJ@state.gov' <CrowleyPJ@state.gov>
Cc: Whitman, Bryan Mr OSD PA <Bryan.Whitman@osd.mil>
Sent: Sun Jun 06 17:07:46 2010
Subject: Q from EUCOM Cdr on Gaza blockade

Gents: ADM Stavridis at EUCOM is asking --

What is stated US policy on the Gaza blockade? (b) (5)

(b) (5) What is it so we can be on message. I was asked about it at the off-the-record yesterday and bunted it off, but it'll come up again.

r/DAL

Col Dave Lapan, USMC
Director, Defense Press Operations
The Pentagon (2D961)
Washington, DC. 20350-1400
david.lapan@osd.mil
703-697-2300

From: bounce-850931-2274996@l1st.whitehouse.gov on behalf of White House Press Office
To: (b) (6) (b) (6) CIV OSD PA
Subject: Statement by the Press Secretary on Israel's investigation into the flotilla incident
Date: Monday, June 14, 2010 4:06:29 AM

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE
13, 2010

June

Statement by the Press Secretary on Israel's investigation into the flotilla incident

Today, the Government of Israel took an important step forward in proposing an independent public commission to investigate the circumstances of the recent tragic events on board the flotilla headed for Gaza. Through a presidential statement of the United Nations Security Council, the United States joined the international community in condemning those acts which led to nine fatalities and many injuries on board the flotilla, and supporting the completion of a prompt, impartial, credible, and transparent investigation.

We believe that Israel, like any other nation, should be allowed to undertake an investigation into events that involve its national security. Israel has a military justice system that meets international standards and is capable of conducting a serious and credible investigation, and the structure and terms of reference of Israel's proposed independent public commission can meet the standard of a prompt, impartial, credible, and transparent investigation. But we will not prejudge the process or its outcome, and will await the conduct and findings of the investigation before drawing further conclusions.

While Israel should be afforded the time to complete its process, we expect Israel's commission and military investigation will be carried out promptly. We also expect that, upon completion, its findings will be presented publicly and will be presented to the international community.

###

(b)(6)
(b) (6) CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA
Sent: (b)(6) Wednesday, June 30, 2010 7:29 AM
To: (b)(6) LTC OSD PA
Cc: (b)(6) Mr OSD PA; Lapan, David COL OSD PA
Subject: FW: Mark Perry Column

(b)(6) (b)(6)
(b) (6) heads up. **(b) (6)**

-----Original Message-----

From: Hanzlik, Jack E JR CAPT MIL USN USCENTCOM CCCI/A [mailto:jack.hanzlik@centcom.mil]
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2010 7:25 AM (b)(6)
To: Lapan, David COL OSD PA; (b)(6) CDR OSD PA
Cc: Pittman, Harold E RDML MIL USN USCENTCOM CCCI/SC
Subject: RE: Mark Perry Column

Dave, we're working Q*A for this. We're also having our digital engagement team work look to see how it's playing in pan-arab media.

Vr/Jack

-----Original Message-----

From: Pittman, Harold E RDML MIL USN USCENTCOM CCCI/SC
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2010 7:20 AM
To: 'Douglas.Wilson@osd.mil'; Whitman, Bryan Mr OSD PA; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Kirby, John F Capt JCS SJS OCJCS PA
Cc: Hanzlik, Jack E JR CAPT MIL USN USCENTCOM CCCI/A; (b)(6) CDR RES USN USCENTCOM CCCI/M; (b)(6)
(b) (6) LCDR MIL USN USCENTCOM CCCI/O; (b)(6) COL MIL USA USCENTCOM CCCC/CCCC (b)
Subject: Mark Perry Column (b)(6)

Sir -

Received the following column late last evening and shared with CENTCOM leadership; GEN Petraeus asked us to get to the bottom of this and respond quickly. Can you pls ensure senior leaders, including WH staff/Denis McDonough, are apprised?

Many thanks, Vr/Hal

Red Team

CENTCOM thinks outside the box on Hamas and Hezbollah.

BY MARK PERRY | JUNE 30, 2010 While it is anathema to broach the subject of engaging militant groups like Hizballah* and Hamas in official Washington circles (to say nothing of Israel), that is exactly what a team of senior intelligence officers at U.S. Central Command -- CENTCOM -- has been doing. In a "Red Team" report issued on May 7 and entitled "Managing Hizballah and Hamas," senior CENTCOM intelligence officers question the current U.S. policy of isolating and marginalizing the two movements. Instead, the Red Team recommends a mix of strategies that would integrate the two organizations into their respective political mainstreams. While a Red Team exercise is deliberately designed to provide senior commanders with briefings and assumptions that challenge accepted strategies, the report is at once provocative,

controversial -- and at odds with current U.S. policy. Among its other findings, the five-page report calls for the integration of Hizballah into the Lebanese Armed Forces, and Hamas into the Palestinian security forces led by Fatah, the party of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. The Red Team's conclusion, expressed in the final sentence of the executive summary, is perhaps its most controversial finding: "The U.S. role of assistance to an integrated Lebanese defense force that includes Hizballah; and the continued training of Palestinian security forces in a Palestinian entity that includes Hamas in its government, would be more effective than providing assistance to entities -- the government of Lebanon and Fatah -- that represent only a part of the Lebanese and Palestinian populace respectively" (emphasis in the original). The report goes on to note that while Hizballah and Hamas "embrace staunch anti-Israel rejectionist policies," the two groups are "pragmatic and opportunistic." The report opens with a quote from former U.S. peace negotiator Aaron David Miller's book, *The Much Too Promised Land*, which notes that both Hizballah and Hamas "have emerged as serious political players respected on the streets, in Arab capitals, and throughout the region. Destroying them was never really an option. Ignoring them may not be either." The report's writers are quick to acknowledge that the two militant groups "are vastly different," and that treating them together is a mistake. Nevertheless, the CENTCOM team directly repudiates Israel's publicly stated view -- that the two movements are incapable of change and must be confronted with force. The report says that "failing to recognize their separate grievances and objectives will result in continued failure in moderating their behavior." "There is a lot of thinking going on in the military and particularly among intelligence officers in Tampa [the site of CENTCOM headquarters] about these groups," acknowledged a senior CENTCOM officer familiar with the report. However, he denied that senior military leaders are actively lobbying Barack Obama's administration to forge an opening to the two organizations. "That's probably not in the cards just yet," he said. In the wake of the Gaza flotilla incident, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Daniel Ayalon said that those on board the *Mavi Marmara*, the scene of the May 31 showdown between Israeli commandos and largely Turkish activists, had ties to "agents of international terror, international Islam, Hamas, al Qaeda and others." The same senior officer wasn't impressed. "Putting Hizballah, Hamas, the Muslim Brotherhood and al Qaeda in the same sentence, as if they are all the same, is just stupid," he said. "I don't know any intelligence officer at CENTCOM who buys that." Another mid-level SOCOM [Special Operations Command] officer echoed these views: "As the U.S. strategy in the war on terrorism evolves, military planners have come to realize that they are all motivated by different factors, and we need to address this if we are going to effectively prosecute a successful campaign in the Middle East." The most interesting aspects of the report deal with Hizballah. The Red Team downplays the argument that the Lebanese Shiite group acts as a proxy for Iran. The report includes a quote from Hizballah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah, stating that if Lebanon and Iran's interests ever conflicted, his organization would favor Lebanese interests. "Hizballah's activities increasingly reflect the movement's needs and aspirations in Lebanon, as opposed to the interests of its Iranian backers," the report concludes. It also criticizes Israel's August 2006 war against Hizballah as counterproductive. "Instead of exploiting Hizballah's independent streak ... Israeli actions in Lebanon may have had the reverse effect of tightening its bonds with Iran," the authors note. The report goes on to say that, while there are "many ways in which Lebanese Hizballah is not like the IRA," there are "parallels" between the Irish Republican Army's eventual participation in the Northern Ireland peace process and a potentially productive U.S. strategy for dealing with Hizballah. CENTCOM officers cite a meeting between the British ambassador to Lebanon and Hizballah leaders in 2009 as providing an appropriate model to begin the integration of the organization into the LAF. Such talks should "be pursued again with the same vigor that peace talks in Northern Ireland were pursued," the report recommends. "As the US took the lead with peace talks in Northern Ireland, the British could take the lead with unity talks between the LAF and Hizballah in Lebanon." The brief's authors also have interesting things to say about Hamas, which has ruled in Gaza since its takeover of the impoverished coastal strip in 2007. While the Red Team report does not make explicit policy recommendations, the senior intelligence experts that drafted the statement signal their unease with Israel's anti-Hamas policies, particularly the continuing Israeli siege of Gaza. CENTCOM officers note that Israel's strategy of keeping Gaza under siege also keeps "the area on the verge of a perpetual humanitarian collapse" -- a policy that the intelligence report says "may be radicalizing more people, especially the young, increasing the number of potential recruits" for the organization. The report argues that an Israeli decision to lift the siege might pave the way for reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas, which would be "the best hope for mainstreaming Hamas." 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(b) (6)
(b) (6) CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b) (6) (b) (6) CDR OSD PA
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2010 7:34 AM
To: Pittman, Harold E RDML MIL USN USCENTCOM CCCI/SC
Subject: RE: Mark Perry Column

Copy sir. v/ (b) (6) (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Pittman, Harold E RDML MIL USN USCENTCOM CCCI/SC [mailto:harold.pittman@centcom.mil]
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2010 7:30 AM (b) (6)
To: david.lapan@usmc.mil (b) (6) CDR OSD PA
Cc: Hanzlik, Jack E JR CAPT MIL USN USCENTCOM CCCI/A
Subject: Fw: Mark Perry Column

FYSA.

----- Original Message -----

From: Pittman, Harold E RDML MIL USN USCENTCOM CCCI/SC
To: 'Douglas.Wilson@osd.mil' <Douglas.Wilson@osd.mil>; Whitman, Bryan Mr OSD PA; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Kirby, John F Capt JCS SJS OCJCS PA
Cc: Hanzlik, Jack E JR CAPT MIL USN USCENTCOM CCCI/A; (b) (6) CDR RES USN USCENTCOM CCCI/M; (b) (6) (b) (6) LCDR MIL USN USCENTCOM CCCI/O; (b) (6) COL MIL USA USCENTCOM CCCC/CCCC
Sent: Wed Jun 30 07:20:17 2010 (b) (6)
Subject: Mark Perry Column

Sir -

Received the following column late last evening and shared with CENTCOM leadership; GEN Petraeus asked us to get to the bottom of this and respond quickly. Can you pls ensure senior leaders, including WH staff/Denis McDonough, are apprised?

Many thanks, Vr/Hal

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sentence of the executive summary, is perhaps its most controversial finding: "The U.S. role of assistance to an integrated Lebanese defense force that includes Hizballah; and the continued training of Palestinian security forces in a Palestinian entity that includes Hamas in its government, would be more effective than providing assistance to entities -- the government of Lebanon and Fatah -- that represent only a part of the Lebanese and Palestinian populace respectively" (emphasis in the original). The report goes on to note that while Hizballah and Hamas "embrace staunch anti-Israel rejectionist policies," the two groups are "pragmatic and opportunistic." The report opens with a quote from former U.S. peace negotiator Aaron David Miller's book, *The Much Too Promised Land*, which notes that both Hizballah and Hamas "have emerged as serious political players respected on the streets, in Arab capitals, and throughout the region. Destroying them was never really an option. Ignoring them may not be either." The report's writers are quick to acknowledge that the two militant groups "are vastly different," and that treating them together is a mistake. Nevertheless, the CENTCOM team directly repudiates Israel's publicly stated view -- that the two movements are incapable of change and must be confronted with force. The report says that "failing to recognize their separate grievances and objectives will result in continued failure in moderating their behavior." "There is a lot of thinking going on in the military and particularly among intelligence officers in Tampa [the site of CENTCOM headquarters] about these groups," acknowledged a senior CENTCOM officer familiar with the report. However, he denied that senior military leaders are actively lobbying Barack Obama's administration to forge an opening to the two organizations. "That's probably not in the cards just yet," he said. In the wake of the Gaza flotilla incident, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Daniel Ayalon said that those on board the *Mavi Marmara*, the scene of the May 31 showdown between Israeli commandos and largely Turkish activists, had ties to "agents of international terror, international Islam, Hamas, al Qaeda and others." The same senior officer wasn't impressed. "Putting Hizballah, Hamas, the Muslim Brotherhood and al Qaeda in the same sentence, as if they are all the same, is just stupid," he said. "I don't know any intelligence officer at CENTCOM who buys that." Another mid-level SOCOM [Special Operations Command] officer echoed these views: "As the U.S. strategy in the war on terrorism evolves, military planners have come to realize that they are all motivated by different factors, and we need to address this if we are going to effectively prosecute a successful campaign in the Middle East." The most interesting aspects of the report deal with Hizballah. 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The report goes on to say that, while there are "many ways in which Lebanese Hizballah is not like the IRA," there are "parallels" between the Irish Republican Army's eventual participation in the Northern Ireland peace process and a potentially productive U.S. strategy for dealing with Hizballah. CENTCOM officers cite a meeting between the British ambassador to Lebanon and Hizballah leaders in 2009 as providing an appropriate model to begin the integration of the organization into the LAF. Such talks should "be pursued again with the same vigor that peace talks in Northern Ireland were pursued," the report recommends. "As the US took the lead with peace talks in Northern Ireland, the British could take the lead with unity talks between the LAF and Hizballah in Lebanon." The brief's authors also have interesting things to say about Hamas, which has ruled in Gaza since its takeover of the impoverished coastal strip in 2007. 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"National Security Force" in the West Bank that excludes Hamas, and jails its members, the focus of Palestinians is elsewhere. "But all Palestinians are watching the clashes in East Jerusalem, which continue to feed into the Palestinian perception the Israelis are incapable of negotiating in good faith," according to the report. CENTCOM's implicit criticism of Dayton is not a surprise: the general's program is controversial among some senior military officers, who question an effort that, in Palestinian perceptions, makes the U.S. a partner in the Israeli occupation. Dayton is also criticized in military circles for making a May 2009 speech before the pro-Israel Washington Institute for Near East Policy (which he described as "the foremost think tank on Middle East issues, not only in Washington, but in the world"). In the speech (pdf), he said that the reason a high-ranking general was appointed as security coordinator was because he "would be trusted and respected by the Israelis." The statement was not universally welcomed at the Pentagon, where one officer shook his head. "You would have thought Dayton's primary mission would be to win the respect and trust of the Palestinians," he told me. According to a senior CENTCOM officer, while the CENTCOM Red Team report has been read by outgoing CENTCOM chief Gen. David Petraeus, it's unknown whether its recommendations have been passed on to the White House. Even so, there's little question the report reflects the thinking among a significant number of senior officers at CENTCOM headquarters -- and among senior CENTCOM intelligence officers and analysts serving in the Middle East. And while any "Red Team" report by definition reflects a view that is contrary to accepted policy, a CENTCOM senior officer told me that -- so far as he knows -- there is, in fact, no parallel "Blue Team" report contradicting the Red Team's conclusion. "Well, that's not exactly right," this senior officer added. "The Blue Team is the Obama administration."

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CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) CDR OSD PA
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2010 7:34 AM
To: Hanzlik, Jack E JR CAPT MIL USN USCENTCOM CCCI/A
Subject: RE: Mark Perry Column

Thanks Jack. v/r (b)(6) (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Hanzlik, Jack E JR CAPT MIL USN USCENTCOM CCCI/A [mailto:jack.hanzlik@centcom.mil]
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2010 7:25 AM (b)(6)
To: Lapan, David COL OSD PA (b)(6) CDR OSD PA
Cc: Pittman, Harold E RDML MIL USN USCENTCOM CCCI/SC
Subject: RE: Mark Perry Column

Dave, we're working Q*A for this. We're also having our digital engagement team work look to see how it's playing in pan-arab media.

Vr/Jack

-----Original Message-----

From: Pittman, Harold E RDML MIL USN USCENTCOM CCCI/SC
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2010 7:20 AM
To: 'Douglas.Wilson@osd.mil'; Whitman, Bryan Mr OSD PA; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Kirby, John F Capt JCS SJS OCJCS PA
Cc: Hanzlik, Jack E JR CAPT MIL USN USCENTCOM CCCI/A; Coons, Russell L CDR RES USN USCENTCOM CCCI/M; Speaks, William H LCDR MIL USN USCENTCOM CCCI/O; Gunhus, Erik O COL MIL USA USCENTCOM CCCC/CCCC
Subject: Mark Perry Column

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TURKEY – ISRAEL TIES

International commentators express concern that Turkish-Israeli relations may “deteriorate” further after Israel rejected Turkish demands for an apology after the Gaza flotilla incident, with some analysts commenting on possible US mediation.

- “A relationship between Turkey and Israel is not only in the best interest of the region, it supports our interests in the region as well.” (Assistant Secretary Crowley)
- “Turkey has played an important mediation role with Israel and other countries in the region.” (Assistant Secretary Crowley)
- “We recognize the importance of the relationship, and we support this kind of dialogue that hopefully can help repair the fractures that have existed in recent weeks and months.” (Assistant Secretary Crowley)

(b)(6)
From: (b)(6) MAJ OSD PA
To: "J Gordon"
Subject: RE: Fox News Forum: Gaza, Guantanamo and the Media Battlefield
Date: Friday, July 16, 2010 11:21:00 AM

Hi J.D.,
Just spent the last 3 weeks in GTMO, just wanted to say that your McCrystal article was on the money and I have sent it to every PAO and senior leader that I know.

Sincerely,

(b)(6) (b)(6)

MAJ (b)(6) (b)(6)
Defense Press Operations
Pentagon Room 2D961
(b)(6) (b)(6)
Work# 703-614-3300

-----Original Message-----

From: J Gordon [mailto:gordon.jeffreyd@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, June 11, 2010 5:26 PM

(b)(6) To: (b)(6) MAJ OSD PA

Subject: RE: Fox News Forum: Gaza, Guantanamo and the Media Battlefield

Hey (b)(6) (b)(6)

Hope you liked the article. I sent it to (b)(6) though unsure if it made the E-Bird.

I have hard copy of all awards throughout career... no e-copies of those or fitreps. YN1 (b)(6) (b)(6)
probably has copies of that stuff on file...

Do you want me to fax my OSD award to you next week?

Regards,

J.D.

--- On Fri, 6/11/10, (b)(6) MAJ OSD PA (b)(6) wrote:

From: (b)(6) MAJ OSD PA (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Fox News Forum: Gaza, Guantanamo and the Media Battlefield
To: "J Gordon" <gordon.jeffreyd@yahoo.com>
Date: Friday, June 11, 2010, 8:15 PM

Thank you Sir, do you have softcopy of your award and/or eval?

MAJ (b)(6) (b)(6)
Defense Press Operations
Pentagon Room 2D961
(b)(6) (b)(6)
Work# 703-614-3300

-----Original Message-----

From: J Gordon [<mailto:gordon.jeffreyd@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Friday, June 11, 2010 1:30 PM

To: (b) (6) MAJ OSD PA (b) (6)

Subject: Fox News Forum: Gaza, Guantanamo and the Media Battlefield

<<http://www.foxnews.com/static/fn2/ws/img/print-logo.gif>>

Fox News Forum

Gaza, Guantanamo and the Media Battlefield

J.D. Gordon - FOXNews.com <<http://foxnews.com/>> - June 10, 2010

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2010/06/10/jd-gordon-guantanamo-israel-gaza-flotilla-helen-thomas/> <<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2010/06/10/jd-gordon-guantanamo-israel-gaza-flotilla-helen-thomas/>>

Israel's high seas drama in halting the "humanitarian aid" flotilla of ships bound for Gaza last week drew worldwide condemnation -- criticism that bears striking resemblance to the international uproar against U.S. detention operations at Guantanamo.

Both Israel and the U.S. have been under siege from a widespread propaganda campaign waged by a union of international leftists and anti-Western figures in the Islamic world for decades. From the loose alliance of European communist and Palestinian terrorist groups in the 1970s, to the holocaust denials of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and reprehensible comments last week by then-White House press corps dean Helen Thomas, the information war has been pervasive.

Like the U.S. a decade ago, Israel does not seem to grasp the enormity of the battle of ideas being fought against it, particularly in European and Muslim countries. Often one-sided press reports (e.g.: U.K.-based Reuters which conveniently cropped out a large knife in a photo taken of flotilla activists standing above a bloodied Israeli soldier lying on the ship's deck), harsh rhetoric from political and religious leaders, incendiary entertainment programs, frequently violent demonstrations culminating in U.S.-Israeli flag burnings, all have synergistic effects in creating such a negative image.

Such propaganda has helped to spur terrorist attacks perpetrated by Islamic radicals to include hostage taking, bombings and aircraft hijackings -- from Tehran to Munich, Beirut to London, Bali to Entebbe, and Tel Aviv to New York. While speaking out for human rights, some organizations cynically support terrorists bent on mass killing of civilians.

Israel and the U.S. have responded to physical attacks by exercising their right of self-defense. In their efforts to protect security at all costs however, they have at times not done enough to win the battle of ideas to accompany success in combat.

In Israel's case, the blockade of Gaza -- which, under the control of Hamas, refuses to accept Israel's right to exist while launching periodic rocket attacks -- is a perfectly legitimate security move. Keeping out "humanitarian aid" like cement in the region is critical, as it can be used for bunkers and modern tunnels to launch attacks, not to mention actual rockets should the blockade be broken.

Unfortunately for Israel, the seizure of ships with commandos, despite the prospect that some of the 700 pro-Palestinian activists aboard might seek martyrdom, led to 9 deaths and further eroded Israel's international standing. This incident will surely make the embargo more difficult to sustain.

Britain, France, Russia and China are all seeking an end to the blockade, while the Obama administration has labeled it unsustainable. Rep. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.) and Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) sent a letter to President Obama, urging him to help end the siege of Gaza.

Ms. Thomas went further by calling for Jews to "get the hell out of Palestine," and "go home" to Poland, Germany, America and "everywhere else."

In defending itself, Israel should explore solutions that more effectively consider worldwide public opinion, while doing more to get their message out.

Instead of allowing itself to be cast as the villain by the U.N., it should insist that Turkey be held accountable for sponsoring the ill-fated expedition in support of terrorists. Instead of commando raids on flotillas, it could disable the ships – taking measures short of sinking them, yet avoiding situations where Israelis are put into combat with possibly suicidal activists.

In the case of Guantanamo, the U.S. also acted with security as the top priority. As former Vice President Dick Cheney noted, the weeks after 9/11 were a difficult time in which the Bush administration made tough choices that kept the country safe.

Such choices led to policies in which suspected Al Qaeda and Taliban-linked militants were detained indefinitely at Guantanamo under the law of war context similar to prisoners of war – though without the same legal rights. Due largely to the absence meaningful transparency and public education efforts, this became untenable in the courts, leading to three Supreme Court losses for the Bush administration over habeas rights.

Meanwhile, critics – including notable officials now in the Obama administration, compounded the problem by grossly overstating accounts of detainee abuse, continually repeating inaccurate characterizations of detention and interrogations, while falsely portraying most detainees as innocent men sold for bounties, thereby fostering a mythical concept of Guantanamo.

As the Israelis should be coming to understand -- in the battle of ideas being waged in today's 24/7 news environment combined with near universal access to radio, television and the Internet, coupled with the rise of social media – information campaigns have become increasingly influential.

While the experience of Guantanamo has taught the U.S. some lessons in considering public opinion while in pursuit of security objectives, Israel has been slow to apply those lessons.

Gaza and Guantanamo both demonstrate that governments must be mindful of how their actions factor into public information campaigns -- both for and against them. While governments have a solemn obligation to protect their nations from dangerous terrorists, they must ensure that comprehensive public outreach efforts are not simply afterthoughts.

J.D. Gordon is a senior fellow at the Center for Security Policy, A retired Navy Commander, he served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense from 2005-09 as the Pentagon spokesman for the Western Hemisphere.

Fox Forum is on Twitter. Follow us @fxnopinion.

(b)(6)

(b) (6) CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b) (6) CAPT OSD PA
Sent: (b) (6) Monday, January 24, 2011 7:09 PM
To: (b) (6) MAJ OSD PA
Subject: Israeli Inquiry Says Navy Obeyed Law In Deadly Flotilla Raid

(b) (6) (b)(6)

Any DoD equities in this issue? If you think so, then add to the Israel card ... if not, then don't.

r/

(b) (6) (b)(6)

Israeli Inquiry Says Navy Obeyed Law In Deadly Flotilla Raid (WASHINGTON POST 24 JAN 11) ... Janine Zacharia

JERUSALEM - An Israeli commission of inquiry into a deadly raid on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla in May concluded Sunday that the Israeli navy acted in accordance with international law when it intercepted the ships in international waters, and that Israel's blockade of the Palestinian territory is legal.

"The Israeli armed forces' interception and capture of the Gaza Flotilla vessels in international waters - seaward of the blockaded area - was in conformity with customary international law," the first part of a lengthy report released by the government-appointed panel said.

A second part, which will judge decision-making by Israel's leaders with regard to the raid, will be released in the coming weeks.

Nine Turks, including one Turkish American teenager, were killed in violent clashes with Israeli naval commandos as the commandos boarded the largest ship of the convoy in a pre-dawn raid off Israel's coast May 31 in an attempt to prevent it from reaching the Gaza Strip.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan told reporters in Ankara on Sunday that the report has "no value or credibility" and was "made to order."

Turkey's own National Inquiry and Investigation Commission established to look into the raid said it was "surprised, appalled and dismayed" that the report exonerated Israel.

The incident soured ties between Israel and Turkey - the vessel's origination point - and sparked widespread international condemnation of Israel and its policy of closing the Gaza Strip. Israel says the policy was designed to weaken the Hamas-led government that rules the territory and to prevent Hamas's leaders from obtaining weapons. Israel is at war with Hamas, a Palestinian organization that the United States and Israel both define as a terrorist group. Hamas also is a popular Palestinian political party that won elections in 2006.

The Israeli commission, led by retired Israeli Supreme Court Justice Jacob Turkel, found that the elite Israeli commando unit boarded the Mavi Marmara - from speedboats and from a hovering helicopter - in a manner that "was consistent with established international practices."

The force used by Israeli commandos was "proportionate" and in accordance with law enforcement norms, the commission said.

The Israeli commission's findings contradict those of the United Nations Human Rights Council's international fact-finding mission, which concluded in September that Israel's interception of the Mavi Marmara was "clearly unlawful." That panel's report found that the Israeli military had acted with "brutality" that "constituted grave violations of human rights law and international law."

During the raid, commandos carried paintball and salt-bullet guns used in riot control, but under the rules of engagement they were allowed to use live ammunition if they thought their lives were in danger, Israel's army chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, testified in August.

The Israeli commission said that activists aboard the ship - armed with iron bars, axes, clubs, slingshots, knives and other metal objects - organized into groups as the Israeli commandos prepared to board and then violently assaulted the

commandos. The commission also said the activists used firearms, but it could not determine whether they had brought the guns with them or had fired weapons seized from the Israelis.

"Overall, the IDF personnel acted professionally in the face of extensive and unanticipated violence," the commission said.

The panel included two nonvoting international observers, who, as part of the report, wrote, "We have no doubt that the Commission is independent."

A separate, U.N.-backed international panel headed by former New Zealand prime minister Geoffrey Palmer is conducting its own inquiry into the incident.

From: Lapan, David COL OSD PA
To: (b)(6) LtCol OSD PA; (b)(6) CAPT OSD PA
Cc: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA; (b)(6) CIV OSD PA; (b)(6) MAJ OSD PA
Subject: RE: EXSUM/TRANSCRIPT: Swedish TV Interview with Ms. Takai, DoD CIO, Internet
Date: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 12:39:01 PM

In reading the notes, it brought to mind that for whatever we do with FRONTLINE, we should also have someone in uniform to provide that perspective, which Ms Takai is just not able to do. OUSD(I) needs to be involved in that one.

r/DAL

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) LtCol OSD PA
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 12:35 PM
To: Lapan, David COL OSD PA; (b)(6) CAPT OSD PA
Cc: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA; (b)(6) CIV OSD PA; (b)(6) MAJ OSD PA
Subject: RE: EXSUM/TRANSCRIPT: Swedish TV Interview with Ms. Takai, DoD CIO, Internet

Sir, she was fine/comfortable with the interview. We did a prep session with her on Friday which helped and she asked for my feedback immediately following the interview.

She has obviously done a lot of these at State level and does very well in front of the camera.

Respectfully,

(b)(6) (b)(6)

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From: Lapan, David COL OSD PA
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 12:25 PM
To: (b)(6) LtCol OSD PA; (b)(6) CAPT OSD PA
Cc: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA; (b)(6) CIV OSD PA; (b)(6) MAJ OSD PA
Subject: RE: EXSUM/TRANSCRIPT: Swedish TV Interview with Ms. Takai, DoD CIO, Internet

Wow, very extensive. Thanks (b)(6) (b)(6)

What did Ms Takai think of the interview?

r/DAL

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) LtCol OSD PA
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 12:10 PM
To: Lapan, David COL OSD PA; (b)(6) CAPT OSD PA
Cc: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA; (b)(6) CIV OSD PA; (b)(6) MAJ OSD PA; (b)(6) LtCol OSD PA
Subject: EXSUM/TRANSCRIPT: Swedish TV Interview with Ms. Takai, DoD CIO, Internet

What: Interview with Reporter Swedish TV

Who: Teri Takai, Acting ASD NII/DoD CIO

When: 7 March 2011

Why: For a story on the Internet and its ability to overthrow the government

Print/Air Date: Fall 2011

Summary: Overall the interview went really well. Ms. Takai set the tone by describing the role of the DoD CIO. The reporter did not focus on Wikileaks questions, but focused on the new digital war we face due to the Internet. The primary audience of this piece is high school and college students. The reporter's questions focused on: land versus digital warfare, ability to dominate the digital domain, cyber threats, who is the enemy, reluctance to share information, ability to identify the hacker, what good things are involved with sharing information, what a successful cyber attack looks like, could leaks be a good thing, damage of cyber attacks, impact of leaks on the U.S.

Transcript:

Q1. What are the responsibilities of a Chief Information Officer? (Ms. Takai's Question and Answer to put her role as the CIO in perspective)

A1. I am responsible for establishing all of the policy around how Information Technology is used across the Department of Defense. Examples are:

- We are very heavily dependent on our networks, because the sharing of information both from our administrative functions like doing our budgeting to our personnel systems to our medical systems, all the way down to the need for that information to the warfighter, depends upon our networks and our ability to get that information from here in Washington to our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. So, one of the things we do is to oversee the overall network that runs across the globe to make that happen.

- The second thing we are responsible for is the actual computer systems that run on top of that or what we would call or what our iPhone users might call applications or apps...that actually store that information and is actually responsible for passing that information between the different users that we have.

- We are also responsible for technology. I'm not necessary responsible for airplanes or weapons, but I am responsible for the technology that is in those areas, in order to make sure that if they need to connect to the network, they can connect to the network in a very secure way. And, that is the last point that I think is very important. Within my responsibilities is what we call information assurance...that is, to make sure that all of our information is protected and is secure.

It is a pretty broad portfolio. We spend a lot of money every year on technology. My role is not necessarily to implement that technology, but rather to set the ground rules and to set the processes and to set the policy by which we will actually implement that technology.

Q2. It seems that warfare in the old days was taking land. Now it is taking digital ground. Why is this important?

A2. It is extremely important. As you mentioned warfare has changed dramatically and is no longer the same approach. In fact, Secretary Gates gave a speech at the Army...at West Point just recently. He talked about how the role of the Army is changing in terms of the way that they participate in what now are the conflicts that we are engaged in. I think that was important to that and what you related in your question is that information and the way to share information in these new kinds of conflicts is really becoming paramount in terms of how we do it. In the past we used to push to make sure that our warfighters understood that they needed a network and they needed information and they needed that capability wherever they were. Now, we are actually in an opposite situation. Our warfighters are coming in...they are familiar with the technology. They all come in with devices that they are used to from the commercial market and they are hungry for that information. It is not only that they have the information, but they want to be able to share it, because these conflicts are very different from those we have had in the past.

Q3. I can understand that your soldiers want to share information with each other and it is important. But, why does the enemy or somebody else want to know? If you know what is in the digital domain, you can dominate. How does it work?

A3. Well, that is absolutely correct. For instance, obviously we want to protect the information around where individuals are placed...around where some of our strategies or tactics might be, because again, while those were all very close held in fact, now there are opportunities for that information to be known and endanger the lives of the warfighter, so we have to be extremely cautious about that.

Q4. I had an interview with some Israeli Defense Forces about the incident - Ships to Gaza. Israel boarded the ships and stopped them and 11 activists were killed. The first thing that Israel put on the ship was not soldiers, but jamming devices. They wanted to make sure that whatever goes on does not go out to the Internet. If you dominate the Internet arena, you can dominate the global opinion or something. What are the strategies around that and what actually does go out?

A4. I think it is not my role actually be able to comment on those kinds of strategies. Those are certainly things that are a part of what our military is very concerned about. What I can say though is that in a recent speech, our Deputy Secretary of Defense made a comment, which I think is germane to your question...he made a comment that said...as we see conflicts in the future, cyber will be an active part of those conflicts and that we have to be aware of that and we have to be prepared for that. So, therefore, a part of what we would normally look at as air, land, and sea defenses, now has to include cyber defenses. So, it is not a particular incident...my role is not to talk about military strategy or anything like that, but it is more to look at what our role is in being sure that we are providing the capabilities, so that we can use our cyber capabilities just as we would our other capabilities in any kind of a conflict.

Q5. What threats do you see towards the cyber part of the war, i.e. land, sea, air and now cyber? What threats do you see?

A5. I think that we are all very concerned about being able to maintain the integrity of our information and protecting our information from individuals that are able to look at it and perhaps use it in ways that we had not intended. Secondly, we are quite concerned about the overall cyber security of all of our infrastructure - so we are concerned about power grids, our broader communications and with that we are concerned about the companies that provide to us. Because, again, it goes beyond what we just control and it goes to those companies that we actually use for services. For instance, I mentioned that we are responsible for networks and in many cases we will run our own networks, but there are other cases where we will buy our services from providers that are in that particular area. So, now we have to have a very strong partnership with them and be able to share the information around cyber threats, be able to look at mitigation strategy in a different way. So, as you look at cyber, we think of it as Department of Defense, but it actually goes much broader than that. And, in that, we partner with the Department of Homeland Security, because clearly the Department of Defense has a particular role and the Department of Homeland Security has a different role and we partner with them to make sure the nation is secure.

Q6. Describe for me, you talked about the power grid, this is something that me and our viewers can relate to. Describe for me a successful cyber attack on a nation? What would happen? What would that look like?

A6. I think there is no such thing as being able to define a successful attack. I think there are a number of different kinds of attacks. Probably, some of the best examples of potential impact would be to look at what happened in Estonia. I think that is a very real example of what can happen and certainly several years ago and obviously the individuals who can do cyber attacks have become much more sophisticated. You can see from that example that you can get into the financial structures...you can get into any number of different areas and it can be disruptive. And, to this point, we have been able to recover...I should say some of those countries that have been affected like Estonia, has been able to recover in a short period of time. But, we can assume that as you look at the escalation of those types of things...in many cases, they could have had the same impact as a physical destruction.

Q7. Who is the enemy?

A7. I think that is the challenge for us. There is really no way to define a single enemy. I think as you have heard, again, our Deputy Secretary Lynn speaking, in many instances, there are several challenges. We obviously have challenges from other countries. But, I think what we also have is...the ability to create these kinds of attacks is no longer large groups of people, and certainly it's these

individuals that have capability and then it is also the fear that we have...it could be a small group that creates the capability...that capability could actually get into the wrong hands. I think this is one of the things that we all have to be vigilant about...whether it is from a Department of Defense perspective around our security...whether it is our Homeland Security...or whether it is actually in our personal homes and our personal lives...the disruption that can be caused by a disruption to our information personally is something that we have to be careful of and you can imagine how that can expand in a broader scale. I think that is a challenge for us...is that we are actually looking at something that is no longer a question of a large scale effort; it can be a very small focus area and can be just as disruptive.

Q8. I guess there are always cyber attacks going on like on the Pentagon server all the time. Is it foreign governments or like hackers?

A8. It is, as I say, all varieties. As you can well imagine governments are very, very susceptible to that kind of attack. Certainly, at DoD we have any number of attacks. I've spent eight years in state government and at state government we also saw a large number of attacks coming in from different areas and from different regions. I think government is a fine target and we are going to continue to see those kinds of attacks and I believe they are going to become just a part of the way that we protect our information, is to assume that those attacks will be there on a daily basis.

Q9. Do you track those people down if you can?

A9. No. Clearly, we want to know where those attacks are coming from, but again, I think short of actually areas that...attacks come in from everywhere. They are not necessarily routeable to know the exact source of where that is. What is more important to us is making sure we are concentrating on protecting our information. One of our challenges obviously that we have to be careful of, is to make sure that our employees and contractors are educated on the protection of our information and that we are all being responsible just like we would be responsible in our homes for our personal information that we are responsible for the information that we are the custodian of for DOD.

Q10. You talk about "our information...our information". What is your information? What is it that you are hiding?

A10. Hiding is too strong a word. We have information that we use to run the Department of Defense. Some of that information is...very important personnel identification information. To protect that is not to hide it. I don't think any employee in any company would want personnel identification information publicly available that could be misused. I think it is really around making sure that the information is used in the way that it was intended to be used and when it is released, which is done quite frequently, it is placed in the right context and released in a way that we would like for people to understand what we are doing.

Q11. In what ways is the United States hurt when a leak appears?

A11. It depends on the leak. I don't know if you can say across the board that every leak is the same, but clearly we are quite concerned (speaking from a DoD perspective, because the Department of State could also give you a perspective...I want to make sure that I am not speaking too broadly). From a DoD perspective, the times where we are particularly concerned are number one, when we believe it will result in harm coming either to an individual that is a part of DoD or associated with DoD - physical harm is of great concern to us; Secondly, any physical harm or jeopardy to any of our warfighters; and certainly as it relates to anything that would damage relationships with some of our very important partners and allies. So, those are the things that we concentrate on. Again, let me repeat - it is very much around where we feel that it would place one of our employees or allies in physical danger.

Q12. Did the Wikileaks incident in Sweden, the stuff that came out about the Swedish government...a lot of people were surprised that the government said one thing. Are you doing things behind our backs that we should know? Could leaks be a good thing?

A12. I want to make sure that I am very clear, because it is very important to understand that I speak

for DoD, but many of the documents and correspondence that came out as a result of WikiLeaks...you know, there are many other organizations in the federal government, so they have their perspective. I think if you look at comments that Secretary Clinton has made...I think she has been very clear about it. Secretary Gates has made comments as well. I think from a DoD perspective, I think we have to remember that many of those documents were more correspondence. It would be very similar to correspondence that you might have in terms of a conversation about a particular incident or about a particular person. And, those comments are made in a point of time and those comments change over time. And, I think that everyone has to think about how those conversations evolve and so, when you pick a correspondence at a point in time, it can be read and misinterpreted. I don't think it is a question of whether it is good or bad or is the government hiding information or not. It is making sure that information is placed into context and that it is used in a way that helps to further the understanding as opposed to picking out of it an incident and assuming...that to your words before, that it meant hiding or that it meant a disadvantage to someone. I think that is the danger of really picking out information and just pointing to a particular incident or comment and assuming that it has a broader base meaning.

Q13. We have a situation where the public is sharing everything. What good things are involved with that and what threats do you see?

A13. Well, I think that the good things about it are that it really does provide an opportunity for collaboration; it provides an opportunity for sharing of information. One of the good things...I'll just pick something for DoD that is extremely important, and the reason why we really struggled with the questions of social media. It provides an outstanding opportunity for our warfighters to stay in contact with their families in a way that would have been very difficult or we would not have been able to provide that on a very widespread basis. So, it gives us that opportunity for that kind of communication. On the other hand, we have to make sure that our warfighters don't forget that information is public. And, so, if they do disclose things like their location or things that could place them in harms way, then that is the other side of that communication that I think is somewhat more difficult for us. I don't think that it is a question of whether it is good or bad anymore. It is there. I think the question is now, how do we use it for the good things it provides and be careful of the other side. I think that is true on a personal basis. It is not just a question for the Department of Defense and the way we use information. I think that all of us have to realize that sharing of information can be good and give us a way of connecting, but it also has a downside if it is not used correctly and if we are not responsible about the way we share information.

Q14. There was a man on a train from NY who was concerned about anything he writes in an e-mail can be stored. Is this happening?

A14. I do think that individuals are concerned. While it is a government issue, it is also a private sector/corporate issue, as well. I think you have seen instances where corporate e-mails have been used in legal actions and so on. What I will say, certainly for us, we have different levels of security on our networks and we do have to be careful that we are conscience of again, the way we share information, what networks we use, and to make sure our information goes where it should go and it is used in the way that it should be used. The other thing I'd say and I think what the individual is also talking about is that we get very used to e-mail. We can shoot off a message that you understand, but that may carry different meaning for other people. I think that gets back to my comment about...sometimes we take this for granted, in terms of the way people interpret what we say, and in fact that may not necessarily be the case and it could be interpreted in many different ways. When you are a government employee and have responsibilities, you have to think about how your comments and information might be interpreted. That is just a responsibility that we have as public servants...is to think about that. Some people may be paranoid and may decide that they don't want to do it at all. For the rest of us, it just makes us conscience in thinking about our communication, making sure we are clear...thinking how things might be misinterpreted. Or, in terms of interviews like this making where we don't want to be misinterpreted, but also, just in our day-to-day communication with each other.

Q15. Do you watch every word you say to me...you don't think too much?

A15. It is important that I'm clear. I think sometimes that when words are used in different context, it is important to set that context, because you can be misinterpreted and your comments can be put out of context. I think that is something that we have a responsibility to be responsible for.

Very Respectfully,

(b) (6) (b) (6)

Lt Col, U.S. Air Force

Public Affairs Officer for:

Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD);

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Global Strategic Affairs

Assistant Secretary of Defense Networks and Information Integration (NII);

and Department of Defense Chief Information Officer

1400 Defense Pentagon (2D961)

Washington, DC 20301-1400

703-695-2528

From: (b) (6) LtCol OSD PA
To: (b) (6) CAPT OSD PA
Subject: Re: EXSUM/TRANSCRIPT: Swedish TV Interview with Ms. Takai, DoD CIO, Internet
Date: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 7:42:57 PM

I know. And, yes, discussion was very helpful and thanks for taking the time.

----- Original Message -----

(b) (6) From: (b) (6) CAPT OSD PA
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 07:39 PM
To: (b) (6) LtCol OSD PA
Subject: RE: EXSUM/TRANSCRIPT: Swedish TV Interview with Ms. Takai, DoD CIO, Internet

(b) (6) (b) (6)

Col Lapan doesn't say "wow" often. Great work!

I hope you found our discussion today on the on the problem you had communicating the EXORD language to be helpful. Again, please let me know if I can be helpful.

r (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

(b) (6) From: (b) (6) LtCol OSD PA
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 12:35 PM
To: Lapan, David COL OSD PA; (b) (6) CAPT OSD PA
Cc: (b) (6) CDR OSD PA; (b) (6) CIV OSD PA; (b) (6) MAJ OSD PA
Subject: RE: EXSUM/TRANSCRIPT: Swedish TV Interview with Ms. Takai, DoD CIO, Internet

Sir, she was fine/comfortable with the interview. We did a prep session with her on Friday which helped and she asked for my feedback immediately following the interview.

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(b) (6) (b) (6)

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To: (b) (6) LtCol OSD PA; (b) (6) CAPT OSD PA
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Subject: RE: EXSUM/TRANSCRIPT: Swedish TV Interview with Ms. Takai, DoD CIO, Internet

Wow, very extensive. Thanks (b) (6) (b) (6)

What did Ms Takai think of the interview?

r/DAL

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Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 12:10 PM
To: Lapan, David COL OSD PA; (b) (6) CAPT OSD PA
Cc: (b) (6) CDR OSD PA; (b) (6) CIV OSD PA; (b) (6) MAJ OSD PA;
(b) (6) LtCol OSD PA

Subject: EXSUM/TRANSCRIPT: Swedish TV Interview with Ms. Takai, DoD CIO, Internet

What: Interview with Reporter Swedish TV

Who: Teri Takai, Acting ASD NII/DoD CIO

When: 7 March 2011

Why: For a story on the Internet and its ability to overthrow the government

Print/Air Date: Fall 2011

Summary: Overall the interview went really well. Ms. Takai set the tone by describing the role of the DoD CIO. The reporter did not focus on Wikileaks questions, but focused on the new digital war we face due to the Internet. The primary audience of this piece is high school and college students. The reporter's questions focused on: land versus digital warfare, ability to dominate the digital domain, cyber threats, who is the enemy, reluctance to share information, ability to identify the hacker, what good things are involved with sharing information, what a successful cyber attack looks like, could leaks be a good thing, damage of cyber attacks, impact of leaks on the U.S.

Transcript:

Q1. What are the responsibilities of a Chief Information Officer? (Ms. Takai's Question and Answer to put her role as the CIO in perspective)

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- We are very heavily dependent on our networks, because the sharing of information both from our administrative functions like doing our budgeting to our personnel systems to our medical systems, all the way down to the need for that information to the warfighter, depends upon our networks and our ability to get that information from here in Washington to our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. So, one of the things we do is to oversee the overall network that runs across the globe to make that happen.

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A2. It is extremely important. As you mentioned warfare has changed dramatically and is no longer the same approach. In fact, Secretary Gates gave a speech at the Army...at West Point just recently. He talked about how the role of the Army is changing in terms of the way that they participate in what now are the conflicts that we are engaged in. I think that was important to that and what you related in your question is that information and the way to share information in these new kinds of conflicts is really becoming paramount in terms of how we do it. In the past we used to push to make sure that our warfighters understood that they needed a network and they needed information and they needed that capability wherever they were. Now, we are actually in an opposite situation. Our warfighters are

coming in...they are familiar with the technology. They all come in with devices that they are used to from the commercial market and they are hungry for that information. It is not only that they have the information, but they want to be able to share it, because these conflicts are very different from those we have had in the past.

Q3. I can understand that your soldiers want to share information with each other and it is important. But, why does the enemy or somebody else want to know? If you know what is in the digital domain, you can dominate. How does it work?

A3. Well, that is absolutely correct. For instance, obviously we want to protect the information around where individuals are placed...around where some of our strategies or tactics might be, because again, while those were all very close held in fact, now there are opportunities for that information to be known and endanger the lives of the warfighter, so we have to be extremely cautious about that.

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Q5. What threats do you see towards the cyber part of the war, i.e. land, sea, air and now cyber? What threats do you see?

A5. I think that we are all very concerned about being able to maintain the integrity of our information and protecting our information from individuals that are able to look at it and perhaps use it in ways that we had not intended. Secondly, we are quite concerned about the overall cyber security of all of our infrastructure - so we are concerned about power grids, our broader communications and with that we are concerned about the companies that provide to us. Because, again, it goes beyond what we just control and it goes to those companies that we actually use for services. For instance, I mentioned that we are responsible for networks and in many cases we will run our own networks, but there are other cases where we will buy our services from providers that are in that particular area. So, now we have to have a very strong partnership with them and be able to share the information around cyber threats, be able to look at mitigation strategy in a different way. So, as you look at cyber, we think of it as Department of Defense, but it actually goes much broader than that. And, in that, we partner with the Department of Homeland Security, because clearly the Department of Defense has a particular role and the Department of Homeland Security has a different role and we partner with them to make sure the nation is secure.

Q6. Describe for me, you talked about the power grid, this is something that me and our viewers can relate to. Describe for me a successful cyber attack on a nation? What would happen? What would that look like?

A6. I think there is no such thing as being able to define a successful attack. I think there are a number of different kinds of attacks. Probably, some of the best examples of potential impact would be to look at what happened in Estonia. I think that is a very real example of what can happen and certainly several years ago and obviously the individuals who can do cyber attacks have become much more sophisticated. You can see from that example that you can get into the financial structures...you can get into any number of different areas and it can be disruptive. And, to this point, we have been able to recover...I should say some of those countries that have been affected like Estonia, has been

able to recover in a short period of time. But, we can assume that as you look at the escalation of those types of things...in many cases, they could have had the same impact as a physical destruction.

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Q9. Do you track those people down if you can?

A9. No. Clearly, we want to know where those attacks are coming from, but again, I think short of actually areas that...attacks come in from everywhere. They are not necessarily routeable to know the exact source of where that is. What is more important to us is making sure we are concentrating on protecting our information. One of our challenges obviously that we have to be careful of, is to make sure that our employees and contractors are educated on the protection of our information and that we are all being responsible just like we would be responsible in our homes for our personal information that we are responsible for the information that we are the custodian of for DOD.

Q10. You talk about "our information...our information". What is your information? What is it that you are hiding?

A10. Hiding is too strong a word. We have information that we use to run the Department of Defense. Some of that information is....very important personnel identification information. To protect that is not to hide it. I don't think any employee in any company would want personnel identification information publicly available that could be misused. I think it is really around making sure that the information is used in the way that it was intended to be used and when it is released, which is done quite frequently, it is placed in the right context and released in a way that we would like for people to understand what we are doing.

Q11. In what ways is the United States hurt when a leak appears?

A11. It depends on the leak. I don't know if you can say across the board that every leak is the same, but clearly we are quite concerned (speaking from a DoD perspective, because the Department of State could also give you a perspective...I want to make sure that I am not speaking too broadly). From a DoD perspective, the times where we are particularly concerned are number one, when we believe it will result in harm coming either to an individual that is a part of DoD or associated with DoD - physical harm is of great concern to us; Secondly, any physical harm or jeopardy to any of our warfighters; and certainly as it relates to anything that would damage relationships with some of our very important partners and allies. So, those are the things that we concentrate on. Again, let me repeat - it is very much around where we feel that it would place one of our employees or allies in physical danger.

Q12. Did the Wikileaks incident in Sweden, the stuff that came out about the Swedish government...a lot of people were surprised that the government said one thing. Are you doing things behind our backs that we should know? Could leaks be a good thing?

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Q14. There was a man on a train from NY who was concerned about anything he writes in an e-mail can be stored. Is this happening?

A14. I do think that individuals are concerned. While it is a government issue, it is also a private sector/corporate issue, as well. I think you have seen instances where corporate e-mails have been used in legal actions and so on. What I will say, certainly for us, we have different levels of security on our networks and we do have to be careful that we are conscience of again, the way we share information, what networks we use, and to make sure our information goes where it should go and it is used in the way that it should be used. The other thing I'd say and I think what the individual is also talking about is that we get very used to e-mail. We can shoot off a message that you understand, but that may carry different meaning for other people. I think that gets back to my comment about...sometimes we take this for granted, in terms of the way people interpret what we say, and in fact that may not necessarily be the case and it could be interpreted in many different ways. When you are a government employee and have responsibilities, you have to think about how your comments and information might be interpreted. That is just a responsibility that we have as public servants...is to think about that. Some people may be paranoid and may decide that they don't want to do it at all.

For the rest of us, it just makes us conscience in thinking about our communication, making sure we are clear...thinking how things might be misinterpreted. Or, in terms of interviews like this making where we don't want to be misinterpreted, but also, just in our day-to-day communication with each other.

Q15. Do you watch every word you say to me...you don't think too much?

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Very Respectfully,

(b) (6) (b) (6)

Lt Col, U.S. Air Force
Public Affairs Officer for:
Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD);
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Global Strategic Affairs
Assistant Secretary of Defense Networks and Information Integration (NII);
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Washington, DC 20301-1400
703-695-2528

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) OSD PA
To: (b)(6) D PA
Subject: FW: EXSUM/TRANSCRIPT: Swedish TV Interview with Ms. Takai, DoD CIO, Internet
Date: Wednesday, May 18, 2011 8:16:00 AM

(b)(6)
(b)(6) recommend you send for SA.

V/r. (b)(6)(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

(b)(6)
From: (b)(6) LtCol OSD PA
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 12:10 PM
To: Lapan, David COL OSD PA; (b)(6) CAPT OSD PA
Cc: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA; (b)(6) CIV OSD PA; (b)(6) MAJ OSD PA;
(b)(6) LtCol OSD PA
Subject: EXSUM/TRANSCRIPT: Swedish TV Interview with Ms. Takai, DoD CIO, Internet

What: Interview with Reporter Swedish TV

Who: Teri Takai, Acting ASD NII/DoD CIO

When: 7 March 2011

Why: For a story on the Internet and its ability to overthrow the government

Print/Air Date: Fall 2011

Summary: Overall the interview went really well. Ms. Takai set the tone by describing the role of the DoD CIO. The reporter did not focus on Wikileaks questions, but focused on the new digital war we face due to the Internet. The primary audience of this piece is high school and college students. The reporter's questions focused on: land versus digital warfare, ability to dominate the digital domain, cyber threats, who is the enemy, reluctance to share information, ability to identify the hacker, what good things are involved with sharing information, what a successful cyber attack looks like, could leaks be a good thing, damage of cyber attacks, impact of leaks on the U.S.

Transcript:

Q1. What are the responsibilities of a Chief Information Officer? (Ms. Takai's Question and Answer to put her role as the CIO in perspective)

A1. I am responsible for establishing all of the policy around how Information Technology is used across the Department of Defense. Examples are:

- We are very heavily dependent on our networks, because the sharing of information both from our administrative functions like doing our budgeting to our personnel systems to our medical systems, all the way down to the need for that information to the warfighter, depends upon our networks and our ability to get that information from here in Washington to our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. So, one of the things we do is to oversee the overall network that runs across the globe to make that happen.

- The second thing we are responsible for is the actual computer systems that run on top of that or what we would call or what our iPhone users might call applications or apps...that actually store that information and is actually responsible for passing that information between the different users that we have.

- We are also responsible for technology. I'm not necessary responsible for airplanes or weapons, but I am responsible for the technology that is in those areas, in order to make sure that if they need to connect to the network, they can connect to the network in a very secure way. And, that is the last point that I think is very important. Within my responsibilities is what we call information

assurance...that is, to make sure that all of our information is protected and is secure.

It is a pretty broad portfolio. We spend a lot of money every year on technology. My role is not necessarily to implement that technology, but rather to set the ground rules and to set the processes and to set the policy by which we will actually implement that technology.

Q2. It seems that warfare in the old days was taking land. Now it is taking digital ground. Why is this important?

A2. It is extremely important. As you mentioned warfare has changed dramatically and is no longer the same approach. In fact, Secretary Gates gave a speech at the Army...at West Point just recently. He talked about how the role of the Army is changing in terms of the way that they participate in what now are the conflicts that we are engaged in. I think that was important to that and what you related in your question is that information and the way to share information in these new kinds of conflicts is really becoming paramount in terms of how we do it. In the past we used to push to make sure that our warfighters understood that they needed a network and they needed information and they needed that capability wherever they were. Now, we are actually in an opposite situation. Our warfighters are coming in...they are familiar with the technology. They all come in with devices that they are used to from the commercial market and they are hungry for that information. It is not only that they have the information, but they want to be able to share it, because these conflicts are very different from those we have had in the past.

Q3. I can understand that your soldiers want to share information with each other and it is important. But, why does the enemy or somebody else want to know? If you know what is in the digital domain, you can dominate. How does it work?

A3. Well, that is absolutely correct. For instance, obviously we want to protect the information around where individuals are placed...around where some of our strategies or tactics might be, because again, while those were all very close held in fact, now there are opportunities for that information to be known and endanger the lives of the warfighter, so we have to be extremely cautious about that.

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Lt Col, U.S. Air Force
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(b) (6) CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b)(6) CIV OSD PA
Sent: (b)(6) Wednesday, June 01, 2011 11:41 AM
To: (b)(6) Mr OSD PA
Cc: Cullin, Brian SES OSD PA; (b)(6) CIV OSD PA

Interesting take on the upcoming humanitarian flotilla to Gaza as a propaganda stunt.

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/melaniephillips/6990380/the-floating-theatre-of-the-jihad-part-two.shtml>

(b)(6)

CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY
 Sent: (b)(6) Friday, June 17, 2011 3:14 PM
 To: (b)(6)
 Cc: (b)(6) CIV, OSD-POLICY; (b)(6) Maj JCS J5 DDENR; (b)(6)
 CDR OSD PA
 Subject: ASD Speech

(b)(6)
(b)(6)

ASD Vershbow is scheduled next Thursday, June 23 from 0945-1030 to provide keynote remarks to the Middle East Institute's Second Annual Conference on Turkey. Other high-level participants will be Amb. Namik Tan and Ibrahim Kalin, plus all the usual suspects on the Turkey watcher side (will send an updated agenda when I have one).

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Turkish elections
 Turkish democracy generally and freedom of the press Gaza flotilla (not sure what to say with the latest) U.S. support to Turkish CT/counter-PKK

If not, I'll work with our regional desks to cobble something together to pass to you for your chop. Thanks and great weekend to you all.

Best,
 (b)(6) (b)(6)

Country Director for Turkey and Cyprus
 U.S. Department of Defense
 OSD/ISA/European and NATO Policy
 Pentagon 5B652
 703-571-9656

SIPR: (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY
Sent: (b)(6) Friday, June 17, 2011 4:30 PM
To: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA
Cc: (b)(6) CIV, OSD-POLICY
Subject: RE: ASD Speech
Attachments: 110617 Speech Prep Sheet.docx; RSVP List as of June 6, 2011.xls; DraftConferenceProgram2011_06062011B.PDF

(b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(5)

Thanks for jumping on this--exactly why we looped you in. As of this moment, (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5) Are there channels that you can reach out to State PA through?

I will definitely send a copy of the speech on Monday. Please find attached the basic background on the conference and an outdated copy of the agenda and participants list (they promise to send me updates on Monday).

Best,

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(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Country Director for Turkey and Cyprus
U.S. Department of Defense
OSD/ISA/European and NATO Policy
Pentagon 5B652
703-571-9656
SIPR: (b)(6) (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2011 3:35 PM
To: [Brannen, Samuel J] CIV OSD POLICY
Subject: RE: ASD Speech

(b)(6) (b)(6)

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Thanks!

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY

Sent: Friday, June 17, 2011 3:14 PM

To: (b) (6) (b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6) CIV, OSD-POLICY; (b) (6) Maj JCS J5 DDENR (b) (6) CDR OSD PA

Subject: ASD Speech

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

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Country Director for Turkey and Cyprus

U.S. Department of Defense

OSD/ISA/European and NATO Policy

Pentagon 5B652

703-571-9656

SIPR: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Middle East Institute

Context:

You have been asked to deliver the opening keynote address to the 2nd Annual Conference on Turkey by the Middle East Institute's Center for Turkish studies.

Your remarks will be preceded by brief welcoming remarks by Wendy Chamberlain, President of the Middle East Institute, and Dr. Gonul Tol, the Executive Director of the Middle East Institute's Center for Turkish studies. Your remarks will be immediately followed by remarks from Turkish Ambassador to the U.S. Namik Tan, and then a series of panel discussions with U.S. and Turkish experts drawn from the media and Washington and Ankara think-tanks/academia. The lunch keynote address will be delivered by Ibrahim Kalin, a key foreign policy advisor to Prime Minister Erdogan.

Last year's annual conference occurred in the weeks after the Gaza flotilla and the Turkish vote on the UNSCR on Iran sanctions, and the conversation was dominated by those issues. High-ranking Turkish officials participated.

Time, Place, and Format:

Your keynote address is scheduled from 9:45-10:15 a.m. in the University Hall of the University Club in downtown Washington D.C. (1135 16th Street NW). Dr. Tol will greet you at the door, and he will also introduce you to the audience.

You will speak from a podium to a room set up theater-style with 230-250 in the audience, including media and foreign nationals (mostly Turkish, but Europeans and other nations as well). The proceedings will be on the record, and we would expect that the event will be broadly covered in the Turkish press.

Following your 20 minutes of remarks, Dr. Tol will moderate a Q&A period for you, with his staff walking through the room with microphones to take questions from the audience. We have stipulated that we do not wish to do media interviews after the event.

(b)(6)
(b) (6) CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2011 11:33 AM
To: (b)(6) (b) (6) CDR OSD PA
Cc: (b) (6) CIV, OSD-POLICY
Subject: RE: ASD Speech

(b) (6) (b)(6)

Great--many thanks. Following up on your earlier recommendation on the potential background session with Tolga Tanis, apparently standing direction from USDP is that only SESs can do interviews with the press, so we'll have to take a pass. We're seeing if DASD Townsend may be interested instead.

Best,

(b) (6) (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) CDR OSD PA
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2011 11:05 AM (b)(6)
To: (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY
Cc: (b) (6) CIV, OSD-POLICY
Subject: RE: ASD Speech

(b) (6) (b)(6)

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More when I have it.

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From: (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2011 4:30 PM (b)(6)
To: (b) (6) CDR OSD PA
Cc: (b) (6) CIV, OSD-POLICY
Subject: RE: ASD Speech

(b) (6) (b)(6)

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(b)(5)

(b) (5)

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Country Director for Turkey and Cyprus
U.S. Department of Defense
OSD/ISA/European and NATO Policy
Pentagon 5B652
703-571-9656
SIPR

(b) (6) (b) (6)

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From (b) (6) CDR OSD PA (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2011 3:35 PM
To: (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY
Subject: RE: ASD Speech

(b) (6) (b) (6)

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Sent: Friday, June 17, 2011 3:14 PM
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Cc: (b) (6) CIV, OSD-POLICY; (b) (6) Maj JCS JS DDENR; (b) (6) CDR OSD PA
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(b) (6) (b) (6)

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U.S. Department of Defense

OSD/ISA/European and NATO Policy

Pentagon 5B652

703-571-9656

SIPR: (b) (6) (b) (6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY
 Sent: (b)(6) Monday, June 20, 2011 12:45 PM
 To: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA
 Cc: (b)(6) CIV, OSD-POLICY
 Subject: RE: ASD Speech

(b)(6) (b)(6)

Could you also pull DoD TPs on how we're discussing the following?

- 1) Current approach to Iran
- 2) Libya
- 3) Syria

These are questions that may well arise for the ASD.

Thanks,

(b)(6) (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA
 Sent: Monday, June 20, 2011 11:05 AM
 To: (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY (b)(6)
 Cc: (b)(6) CIV, OSD-POLICY
 Subject: RE: ASD Speech

(b)(6) (b)(6)

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 Cc: (b)(6) CIV, OSD-POLICY
 Subject: RE: ASD Speech

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U.S. Department of Defense

OSD/ISA/European and NATO Policy

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OSD/ISA/European and NATO Policy
Pentagon 5B652
703-571-9656

SIPR: (b) (6) (b) (6)

From: (b) (6) CDR CHINFO, PTGN
To: (b) (6) CDR OSD PA
Cc: (b) (6) Cutler, Dawn CAPT; (b) (6) CDR (C6F-MTW); (b) (6) CDR CHINFO, OI-3; (b) (6) (b) (6) CIV CHINFO, OI-B
Subject: Item of interest
Date: Monday, June 20, 2011 1:45:28 PM
Attachments: JERUSALEM POST 20 JUN 11 US-flagged ship to participate in Gaza-bound flotilla.doc

Ma'am,
Saw this pop just a bit ago- looks like something that would be of pretty big interest if the events unfold as they describe. I would imagine this would require NSC or OSD talking points?

V/r,

(b) (6) (b) (6)

LCDR (b) (6) (b) (6)
Navy Office of Information (CHINFO)
News Desk Officer - Current Ops
Telephone: (o) 703-697-5342 (d) 703-614-7747
Blackberry: 202-390-0054

(b) (6) (b) (6)
Room: 4B463

US-flagged ship to participate in Gaza-bound flotilla

"We will carry no goods of any kind for delivery in Gaza... Our mission is from American civil society to the civil society of Gaza."

(Jerusalem Post 20 Jun 11)...Jordana Horn

NEW YORK – Passengers on a US-flagged boat, "The Audacity of Hope," spoke at a press conference Monday to discuss their plans and reasons for joining the "International Freedom Flotilla II – Stay Human," a flotilla intended to break the Israeli naval blockade of Gaza.

It is estimated that people from more than 20 countries will participate in the eight to ten boat flotilla, which will sail the last week of June, in part from Greece. One quarter of the participants on the US boat, which will have 36 passengers, are American Jews.

According to a letter the "Audacity of Hope" group sent to US President Barack Obama, in addition to 36 passengers, 4 crew members, and 10 members of the press, the US-flagged boat "will carry thousands of letters of support and friendship from people throughout the U.S. to the women, children and men of Gaza. There will be no weapons of any sort on board."

"We will carry no goods of any kind for delivery in Gaza," the group's letter read. "Our mission is from American civil society to the civil society of Gaza. We do not serve the agenda of any political leadership, government or group. We are engaged solely in non-violent action in support of the Palestinian people and their human rights."

"Citizen activists are coming to the Mediterranean from all over the world to confront the illegal Israeli blockade of Gaza and US government protection of Israeli criminal acts," "Audacity of Hope" passenger Ann Wright said. "As a former US diplomat and retired military colonel, I strongly believe it is the responsibility of citizens to act when our governments fail to protect the human rights and dignity of any people—in this case, the Palestinians."

Leslie Cagan, the US boat coordinator leading Monday's press conference, said the Israeli government acted with extreme violence against Freedom Flotilla I in 2010, killing nine passengers and injuring more than 50, and has threatened the use of attack dogs and snipers against this Freedom Flotilla II.

Cagan said, "Following the example of years of non-violent Palestinian protests, everyone participating in this project is deeply committed to non-violence. We hope and plan to arrive in Gaza City safely by the beginning of July. Any other outcome is the responsibility of the U.S. and Israeli government's decision to maintain the illegal and unjustifiable imprisonment of 1.5 million people in the Gaza strip."

"We are trying to act in alignment with our conscience," "Audacity of Hope" passenger Kathy Kelly said at the press conference.

Cagan added that the flotilla organizers have urged United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon to put into place a UN inspection of the ships but have received no official response as yet. In late May, the Secretary General expressed his opposition to flotilla operations intended to challenge the Israeli naval blockade of Gaza, believing that assistance and goods bound for Gaza should go through legitimate crossings.

Ban has called on governments to use their influence to discourage flotillas, stating that they carry the potential to exacerbate rather than ameliorate the conflict. The United States government, participants in the US-flagged ship said, have warned the US citizens not to participate in the flotilla.

(b)(6)
From: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA
To: "Meyer, Elisha"
Cc: hayan@mei.edu
Subject: RE: RE: Speech today by Amb Vershbow
Date: Thursday, June 23, 2011 4:33:00 PM
Attachments: FINAL MEI Speech ASD Vershbow 23JUN11.doc

Here is a copy of Amb Vershbow's remarks that he'd like for you to post. Please do so today, as press are asking.
Thank you!

-----Original Message-----

From: Meyer, Elisha [mailto:emeyer@mei.edu]
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2011 4:07 PM
To: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA
Cc: hayan@mei.edu
Subject: Re: RE: Speech today by Amb Vershbow

Hi (b)(6) (b)(6)

A pleasure to meet you as well - thanks for all your help today. We will be posting a podcast and video of today's conference on our website - they should be up by early next week. I will try to get you a copy of Amb. Tan's statement - hopefully he'll release that to us.

All best,

Elisha

On Thu, Jun 23, 2011 at 11:41 AM, (b)(6) CDR OSD PA <(b)(6)> wrote:

PS: can we also have a copy of Amb Tan's statement? Thanks.

Any queries you get for Amb Vershbow, just refer the reporters to me.
Thanks

-----Original Message-----

(b)(6) From: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2011 11:12 AM
To: 'emeyer@mei.edu'; 'hayan@mei.edu'
Subject: RE: Speech today by Amb Vershbow

Ladies

Pleasure to meet you today. Thanks for the help. One final question. Will you be posting the remarks of the speakers on your website today? The recording of the event? Several press have asked about remarks and I'd like to refer them to your website should you be posting those.

Thanks

CDR (b)(6) (b)(6)
U.S. Defense Media Officer for Policy:
Africa, Europe, NATO, Russia
Pentagon, Rm. 2D961
Office: 703 697 1253

(b)(6) (b)(6)

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Elisha Meyer

Director of Programs and Communications
Middle East Institute
t. 202-785-1141 x236
f. 202-331-8861
emeyer@mei.edu

THE U.S.-TURKISH AGENDA

Ambassador Alexander Vershbow
Assistant Secretary of Defense
for International Security Affairs

Remarks as Delivered
Keynote Address at
The Middle East Institute's Center for Turkish Studies
Second Annual Conference on Turkey
Washington, DC - June 23, 2011

Thank you, Dr. Tol, for the kind introduction, and thanks to President Wendy Chamberlin and the Middle East Institute for inviting me to address this year's conference. I applaud the fact that you have devoted an entire day to understanding Turkey's evolving internal politics and relations with traditional Allies and new partners and neighbors, and it is terrific to see the representation here from Washington's U.S.-Turkey intelligentsia, as well as distinguished guests from Ankara. I look forward to your insights.

As many of you know, my portfolio at the Department of Defense covers Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Russia and Eurasia. I have spent considerable time over the past year engaged with Turkey through the prism of each of these regional contexts, and I would like to share with you what I have learned—and what I think my Turkish counterparts have also learned—about our critical alliance.

When you convened last June for your first annual conference, the downturn in U.S.-Turkish relations had surprised us all. We were concerned because it seemed so at odds with the relative closeness we had felt over the past year, beginning with President Obama's April 2009 visit to Istanbul and Ankara.

Since that time, the governments of Turkey and the United States have found a way to work through the events of that challenging phase, disproving charges that Turkey was drifting from the United States, or that the United States could not abide an independent Turkish foreign policy.

I am pleased to say that, in many key respects, the relationship has not only recovered over the past year, but it has strengthened. Despite the frustration and disappointment felt by both sides following the Gaza flotilla, the Turkish vote on UN Security Council Resolution 1929, and the P5+1 dismissal of the Tehran Declaration, I believe that U.S. and Turkish officials have redoubled their efforts to deepen the relationship.

Together, we determined we needed to enter into a new style of dialogue, publicly and privately, and we agreed to be more candid and consultative with one another. In Washington, we recognized more clearly that Turkey's unique regional perspective and interests will sometimes lead it to make decisions that are not perfectly aligned with ours. This is reasonable and natural, so long as we are not surprised and that the disagreements revolve around tactics rather than outcomes. Indeed, we almost always have the same strategic objectives in mind, even if we sometimes have different ideas about the best way to achieve them. I think it's also fair to say that Ankara recognized that, in defending its regional interests, it cannot lose sight of its strategic obligations to its Allies. Disagreements over tactics, if handled clumsily, can give the impression that we have different outcomes in mind, even leading some to question Turkey's commitment to NATO and to the United States.

In fact, the last year has shown that our interests are very much aligned, and that we have been able to advance them together. Turkey has been an indispensable partner for the people and Government of Iraq, supporting Iraq's consolidation of gains in security and political development, as well as avidly investing in an economic and defense partnership for the future. Turkey has worked closely with the United States in supporting a government formation process in Iraq to ensure that Iraqi leaders remain committed to power sharing and institutional reform. Turkey has also supported reconciliation processes among Iraqi leaders and local communities. Prime Minister Erdogan's historic trip this year to Baghdad, Najaf, and Erbil underscored his commitment to work with all Iraqis. In particular, Turkey's willingness to engage with the Kurdistan Regional Government has been critical for Iraq's stability.

U.S. and Turkish combined support for a peaceful, democratic Iraq and an inclusive government laid the basis for our efforts to help promote reform and democracy in the Arab world. As the events of the Arab Spring have unfolded, close consultation and collaboration between the U.S. and Turkey has proven essential. We have worked together at the highest levels of our governments following the surprising liberation of Tunisia, from the first days of Tahrir Square, through the siege of Benghazi, and the most recent appalling use of violence against the Syrian population by the Asad regime.

In past months, this more candid dialogue has enhanced international and regional security by serving as a bulwark against governments that defy the basic rights of their people. Turkey strongly supported NATO's assumption of control over Operation Unified Protector, to enforce UN Security Council Resolutions 1970 and 1973 in Libya, and has contributed forces include fighter aircraft and warships.

Turkey has been a leader in humanitarian relief and in searching for a political solution for Qadhafi to leave power. Turkey's diplomacy has freed captured U.S. journalists, and helped thousands of non-Turkish citizens safely depart the country.

Throughout the region, Turkey continues to exercise its own leadership and is a source of inspiration for those who aspire to free-market, secular democracy. Turkey's influence in the region continues to surprise some of the most seasoned and respected Middle East-watchers, who underestimated its potential not only to draw from its Ottoman past, but to inspire with its modern-day dynamism.

I want to underscore a few important examples of Turkey's importance to the international community.

Turkey remains a strong supporter of the NATO ISAF mission in Afghanistan, with its contribution of nearly 1,800 personnel, leadership of two provincial reconstruction teams (PRTs), and a third tour in the lead for Regional Command-Capital. Turkey is committed to a NATO transition strategy through 2014 and beyond that relies on training the Afghan Security Forces to take the lead. Turkey has simultaneously sought to bridge political difficulties between another of its key partners, Pakistan, and the Afghan government.

The ability of Turkey and the United States to work together in a multilateral context was on full display at last November's NATO Summit in Lisbon, where we joined the other 26 Allies to reach consensus on a new Strategic Concept for the 21st century; and in our decision to adopt ballistic missile defense of European territories, forces and populations as a NATO mission. Turkey's continued leadership in NATO was recognized with the Alliance command structure reform

that was agreed upon earlier this month in Brussels. The new Land Component Command will be located in Izmir, keeping a major NATO flag on Turkish territory for the range of new challenges NATO will face in the coming decades.

The positive trajectory of the U.S.-Turkey partnership is one that this Administration is committed to continuing. But let me also highlight some challenges ahead from the perspective of the Department of Defense. Any relationship, no matter how strong, must be continually managed. The sheer complexity of the current security environment guarantees that we may have moments when the policies of Turkey and the United States do not always align. The true test of our relationship will be how we manage those differences.

We remain especially concerned by the state of relations between Israel and Turkey. Considering that these are two vital democracies of strategic consequence to the United States and regional stability, we hope that a political solution can be reached to move beyond the events of last May aboard the Mavi Marmara. We encourage creativity and engagement between Tel Aviv and Ankara to find a way forward.

Let me also address the topic of policy toward Iran. Turkey has played an important role as the international community engages Iran to end its illicit nuclear programs, and hosted the last P5+1 meeting with Iran in January. Overall, we share the same goals of preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon and strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Although we have had some notable differences on tactics, we are confident that Turkey will abide by all relevant UNSCRs and will remain an important and committed non-proliferation partner for the United States on this and many other issues.

The whole of the U.S.-Turkish relationship is more than the sum of its parts, and there is certainly untapped potential for both sides. We seek to increase our economic, trade and cultural ties, and expand on educational exchanges, and desire that our relationship maintain its firm grounding in defense and security. We face in particular a common threat of terrorism to our homelands and our way of life—be it Al Qaeda or the PKK. But I think that, most of all, we share a common outlook on the world. Secretary of Defense Bob Gates explained U.S. and Turkish alignment well last October. In remarks to the American Turkish Council’s annual conference, he said that, “even as our views and approaches on some issues may differ, we are allies, we share fundamental interests in the region, and our goals remain the same.” He highlighted:

- Respect for sovereignty and rule of law;
- Economic growth and development; and
- Enduring stability and security.

I would add to that list of goals that Turkey and the United States share a strong belief in the universal rights of people to live free from fear and harm, and a common aspiration for fair and accountable governance. This shared goal was the basis of the Truman Doctrine, and therefore of the very beginnings of the U.S.-Turkish strategic alignment that led to Turkey’s entry into NATO in 1952.

Let me close by raising several areas where I see significant opportunities in the relationship—the untapped potential that I alluded to.

The first challenge is to maintain our strong defense cooperation. As Turkey's economy continues to grow, and its technological capacity increases, Turkey has also developed among the region's strongest defense industries. Turkey seeks to become a preeminent defense industrial power, and judging by this year's International Defense Industry Fair (IDEF) held in Istanbul, Turkey is advancing very quickly toward this goal. Instead of seeking to compete with U.S. defense industry, Turkey has chosen to partner, as in the recent agreement to develop a new utility helicopter between Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation and Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI). This was the right decision on purely economic and technical merits for Turkey, but it was also the right decision to ensure that NATO Allies work together in defense industrial cooperation. Turkey and the United States are, of course, also close partners on the Joint Strike Fighter and a host of other projects that contribute to the defense, security, and economies of both nations.

The second challenge is to ensure that Turkey remains strongly committed to NATO, and NATO to Turkey, even as the security outlook of members may increasingly differ. When Secretary Gates delivered his warning on the future of the NATO Alliance earlier this month, his message was clear: NATO, the most powerful political and military alliance that the world has ever known, is the sum of its members' military strength and commitment. Maintaining that commitment by implementing the ambitious agenda agreed upon at Lisbon is critical, and Turkey will play a defining role. In return, Turkey has a right to expect that its security will be taken seriously, as it occupies a particularly perilous geography in the current security landscape. In particular, the PKK threatens not only Turkey, but the values of NATO. The question of minority grievances within Turkey should be addressed through the political process, and no quarter should be given by any nation to those who support violence to achieve their ends.

Also, threats on the border of any NATO nation must be treated seriously by the entire Alliance. The crisis in Syria, now spilling refugees into Turkey, is a crisis on a NATO border, and we must carefully consider Turkey's needs on the matter as we press the Asad regime to end violence against its own population.

The third challenge is for Turkey to continue to engage constructively in rapprochement with its neighbors. President Obama said to Turkey's parliament in 2009 that, "Each country must work through its past. And reckoning with the past can help us seize a better future." The United States strongly supports a continuation of Turkey's rapprochement with Armenia, as we do continued dialogue on a still-divided Cyprus. Turkey has gone farther than most believed possible in reaching out to its neighbors in recent years, and that momentum to resolve remaining conflicts should continue. Progress in those relations is vital to Turkey's most important long-term project of EU accession, and to the continued strength of ties with the United States.

A fourth challenge is for Turkey and the United States to continue to work together to bring into closer alignment our efforts to prevent would-be regional spoilers—state and non-state actors alike—who would seek to take advantage of current regional instability to undermine democratic gains among Turkey's neighbors in pursuit of their own interests. This applies specifically to Iran and the support that it continues to provide the Syrian regime in the oppression of its own people, as well as its broader support for terrorist groups and proxies in the Middle East.

When the history of the U.S.-Turkish relationship in the first decades of the 21st century is written, I am hopeful that it will show Allies tested but resolute, who emerged stronger. As the pace of change continues to accelerate, Turkey and the

United States must adapt to it, bonded by core principles, with each bringing an indispensable element of leadership to foster stability and prosperity. We must strive to be relevant to one another, committed, and attentive. At times, this may necessitate decisions that are domestically difficult for us, but decisions that will advance our shared strategic interests.

I thank you for your attention and welcome your questions.

(b)(6)
(b) (6) CIV OSD PA (US)

From: Lapan, David COL OSD PA
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2011 3:42 PM
To: 'Jordan, Bryant'
Subject: RE: Gaza flotilla

Bryant: We have not been asked, nor do we anticipate being asked, to provide any assistance to this internal matter.

Regards,
Dave

-----Original Message-----

From: Jordan, Bryant [<mailto:Bryant.Jordan@Monster.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2011 12:03 PM
To: Lapan, David COL OSD PA
Subject: Gaza flotilla

Hi, Dave;

Sen. Mark Kirk of Illinois has recommended that DoD provide assistance -- Navy assets and any special forces help -- to the IDF to stop the aid ships from reaching the Port of Gaza.

Any movement on that front? Has DoD been tasked or is it making any provisions to provide the IDF with any kind of military assistance when it moves to halt these boats?

Bryant

Bryant Jordan
Associate Editor
Military.com
703 888-1031
540 846-2113 (cell)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY
 Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2011 4:30 PM
 To: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA; (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY
 Cc: (b)(6) CIV OSD-POLICY; (b)(6) COL (USA) OSD POLICY; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) MAJ OSD PA
 Subject: RE: Reliant Mermaid 2011 - US Israel

(b)(6)(b)(6)

FYI, ISA equities are:

- 1) This exercise looks a lot like naval interdiction AKA Gaza Flotilla busting.
- 2) Turkey participated in the past but didn't last year and almost certainly won't this year.

Best,

(b)(6)(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA (b)(6)
 Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2011 4:28 PM
 To: (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY
 Cc: (b)(6) CIV OSD-POLICY; (b)(6) (USA) OSD POLICY; (b)(6) MAJ OSD PA
 Subject: RE: Reliant Mermaid 2011 - US Israel

If you can clear on this right now that'd be great. Thanks!

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY (b)(6)
 Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2011 4:26 PM
 To: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA; (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY
 Cc: (b)(6) CIV OSD-POLICY; (b)(6) (USA) OSD POLICY; (b)(6) MAJ OSD PA
 Subject: RE: Reliant Mermaid 2011 - US Israel

Thanks -- just to confirm, you'll send a version up here as well for ASD Vershbow clearance before sending to NSS, right?

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA (b)(6)
 Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2011 4:21 PM
 To: (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY
 Cc: (b)(6) CIV OSD-POLICY; (b)(6) (USA) OSD POLICY; (b)(6) MAJ OSD PA
 Subject: FW: Reliant Mermaid 2011 - US Israel

(b)(6)(b)(6)

FYI from State with their edits. We'll send up here for approved and then deliver to the WH.
Thanks

-----Original Message-----

From [REDACTED] (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2011 4:10 PM

To [REDACTED] (b) (6) CDR OSD PA; [REDACTED] (b) (6)

Cc: NEA-Press-DL; EUR-Press

Subject: RE: Reliant Mermaid 2011 - US Israel

(b) (6) (b) (6)

EUR's edits on the Turkey question are attached. I've copied my colleagues in NEA in case they want to add anything.

Regards,

(b) (6) (b) (6)

(b)(6)
From: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA
To: POL Korea Team; POL China Team (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY
Subject: DOS Press Briefing Transcript
Date: Wednesday, July 27, 2011 6:30:00 PM

To all --

FYSA -- Please find today's press briefing transcript. It includes DOS' announcement of the discussions in NYC. (b)(5) (b)(5)

Taiwan and China-related info included as well.

V/r,
(b)(6) (b)(6)

* DEPARTMENT

* Proposed Bill Cutting Spending for State and USAID in House / Secretary Sent Letter Objecting to Proposed Bill

* DPRK

* Upcoming Exploratory Meeting in New York / Meeting a Result of the ROK and DPRK Dialogue in Bali

* PAKISTAN

- * Referred Query on Kashmiri American Council/ISI Investigation to Dept of Justice
- * Remain Committed to Working With Pakistan in Addressing Common Threats
- * Pause in Military Aid, But Not Civilian Aid
- * Talks Constructive Between Pakistan and India Governments

* GEORGIA

- * No Details on Investigation of Embassy Bombing in Tbilisi

* RUSSIA

- * Department's Program Involving Visa Ban / Sergei Magnitsky / Commitment of the Administration to Upholding Human Rights Obligations Around the World
- * U.S. Appreciates Russia's Support / Valuable International Partner on Libya and Afghanistan

* LIBYA

- * UK Asked Libyan Ambassador to Leave / U.S. Asked Libyan Ambassador to Leave in March / Received Official Request for TNC to Re-Open Embassy in D.C. / Reviewing Request

* AFGHANISTAN

- * Death of Mayor / Condemn the Murder and Extend Condolences to Family / No Independent Reports on Responsible Party / Strengthened Resolve to Work Together
- * New Strategic Agreement
- * Support Afghan-led Process on Reconciliation with Taliban / Surge Put Pressure on Taliban

* ISRAEL

- * Meeting With Turkey / Support Dialogue
- * CHINA
 - * Desire to Buy Aircraft Carrier / Already Working Together in Military Capacity / Broadens Understanding and Cooperation
- * TAIWAN
 - * Meeting With Undersecretary Burns and Assistant Secretary Campbell / No Details

TRANSCRIPT:

12:52 p.m. EDT

MR. TONER: Hey, everybody. Welcome to the State Department. Happy Wednesday. Just a brief shout-out, although I'm not sure they actually came in, but I understand there's a number of Public Affairs officers who are either in the briefing room or watching from a - oh, you're back there. Okay. Anyway, welcome to the State Department briefing room. These are Public Affairs officers who will go on to overseas postings, and they're here trying to get a better sense of how we in Public Affairs conduct our business and rely on them for information about events overseas, and obviously work closely with you and your counterparts overseas to be as responsive as possible to your needs.

Anyway, welcome to the State Department. Just briefly at the top, I did want to update you all on the - following on the Secretary's announcement about talks between the U.S. and North Korea in New York. Special Representative for North Korea Policy Stephen Bosworth will lead an interagency team to meet with the First Vice Foreign Minister, Kim Kye Gwan, in the - and the DPRK delegation at the U.S. Mission in New York from July 28th to 29th. As the Secretary said, this will be an exploratory meeting to determine if North Korea is prepared to fulfill its commitments under the 2005 joint statement of the Six-Party Talks and its international obligations as well as take concrete and irreversible steps towards denuclearization. As always, we will remain in close coordination with the Republic of Korea and other partners as we move forward.

That's all I have for the top. Any questions?

QUESTION: Yeah, on North --

MR. TONER: Sure.

QUESTION: Let's stay on that.

MR. TONER: Okay.

QUESTION: So when you say you hope that they will meet their obligations and show that they are willing to commit to denuclearization, do you want some tangible progress from this meeting? So are they supposed to come with some sort of declaration that all previous obligations they will adhere to?

MR. TONER: First of all, just to clarify, I didn't say we hope. What I tried to say was that these are - that's okay - that these are - this is, as I said, an exploratory meeting following up on the meeting that was held on the margins of the ASEAN ministerial in Bali between the Republic of South Korea and North Korea. And again, we've said many times that we're not prepared to have talks for talks' sake, so what we're looking for in this meeting is to determine if North Korea is in fact ready to fulfill its commitments under that 2005 joint statement.

Yeah.

QUESTION: What is the litmus test of that? Is it by the tone? Is it by the rhetoric? Or is it by concrete plans of action that they are supposed to lay on the table to show you what they will do?

MR. TONER: Again, I don't want to be in a position to prejudge the meeting. It's an exploratory meeting. So I think what we're looking for is, in our mind, a clear indication that North Korea is serious about moving forward.

Yeah. Go ahead.

QUESTION: Also on that, with food aid, is that something that's going to be coming up again following the --

MR. TONER: I'm not sure that food aid is actually going to be a topic of discussion up there. As you know, that's kind of a separate conversation, a separate issue - divorced, if you will - from the political side and the policy side of things. All I know is that I believe no decision's been made on food aid at this time.

Yeah. Go ahead, Jill.

QUESTION: Mark, can you go into a little bit more detail; what shifted? You mentioned the meeting in Bali between the North and the South, but why is the U.S. right at this point willing to have this meeting?

MR. TONER: Sure. And again, I would just refer you to Assistant Secretary Campbell, and others, I think, spoke to this while the party was on the road. But we've said very clearly for a long time that we were first looking for improved dialogue between North and South. That was one of the initial steps that we wanted to see take place. And in fact, when that meeting did take place in Bali, it was a constructive meeting. And so we felt it was - that it would be - that the logical next step was to have this exploratory meeting, before we take any more steps, to judge how North Korea is approaching this.

Yeah. Go ahead.

QUESTION: What time is the meeting tomorrow between -

MR. TONER: I don't have times. I'm sorry, I don't have specific details like that. I just know the -

QUESTION: How many?

MR. TONER: -- where - when is tomorrow, where is at the U.S. Mission in New York.

QUESTION: Just one day? Or it'll be -

MR. TONER: Two days.

QUESTION: Two days.

MR. TONER: 28th and 29th.

QUESTION: How many delegations on each side?

MR. TONER: How many delegates?

QUESTION: Yeah.

MR. TONER: I don't have an exact number. It's an interagency team. I don't have a sense of the size of that team.

QUESTION: Do - they talking about the ready to - resumption of Six-Party Talks?

MR. TONER: Again, what I think is important is to look at this as a step-by-step process. We had the meeting in Bali between North and South Korea. This meeting that's going to take place tomorrow, we've called it exploratory, but it's really our - an opportunity to see and to judge whether North Korea,

we believe, is serious about addressing its commitments as it - as stated in the 2005 joint statement.

Go ahead.

QUESTION: Ambassador King is not going to be in the delegation?

MR. TONER: I don't have - I know that Ambassador Bosworth is leading the delegation, but I don't have a breakdown for you of who else is in it.

QUESTION: Yesterday, Mr. Kim, North Korean Minister Kim said that he has a very optimistic view on the U.S.-DPRK relation and Six-Party Talks. Is there any response to that?

MR. TONER: Again, we had a - what we believe was a constructive first step in Bali. This is the next logical step, and we'll wait and see.

QUESTION: Mark?

MR. TONER: Yeah. Sure. Are we ready to - are you still on North Korea?

QUESTION: North Korea, one more?

MR. TONER: Yeah. Sure.

QUESTION: When you talk about North Korea's seriousness about talks, what do you mean? What kind of measures do you want North Korea to take?

MR. TONER: I missed the first part of your question. Could you -

QUESTION: When you talk about North Korea's sincerity or seriousness about discussions, so what do you require?

MR. TONER: Sure. I think Brad asked a similar question. I don't want to get into what - we don't have a laundry list except to say that what we've said all along is that they've made commitments under the 2005 joint statement as well as international obligations. We want to see them begin to take steps toward denuclearization. But as to what those specific things might look like and whether we're - what exactly we're looking for, I'm not going to prescribe that or describe that rather.

Go ahead. Are we switching from -

QUESTION: Yes.

MR. TONER: Then I should start with Goyal. He had his hand up first. I'll get to you.

QUESTION: Okay.

MR. TONER: Go ahead, Goyal.

QUESTION: Thanks. Two questions. One, you must be aware of this case of Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai from American - Kashmiri American Council. Do you believe that he was working for the ISI and the Pakistani Government acting here and what - in the name of Kashmir cause? Because many Kashmiris are very angry that he had used Kashmir to - working for Pakistan. What my question is here: He has admitted that he was getting money from ISI, and some - he was paying to the lawmakers. He had lobbied for Pakistan. But finally, U.S. money was being recycled. U.S. aid -

MR. TONER: Goyal, can I stop you?

QUESTION: Yes, sir.

MR. TONER: I just - I'm aware of the case, and I'm not going to discuss the case. It's an ongoing legal matter right now. I'd refer you to the Department of Justice.

Go ahead, Eli.

QUESTION: Hi. Do you have - can you say anything about some of my recent stories> But specifically, who do you think was responsible for the September 22nd bomb blast at the exterior wall of the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi on September 22nd?

MR. TONER: Well, Eli, I'll just say that it's - as a matter of long-standing policy, we don't comment on investigations into intelligence matters.

QUESTION: Can I ask a follow-up?

MR. TONER: Yeah. Sure.

QUESTION: Without getting into - have you raised the incident with the Russian foreign ministry?

MR. TONER: Again, we don't - we also don't really talk about the substance of our diplomatic exchanges with any other country. I can say that we discuss with all parties in the region issues affecting regional security and stability, but I'm not going to get into specifics.

Go ahead.

QUESTION: Speaking of Russia -

MR. TONER: Sure, Jill.

QUESTION: -- this visa ban on Russian officials, who are connected - allegedly connected with the killing - the death of Sergei Magnitsky, is it correct that the U.S. did not give any notice to the Russians that this was going to happen?

MR. TONER: Well, again, as you know, this case - it's important to see it in the broader context of our overall commitment of this Administration to upholding human rights obligations around the world. And certainly in the Magnitsky case, since his death in 2009, we've taken this matter very seriously and spoken both publicly and privately about the case. This specific program is a broader program, and it does seek to, where we have credible evidence of association or culpability, we do provide or we do issue visa restrictions on individuals around the world. In this specific case, it was the individuals that we believe are responsible for his death. As far as - so this is - the Magnitsky case has long been an issue of concern between us and Russia, and we've raised it with them many times.

QUESTION: So in other words, that - those restrictions or the program - I didn't realize it was a program under which they were being restricted. This preexists -

MR. TONER: It does. It's a specific program that looks at visa cases around the world or individuals, rather, around the world who we believe are guilty of human rights abuses. And under that program, it refuses them visas or denies them the capacity to get a visa.

QUESTION: And what do you think the affect will be on the so-called reset?

MR. TONER: Well, Jill, the reset has always been about working constructively with Russia in those areas where we share common concerns, and we've always said that that's not going to be done at the expense of our basic principles, including human rights.

QUESTION: Are there other countries in which the program - are there other countries whose officials would be subject to visa bans based on human rights concerns?

MR. TONER: Yeah. I apologize. I don't have a breakdown, but it's a fairly broad list of individuals and countries around the world. I can get more information for you.

QUESTION: Sure. And following up, I mean, the Russians put out a very - the Russian foreign ministry

put out a statement that was quite strong. Where do we go from here? Is there going to be some sort of communication between the U.S. and Russia about - specifically about this issue and how to move forward with the position?

MR. TONER: Well, again, this is an issue that, as I said, we have taken very seriously since 2009, since Sergei Magnitsky's death. We've raised it many times, our concerns both on Magnitsky's case, but also on other cases, on human rights cases with the Russian Government. I'm aware that there have been some statements from Russia, but we conducted an independent investigation on these individuals, and we believe we had credible information to move forward.

Yeah. Go ahead.

QUESTION: Yeah. Following on that, can you comment on - I guess it's an internal note that was reported in The Washington Post and then also The Cable blog that suggested that there - if the U.S. went forward with this program on the visas that there would be a consequence for Russian participation in Afghanistan and other areas?

MR. TONER: I'm sorry. One more time, the question. I apologize.

QUESTION: I guess that there was some sort of internal communication where the Russians had said or threatened that if you went forward with this visa program that there would be consequences in terms of their participation in Afghanistan. This is reported by The Washington Post and Josh Rogin's Cable blog.

MR. TONER: Again, I'm not going to talk about any internal communications that we may have had. I'm just going to say what I just said, which is that this is a program that's conducted worldwide, and we stand by our findings.

QUESTION: Can I ask it another way? Have the Russians threatened you in terms of their work, cooperation in Afghanistan, and linking it to this visa issue?

MR. TONER: Again, our relationship with Russia, the so-called reset, is based on areas where we can cooperate productively together. One of those areas is, in fact, Afghanistan, where we have seen a lot of progress, and we certainly appreciate the - Russia's support for our efforts in Afghanistan, transportation over flights, and other capabilities they've allowed us to carry out. And we're appreciative of that, but it's certainly something that's in Russia's interest as well.

QUESTION: So are you saying that the United States and Russia can't work together well on human rights?

MR. TONER: That's not at all what I'm saying. What I'm saying is we are always going to work productively with Russia where we can, and that's on a broad range of issues. And certainly, they've been a valuable international partner on issues like Libya and elsewhere, and - but that's not ever going to be done at the expense of principles that we hold dear.

QUESTION: Are you going to continue the engagement on this issue with Russia? I think that's what he asked, but you didn't --

MR. TONER: Sure. I think it's safe to say that we're going to continue to raise human rights cases and issues where we deem appropriate.

QUESTION: Can I just ask, like, do you have any - you want to offer right now, in light of these stories that are coming out, a general statement - the State Department's view of the health of the reset right now? Is it strong?

MR. TONER: I think - and I've tried to say that - that we believe the reset has yielded results for both countries, that it has been productive, that we've sought and received cooperation on a broad range of issues. You mentioned Afghanistan, of course. But our goal has always been to cooperate, as I said, where we've got these common interests. But that's never going to be done at the expense of our principles or our friends.

QUESTION: But has it yielded results in terms of human rights, or is that proving not to be a common interest?

MR. TONER: Well, again, I think that we are concerned about some human rights issues with respect to Russia, and as such, that's part of our dialogue. That's part of our conversation with them.

QUESTION: But can you point to any results that the reset policy has derived for human rights in Russia?

MR. TONER: It's a fair question, Brad. I think it's - I think I would reframe it to say that we continue to take human rights concerns very seriously in any relationship we have with any country, but certainly with Russia, and that we're never going to shy away from addressing those issues.

QUESTION: Mark.

MR. TONER: Yeah, go ahead. Dmitry.

QUESTION: To get back for a second to Jill's question, just to be clear, do you mean to tell that the Russians read about it from the - in The Washington Post? You haven't even informed Foreign Minister Lavrov when he was here?

MR. TONER: Again, I'm not going to address what we may or may not have discussed with Foreign Minister Lavrov. We just don't discuss the contents of our diplomatic exchanges.

Yeah. Go ahead. Are we done with - let's finish off with --

QUESTION: Yes.

QUESTION: I have another question similar to that. Have the Russian - has the Russian ambassador, has the Russian foreign ministry, directly told the United States that it is not happy with this? Have they expressed their concern not just in a general statement?

MR. TONER: Again, I'm aware of public statements. I'm not aware of any private diplomatic exchanges. I can certainly see if they've done that. I'll take that question.

QUESTION: My question is regarding a new strategic agreement between the United States and Afghanistan. Do --

MR. TONER: Are we done with the Magnitsky? Okay. Sure.

QUESTION: Yeah. A new --

MR. TONER: Go ahead.

QUESTION: A new strategic agreement between Afghanistan and the United States. It didn't produce any result, and Afghanistan Government has their own conditions. Do you think that Obama's Administration accepted those conditions of President Karzai?

MR. TONER: You're talking about the --

QUESTION: New strategic agreement that they are talking about it. Yeah.

MR. TONER: Agreement - again, I think we remain committed to working with Afghanistan very broadly across a range of issues - economic, political, security - in trying to build up its institutions but also trying to build that kind of prosperity and the capabilities that we believe are necessary for Afghanistan to succeed on its own. Ultimately, our goal here is to create an Afghanistan that can stand on its own feet, both in terms of security but also economically. I'm not aware of the conditions that you mentioned. I could certainly try to get an update for you on that. But more broadly, that's what - where we want to see the relationship go forward.

QUESTION: On --

QUESTION: And what stage these talks on a strategic agreement with Afghanistan?

MR. TONER: As I said, I'll get that (inaudible) for you.

QUESTION: Do you have any timeline for that?

MR. TONER: No. I'll get an update for you.

QUESTION: It just - it was supposed to be last year, like you said.

MR. TONER: I'll get an update for you.

QUESTION: May I just follow up quickly? As far as security is concerned, Mark, in Afghanistan, according to The Washington Post annual report, al-Qaida may be going down or going to be end of al-Qaida in Afghanistan around the globe. But my question is here: Can you really have end of terrorism and al-Qaida without Pakistan's cooperation? My question is: How much Pakistan's cooperation is now more or less, comparing last year or --

MR. TONER: I'm sorry. The last nugget of your question was?

QUESTION: I mean, how much now U.S. is getting cooperation from Pakistan as far as security in Afghanistan or terrorism is concerned, according to this report?

MR. TONER: Right. Yeah. I mean, your - look, we believe that we have - we and our international partners have put considerable pressure on al-Qaida and degraded much of its abilities, its capabilities, including its capacity to train and raise money, train recruits, plan attacks outside the region. That said, it still remains a threat, and in terms of Pakistan, it's clearly an existential threat for Pakistan. These terrorist groups, including al-Qaida, have been responsible for thousands of deaths within Pakistan. And as we have said many times, that we remain committed to working with Pakistan in addressing these common issues and these common - threats, rather. And we're seeking a productive relationship with Pakistan. We've made certain requests of them, and we're - but we're fundamentally committed to that cooperation.

QUESTION: On Afghanistan.

MR. TONER: Yeah. Go ahead, Lalit.

QUESTION: After the President announced the drawdown of troops from Afghanistan, there have been several high-profile killings in Afghanistan. Today, the mayor of Kandahar was also killed. How do you view the security situation in Afghanistan? What is your assessment of it?

MR. TONER: Well, I would just like to comment on the assassination. Obviously, we condemn in the strongest possible terms the murder of Kandahar Mayor Ghulam Haider Hamidi and extend our deepest condolences to his family. As you mentioned, we've seen media reports that the Taliban have claimed responsibility for the attack. We have no independent confirmation of those reports. As you know, they do this quite often. It's very unclear whether they actually are responsible for it.

I can't really talk to you about what it means in terms of the Taliban's capabilities. What we have said is that we believe the surge has clearly put pressure on them, militarily, and that they are feeling the heat. And what I can also say is that these kinds of actions, these kinds of heinous acts really, only strengthen our resolve, as I just mentioned, to work with Afghanistan, the Government of Afghanistan, the people of Afghanistan, to address these fundamental issues of security, stability, and to help kind of - help create, rather, the institutions that will lead to a more successful, prosperous, and peaceful future for Pakistan - or for Afghanistan.

Yeah. Go ahead. Go ahead, Sean. Okay.

QUESTION: Just briefly, I was wondering if you had anything to say about the talks between India and Pakistan, the foreign ministers. Is it a positive step that it went ahead, despite the Mumbai --

MR. TONER: Always a positive step, always a productive or constructive in our view to see the two countries talking. And it's constructive for the region, it's constructive for both those countries. I'm not aware of what came out of them specifically, but more broadly, I can say that we always view that kind of dialogue as constructive.

Go ahead, Goyal.

QUESTION: Did the U.S. had any role to play in bringing the two countries together for dialogue?

MR. TONER: Did the --

QUESTION: Did the U.S. had any role to play in bringing the two countries for peace dialogues?

MR. TONER: I'm not aware of any direct or indirect role.

Yeah, go ahead. No, I apologize. Jill had a longstanding question.

QUESTION: (Inaudible) Libya, but --

MR. TONER: Are we off of Pakistan, Afghanistan, or a couple more?

QUESTION: I just had a supplemental question on -

MR. TONER: No worries. We'll finish with the region, then we'll move to Libya.

QUESTION: On Afghanistan, you said that some specific demands are being made to Pakistan with regards to Afghanistan. That's something you have said earlier as well and some of these demands are already known. So if you would just tell us if you're satisfied with the cooperation coming through from Pakistan on these issues, or there are still problems that need to be tackled.

MR. TONER: Well, no, I wouldn't say we're there yet. I think we're continuing to work through some of these issues. Again, I'm not going to be specific about what we're looking for, except to say that after the Abbottabad raid, the questions it raised about support networks, we had serious questions about Pakistan, both this Administration as well as on the Hill, and we're seeking to address those questions, and we're working with the Pakistani Government to do so. But at the same time, our message is clear, that we want to build a stronger long-term relationship with Pakistan, counterterrorism relationship with Pakistan.

QUESTION: Where does this relationship stand today? Hundred percent, 50 percent? (Laughter.)

MR. TONER: We're working through our issues.

Go ahead.

QUESTION: One more question. It says that U.S. officials start to discuss with the Taliban elements. Is that true, and what topic they start to discuss with -

MR. TONER: Well, I mean, more broadly - I certainly don't have any updates for you. We support an Afghan-led process on reconciliation, provided that these Taliban adhere to the Afghan constitution and renounce violence and renounce ties with al-Qaida. I don't have any progress report. As the Secretary alluded to in her - in remarks about a month ago, it's hard work, it's necessary work. But again, we have certain redlines that we adhere to, but we do support this Afghan-led process.

QUESTION: On Pakistan, one more.

MR. TONER: Sure.

QUESTION: Last week, over the weekend, the Pakistani Government issued a press release saying that there's a slander campaign against Pakistan going on inside the U.S. after Dr. Fai of Kashmiri American Council was arrested here. I'm not talking about that case --

MR. TONER: Okay.

QUESTION: -- but the slander campaign, do you agree with their view that there's a campaign against Pakistan going on inside this country?

MR. TONER: Inside this country? A slander campaign?

QUESTION: In the United States. Yeah.

MR. TONER: Again, I don't know exactly what he was referring to. I think, just speaking on behalf of the American Government, we believe our relationship with Pakistan is in both our national security interests, and we're committed to moving that forward in a positive direction.

QUESTION: And has the visa issue been resolved? The lot of visas pending U.S. - by Pakistan; has that been --

MR. TONER: We've raised those concerns about visas with the Pakistani Government. I'm not - I'll try to see if I can get an update for you.

QUESTION: (Inaudible) Pakistani people that --

MR. TONER: A lot of pent up questions, Calit? (Laughter.)

QUESTION: After Kayani's visit - after General Pasha's visit to U.S., Pakistan has issued 84 - 87 visas to the U.S. persons here. Can you confirm that?

MR. TONER: I cannot confirm that.

QUESTION: Admiral - Joint - Admiral said in a press conference at the Foreign Press Center that the aid --

MR. TONER: Who did?

QUESTION: Admiral Mullen.

MR. TONER: Admiral Mullen, thank you.

QUESTION: He said that the aid of \$800 million to Pakistan was stopped because of two reasons: One was that they threw out our trainers, and the second was they are not issuing visas to us. So what is the State Department --

MR. TONER: I'll - as I said, I'll - I'm aware that there have been delays in the visa issuance process. We've raised those concerns with Pakistan. I'm not aware - or I'm not - I don't have an update for you today on where that issue - that specific issues stands. I'll try to get you one. Admiral Mullen did speak about this pause in military assistance. On the civilian side, our assistance cooperation - our assistance and cooperation does continue.

Can we move on?

QUESTION: Yeah, move on.

MR. TONER: Yeah. Okay. Let's go to Libya.

QUESTION: Libya? The UK --

MR. TONER: Sorry.

QUESTION: -- now recognizes the TNC as the legitimate representative of the - of Libya, and they are kicking out the government ambassador.

MR. TONER: Right.

QUESTION: Is the U.S. going to do the same?

MR. TONER: Well, you might remember we did do pretty much that in March, when we did declare - or we did ask the Libyan embassy to cease its operations here or suspend its operations. And we asked - I believe we gave the diplomats affiliated with the embassy a certain time period to return to Libya or to leave the country. As you know, Ambassador Adjali had stepped down as ambassador for the Qadhafi government - or Qadhafi regime prior to that, and he remains as the representative of the Transitional National Council here. So that's where we're at.

QUESTION: But it's not - I mean, is he considered now the official representative, the ambassador from Libya?

MR. TONER: Where we're at with this is, obviously, we have the recognition of the Transitional National Council that took place in Istanbul two weeks ago. And so we're consulting with the Transitional National Council on a broad range of issues, and that includes diplomatic accreditation and representation. Legally, they are able to appoint diplomats and reopen their embassy in Washington with our consent, of course. And just an update on that, we did yesterday receive an official request from the Transitional National Council regarding the reopening of the Libyan embassy here in Washington, and we're reviewing that request.

QUESTION: So they're saying that they want to send out --

MR. TONER: They want to reopen their embassy - or they want to open an embassy - reopen the - their embassy here - and as the Transitional National Council as the recognized Government of Libya.

QUESTION: All right. And just to make sure, so you are looking at that request because of legal issues? Is that --

MR. TONER: There's just a number - this is - again, we just had the recognition a little under two weeks ago, I believe. This is obviously, as we talked about that - that that puts a large block of issues that we need to discuss on the table - diplomatic status accreditation, representation are among those issues. And we're looking at them, we're talking with the TNC about them, and they did finally send in - not finally, but they did send an official request regarding the reopening of their embassy, and we're reviewing that request. And we'll work through these issues.

Yeah.

QUESTION: Just - what's the status of the property that the Libyan embassy would have? Would that be handed over to the TNC?

MR. TONER: That's a very good question. I'm not sure. It's got diplomatic status, but I'm not sure whether they would be able to occupy that specific property. I think it is considered the Government of Libya's property. But I'm not --

QUESTION: You mean the Qadhafi --

MR. TONER: Right. So I'll have to see if there's any legal constraints. That is likely amongst some of the issues that they're looking at.

QUESTION: The British have decided to unfreeze all revenue for - so what is the U.S. doing about it?

MR. TONER: Again, we - by recognizing the TNC, the Transitional National Council, we are able to unfreeze some - not all, I understand - of their frozen assets. And we're working through the many legal issues that we have to work through in order for that to happen.

QUESTION: I think I asked a couple weeks ago: Do we know how much money would be unfreezed?

MR. TONER: You remember well. Yeah.

QUESTION: Or could be unfreezed?

MR. TONER: And then we never got back with a dollar figure. I'm not sure we have an exact dollar figure. I'll ask again.

QUESTION: And do you have a response to the appearance today of the perpetually-ill, always-on-his-last-days Lockerbie bomber at a rally in Tripoli?

MR. TONER: Well, Brad, we are - our views on Megrahi and his release are well-known. We continue to believe he never should have been released. Beyond that, I'm not going to comment.

Yeah. Sure.

QUESTION: (Inaudible) about the meeting tomorrow between Ehud Barak and the Secretary Hillary Clinton, what they're going to talk about --

MR. TONER: About --

QUESTION: -- Israel?

MR. TONER: Well, I mean, I can imagine they'll talk about the state of the peace process, but they'll also talk about regional issues as well. I - let's let the meeting happen, and we'll try to get you a readout. But he's, obviously, someone who's --

QUESTION: But there were some notes about the position of the U.S. in the next General Assembly in the United Nations in September. Is the U.S. having a position - they're going to present the position to Barak or that something's going to be discussed about this situation of the Palestinian state?

MR. TONER: Well, we've been very clear - our position on Palestinian statehood in the UN General Assembly on that issue. We believe it is not productive and that the only way to resolve these core issues is for the parties to get back to the negotiating table.

In the back.

QUESTION: UN panel has postponed again the release of the report regarding the flotilla incident last year. And there are some reports in Israeli press that United States is pushing Israeli Government for an apology because of this incident. What is your position? Could you -

MR. TONER: Our position on the report, or our position on Turkey --

QUESTION: I'm asking the reports --

MR. TONER: Yeah. I mean, our position --

QUESTION: -- about why - whether United States is pushing Israel --

MR. TONER: Well, let's let the report be released. But in terms of relations between Israel and Turkey, they're clearly productive for the region and important for the region that these two countries be on a good, solid footing with each other. That relationship in the past has been very productive for regional stability, and we'd like to see the --

QUESTION: Admiral Mullen also said two days ago that the Israeli leadership had - he has been reassured by the Israeli leadership that they are working to strengthening the tie with Turkey. I'm understanding - I'm trying to understand your position --

MR. TONER: Yeah. But you're asking me to delve into what our interactions might be with either the Israeli Government or the Turkish Government, and I'm - I can only tell you what - more broadly how we feel about Turkey and Israel having good, strong bilateral relations, and we support them very much.

QUESTION: Five senators have sent a letter last week to President Obama regarding the IHH, who is the institution who's organized this flotilla. And they are asking to designate IHH as a terrorist organization. Did you get this letter?

MR. TONER: I'll have to check.

QUESTION: Back to Barak.

QUESTION: Can I --

MR. TONER: She did ask, and then I'll get to you.

QUESTION: All right. (Inaudible.)

MR. TONER: Is it the same thing - same question?

QUESTION: It's on Turkey - Israel, but it's okay.

MR. TONER: Oh, okay.

QUESTION: Back to Barak, the meeting tomorrow. Is there going to be a photo op, Q&A?

MR. TONER: I don't believe so. Do you know the press arrangements?

STAFF: It's to be determined.

MR. TONER: It's closed press or it's TBD. We'll get it to you. Go ahead.

QUESTION: I have two quick questions. Does the State Department have an independent view of whether this charity IHH is connected to Hamas or should - is a terrorist organization?

MR. TONER: We do not as far as I'm concerned, or as far as I'm aware. What we've said all along is that we believe that there are better ways to deliver assistance to the people of Gaza than conducting flotillas. But I'm not aware that we've reached any independent judgment. I'll check.

QUESTION: Can you just say whether - and then I have this follow up -

MR. TONER: Sure.

QUESTION: Can you say whether or not you think that IHH is involved in terrorism?

MR. TONER: I don't believe we have any confirmation of that.

QUESTION: And then secondly, does the State Department have a position on whether Israel should apologize publicly for the 2010 flotilla incident?

MR. TONER: Again, what - there's this UN process, investigation, and let that run its course and let the report be issued. And --

QUESTION: Just a quick one on your earlier statement to his question that --

MR. TONER: But I would just, Eli, that we've - as we've said all along, Israel does have the right to defend its borders.

QUESTION: -- that Secretary Clinton will be talking peace process, do you believe that the peace

process is still alive?

MR. TONER: We remain engaged on the peace process. I'm - I don't have any updates for you today. But we are aware of events in September and are working diligently to get the parties back to the table.

QUESTION: So the deadline of September still stands?

MR. TONER: It's not - I mean, it's not our deadline. We're, obviously, cognizant of the fact that this is an action that Palestinians may take, and we're trying to dissuade them and - persuade them that the only true way to a comprehensive settlement is through the negotiating table.

Yes. In the back.

QUESTION: This is on China. Today, the Chinese official confirms for the first time China is in pursuit of an aircraft carrier, but they said it's for research and training purpose only. Are you concerned China's new military development?

MR. TONER: We have military-to-military cooperation and contacts with China that are helpful in broadening our cooperation and our understanding of China and its defenses and its defense needs. I don't have any specific comment on this carrier. We've talked before about China's emerging power in the region, and we seek a cooperative relationship with China.

QUESTION: (Inaudible) question is: Today, the director of the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council in China Wang Yi, today he's in D.C. and meeting officials in this building. Could you please share, like, whom he's meeting and what is the focus of his meeting?

MR. TONER: He is - you're talking about the Director of State Council's Taiwan Affairs Office -

QUESTION: Yes.

MR. TONER: -- Wang Yi, Minister Wang Yi? Yes. He'll be meeting with Under Secretary Burns on Friday, and I believe he's also meeting with Assistant Secretary Campbell while he's here, but I don't have a list of agenda items.

QUESTION: Will Taiwan - arms sales Taiwan be discussed?

MR. TONER: I do not know.

Okay.

QUESTION: Wait, wait.

MR. TONER: Oh.

QUESTION: I'm sorry, one more.

MR. TONER: That's okay.

QUESTION: The budget - this bill that is coming out of the House -

MR. TONER: Ah, okay.

QUESTION: -- Appropriations State and Foreign Operations subcommittee, is it correct that the Secretary is telling them that she will urge the President to veto that bill if it should ever make it that far?

MR. TONER: Well, the Secretary did send a letter to the House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairwoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen as well as Ranking Member Howard Berman yesterday objecting to the authorization bill that the House Foreign Affairs panel approved last week on a party line vote. I'm not

going to discuss the contents of that letter, but I can say that we believe the funding levels and restrictions that were inherent in the House Appropriations Subcommittee's markup are not reflective of the current roles played by State and USAID in executing and enhancing our national security. And we believe that the proposed funding level would have serious implications on our operations.

QUESTION: Not reflective in - what does that mean?

MR. TONER: They're not reflective of our current operations. We've got missions in Afghanistan, we've got missions in Iraq that require a level of funding, frankly, that reflect the enormity of those missions and trying to build up, for example, in Afghanistan, democratic institutions, economic institutions, enhance security, and build in economic prosperity; and in Iraq, trying to help that fledgling government get on its feet as well as expand our diplomatic presence to other parts of the country. So these are enormous undertakings, not to mention everything else we're doing in the world, from the Horn of Africa to our - to Asia.

And the Secretary spoke also not about our own security interests but also about economic interests and the importance of them. She spoke about that in her speech in Hong Kong. So we've got a full plate, and we're committed to - if we're committed to truly carrying out those missions, which, as I say, we believe are in our national interests, we cannot do so at the present funding level - or at the proposed funding level.

QUESTION: On that, is - you mentioned restrictions. Is that, for example, the Pakistan aid or the abortion language? Are those things that she's concerned about?

MR. TONER: Again, I'll just stop at what I - those restrictions. I don't want to expand on it.

But go ahead, in the back.

QUESTION: Do you also have a comment on the bill they passed regarding - requiring a certification from the Secretary on cooperation from Pakistan, and if that certification was not coming through, it could be withheld?

MR. TONER: I don't have a specific comment. I'll try to get you a reaction to that.

QUESTION: That was part of the (inaudible).

MR. TONER: Right. Right. I'm aware of that, but I don't - yeah.

QUESTION: Regarding the restrictions also in the bill, they are capping 60 percent of the OAS funding. Is there any position of the Department of State on this?

MR. TONER: Well, again, I mean, this kind of multilateral engagement pays dividends to the United States, both economically and security-wise. And you - this is -

QUESTION: But the (inaudible) their own quota, or their - because it's not very clear what's going on, what's this -

MR. TONER: In terms of the OAS, I don't have the specific breakdown to that regarding to the OAS commitments, but these - as I said, these multilateral organizations, I think, are - can be very effective. And if we're not participating, then we're not part of the process.

Is that it?

QUESTION: Yes.

QUESTION: Going back to the North Korea talks -

MR. TONER: Yeah. Sure.

QUESTION: -- you said there'd be an interagency team. Can you say which agencies will be

represented?

MR. TONER: I cannot.

(The briefing was concluded at 1:34 p.m.)

DPB # 109

(b)(6)

(b)(6) CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA
Sent: (b)(6) Wednesday, August 17, 2011 9:33 AM
To: (b)(6) MAJ OSD PA
Subject: FW: NEWS: AFP - Israel feeling US heat over Turkey crisis: report

For your team, perhaps. I've asked my Turkey State PA rep for any new press guidance. And, I've asked our Turkey policy rep....FYSA

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) MC2 [mailto:(b)(6)] (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2011 6:37 AM
To: ECPA EXSUM; Gage, Larry S., CAPT
Subject: NEWS: AFP - Israel feeling US heat over Turkey crisis: report

16 AUG 11, 1214, EXSUM: Israel coming under increasing diplomatic pressure by U.S. State Department to apologize to Turkey for the 2010 Flotilla raid. U.S. concerned tension from flotilla incident is hampering U.S. negotiations with Turkey over Syrian crackdown.

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http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.aspxfile=data/middleeast/2011/August/middleeast_August404.xml§ion=middleeast

V/r

MC2 (SW) (b) (6) (b) (6)

U.S. European Command Public Affairs

Internal Information Branch Chief

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, Germany

DSN: 430-4988

www.eucom.mil

"Truth is an event and only through experience can the veracity of the truth be verified," William James.

(b)(6)

(b)(6) CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) CDR OSD PA
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2011 9:35 AM
To: NEA-Press-DL
Cc: EUR-Press; (b)(6) MAJ OSD PA; (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: FW: NEWS: AFP - Israel feeling US heat over Turkey crisis: report

(b)(6)

(b)(6) and all,

I shared with EUR team, but thought I'd send to you, too.

Ma (b)(6) is copied here; our Middle East rep. I have Turkey in my portfolio, thus interested in this.

Thanks (b)(6)

CDR (b)(6) (b)(6)
U.S. Defense Press Officer for policy:
Africa, Europe, NATO, Russia
Pentagon, Rm. 2D961
Office: 703 697 1253

(b)(6) (b)(6)

-----Original Message----- (b)(6)
From: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2011 9:33 AM
To: EUR-Press
Subject: FW: NEWS: AFP - Israel feeling US heat over Turkey crisis: report

To all
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Vr
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(b) (6)

CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b) (6)
Sent: (b) (6) Wednesday, August 17, 2011 9:35 AM
To: (b) (6) CDR OSD PA; EUR-Press (b) (6)
Subject: RE: NEWS: AFP - Israel feeling US heat over Turkey crisis: report

We're working on it, although it won't say very much.

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To: EUR-Press
Subject: FW: NEWS: AFP - Israel feeling US heat over Turkey crisis: report

To all
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(b) (6) CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b) (6) CIV, OSD-POLICY
Sent: (b) (6) Wednesday, August 17, 2011 11:27 AM
To: (b) (6) CDR OSD PA (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY
Subject: RE: NEWS: AFP - Israel feeling US heat over Turkey crisis: report

(b) (6) (b) (6)

I'll look into what I have. I will be back with more info after 1300.

Thanks,

(b) (6) (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) CDR OSD PA (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2011 9:32 AM
To: (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b) (6) CIV, OSD-POLICY
Subject: FW: NEWS: AFP - Israel feeling US heat over Turkey crisis: report

(b) (6) (b) (6)

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Thanks

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(b)(6)

(b)(6) CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2011 11:30 AM
To: (b)(6) CIV, OSD-POLICY; (b)(6) CDR OSD PA
Cc: (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY
Subject: Re: NEWS: AFP - Israel feeling US heat over Turkey crisis: report

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

We don't have anything in the can on this (b)(5) ASD did mention the issue in his MEI speech, (b)(5) Recommend we defer to State PA for RTQ language. (b)(5)

Best,

(b)(6) (b)(6)

----- Original Message -----

From: (b)(6) CIV, OSD-POLICY (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2011 11:26 AM
To: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY
Subject: RE: NEWS: AFP - Israel feeling US heat over Turkey crisis: report

(b)(6) (b)(6)

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Israel has steadfastly refused, although privately officials acknowledge that restoring the once-strong relationship with Ankara would be desirable.

The United States is looking to deepen its ties with Turkey, which shares a border with Syria, in a bid to better handle Syria's spiraling violence, and hopes an Israeli apology would facilitate that, the Yediot said.

A UN report into the flotilla affair, whose publication has been postponed at least twice this year in order to give the two sides time to reconcile their differences, is due to be released on August 20.

(b)(6)

(b)(6) CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY
 Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2011 11:31 AM
 To: (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY (b)(6) CIV, OSD-POLICY; (b)(6) CDR OSD PA
 Cc: (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY
 Subject: RE: NEWS: AFP - Israel feeling US heat over Turkey crisis: report

agree.

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From: (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY
 Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2011 11:30 AM (b)(6)
 To: (b)(6) CIV, OSD-POLICY; (b)(6) CDR OSD PA
 Cc: (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY
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 Subject: RE: NEWS: AFP - Israel feeling US heat over Turkey crisis: report

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 To: (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b)(6) CIV, OSD-POLICY
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(b)(6)
(b) (6) CIV OSD PA (US)

From: **(b) (6)** CDR OSD PA
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2011 12:15 PM
To: **(b)(6)** CIV OSD POLICY; **(b) (6)** CIV OSD POLICY; **(b) (6)** CIV, OSD-POLICY
Cc: **(b) (6)** CIV OSD POLICY; **(b) (6)** MAJ OSD PA
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Just staying connected and sharing info.
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CDR **(b) (6)** **(b)(6)**
U.S. Defense Press Officer for policy:
Africa, Europe, NATO, Russia
Pentagon, Rm. 2D961
Office: 703 697 1253
(b) (6) **(b)(6)**

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Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2011 11:30 AM
To: **(b) (6)** CIV, OSD-POLICY; **(b) (6)** CDR OSD PA
Cc: Lynn, Eric CIV OSD POLICY; **(b) (6)** CIV OSD POLICY
Subject: Re: NEWS: AFP - Israel feeling US heat over Turkey crisis: report

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(b) (6) CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b)(6) MAJ OSD PA
Sent: (b)(6) Wednesday, August 17, 2011 12:19 PM
To: (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY
Subject: FW: NEWS: AFP - Israel feeling US heat over Turkey crisis: report

She gets a little excited sometimes. I am tracking but have no intention of saying anything.

v/r,
(b) (6) (b)(6)
(b)(6)

Major **(b) (6)** USMC
Public Affairs Officer
Defense Press Operations
1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)
Washington, DC 20301-1400
(703) 697-8317

(b) (6) (b)(6)

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To: (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b)(6) CIV, OSD-POLICY
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(b)(6)

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(b) (6)

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CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b) (6) CDR OSD PA
 Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2011 4:43 PM
 To: (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b) (6) CIV, OSD-POLICY; (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY
 Subject: RE: Turkey Israel - Voice of America news

Voice of America (VOA), posted today, Sept. 6, 2011

1. Turkey Suspends Defense Industry Ties With Israel

Turkey says it is suspending military trade and cooperation with Israel and increasing naval surveillance in Mediterranean waters following Israel's refusal to apologize for a deadly raid on a Turkish aid ship last year.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Tuesday Ankara's "trade, military and defense industry" relations with Israel will be suspended "completely." His office later clarified that Mr. Erdogan was referring to a suspension of defense projects with Israeli companies, not overall trade, which Ankara says was worth \$3.5 billion last year.

The prime minister also said Turkish warships will become more visible in the eastern Mediterranean, where Israel carried out the May 2010 raid on the Turkish vessel Mavi Marmara as it sailed toward the Gaza Strip with humanitarian aid for Palestinians.

The U.S. State Department said Tuesday that senior American diplomats, including Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, are working with both countries to "de-escalate" the crisis. A department spokeswoman said Washington is "concerned" about the state of affairs and believes the two nations must have positive relations.

Israeli commandos stormed the Mavi Marmara to enforce a Gaza blockade aimed at preventing weapons from reaching militants who control Gaza.

A confrontation on the vessel led to the killings of nine Turkish activists, including a Turkish-American, and the wounding of several Israeli soldiers.

Turkey ordered the expulsion of Israel's ambassador last week, when Israel rejected an ultimatum to apologize for the raid. Ankara demanded an apology by the time a United Nations panel released a report on the Mavi Marmara incident. The report was issued Friday.

Israel has expressed regret for the deaths of the Turks. An Israeli official said Tuesday Israel does not want to see a further deterioration in relations with Turkey.

Mr. Erdogan said Tuesday he may impose additional sanctions on Israel, but he did not elaborate. He also said he may visit Gaza to promote his campaign for an end to the Israeli naval blockade of the territory. Mr. Erdogan said his government is discussing such a visit with Egyptian officials. Egypt shares a small border with Gaza.

The U.N. panel said Israel used "excessive and unreasonable" force by sending armed commandos to storm the Mavi Marmara. But the report also said Israel's enforcement of the naval blockade was a "legitimate" security measure against the ship and other vessels in the Gaza-bound flotilla. The group also accused flotilla organizers of acting "recklessly" by trying to challenge the blockade.

Israel has accepted the report with some reservations, while Turkey rejected its key findings. The two former allies had conducted joint military exercises for years.

2. Turkey Slaps More Sanctions on Israel After UN Report

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan (file photo) Turkey has escalated the diplomatic war with Israel by ending military trade with its former ally and threatening further sanctions. The crisis centers on last year's killing of Turkish activists on a ship seeking to break Israel's blockade of Gaza.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan increased sanctions on Israel by announcing the immediate suspension of military trade.

He told reporters Turkey is totally suspending trade, military and defense industry relations.

Observers say the move will hurt Israel's defense industry, with bilateral trade estimated to be worth hundreds of millions of dollars. But the Turkish armed forces may also be hurt as Israel is a supplier of drones, which Turkey has increasingly used in its fight against the Kurdish rebel group, the PKK.

The escalating crisis centers on Ankara's demand for an apology for the killing by Israeli forces of nine Turks who were part of a flotilla last year seeking to break Israel's economic blockade of Gaza. But Israel refuses to apologize, saying its forces acted in self-defense.

Erdogan launched a verbal assault on Turkey's former ally.

He described the Israeli attack as "savagery" and accused Israel of acting like "a spoiled boy" in the region.

Erdogan said Turkey's naval presence would be stepped up in the region and said further sanctions could follow. Ankara has also expelled the Israeli ambassador and other high-ranking diplomats, who have been ordered to leave by Wednesday.

Until now, trade had escaped the deepening diplomatic crisis. But with non-military trade worth around \$3.5 billion, Israel's central bank chief Stanley Fischer warned its economy could be hit hard by a trade war.

The crisis escalated following the publication of a U.N. report about the flotilla violence. The report criticized Israel for excessive force in its raid, but it said Israel's embargo against Gaza is legal.

Ankara rejected the U.N. report. Its publication last Friday was the deadline given by Ankara to Jerusalem for its demands to be met for an apology, compensation for families of those killed, and the lifting of Israel's economic embargo against Gaza.

Observers warn the diplomatic crisis between Turkey and Israel could deepen further with reports Mr. Erdogan is planning to visit Gaza in mid-September. Turkey's Islamic-rooted ruling AK Party has strong ties with the Hamas leadership of Gaza.

CDR [REDACTED] (b) (6) (b) (6)
U.S. Defense Press Officer for policy:
Africa, Europe, NATO, Russia
Pentagon, Rm. 2D961
Office: 703 697 1253

[REDACTED] (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b)(6)

(b) (6) CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b) (6) CDR OSD PA
Sent: (b)(6) Tuesday, September 06, 2011 4:44 PM
To: (b) (6) CIV OSD PA
Cc: (b) (6) LtCol OSD PA
Subject: FW: RE: Turkey Israel - Voice of America news

FYSA - I sent these two to our Turkey and Israel policy reps.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) CDR OSD PA
Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2011 4:43 PM
To: (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b) (6) CIV, OSD-POLICY; (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY
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(b) (6) (b) (6)

(b)(6)

Gough, Susan L (Sue) CIV OSD PA (US)

From: Snyder, Wendy [C]DR OSD PA
Sent: (b)(6) Tuesday, September 06, 2011 4:44 PM
To: 'Mannina, Jamie, F'
Subject: FW: RE: Turkey Israel - Voice of America news

Jamie
FYSA

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Erdogan said Turkey's naval presence would be stepped up in the region and said further sanctions could follow. Ankara has also expelled the Israeli ambassador and other high-ranking diplomats, who have been ordered to leave by Wednesday.

Until now, trade had escaped the deepening diplomatic crisis. But with non-military trade worth around \$3.5 billion, Israel's central bank chief Stanley Fischer warned its economy could be hit hard by a trade war.

The crisis escalated following the publication of a U.N. report about the flotilla violence. The report criticized Israel for excessive force in its raid, but it said Israel's embargo against Gaza is legal.

Ankara rejected the U.N. report. Its publication last Friday was the deadline given by Ankara to Jerusalem for its demands to be met for an apology, compensation for families of those killed, and the lifting of Israel's economic embargo against Gaza.

Observers warn the diplomatic crisis between Turkey and Israel could deepen further with reports Mr. Erdogan is planning to visit Gaza in mid-September. Turkey's Islamic-rooted ruling AK Party has strong ties with the Hamas leadership of Gaza.

CDR [Wendy L. Snyder] (b)(5)(c)
U.S. Defense Press Officer for policy:
Africa, Europe, NATO, Russia

Pentagon, Rm. 2D961

Office: 703 697 1253

wendy.snyder@osd.mil (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY
Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2011 4:50 PM
To: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA; (b)(6) CIV, OSD-POLICY; (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY
Subject: RE: RE: Turkey Israel - Voice of America news

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Thanks, (b)(6) Brinksmanship at its finest.

Best,
(b)(6) (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA
Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2011 4:43 PM
To: (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b)(6) CIV, OSD-POLICY; (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY
Subject: RE: Turkey Israel - Voice of America news

(b)(6)

Voice of America (VOA), posted today, Sept. 6, 2011

1. Turkey Suspends Defense Industry Ties With Israel

Turkey says it is suspending military trade and cooperation with Israel and increasing naval surveillance in Mediterranean waters following Israel's refusal to apologize for a deadly raid on a Turkish aid ship last year.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Tuesday Ankara's "trade, military and defense industry" relations with Israel will be suspended "completely." His office later clarified that Mr. Erdogan was referring to a suspension of defense projects with Israeli companies, not overall trade, which Ankara says was worth \$3.5 billion last year.

The prime minister also said Turkish warships will become more visible in the eastern Mediterranean, where Israel carried out the May 2010 raid on the Turkish vessel Mavi Marmara as it sailed toward the Gaza Strip with humanitarian aid for Palestinians.

The U.S. State Department said Tuesday that senior American diplomats, including Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, are working with both countries to "de-escalate" the crisis. A department spokeswoman said Washington is "concerned" about the state of affairs and believes the two nations must have positive relations.

Israeli commandos stormed the Mavi Marmara to enforce a Gaza blockade aimed at preventing weapons from reaching militants who control Gaza.

A confrontation on the vessel led to the killings of nine Turkish activists, including a Turkish-American, and the wounding of several Israeli soldiers.

Turkey ordered the expulsion of Israel's ambassador last week, when Israel rejected an ultimatum to apologize for the raid. Ankara demanded an apology by the time a United Nations panel released a report on the Mavi Marmara incident. The report was issued Friday.

Israel has expressed regret for the deaths of the Turks. An Israeli official said Tuesday Israel does not want to see a further deterioration in relations with Turkey.

Mr. Erdogan said Tuesday he may impose additional sanctions on Israel, but he did not elaborate. He also said he may visit Gaza to promote his campaign for an end to the Israeli naval blockade of the territory. Mr. Erdogan said his government is discussing such a visit with Egyptian officials. Egypt shares a small border with Gaza.

The U.N. panel said Israel used "excessive and unreasonable" force by sending armed commandos to storm the Mavi Marmara. But the report also said Israel's enforcement of the naval blockade was a "legitimate" security measure against the ship and other vessels in the Gaza-bound flotilla. The group also accused flotilla organizers of acting "recklessly" by trying to challenge the blockade.

Israel has accepted the report with some reservations, while Turkey rejected its key findings. The two former allies had conducted joint military exercises for years.

2. Turkey Slaps More Sanctions on Israel After UN Report

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan (file photo) Turkey has escalated the diplomatic war with Israel by ending military trade with its former ally and threatening further sanctions. The crisis centers on last year's killing of Turkish activists on a ship seeking to break Israel's blockade of Gaza.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan increased sanctions on Israel by announcing the immediate suspension of military trade.

He told reporters Turkey is totally suspending trade, military and defense industry relations.

Observers say the move will hurt Israel's defense industry, with bilateral trade estimated to be worth hundreds of millions of dollars. But the Turkish armed forces may also be hurt as Israel is a supplier of drones, which Turkey has increasingly used in its fight against the Kurdish rebel group, the PKK.

The escalating crisis centers on Ankara's demand for an apology for the killing by Israeli forces of nine Turks who were part of a flotilla last year seeking to break Israel's economic blockade of Gaza. But Israel refuses to apologize, saying its forces acted in self-defense.

Erdogan launched a verbal assault on Turkey's former ally.

He described the Israeli attack as "savagery" and accused Israel of acting like "a spoiled boy" in the region.

Erdogan said Turkey's naval presence would be stepped up in the region and said further sanctions could follow. Ankara has also expelled the Israeli ambassador and other high-ranking diplomats, who have been ordered to leave by Wednesday.

Until now, trade had escaped the deepening diplomatic crisis. But with non-military trade worth around \$3.5 billion, Israel's central bank chief Stanley Fischer warned its economy could be hit hard by a trade war.

The crisis escalated following the publication of a U.N. report about the flotilla violence. The report criticized Israel for excessive force in its raid, but it said Israel's embargo against Gaza is legal.

Ankara rejected the U.N. report. Its publication last Friday was the deadline given by Ankara to Jerusalem for its demands to be met for an apology, compensation for families of those killed, and the lifting of Israel's economic embargo against Gaza.

Observers warn the diplomatic crisis between Turkey and Israel could deepen further with reports Mr. Erdogan is planning to visit Gaza in mid-September. Turkey's Islamic-rooted ruling AK Party has strong ties with the Hamas leadership of Gaza.

CDR (b) (6) (b) (6)

U.S. Defense Press Officer for policy:

Africa, Europe, NATO, Russia

Pentagon, Rm. 2D961

Office: 703 697 1253

(b) (6) (b) (6)

(b)(6)

(b) (6) CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY
Sent: (b)(6) Wednesday, November 09, 2011 5:59 PM
To: (b) (6) CDR OSD PA, (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY, (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY
Subject: RE: RE: From State - FYSA

(b) (6) (b)(6)

Sorry to confuse you, but yes - we call Israel an ally often in public statements. SecDef and President have both done so. Technically we call them a "non-NATO ally," but ally is fine to use.

Best,
(b) (6) (b)(6)

(b) (6) (b)(6)
Special Advisor on the Middle East
OSD - Middle East Policy
Ph: 703-571-2499
Fax: 703-693-6795

(b) (6) (b)(6)

-----Original Message----- (b)(6)
From: (b) (6) CDR OSD PA (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2011 5:16 PM
To: (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY, (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY
Cc: (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY
Subject: RE: RE: From State - FYSA

That makes sense. This was a State product shared with me that I believe they had from the other day> I'll let them know that's a recommended change. This was an NEA product from there.

Thanks, guys.
VR

CDR (b) (6) (b)(6)
U.S. Defense Press Officer for policy:
Africa, Europe, NATO, Russia
Pentagon, Rm. 2D961
Office: 703 697 1253
(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2011 4:59 PM
To: (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY (b) (6) CDR OSD PA
Cc: (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY (b) (6)
Subject: RE: RE: From State - FYSA

(b) (6) (b) (6)

(b) (6) is correct that there is no formal "alliance" ... (b) (5)
(b) (5)

Best, (b) (6) (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY
Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2011 3:54 PM (b) (6)
To: (b) (6) CDR OSD PA
Cc: (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY
Subject: RE: RE: From State - FYSA

(b) (6) (b) (6)

Israel is a close partner (b) (5) We do not have a treaty alliance with them on
mutual defense like we do with Turkey. (b) (5)
(b) (5) (b) (5)

Best,
(b) (6) (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) CDR OSD PA (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2011 3:50 PM
To: (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY (b) (6)
Subject: RE: From State - FYSA

Israeli-Turkish Relations – Flotillas

Q: What is the U.S. position on the cooling of relations between Israel and Turkey? Apparently there are two new flotillas headed for Gaza, is the U.S. monitoring this situation?

- We have, over many months, tried to work with our ally Turkey and our ally Israel to strengthen and improve their bilateral relationship. We still believe that getting back to a good partnership between them is in each of their interests, and we will continue to work for that goal with both of them.
- Our view on flotilla activity has not changed. Established and efficient mechanisms exist to transfer humanitarian assistance to Gaza. For example, such assistance can be delivered at the Israeli port of Ashdod, where cargo can be off-loaded, inspected, and transported to Gaza.

CDR (b) (6) (b) (6)
U.S. Defense Press Officer for policy:
Africa, Europe, NATO, Russia

Pentagon, Rm. 2D961

Office: 703 697 1253

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b)(6)

(b) (6) CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b) (6) CDR OSD PA
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2011 9:33 AM
To: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA; (b) (6) Mr OSD PA
Cc: (b) (6) LTC OSD PA; (b) (6) CIV OSD PA; (b) (6) MAJ OSD PA
Subject: RE: QUESTIONS FOR SD PRESS CONF PREP
Importance: High

Two sections - One is EUROPE and the other AFRICA. Under each are the issues with potential questions.

VR

(b) (6) (b)(6)

EUROPE

Turkey

Israel Turkey relations

- What is the U.S. position on the cooling of relations between Israel and Turkey? Apparently there are two new flotillas headed for Gaza, is the U.S. monitoring this situation?

UAV sales

- When will the sale of predators reapers occur?

Europe (region)

Force changes/cuts

- Can you expand on your comments you made earlier this week about force changes in Europe shifting to Asia? Are we pulling out of Europe, closing bases? This week the Army and the Air Force announced their cuts, is this part of that plan?

Italy/Greece

Leadership and European economic crisis

- Are our relationships with these countries going to change as a result of the European economic crisis and/or the imminent leadership changes?

AFRICA

Libya (CWMD, BOG, Operational support)

- Do we still have BOGs in Libya?
- Are we confident in the TNC's ability to stand up their new gov't and what are they doing about control over militias?
- What are we doing to ensure that terrorist groups don't take advantage of the new Libyan gov't/stand up of a new regime? (confident in the new PM?)
- Are we concerned about lose WMD/MANPADS? (smuggling outside of Libya, into...)
- Who is working to secure weapons to prevent further violence outbreak?
- What type of support are providing to Libya now that OUP is over?
- Why is the US not doing with Syria what we just did with Libya - NATO OUP? (more persons being killed in Syria...)

Tunisia (elections)

- Does the fact that Islamists won in Tunisia's election concern us? Do we have confidence in their [Tunisia] next steps?

Uganda (C-LRA)

- Do we still have BOG in Uganda? Have they gone to other locations to counter the LRA?

CDR (b) (6) (b) (6)

U.S. Defense Press Officer for policy:

Africa, Europe, NATO, Russia

Pentagon, Rm. 2D961

Office: 703 697 1253

(b) (6) (b) (6)

(b)(6)

(b) (6) IV OSD PA (US)

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) CDR OSD PA
Sent: Wednesday, December 07, 2011 2:55 PM
To: Little, George CIV OSD PA
Cc: Campbell, Jane CAPT OSD PA; Kirby, John F CAPT OSD PA; Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA
Subject: RE: Hurriyet query, SD interview

Hi George, understand.

After reviewing again, and I just spoke with State PA for a sanity check, recommend the way forward here is for Tolga to connect with his colleague in Turkey (yes, Hurriyet will be participating in the roundtable) so they have their collected questions they want to ask during the roundtable next week. So, we stay the course with no interviews on Turkey until the roundtable -- with anyone.

Of note, Tolga is our one and only Turkish reporter here so keeping our good rapport with him is key. So far so good. He stops by all the time. ;)

The questions he offers are good for practice for the roundtable and I'll share with policy to so everyone is aware of the interest here. I'll let Tolga know, if you are good with the plan.

Thanks very much,
VR

(b) (6) (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Little, George CIV OSD PA
Sent: Wednesday, December 07, 2011 11:42 AM
To: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA (b)(6)
Cc: Campbell, Jane CAPT OSD PA; Kirby, John F CAPT OSD PA; Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA
Subject: Re: Hurriyet query, SD interview

I told him that it's unlikely but that I would continue to chew over it. I set his expectations low.

----- Original Message -----

From: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, December 07, 2011 11:28 AM
To: Little, George CIV OSD PA
Cc: Campbell, Jane CAPT OSD PA; Kirby, John F CAPT OSD PA; Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA
Subject: RE: Hurriyet query, SD interview

Hi George,

Just spoke with our friend Tolga Tanis, Hurriyet. He offered from his conversation with you today that an interview with the SD may be possible, and that he'd be able to get a photo of the SD during a photo pool, press event on Friday. (not sure what event that is).

I don't want to conflict with what you may have already agreed to, but do recommend we accommodate with the understanding the interview /article is embargoed until just prior to touch down in Turkey (or a time suitable given the time difference and dates for the trip). Realize we just declined the other request for an interview, but this is different with this reporter at this time.

Standing by to support as you deem appropriate.

VR

(b) (6) (b) (6)

From: Tolga Tanış [mailto:ttanis@hurriyet.com.tr]
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2011 1:57 PM
To: 'george.little@osd.mil'
Subject: Q's for Secretary Panetta

George,

As we talk, please find here below our questions for Secretary Panetta before his Turkey visit. Thanks in advance for your kind interest.

- You had visited Turkey as the director of CIA last February, and now you are going to Turkey as the Secretary of Defense? Vice President Biden was also recently in Turkey. How do you elaborate on Turkey in terms of this busy visit schedule of American top officials? Is it usual or are we witnessing an exceptional period especially just before the ending of the withdrawal process of American troops from Iraq?
- The process of the withdrawal will be ending at the end of this month in Iraq. What will be the likely impacts of this pull out in terms of both political and security matters in the region?
- What are the expectations of US from Turkey for the new era after the pull out?
- The main concern of Turks about the post-withdrawal period, is that the pull out may allow PKK members in northern Iraq to take advantage of a void of authority. Do you see such a risk for Turkey?
- Turkish Government officials are seeking concrete US efforts to disrupt operations of the outlawed PKK in northern Iraq, beyond the real time intelligence sharing or the major weapon sales. Vice President Biden also reiterated that you are consulting closely with Turkey on how you can provide additional help in the future. Will you able to meet these expectations during this visit?
- How the US presence in Turkey will be affected from the pull out? US has transferred four Predators to Incirlik Air Base over the request of Turkish Government. Will there be any other force or equipment transfer?
- Could you please share with us the principals of the Predators' operations deployed on Incirlik Air Base? Will the drones cross the Iraqi border during their missions?
- There is a trilateral dialogue mechanism between Turkey, Iraq and US for the security issues in northern Iraq but the circumstances will be different after the pull out. Will you renew the structure of this mechanism? Are you considering for example to add KRG too?
- How do you see the importance of the radar, the part of the missile defense shield, which will be deployed on Turkey in terms of the US-Turkish relations? And what will be the responsibilities of this radar?
- Iranian officials have threatened Turkey for this radar. What is your view about Iranian reaction to the radar?
- One of the concerns of the Turkish Government officials about the radar was the sharing of intelligence gathered with Israel. How did you overcome this difficulty?

- Could you please elaborate on the importance of the relations between Turkey and Israel, as two close allies of US, in terms of the regional stability and the US interests?
- You said in your speech at Brooking Institute, both Turkey and Israel need to do more to put their relationship back on the right track, and that's the message you have taken to Jerusalem, and it's the message you'll be taking to Ankara. You reiterated Israel can reach out and mend fences with Turkey. How? Especially what should Israel do about the apology, the compensation and the lift of Gaza siege that the Turkish side is seeking after the flotilla crisis last year? And what should be Turkey's reaction to the gestures you mentioned?

Best,

Tolga Tanis
Washington Correspondent
Hurriyet
(917) 340-2466

CDR (b) (6) (b) (6)
U.S. Defense Press Officer for policy:
Africa, Europe, NATO, Russia
Pentagon, Rm. 2D961
Office: 703 697 1253
(b) (6) (b) (6)

(b)(6)

(b) (6)

CIV OSD PA (US)

From: Little, George CIV OSD PA
 Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2011 3:41 PM (b)(6)
 To: Campbell, Jane CAPT OSD PA; (b) (6) CDR OSD PA
 Cc: Kirby, John F CAPT OSD PA
 Subject: Re: TURKEY QUERY - Hurriyet news - reconsider

Ok use my name

----- Original Message -----

From: Campbell, Jane CAPT OSD PA
 Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2011 02:40 PM (b)(6)
 To: Little, George CIV OSD PA; (b) (6) CDR OSD PA
 Cc: Kirby, John F CAPT OSD PA
 Subject: Re: TURKEY QUERY - Hurriyet news - reconsider

George,

Am told that there is no interest here in that approach. The intent was to be able to attribute to the SD in advance of his trip. . .or at least to you as his personal spokesman traveling with him.

V/r,

Jane

On 12/13/11 11:35 AM, "George Little" <George.Little@osd.mil> wrote:

> Can you pls respond in your name? Thanks.

>
>

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: Campbell, Jane CAPT OSD PA
 > Sent: Monday, December 12, 2011 03:51 PM
 > To: (b) (6) CDR OSD PA; Little, George CIV OSD PA (b)(6)
 > Cc: Kirby, John F CAPT OSD PA
 > Subject: Re: TURKEY QUERY - Hurriyet news - reconsider

>
>

> George,
 >
 > Looks like a good opportunity to help out "our Pentagon guy" and not
 > have him get scooped by news organizations who don't bother to have a
 > rep at the Pentagon.

>
> I would like to be able to push this forward.

>
> Thanks.

>
> V/r,
>
> Jane

>
>
> On 12/12/11 3:49 PM, (b) (6) wrote:

>> Hi George,
>> We were not able to resolve this query before you left so I went
>> ahead and staffed with our Turkey desk officer to support with
>> possible written responses but also gave Tolga Tanis a heads up we
>> may not be able to provide responses prior to the roundtable. This did not go over well, as I suspected.

>>
>> I would like to recommend we do everything possible to support this
>> particular request with written responses, attributed to the SD, and
>> with the expectation the article would not appear until the day of
>> the roundtable, not before.

>> Tolga is completely fine with this (embargo) approach. Deadline is
>> Wednesday night for a Friday story (roundtable is on Friday).

>>
>> The questions are below (13), and some have drafted responses already
>> in the works. Once everyone has cleared and you've reviewed for
>> attribution from the SD, I will send back to Tolga via email from
>> here. Given our relationship with this reporter, his previous
>> reporting, he is our one and only D.C.
>> correspondent, and the fact he's been patient for months as we've
>> declined his requests for interviews, this is a relationship worth
>> maintaining. There is greater risk in the roundtable press than in
>> this particular individual. His interview recently with the VP trip
>> to Turkey was conducted in the same fashion. WH responded in writing
>> and Tolga wrote based on that. See link below.

>>
>> Vice President Biden interview (via email)
>> [www.hurriyetdailynews.com/Default.aspx?PageID=238&nID=8282&NewsCatID=](http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/Default.aspx?PageID=238&nID=8282&NewsCatID=338)
>> 338

>>
>> <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/Default.aspx?PageID=238&nID=8282&NewsCatID=>>>
>> 3

>> 38>
>>
>> Thanks very much for your reconsideration to support this with
>> attribution from the SD.

>> VR
>> (b) (6)

>> -----Original Message----- (b) (6)
>> From: (b) (6) CDR OSD PA
>> Sent: Friday, December 09, 2011 5:18 PM
>> To: (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b) (6) CIV OSD (b) (6)
>> POLICY
>> Subject: RE: TURKEY QUERY - Hurriyet news

>>

>> (b) (6) (b) (6)

>> Below are 13 questions from Hurriyet, our D.C. correspondent, Tolga

>> Tanis. We may choose to respond to Tolga in writing so that his

>> article comes out at the same time as the products from the

>> roundtable in Turkey but these questions may also come up during the

>> roundtable itself. Very helpful for full drafts to these in advance.

>> Appreciate your help. I am offering recommended responses below next

>> to the * after each question. These are based on previous TPs and our

>> public affairs guidance; some are bullets that need help, and others

>> are blank as I don't know where to begin...Thanks!

>>

>>

----->>

-

>> -----

>>

>> MEDIA PUBLICATION: Hurriyet

>> REPORTER: Tolga Tanis

>>

>> 1. You had visited Turkey as the director of CIA last February, and

>> now you are going to Turkey as the Secretary of Defense? Vice

>> President Biden was also recently in Turkey. How do you elaborate on

>> Turkey in terms of this busy visit schedule of American top

>> officials? Is it usual or are we witnessing an exceptional period

>> especially just before the ending of the withdrawal process of

>> American troops from Iraq?

>>

>> (b) (5)

>>

>> 2. The process of the withdrawal will be ending at the end of this

>> month in Iraq. What will be the likely impacts of this pull out in

>> terms of both political and security matters in the region?

>>

>> (b) (5)

>>

>> 3. What are the expectations of US from Turkey for the new era after

>> the pull out?

>>

>> (b) (5)

>>

>>

>> 4. The main concern of Turks about the post-withdrawal period, is

>> that the pull out may allow PKK members in northern Iraq to take

>> advantage of a void of authority. Do you see such a risk for Turkey?

>>
>>
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>>
>>

(b) (5)

>> 5. Turkish Government officials are seeking concrete US efforts to
>> disrupt operations of the outlawed PKK in northern Iraq, beyond the
>> real time intelligence sharing or the major weapon sales. Vice
>> President Biden also reiterated that you are consulting closely with
>> Turkey on how you can provide additional help in the future. Will you
>> able to meet these expectations during this visit?

>>
>>
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>>
>>

(b) (5)

>> 6. How the US presence in Turkey will be affected from the pull out?
>> US has transferred four Predators to Incirlik Air Base over the
>> request of Turkish Government. Will there be any other force or equipment transfer?

>>
>>
>>
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>>
>>

(b) (5)

>> 7. Could you please share with us the principals of the Predators'
>> operations deployed on Incirlik Air Base? Will the drones cross the
>> Iraqi border during their missions?

>>
>>
>>
>>
>>

(b) (5)

>> 8. There is a trilateral dialogue mechanism between Turkey, Iraq and
>> US for the security issues in northern Iraq but the circumstances
>> will be different after the pull out. Will you renew the structure of
>> this mechanism? Are you considering for example to add KRG too?

>>
>> *
>>

>> 9. How do you see the importance of the radar, the part of the
>> missile defense shield, which will be deployed on Turkey in terms of
>> the US-Turkish relations?
>> And what will be the responsibilities of this radar?

>>
>>
>>
>>
>>

(b) (5)

>> (b) (5)

>> 10. Iranian officials have threatened Turkey for this radar. What is your view about Iranian reaction to the radar?

>> (b) (5)

>> 11. One of the concerns of the Turkish Government officials about the radar was the sharing of intelligence gathered with Israel. How did you overcome this difficulty?

>> (b) (5)

>> 12. Could you please elaborate on the importance of the relations between Turkey and Israel, as two close allies of US, in terms of the regional stability and the US interests?

>> *
>>
>>

>> 13. You said in your speech at Brooking Institute, both Turkey and Israel need to do more to put their relationship back on the right track, and that's the message you have taken to Jerusalem, and it's the message you'll be taking to Ankara. You reiterated Israel can reach out and mend fences with Turkey. How? Especially what should Israel do about the apology, the compensation and the lift of Gaza siege that the Turkish side is seeking after the flotilla crisis last year? And what should be Turkey's reaction to the gestures you mentioned?

>> * We are not going to speculate or speak on behalf of the Turkish or Israeli governments.

>>
>>
>>

>> CD: (b) (6) (b)(6)
>> U.S. Defense Press Officer for policy:
>> Africa, Europe, NATO, Russia

>> Pentagon, Rm. 2D961

>> Office: 703 697 1253

>> (b) (6) (b) (6)

>>

>>

>

(b)(6)

(b) (6) CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 8:14 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) CDR OSD PA; (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY
Subject: RE: RE: FYSA State guidance (Gaza Flotilla)

Good points. Thanks (b)(6) (b)(6)

Best,
(b)(6) (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 8:12 AM
To: (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY
Subject: RE: FYSA State guidance (Gaza Flotilla)

EUR Press Guidance
May 29, 2012

TURKEY/ISRAEL: Charges against Israeli Officials/Gaza Flotilla

- As we have said many times, these are both two close friends and allies of the United States and we want to see them repair their relationship.
- We encourage Turkey and Israel to actively seek ways to move beyond recent strains and to avoid any actions that would increase tensions.

CDR (b)(6) (b)(6)
U.S. Defense Press Officer for policy:
Europe, NATO, Russia
Pentagon, Rm. 2D961
Office: 703 697 1253

(b) (6)

(b)(6) CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b)(6) CIV OSD PA
Sent: (b)(6) Wednesday, November 28, 2012 10:31 AM
To: Spence, Matthew CIV OSD POLICY; (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY; Hand, Bailey CIV SD; Little, George CIV OSD PA; Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA
Subject: RE: Draft Press Avail with Min Barak
Signed By: (b)(6)
Follow Up Flag: Follow Up
Flag Status: Completed

Suggested insert in all caps -- let me know what you think:

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

(b)(6) (b)(6)
703-695-1639

-----Original Message-----

From: Spence, Matthew CIV OSD POLICY
Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2012 9:12 AM
To: Freedman, Jacob M CIV OSD PA; (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Draft Press Avail with Min Barak

That's not a bad idea.

(b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) Can you work something up with (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

(b)(6) (b)(6)
From: (b)(6) CIV OSD PA
Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2012 9:01 AM (b)(6)
To: Spence, Matthew CIV OSD POLICY; (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY
Subject: FW: Draft Press Avail with Min Barak

What do you guys think?

(b)(6) (b)(6)
703-695-1639

-----Original Message-----

From: Hand, Bailey CIV SD [mailto:Bailey.Hand@sd.mil]
Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2012 8:50 AM

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

To: (b) (6) CIV OSD PA; Chollet, Derek H HON OSD POLICY; Spence, Matthew CIV OSD POLICY; (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY; Bash, Jeremy CIV SD; Lettre, Marcel CIV SD; Little, George CIV OSD PA; Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA
Subject: RE: Draft Press Avail with Min Barak

Do we need to say something about our support for ending smuggling of arms into Gaza (and reciprocal safe passage of humanitarian items)?

Best,
Bailey

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) CIV OSD PA [mailto:(b) (6)] (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, November 27, 2012 6:16 PM (b)(6)
To: Chollet, Derek H HON OSD POLICY; Spence, Matthew CIV OSD POLICY; (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY; Bash, Jeremy CIV SD; Lettre, Marcel CIV SD; Hand, Bailey CIV SD; Little, George CIV OSD PA; Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA (b)(6)
Subject: Draft Press Avail with Min Barak

All --

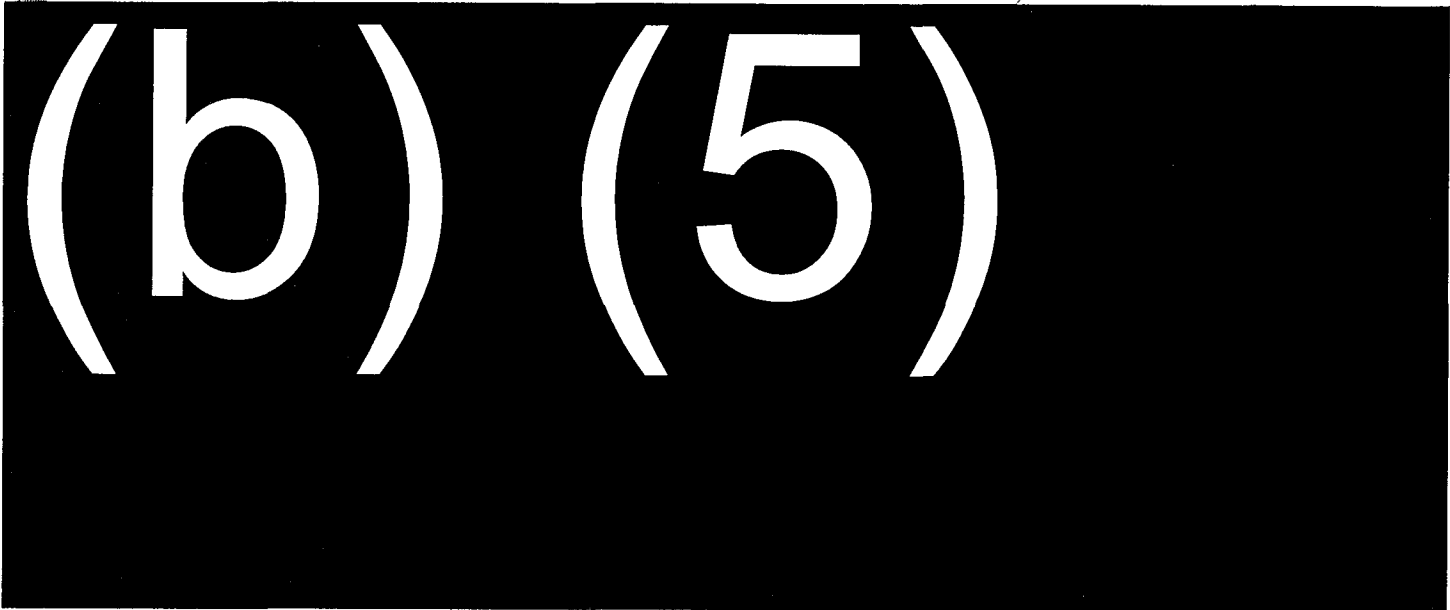
Attached/below for review is an initial draft of the Secretary's statement for Thursday. I know the NSS has expressed a desire to have a chop before this goes to SD, so I'd like to push this to them first thing tomorrow morning. Would appreciate feedback/comments before then. I'll also do some more refining for style and clarity -- this remains a fairly rough product.

Thanks,

(b) (6) (b)(6)

PRESS AVAILABILITY WITH MINISTER BARAK
PENTAGON PRESS BRIEFING ROOM
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2012
[756 WORDS, 7 ½ MINUTES]

(b)(5)



(b) (5)

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(b)(5)

(b) (6)

CIV OSD PA (US)

From: (b) (6) CIV OSD PA
 Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2012 11:34 AM
 To: (b) (6) Chollet, Derek H HON OSD POLICY; Hand, Bailey CIV SD; Spence, Matthew CIV OSD POLICY; (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY; Bash, Jeremy CIV SD; Lettre, Marcel CIV SD; Little, George CIV OSD PA; Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA
 Subject: RE: Draft Press Avail with Min Barak
 Signed By: (b) (6)

Proposed language in all caps below:

(b) (5)

(b) (6) (b) (6)
703-695-1639

-----Original Message-----

From: Chollet, Derek H HON OSD POLICY
 Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2012 11:33 AM
 To: Hand, Bailey CIV SD; (b) (6) CIV OSD PA; Spence, Matthew CIV OSD POLICY; (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY; Bash, Jeremy CIV SD; Lettre, Marcel CIV SD; Little, George CIV OSD PA; Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA
 Subject: RE: Draft Press Avail with Min Barak

I think this makes sense to add

-----Original Message-----

From: Hand, Bailey CIV SD [mailto:Bailey.Hand@sd.mil]
 Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2012 8:50 AM
 To: (b) (6) CIV OSD PA; Chollet, Derek H HON OSD POLICY; Spence, Matthew CIV OSD POLICY; (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b) (6) CIV OSD POLICY; Bash, Jeremy CIV SD; Lettre, Marcel CIV SD; Little, George CIV OSD PA; Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA
 Subject: RE: Draft Press Avail with Min Barak

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Best,
Bailey

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) CIV OSD PA [mailto:(b) (6)]
 Sent: Tuesday, November 27, 2012 6:16 PM

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

To: Chollet, Derek H HON OSD POLICY; Spence, Matthew CIV OSD POLICY; (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY; Bash, Jeremy CIV SD; Lettre, Marcel CIV SD; Hand, Bailey CIV SD; Little, George CIV OSD PA; Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA

Subject: Draft Press Avail with Min Barak

All --

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Thanks,

(b)(6) (b)(6)

PRESS AVAILABILITY WITH MINISTER BARAK
PENTAGON PRESS BRIEFING ROOM
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2012
[756 WORDS, 7 ½ MINUTES]

(b)(5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

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(b)(6)
(b) (6) CIV OSD PA (US)

From: **(b) (6)** CIV OSD PA
Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2012 5:01 PM
To: Chollet, Derek H HON OSD POLICY; Hand, Bailey CIV SD; Spence, Matthew CIV OSD POLICY; **(b) (6)** CIV OSD POLICY; **(b) (6)** CIV OSD POLICY; Bash, Jeremy CIV SD; Lettre, Marcel CIV SD; Little, George CIV OSD PA; Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA
Subject: Draft 1.0 Press Avail with Min Barak
Attachments: Press Avail with Min Barak Draft 1.0.docx
Signed By: **(b) (6)**

Attached is the latest draft. Still awaiting word from the NSS suite on the **(b) (5)** funding number, but they've cleared on everything else. This version was dropped off in hard copy for the Secretary for his review.

(b) (6)
703-695-1639

-----Original Message-----

From: Chollet, Derek H HON OSD POLICY
Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2012 11:33 AM
To: Hand, Bailey CIV SD; **(b) (6)** CIV OSD PA; Spence, Matthew CIV OSD POLICY; **(b) (6)** CIV OSD POLICY; **(b) (6)** CIV OSD POLICY; Bash, Jeremy CIV SD; Lettre, Marcel CIV SD; Little, George CIV OSD PA; Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA
Subject: RE: Draft Press Avail with Min Barak

I think this makes sense to add

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Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2012 8:50 AM
To: **(b) (6)** CIV OSD PA; Chollet, Derek H HON OSD POLICY; Spence, Matthew CIV OSD POLICY; **(b) (6)** CIV OSD POLICY; **(b) (6)** CIV OSD POLICY; Bash, Jeremy CIV SD; Lettre, Marcel CIV SD; Little, George CIV OSD PA; Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA
Subject: RE: Draft Press Avail with Min Barak

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Sent: Tuesday, November 27, 2012 6:16 PM
To: Chollet, Derek H HON OSD POLICY; Spence, Matthew CIV OSD POLICY; **(b) (6)** CIV OSD POLICY; **(b) (6)** CIV OSD POLICY; Bash, Jeremy CIV SD; Lettre, Marcel CIV SD; Hand, Bailey CIV SD; Little, George CIV OSD PA; Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA
Subject: Draft Press Avail with Min Barak

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PRESS AVAILABILITY WITH MINISTER BARAK
PENTAGON PRESS BRIEFING ROOM
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2012
[756 WORDS, 7 ½ MINUTES]

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**PRESS AVAILABILITY WITH MINISTER BARAK
PENTAGON PRESS BRIEFING ROOM
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2012
[788 WORDS, 8 MINUTES]**

(b) (5)

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¹ Language still being reviewed by the White House

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Joint Press Conference with Secretary Panetta and Minister Barak in the Pentagon Briefing Room

Presenters: Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta, Israeli Minister of Defense Ehud Barak
November 29, 2012

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE LEON E. PANETTA: Good afternoon. It's a great pleasure for me to have the opportunity again to welcome my dear friend, Minister Ehud Barak, to the Pentagon. I'd like to begin by taking a moment to pay tribute to Ehud. As you know, he's made an announcement that he intends to retire from political life in Israel.

Our friendship stretches back a number of decades, to, I think, beginning with my time as a member of Congress and then as a member of the Clinton administration, and we also worked very closely when I was director of the CIA, had a number of meetings in that capacity, and then certainly now as secretary of defense.

Since I became secretary of defense, we have been in very regular communication and have built a very strong working relationship. I could not have more respect for his brilliant strategic mind. He's got one of the best in the business. It obviously stems from a warrior heart and his warrior experience, but he's had a lifelong commitment, obviously, to protecting the state of Israel.

Through his distinguished military career, and the political career that followed, few people have such far-reaching and positive impacts on Israeli security and prosperity and, I have to say, on the U.S.-Israeli relationship. It is, I think, the strongest that -- the relationship between the United States and Israel is stronger than I think at any time in history, based on our relationship and based on the assistance that we are providing.

Because of his lifetime of public service, whether as a young IDF commander or as chief of the general staff, or as prime minister or minister of defense, I believe the Israeli people are safer and they're more secure. And in no small part because of his determined advocacy, as I said, the U.S.-Israeli defense relationship, I believe, is stronger than it ever has been. That relationship is grounded, very frankly, on shared values, the values that we have as nations. It's based on the iron-clad commitment of the United States to Israel's security. And a lot of that was the focus of our discussions today.

In our meeting, Minister Barak and I reviewed Israel's efforts to defend its people from the threat of rockets that were fired from the Gaza Strip, Operation Pillar of Defense. As President Obama made clear throughout the recent conflict, the United States strongly supports Israel's right to defend itself and strongly condemns the rocket attacks against Israel. We are encouraged that the cease-fire agreement has held.

And we will continue to work with Israel and our partner, Egypt, to end smuggling of arms into Gaza, while ensuring the safe passage of humanitarian aid. No nation should have to live in fear of these kinds of attacks. And that's why I'm very proud that our two countries cooperated so closely to field the Iron Dome anti-rocket system. Iron Dome performed -- I think it's fair to say -- remarkably well during the recent escalation. It intercepted more than 400 rockets bound for Israeli population centers, or a roughly 85 percent success rate overall.

I had the opportunity, as many of you know, to actually see this lifesaving capability firsthand in August. Ehud and I traveled to southern Israel and visited the Iron Dome battery in that vicinity. Its success is a testament to the ingenuity of the Israeli people and to the commitment of the United States to Israel's security.

Today, I assured the minister that our strong commitment to Iron Dome will continue into the future. At the president's direction, the department continues to work closely with Israel's Ministry of Defense to ensure that we are making the necessary investments into Iron Dome.

This spring, we announced that we would provide \$70 million in fiscal 2012 on top of the \$205 million previously appropriated to meet Israel's needs for that fiscal year. And we will obviously continue to work together to seek additional funding to enable Israel to boost Iron Dome's capacity further and to help prevent the kind of escalation and violence that we've seen.

The events of the past month underscore something that the Israeli prime minister said, and I have said, that Iron Dome does not start wars. It helps prevent wars.

But achieving our shared goal of long-term security for the Israeli people ultimately requires the continued pursuit of a sustainable and comprehensive Middle East peace. There remain -- there remains a need and an opportunity for action on both sides, Israeli and Palestinian, to hopefully move towards a negotiated two-state solution. We are all clear-eyed about the challenges. We know what the difficulties are. But there is no alternative to negotiation between the two parties.

Another shared challenge to our long-term security is Iran. And today, Ehud and I discussed our continuing concerns over Iran's destabilizing activities and its nuclear program. As the president clearly stated, we will prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. And that remains our policy.

Iran is facing unprecedented pressure from the sanctions, crippling sanctions that have been imposed by the international community, and I continue to believe that there is time and space for an effort to try to achieve a diplomatic solution, which remains, I believe, the preferred outcome for both the United States and for Israel.

After all, Minister Barak is a battle-hardened warrior. And like so many great military leaders, he is fundamentally a man of peace, because he's seen war firsthand. He recognizes that we must take every possible step to try to avoid war.

And as he prepares to close this chapter in his career, I'm delighted to be able to recognize his immense contributions by bestowing on him the Department of Defense's highest civilian honor, the Distinguished Public Service Award.

Ehud, thank you for your friendship, for your dedication to the shared dream of a better and safer and more secure future for Israel and for the United States.

ISRAELI MINISTER OF DEFENSE EHUD BARAK: I would like to thank you, Secretary -- my friend, Secretary Panetta, for your warm words and for this surprise. I thought that at my age I could not be surprised by anything, but it's a surprise, and I will carry it proudly. Thank you very much.

And I would like to thank Secretary Panetta for his long-term friendship and commitment to the security of Israel. Besides being a great American, great leader, taking care of America's interests all around the world and our region, I always found a kind of open door when we raised the issues that has to do with the security, qualitative military edge, and the support for Israel, our ever closer intelligence relationship, as well as our closer than ever defense relationship.

It reflected itself once again during the last operation in the Gaza, where Iron Dome really changed the landscape of the conflict and enabled us to act forcefully within a short timeframe, trying to hit the target that should be hit, but minimize the damage to civilians on the other side, while our population, 1.2 million, is continuously shelled by rockets and missiles from the Gaza Strip.

And those Iron Dome batteries could not be deployed on time without the direct and urgent support that you gave us, Secretary Panetta, backed by the -- by President Obama on one side and the Congress on the other side, and being executed on time.

We highly appreciate your plans to help us in the future on the same issue, because the needs are much larger than what we have right now, and we are determined to complete the system, besides the operational offensive capacities of the Israeli armed forces.

The security relationship, as well as the intelligence relationship between our two countries, has never been so close, and they were strengthened a lot during the terms of Bob Gates in the past and now with Secretary Leon Panetta, and, of course, President Obama, and we are highly thankful for this.

We share the same beliefs in freedom, liberty, democracy, human dignity, but the U.S. strengths, as well as our active vigilance in issues related to Israel, but mainly your role in the whole region are the real guarantee for the opportunity for these values to flourish. And all around our turbulent region, from Syria these days due to Hezbollah, Hamas in the recent weeks, and always Iran in the -- on the background, we see all citizens of the region looking at the United States as a source of kind of moral beacon on one hand and social support and hope for the good guys against the bad guys, wherever they are all around the region.

We are highly appreciative of this role. We always keep the right to defend ourselves by ourselves on time where it's needed, but I think that the role of the United States is invaluable in our region.

We are looking forward. We do not desire war. We pursue peace. But unfortunately, the neighborhood is extremely tough. No place for the fainthearted, how you call it. There's no second opportunity for those who cannot defend themselves, no mercy for the weak, and we are seeing it daily in Syria and other corners, and -- but we are determined to flourish, in spite of all these developments, and we are determined to make Israel stronger and more secure. We will always stretch one hand to look for any opportunity to -- knocking on any door, opening any window to find a way to make peace, but at the same time, we always be ready with the pointing finger, how you call this --

SEC. PANETTA: Trigger finger.

MIN. BARAK: -- close to the trigger, ready to pull it if it becomes ultimately necessary. And on this kind of vision, a hopeful one of our region, I'm coming to end my term as minister of defense. I can tell you, Leon, that from my experience, after political life, there is real life waiting us. Probably both of us should at some point down the -- and I'm sure we will find a way to enjoy this life without losing sight of the interests of our nations, and always we will have part of our heart with the defense intelligence issues and challenges.

I thank you once again very much for the long, long decades of friendship and for this honor. And we hold our relationship with you, with the Pentagon, with the defense establishment, and I hold my relationship with you highly precious. Thank you very much.

SEC. PANETTA: Thank you.

MIN. BARAK: Now we have something to give to you.

SEC. PANETTA: Oh, okay.

MIN. BARAK: And it's a small Iron Dome. It doesn't explode. It cannot shoot -- so don't worry. But just to give you a small memento, our appreciation.

SEC. PANETTA: Thank you very much. I appreciate that. Is there a photograph? I want to give you one more memento. This was at the -- this was at the Iron Dome site. And I wanted you to have that memento for representing our friendship.

MIN. BARAK: He obviously is much more handsome. Thank you.

SEC. PANETTA: All right, thank you.

MIN. BARAK: Thank you.

SEC. PANETTA: All right, George?

GEORGE LITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Secretary, Mr. Minister. We have time for a few questions. The first one will be from Bob Burns with the Associated Press.

Q: Mr. Minister, question for you about the expected vote this afternoon in the U.N. on granting the Palestinians non-member observer status. What are the implications of this for Israel? Given it's not granting them statehood, what really does that change for Israel?

And may I ask a question of Secretary Panetta, as well? A question on Afghanistan and the post-2014 mission. I know that no decisions have been made yet, but could you sketch out for us your thinking on what the counterterrorism mission ought to be in terms of its scope, given that there is a very small Al Qaeda presence in Afghanistan. Should it include other terrorist targets beyond Al Qaeda?

MIN. BARAK: Should I start? We think that the decision of Abu Mazen to go to the General Assembly and ask for non-member status is a mistake. I think that this view is shared at least by you and a few others around the world. I think that nothing can replace on the way to serve our -- the substance matter of our -- the conflict, nothing can replace the direct negotiation with no preconditions.

And I believe that it should start -- of course, we cannot start it during election period in Israel. We would prefer to see it being delayed for another three months or so, and then start negotiation with no preconditions with the next government of Israel.

But as you -- as we all know, Abu Mazen rejected this proposal and turned to the U.N. And I believe that he will have undoubtedly a majority, probably quite impressive one, and it will mean that they are a non-member state.

Some people are worried about the possibility that, once they are a non-member state, that might try to go to the ICC or whatever. I don't think that it can change, once again. It's -- in a way, that's the right way to make things worse, rather than to solve them.

And I strongly believe that ultimately it's not a zero-sum game between us and the Palestinians. We are not making them a favor by proposing a negotiation with no precondition. They are not making us a favor by keeping their sights on two states for two nations. And there is a common need of both people in the long term to find a way beyond all these symbolic steps. And, of course, it's a symbolic step that will resonate with the wishes of many Palestinians, but to go beyond the symbolic steps into the reality of having to make painful and tough decisions on both sides, because the contours of the solutions that -- the way to solve our conflict are quite clear to a majority of Palestinians, a majority of Israeli people -- of the dreams on both sides, but reflects reality and should be dealt with in a sincere manner immediately after election result.

Q: So if it's a symbolic step, then it doesn't have any concrete implications (off mic)

MIN. BARAK: Well, it has a -- you know, it has certain concrete implications. They will become a non-member state, kind of having a place in the -- in the U.N. as a non-member state. I don't think that it practically will have a huge influence or major impact on any issue, but probably somewhere in the future they will try to raise issues from the past, and then they go to some -- to the HRC or some other organs. I don't see this as the major consequence.

I think that most important, urgent need is to open direct negotiations. Even if we cannot agree on a fully fledged peace, probably we can accomplish something which is better than the status quo or the (inaudible) that might be created by not doing anything.

SEC. PANETTA: The fundamental mission in Afghanistan is to establish an Afghanistan that can secure and govern itself and ensure that Al Qaeda never again finds a safe haven within Afghanistan from which to conduct attacks on the United States or any other country.

The goal here is an enduring presence, therefore, that will direct itself towards, you know, three important missions. One is obviously CT, counterterrorism, to ensure that we continue to go after whatever Al Qaeda targets remain in Afghanistan. And although, you know, we clearly have had an impact on their presence in Afghanistan, the fact is that they continue to show up and intelligence continues to indicate that, you know, they are looking for some kind of capability to be able to go into Afghanistan, as well.

That's something we just have to be continually vigilant in terms of protecting against. So that's going to be the fundamental thrust of the CT effort in the enduring presence. We also are going to continue to have a train-and-assist mission to help develop the capability of the Afghan army. And the third mission will be to continue to provide some enabling capability so that we can provide the support needed for our forces, as well.

Q: Does that suggest any size of force that would be adequate for that mission?

SEC. PANETTA: That's exactly what's being discussed.

MR. LITTLE: The next question goes to Barbara Starr of CNN.

Q: Mr. Secretary -- and for both of you -- can you -- regarding Syria -- can you completely rule out that there has been no U.S. involvement in supplying surface-to-air missiles to the Syrian opposition? What consideration are you giving to lethal aid or military involvement for the rebels? Because clearly, Assad is hanging on.

And, Mr. Minister, if I might, as you prepare to change gears in your life, what's your assessment now of the military necessity to strike Iran's nuclear program? What reason do you have, if any, to believe that sanctions are working, as Mr. Panetta said, if even now different -- slightly differently, Iran is able to smuggle weapons into Gaza? What reason is there to believe sanctions work against them?

SEC. PANETTA: With regards to Syria, let me say unequivocally that we have not provided any of those kinds of missiles to the opposition forces located in Syria. Our focus has been on -- we do provide assistance. It's non-lethal assistance to the opposition. We obviously are continuing to work on humanitarian relief to the refugees that have been impacted. And we continue to -- with the assistance of Israel and other countries in the region -- continue to try to monitor very closely what's happening with the CBW sites in that -- in that area.

But our main focus right now has been to work with other countries to try to provide whatever assistance we can to the opposition, so that ultimately it can become not only an effective force, but ultimately can come together to provide the kind of political transformation that we think is ultimately going to be needed once Assad comes down.

MIN. BARAK: In regard to Assad, we have nothing to add to what Leon said. We think basically it's extremely disturbing situation there. He will fall down, for sure. And I think that it's too early to talk about what will happen the morning after, with all these groups working now there to topple him down or what might happen with those weapons that will not be used against his jobs.

CFR Callaber / 10-1-1242 / Public Affairs / 000311

There is a reason to be worried, but there is an urgent need to topple him down. I think that he creates huge damage. It's criminal behavior on a global scale, what he's doing to his own people, using jet fighters and helicopters and artillery and tanks, killing his own people. The whole world is watching. And somehow, it's not easy to mobilize enough sense of purpose and unity of action and political will to translate the -- our feelings about what happens there into action to stop it. And that's one of the lessons I have taken from the last few years in the Middle East.

In regard to Iran, the kind of physical attack option is an option. It should be there. It should remain on the table, never be removed. Of course, we would love to see some heavenly intervention that we'll start to wake up some morning and learn that they gave up on their nuclear intentions or probably that the Arab Spring has been translated into Farsi and emerged in the cities of Tehran, Mashhad, and Isfahan, but you cannot build a strategy based on these wishes or prayers.

Sanctions are working, and they're more helping than anything I remember in the past, vis-a-vis Iran. But I don't believe that this kind of sanctions will bring the ayatollahs into a moment of truth, where they sit around the table and look at each other's eyes and decide that the game is over, they cannot stand it anymore, they're going to give up their nuclear intention. I don't see it happening.

So I'm still feeling that during the coming year -- and hopefully before they turn into what I described as a zone of immunity for -- the point of view of Israel and probably somewhere later from the point of view of the United States, as well -- they will be coerced into putting an end to it this way or another.

Q: Mr. Minister, can I just clarify? Do you believe the zone of immunity will occur in 2013? And when you say within a year, and therefore, when Mr. Panetta says they'll be prevented, how else would they be prevented other than by military option?

MIN. BARAK: I think that -- I think that it will happen during 2013, but I thought that it will happen during 2012, and saw what happened -- and 2011 -- didn't happen. The Iranian leadership has a lot of tools in their arsenal that can -- they can play with in order to delay it. For example, when they decided to repossess some of the 20 percent enriched uranium backwards into a fuel rod for the Tehran research reactor, they stopped the moving toward what we call SK1 -- in 20 percent, the amount that might be meaningful for a device or for a bomb.

When they use diplomacy, for example, they decide -- (inaudible) -- kind of gambit to delay it, to stop any kind of action for one year, it will be delayed by one year. It's not -- it's beyond our control. But we should be attentive to the fact that the -- coming closer to military nuclear capacity is a -- you cannot -- you cannot put one line on one parameter or measure and say that it's a kind of gestalt -- it should be contemplated solely and continuously to make sure that we are not suffering for certain kind of self-delusion, that we ignore small steps that they're doing, and accumulating, it can emerge as kind of crossing to -- into the zone of immunity without us observing it.

I believe that there is a -- much more clarity in the intelligence -- among the intelligence communities in the world, as the -- and the IAEA basically by now, unlike the situation in 2007, we all see the same -- basically the same picture. We all see basically very similar intelligence. We all see basically the same kind of diagnosis. And there is always a question about the prognosis, what to do about it, and here we have sometimes slight differences that should be better discussed behind closed doors.

Q: But you think Iran will do it?

MIN. BARAK: I am confident that Iran is trying to go in the footsteps of Pakistan and North Korea and is very cautious not to fall prey into what happened to the late Gadhafi, when he was derailed, or under different circumstances -- to the South Africans. And, of course, they want not to find themselves in the situation of Iraq or Syria.

MR. LITTLE: Jennifer Griffin for a final question.

Q: Yes. Defense Secretary Panetta, we've heard about the successes of the Iron Dome. And we also know how much money the U.S. has invested in this. We also understand that the U.S. Army would like its own Iron Dome and that it has put out a request for procurement options and that it is leaning towards a Raytheon version that would take years to develop and billions of dollars that the U.S. taxpayer, frankly, doesn't have right now. Why should the U.S. Army not simply buy an Iron Dome that's already tested from Rafael? And, sir, do you wish that the U.S. military would purchase the Iron Dome?

And if I could follow up on Iran, if the -- if there -- the window has not closed for a military option against Iran, why do you think it is the right time for you to step down as defense minister? Do you feel that there's unfinished business still on that front?

SEC. PANETTA: Oh, on the Iron Dome question, we are at the present time going through our 2014 budget request. And, you know, we're in the process of evaluating all of the requests by the different services with regards to, you know, what capabilities they want to have for the future.

But in doing that, obviously, we have to pay attention to the resource issue, what's available, and whether or not it fits within the financial resources that we've set aside in order to implement our defense strategy.

You know, my approach to that is, whatever approach they want to focus on has to be cost-effective. It has to be cost-effective in today's world. And that almost automatically means that we'd better look at all options before we come down and make a final decision.

MIN. BARAK: The result of Iron Dome was extremely impressive. We absorbed 1,500 -- a little bit more than 1,500 rockets and missiles launched into about one-tenth of the area of Israel, with about 20 percent of our population, some 1.5 million. Five hundred ended up being intercepted, and there are more than -- about 85 percent of the interceptions succeeded. Only 55 rockets out of the 1,500 ended up falling in urban areas.

The Iron Dome was extremely successful against salvos of rockets and about extrapolating the trajectory and not wasting a missile on a rocket that has to be -- has to land according to the extrapolation of trajectory in an open area.

So it's extremely, extremely successful. And it -- you know, in our country, where a day of full -- fully fledged fighting costs \$1.5 billion, just by shortening a war by five days, you ended up -- covered the whole investment in -- in the system, and somehow the very knowing of the other side that you have such an effective system, especially when we'll be equipped with many more interceptors, it will change the balance of contemplation on the other side, that creates the kind of logical kind of deterrence, not psychological one, because any enemy that tries against Israel is exposed to the effectiveness of our effort that we've seen during this operation.

And once again, there is a dramatic development in the closing very quickly cycles of operation that start with looking for -- (inaudible) -- in high enough resolution that enables to -- to put the site of extremely accurate munition and launch it and close these cycle very quickly, without hurting -- with a minimal collateral damage that also gives us certain length of breath for operations.

We are -- we just accomplished, once again, with the general support of the -- of the Pentagon and Panetta and the administration a cycle of tests for the higher layer, second layer of the multi-layered interception system named David's Sling, extremely successful. The interceptor just met physically -- no proximity field -- just met physically the target in the air with much higher velocities than the Iron Dome, and it's extremely promising, but the interceptor is 10 times more expensive. So we are trying through modifications to improve -- to the further possible extent the performance of Iron Dome, so that it will save with the relatively cheaper interceptor the -- most of the challenges that were this time for David's Sling, which is much more expensive, and then let David's Sling deal with the rest of the -- of the threat.

So in over there, we have the arrows and the super arrows. But in this project, the David's Sling, I believe that Raytheon -- and we are working together. Of course, we will be sharing it with -- the ideas with you.

The second question, I prefer not to answer. Probably we'll talk about once again the end of 2013, dependent on what will happen until then.

Thank you.

MR. LITTLE: Mr. Barak, Mr. Secretary, thank you very much.

SEC. PANETTA: Okay, thank you.

MR. LITTLE: Thank you, everyone.

(b)(6)

(b) (6) CIV OSD PA (US)

From: Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2013 11:11 AM
To: (b)(6) (b) (6) CIV OSD PA
Subject: FW: Pool 14 -- Bibi apology for Gaza flotilla incident

Please mention this to Marcello

On 3/22/13 11:03 AM, "Spence, Matthew CIV OSD POLICY"
<Matthew.Spence@osd.mil> wrote:

>Very big. Amazing they pulled it off.

>

>----- Original Message -----

>From: Chollet, Derek H HON OSD POLICY

>Sent: Friday, March 22, 2013 10:57 AM

>To: Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA; Spence, Matthew CIV OSD POLICY; Townsend,

>Jim J SES OSD POLICY

>Cc: Little, George CIV OSD PA

>Subject: RE: Pool 14 -- Bibi apology for Gaza flotilla incident

>

>+ townsend.

>

>HUGE deal.

>

>-----Original Message-----

>From: Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA

>Sent: Friday, March 22, 2013 10:55 AM

>To: Spence, Matthew CIV OSD POLICY; Chollet, Derek H HON OSD POLICY

>Cc: Little, George CIV OSD PA

>Subject: FW: Pool 14 -- Bibi apology for Gaza flotilla incident

>

>wow

>

>From: White House Press Office <noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov>

>Reply-To: White House Press Office <noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov>

>Date: Friday, March 22, 2013 10:50 AM

>To: "Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA" <carl.woog@osd.mil>

>Subject: Fw: Pool 14 -- Bibi apology for Gaza flotilla incident

>

>

>----- Original Message -----

>From: Parsons, Christi [<mailto:christi.parsons@latimes.com>]

>Sent: Friday, March 22, 2013 10:45 AM

>To: Aberger, Marie; Cunnane, Pat

>Cc: Parsons, Christi <christi.parsons@latimes.com>

>Subject: Pool 14 -- Bibi apology for Gaza flotilla incident

>
>Two senior admin officials came back to address the issue of the phone
>call between Netanyahu and Erdogan.
>
>Transcript is forthcoming, here are highlights:
>
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>acknowledged "operational mistakes," said one official.
>
>Erdogan accepted the apology, according to this official.
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>The other sao called this a "first step" toward normalization of
>relations between the two countries.
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>They said this had been the subject of talks between Obama and
>Netanyahu in Jerusalem this week.
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>The call took place in the trailer at the airport just before Obama took
>off.
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>The leaders talked for about 30 minutes. At some point, Obama got on
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(b)(6)

(b) (6) CIV OSD PA (US)

From: Little, George CIV OSD PA
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2013 1:15 PM
To: Spence, Matthew CIV OSD POLICY; Chollet, Derek H HON OSD POLICY; Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA; Townsend, Jim J SES OSD POLICY
Subject: RE: Pool 14 -- Bibi apology for Gaza flotilla incident
Signed By: george.little@osd.mil

Incredible.

-----Original Message-----

From: Spence, Matthew CIV OSD POLICY
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2013 11:03 AM
To: Chollet, Derek H HON OSD POLICY; Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA; Townsend, Jim J SES OSD POLICY
Cc: Little, George CIV OSD PA
Subject: Re: Pool 14 -- Bibi apology for Gaza flotilla incident

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Cc: Little, George CIV OSD PA
Subject: RE: Pool 14 -- Bibi apology for Gaza flotilla incident

+ townsend.

HUGE deal.

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Cc: Little, George CIV OSD PA
Subject: FW: Pool 14 -- Bibi apology for Gaza flotilla incident

wow

From: White House Press Office <noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov>
Reply-To: White House Press Office <noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov>
Date: Friday, March 22, 2013 10:50 AM
To: "Woog, Carl R Mr OSD PA" <carl.woog@osd.mil>
Subject: Fw: Pool 14 -- Bibi apology for Gaza flotilla incident

----- Original Message -----

From: Parsons, Christi [<mailto:christi.parsons@latimes.com>]
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2013 10:45 AM

To: Aberger, Marie; Cunnane, Pat
Cc: Parsons, Christi <christi.parsons@latimes.com>
Subject: Pool 14 -- Bibi apology for Gaza flotilla incident

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Transcript is forthcoming, here are highlights:

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