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UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER
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MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA 32621-5101
INFO MEMO

5 September 2008

FOR: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

FROM: Lieutenant General Martin E. Dempsey, Acting Commander, U.S. Central Command

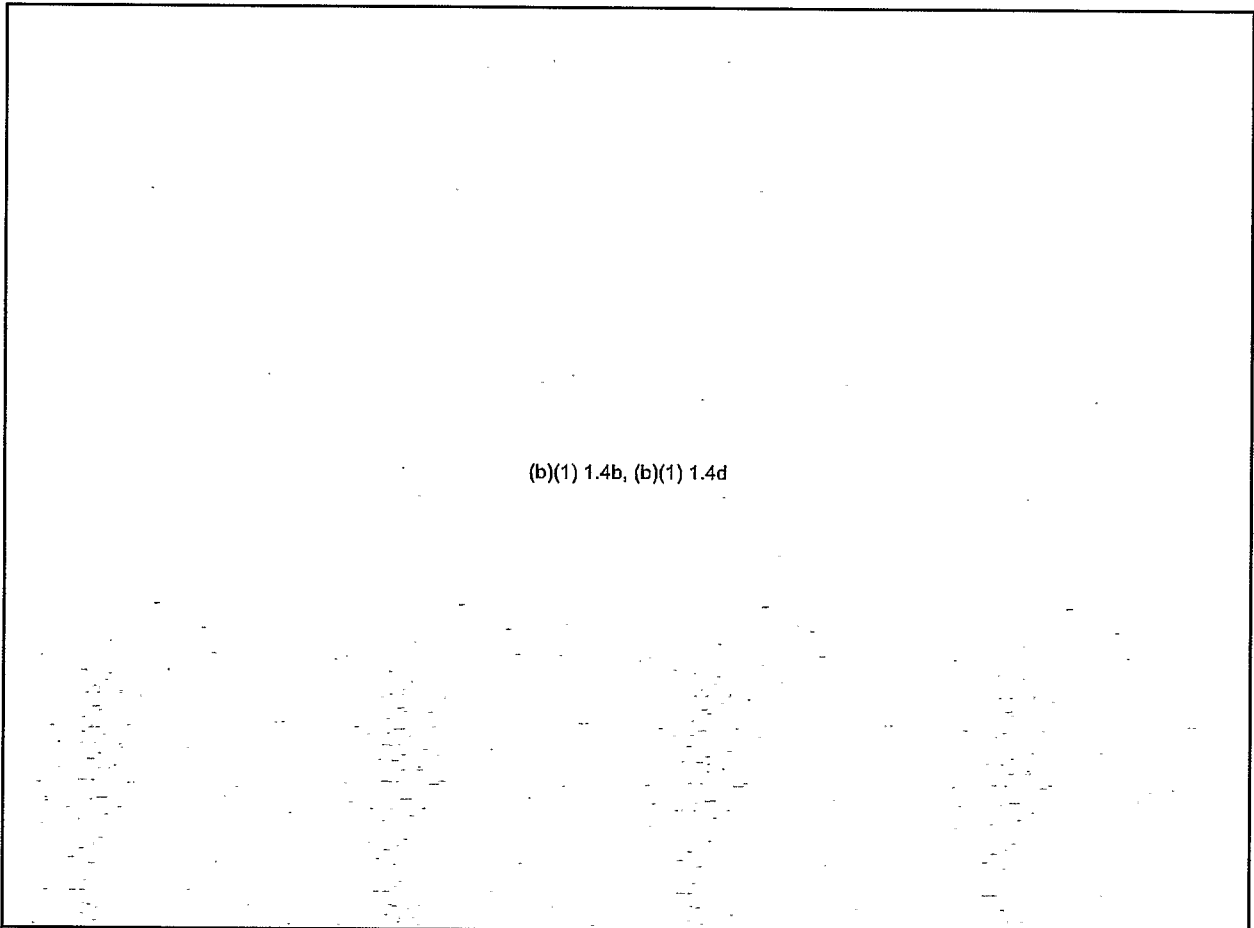
SUBJECT: Steps Necessary to Improve the Security Situation in Afghanistan

Mr. Secretary, Chairman,

This memorandum responds to your request for thoughts on what steps are necessary to improve the security situation in Afghanistan over the next 18-24 months from the USCENTCOM perspective as you prepare for your congressional testimony.

Clearly, efforts to improve Afghanistan's economy, governance, and infrastructure must be integrated and synchronized with security efforts—the absence of genuine “unity of effort” among all lines of operation is our greatest vulnerability in Afghanistan—but I will limit my thoughts to potential US military actions.

DISCUSSION



(b)(1) 1.4b, (b)(1) 1.4d

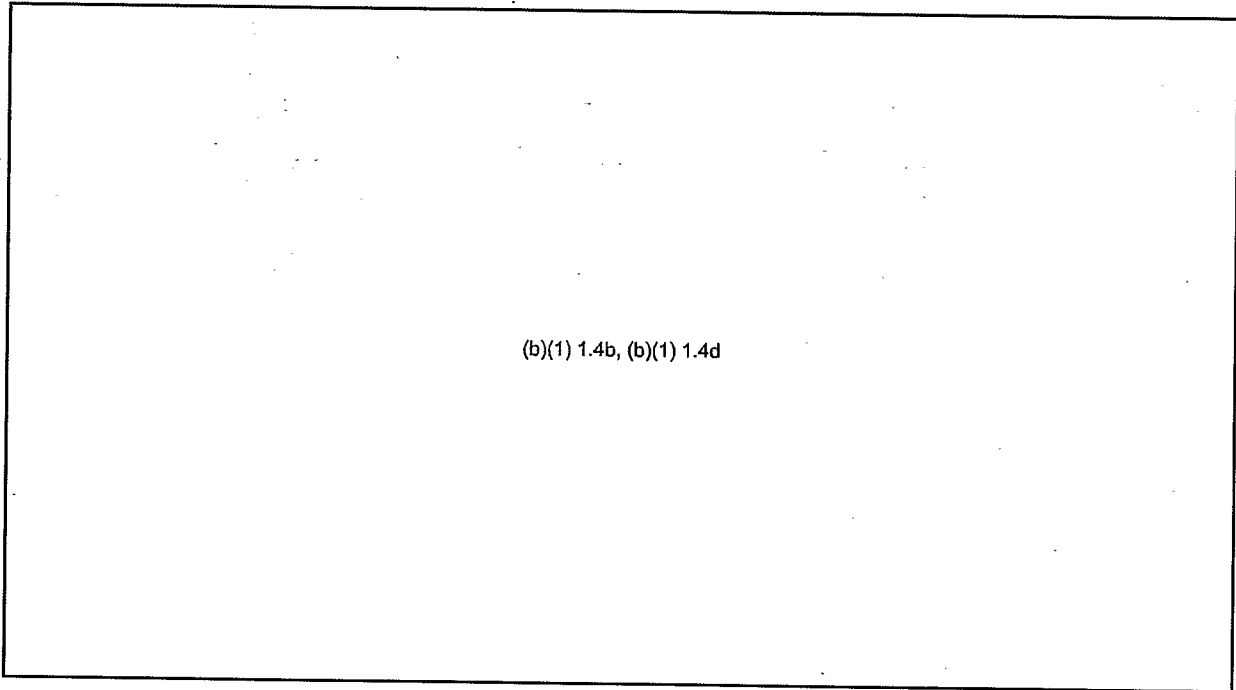
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(b)(1) 1.4b, (b)(1) 1.4d

RECOMMENDATIONS

(b)(1) 1.4b, (b)(1) 1.4d

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(b)(1) 1.4b, (b)(1) 1.4d

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Classified by: LTG Martin E. Dempsey, USA, Acting Commander
Reason: 1.4 (b,d)
Declassify on: 5 September 2018

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Afghanistan – Iraq Comparison (U)

Physical - Political Comparison

	Iraq	Afghanistan
Population	28,221,181	32,738,376
Major Tribal Groups	3	14
Provinces	18	34
Districts	111	398
Length of Borders	3,650km	5,529km

The differences are much deeper than physical:
- Iraq is an advanced society... Afghanistan is not.
- Iraq has a mature infrastructure... Afghanistan does not.

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Afghanistan – Iraq Comparison (S)

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Afghanistan – Iraq Comparison (S)

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