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UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
7115 SOUTH BOUNDARY BOULEVARD
MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA 33621-5101

26 September 2018

Mr. John Greenewald, Jr.



Dear Mr. Greenewald,

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request seeking documents that pertain to orders to military personnel and contractors, about how they are expected to observe Ramadan and how they are supposed to behave in other countries during this time.


United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) conducted a thorough good faith search and located 29 pages. After reviewing the records, I am fully denying three pages and partially releasing 26 pages to you. The withheld information is exempt from release pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3) as it relates to 10 U.S.C. § 130b personnel in overseas, sensitive or routinely deployable units; (5) inter-agency and intra-agency memorandum; and (b)(6) personal privacy interests.

Accordingly, in my capacity as the Initial Denial Authority for FOIA, by withholding this information, I am partially denying the information released under FOIA. No allowable fees could be charged for this request pursuant to Department of Defense Manual 5400.07. For any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request, you have the right to contact the Office of the Deputy Chief Management Officer, Directorate for Oversight and Compliance, The Transparency Office, FOIA Public Liaison (Mr. James Hogan) at OSD.FOIA-APPEAL@mail.mil. Additionally, you have the right to contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, MD 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at (202) 741-5770; toll free at (877) 684-6448; or facsimile at (202) 741-5769.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to appeal to the appellate authority, Ms. Joo Chung, Director of Oversight and Compliance, Office of the Secretary of Defense. The appellate address is ODCMO Directorate for Oversight and Compliance, 4800 Mark Center Drive, ATTN: DPCLTD, FOIA Appeals, Mailbox# 24, Alexandria, VA 22350-1700. As an alternative, you may use the Office of the Secretary of Defense FOIA request portal at <https://pal.whs.mil/> to submit your appeal electronically, or you can email your appeal to OSD.FOIA-APPEAL@mail.mil, and state "FOIA Appeal" in the subject of the email. Your appeal must be postmarked or submitted electronically within 90 calendar days from the date of this letter, cite USCENTCOM's case #14-0243, and clearly mark "Freedom of Information Act Appeal" in your correspondence.

If you have any questions, please contact the FOIA Requester Service Center at (813) 529-6285, centcom.macdill.centcom-hq.mbx.freedom-of-information-act@mail.mil, and refer to case #14-0243.

Sincerely,

FOR 
Michael E. Kurilla
Major General, U.S. Army

Enclosures:

1. FRAGO Ramadan Procedures
2. FRAGO 903 Ramadan
3. Ramadan Letter
4. Ramadan Related Issues
5. Ramadan Restrictions
6. Talking Points to ANNEX P Ramadan
7. General Order No. 1C
8. Ramadan 2014 Do's and Don'ts

(U) **FRAGO [RAMADAN PROCEDURES]** TO CJTF-7 OPORD 03-036.

(U) THIS FRAGO HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR RELEASE BY (b)(3), (b)(6) CJTF-7
C3 CHOPS

(U) **SUBJECT: FRAGO CJTF-7 ACTIONS DURING THE RAMADAN SEASON**

(U) REFERENCES: [NO CHANGE]

(U) MAPS: [NO CHANGE]

(U) TIME ZONE USED THROUGHOUT THIS ORDER: DELTA

(U) TASK ORGANIZATION: [NO CHANGE]

1. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ SITUATION. **[CHANGE]**

1.A. (U) RAMADAN IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE REVELATION OF THE KORAN DURING THE NINTH MONTH OF THE ISLAMIC LUNAR CALENDAR. FOR PRACTICING MUSLIMS IT IS A TIME TO VISIT WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS, FOR WORSHIP AND CONTEMPLATION, A TIME TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY TIES, A TIME OF FASTING, AND OF CHARITY TO MUSLIMS.

1.A.1. (U) EXPECTATIONS

1.A.1.A. (U) AVOID EATING, DRINKING, AND SMOKING IN PUBLIC. RESTAURANTS ARE CLOSED DURING DAY, BUT OPEN AT NIGHT.

1.A.1.B. (U) INCREASED ATTENDANCE AT MOSQUES ESPECIALLY AT THE LARGER MOSQUES NIGHTLY, FRIDAYS, AND THE NIGHT OF POWER. LOUDSPEAKERS WILL BROADCAST THE SERMONS

1.A.1.C. (U) PRACTICING MUSLIMS WILL MAKE GREATER EFFORTS TO BE NICE, AND PERFORM ACTS OF CHARITY. AT NIGHT THE PRACTICING POPULATION WILL VISIT FAIRS AND STREET VENDORS WILL BE SELLING SWEETS.

1.A.1.D. (U) THE NIGHT OF POWER ON THE 27TH DAY OF RAMADAN MARKS THE END OF THE FASTING PERIOD AND THE END OF RAMADAN. LESSER RAIRAM, A THREE DAY CELEBRATION FOLLOWS RAMADAN. PRACTICING MUSLIMS WILL GIVE GIFTS, ATTEND FAMILY GATHERINGS, PARTICIPATE IN CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER, VISIT CITY FAIRS, DONATE ALMS FOR BREAKING THE FAST, EXCHANGE CARDS, AND PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS OF BLESSINGS.

1.B. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ IMPACTS ON THE OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

1.B.1. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ THE POPULATION WILL TEND TO TRAVEL LOCALLY TO VISIT FAMILY AND GO TO RESTAURANTS TO EAT AFTER DARK. THIS WILL INCREASE FOOT AND WHEELED TRAFFIC AT NIGHT. THERE WILL BE GREATER MOSQUE ATTENDANCE AT NIGHT, ON FRIDAYS, AND THE LAST DAY OF RAMADAN WHICH WILL LIKELY RESULT IN CROWDS, PARTICULARLY OUTSIDE LARGE MOSQUES.

1.B.2. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ WORK RATE SLOWS DOWN. PRACTICING MUSLIMS WILL NOT EAT OR DRINK DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS.

1.B.3. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ IF NON-COMPLIANT FORCES PERCEIVE A RELAXATION OF COALITION OPERATIONS, THEY MAY VIEW RAMADAN AS A POTENTIAL OPERATIONAL PAUSE AND RECRUITING PERIOD. NON-COMPLIANT FORCES MAY ASSESS RAMADAN AS A VULNERABLE PERIOD FOR COALITION FORCES.

1.B.4. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ RAMADAN WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOTH COALITION FORCES AND NON-COMPLIANT FORCES TO AFFECT REGIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL PERCEPTIONS.

2. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ MISSION: [CHANGE]

DURING THE RAMADAN SEASON AND THE FOLLOWING THREE DAY CELEBRATION COALITION FORCES WILL SUPPORT IRAQI FREEDOM TO CELEBRATE RAMADAN WITHOUT INCURRING UNDUE RISK IN SECURITY OPERATIONS AND MAINTAINING COALITION FORCES OFFENSIVE INITIATIVE THROUGHOUT THE AO IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE IRAQI POPULATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THAT COALITION FORCES RESPECT THE ISLAMIC CULTURE AND UPHOLD FREEDOM OF RELIGION IN IRAQ.

3. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ EXECUTION: [CHANGE]

3.A. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ COMMANDER'S INTENT. [CHANGE]

USE RAMADAN AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD A SENSE OF IRAQI COMMUNITY. EDUCATE AND ENCOURAGE SOLDIERS AND LEADERS TO REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS TO ENGAGE THE CITIZENS OF IRAQ IN A POSITIVE MANNER BY RESPECTING THEIR CULTURE AND TRADITIONS. ACHIEVE THIS THROUGH A ROBUST IO CAMPAIGN STRESSING THE RAMADAN CHARACTERISTICS OF CHARITY, COMMUNITY, AND PEACEFUL CELEBRATION WITH FAMILY. MAINTAIN THE INITIATIVE AGAINST NON-COMPLIANT FORCES. DO NOT JEOPARDIZE OUR SOLDIERS NOR OUR SECURITY MISSION.

ENDSTATE. MINIMIZE COALITION NEGATIVE IMPACT ON RAMADAN. ESTABLISH A SENSE THAT THE COALITION AND THE IRAQI PEOPLE ARE WORKING TOGETHER TOWARD A COMMON VISION OF A BETTER IRAQ. THE IRAQI PEOPLE DISAVOW NON-COMPLIANT ELEMENTS AS HARMFUL TO IRAQ'S FUTURE.

3.B. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ CONCEPT OF OPERATION. [CHANGE] THIS OPERATION CONSISTS OF THREE PHASES: PHASE 1 PREPARATION, PHASE 2 ACTIONS DURING RAMADAN, AND PHASE 3 ASSESSMENTS.

3.B.1. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ PHASE 1 PREPARATION. THIS PHASE BEGINS UPON RECEIPT OF THIS ORDER AND ENDS THE FIRST DAY OF RAMADAN.

3.B.1.A. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ EDUCATE LEADERS TO MANAGE SOLDIER BEHAVIOR, TO KNOW HOW TO DRAW POSITIVE BEHAVIORS FROM INTERACTIONS WITH IRAQIS WHO PRACTICE RAMADAN, AND TO IMPLEMENT THE IO CAMPAIGN WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS IN ORDER TO PROPERLY SUPERVISE SOLDIERS AND ARTICULATE THE COMMANDER'S INTENT TO THE IRAQI LEADERSHIP.

3.B.1.B. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ TRAIN SOLDIERS TO BE SENSITIVE TO IRAQIS PRACTICING RAMADAN, AND CONVEY TO THEM THE IO CAMPAIGN IN ORDER TO INSTILL RESPECT FOR THOSE PRACTICING RAMADAN AND APPLY THE IO THEMES WITH THE IRAQI POPULATION THEY ENCOUNTER.

3.B.1.C. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ PREPARE THE POPULATION FOR OUR STEPS TO HELP THEM CELEBRATE RAMADAN, TO DEPICT THE ADVANTAGES OF GREATER UNITY AND SENSE OF COMMUNITY AS WELL AS WARN OF THE DANGERS OF CELEBRATORY FIRE IN ORDER TO INSURE UNDERSTANDING OF SOLDIER ACTIONS AND PROTECT THE POPULATION FROM UNNECESSARY INJURY.

3.B.1.D. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ INFORM WESTERN MEDIA OF THE MEANING OF RAMADAN, DEMONSTRATE TO LOCAL MEDIA THE OPPORTUNITY FOR GREATER UNITY RAMADAN PROVIDES US AND REITERATE THE EXPECTATION THAT CONFLICT WILL CONTINUE IN ORDER TO IMPROVE INTERNATIONAL OPINION REGARDING COALITION FORCE MEASURES.

3.B.2. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ PHASE 2 ACTIONS DURING RAMADAN. THIS PHASE BEGINS WITH THE FIRST DAY OF RAMADAN AND ENDS WITH THE LAST DAY OF LESSER RAIRAM, THE THREE DAY CELEBRATION FOLLOWING RAMADAN.

3.B.2.A. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ COALITION FORCE ACTIONS.

~~SECRET//REL TO USA and MCFI//X4~~

3.B.2.A.1. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ MSC COMMANDERS WILL ADJUST CURFEWS AND FACILITATE TRAFFIC CONTROL BASED ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THEIR AO. COALITION FORCES WILL MODIFY THEIR BEHAVIOR AND LOCAL EMPLOYEE WORK LOAD TO DEMONSTRATE RESPECT FOR RAMADAN ACTIVITIES AND OUR COMMITMENT TO UPHOLD THE FREEDOM OF RELIGION.

3.B.2.A.2. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ MSCS WILL CONTINUE OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS ADJUSTING THE FREQUENCY, TIMING, AND TARGETS TO REDUCE COALITION IMPACT ON RAMADAN WITHOUT RELINQUISHING INITIATIVE.

3.B.2.B. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ PSYOP, PA, AND CA WILL EXECUTE THE IO CAMPAIGN REINFORCING THE POSITIVE ACCOUNTS OF COALITION FORCE BEHAVIOR TO IMPROVE IRAQI ATTITUDE TOWARD THE COALITION. THEY WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO SHAPE THE ENVIRONMENT BY ENCOURAGING IRAQIS TO FOLLOW THE SPIRIT OF RAMADAN, EDUCATE THE POPULATION CONCERNING THE DANGERS OF CELEBRATORY FIRE, AND REITERATE THAT THE RULE OF LAW IS STILL IN EFFECT.

3.B.3. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ PHASE 3 ASSESSMENTS. THIS PHASE BEGINS THE LAST DAY OF LESSER RAIRAM UNTIL COMPLETE. COALITIONS FORCES WILL CONDUCT ASSESSMENTS OF COALITION IMPACT ON POPULATION PERCEPTION AND OPERATIONAL IMPACT IN ORDER TO CONSIDER MODIFICATION OF EXISTING AND FUTURE RESTRICTIONS.

3.C. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ TASKS TO SUBORDINATE UNITS/STAFF. **[CHANGE]**

3.C.1. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ MSCS

3.C.1.B. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ MAINTAIN OFFENSIVE AND SECURITY OPERATIONS.

3.C.1.C. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ REVIEW OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS TIMINGS, TECHNIQUES, AND MITIGATION OF 2ND & 3RD ORDER EFFECTS.

3.C.1.D. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ ENHANCE TRAFFIC CONTROL AND SECURITY AT SHRINES, MOSQUES, AND CEMETERIES.

3.C.1.E. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ APPROPRIATELY MODIFY SOLDIER ACTIONS.

3.C.1.F. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ REVIEW/MODIFY CURFEWS. WHERE APPLICABLE CONDUCT A TEST CASE OR EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT.

3.C.1.G. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ EDUCATE SOLDIERS/LEADERS.

3.C.1.H. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ INCREASE CHARITABLE TYPE OPERATIONS/PROGRAMS.

3.C.2. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ IO

3.C.2.A. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ EDUCATE SOLDIERS/LEADERS.

3.C.2.B. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ NEST INTENT AND IO WITH CPA STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS.

3.C.2.C. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ CONDUCT INFORMATION OPERATIONS CAMPAIGN BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL.

3.C.2.D. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ C5. NEST INTENT AND IO WITH CPA STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS.

3.C.3. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ PAO. MITIGATE CONSEQUENCES OF COALITION/IRAQI INCIDENTS.

3.C.4. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ EFFECTS. REVIEW/MODIFY ENGAGEMENT PLAN DURING RAMADAN.

3.C.5. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ CA. INCREASE CHARITABLE TYPE OPERATIONS/PROGRAMS.

~~SECRET//REL TO USA and MCFI//X4~~

3.C.6. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ CHAPLAIN. INCREASE CHARITABLE TYPE OPERATIONS/PROGRAMS.

3.C.7. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ C2. PROVIDE PREDICTIVE ASSESSMENT OF RAMADAN ACTIVITY AND IMPACT WELL IN ADVANCE OF EVENTS.

3.D. (U) COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS. [NO CHANGE]

3.D.1. (U) MSCS AND STAFF BE PREPARED TO BACK BRIEF PLANS NLT 1 OCT 03.

4. (U) SERVICE SUPPORT. [NO CHANGE]

5. (U) COMMAND AND SIGNAL. [CHANGE]

5.A. (U) COMMAND. [NO CHANGE]

5.B. (U) SIGNAL. [CHANGE]

5.B.1.A. ~~(S//REL TO USA AND MCFI)~~ POC .

ACKNOWLEDGE

SANCHEZ
LTG

OFFICIAL:

(b)(3), (b)(6)

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(U) **FRAGO 903 [RAMADAN PROCEDURES]** TO CJTF-7 OPORD 03-036

(U) THIS FRAGO HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR RELEASE BY (b)(3), (b)(6) CJTF-7
CHOPS.

(U) **SUBJECT: CJTF-7 RAMADAN PREPARATION AND PROCEDURES**

(U) REFERENCES:

(U) MAPS: [NO CHANGE]

(U) TIME ZONE USED THROUGHOUT THIS ORDER: DELTA

(U) TASK ORGANIZATION: [NO CHANGE]

1. (U) SITUATION. **[CHANGE]**

1.A. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ **GENERAL.** DESPITE THE GENERAL CONSERVATIVE AND HOMOGENEOUS NATURE OF ARAB CULTURE, THE CELEBRATION OF RAMADAN BY IRAQIS IS CHARACTERIZED BY WIDE VARIATION IN INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS AND COLLECTIVE SOCIAL MORES, EVEN WITHIN RELATIVELY HOMOGENEOUS GROUPINGS SUCH AS SUNNI, SHIA OR KURD. BEHAVIORAL VARIATION IS ALSO FUNCTION OF GEOGRAPHY, URBAN VERSUS RURAL CULTURES, NORMS UNIQUE TO SPECIFIC VILLAGES AND CITIES, AS WELL AS TRIBAL ATTITUDES WHICH TRANSCEND ALL OF THE ABOVE. THIS VARIATION IS COMPOUNDED BY THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGNERS POSSESSING ADDITIONAL CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS BEHAVIORS AND NUANCES REFLECTIVE OF THEIR OWN SOCIAL EXPERIENCE. PREDICTION OF ACTIVITIES IN A GIVEN LOCATION OR CITY IS PROBLEMATIC GIVEN FORMER REGIME SUPPRESSION AND INTIMIDATION, AND A SIGNIFICANT LACK OF REPORTING ON PAST ACTIVITIES. IT IS ASSESSED THAT RISK AND SECURITY DURING THIS PERIOD ARE A FUNCTION OF LOCAL CONDITIONS WHICH EXIST REGARDLESS OF RAMADAN, AS WELL AS ALIEN CONDITIONS INTRODUCED BY FOREIGN FIGHTERS AND TERRORISTS. THE PERIOD OF RAMADAN IS DIFFERENT ONLY IN THAT THERE WILL EXIST A MORE SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH ANTI-COALITION, NEUTRAL, OR PRO-COALITION ACTIVITIES WILL CONTINUE TO OCCUR OR NOT OCCUR IN ACCORDANCE WITH CURRENT LOCAL TRENDS, AND IN THAT THERE EXISTS MORE CONCEALMENT AVAILABLE TO THREAT ACTIVITIES AND MOVEMENTS AS A RESULT OF INCREASED TRAVEL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES, THE LATTER AFTER SUNDOWN. CULTURAL SENSITIVITY BY COALITION FORCES IS NECESSARY AT ALL TIMES; HOWEVER THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF DISPLAYING CALLOUS OR DISRESPECTFUL ACTIONS AND ATTITUDES ARE MAGNIFIED SIGNIFICANTLY WITH ADVERSE LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND, GIVEN INCREASED MEDIA SCRUTINY DURING THIS PERIOD, INTERNATIONAL REPERCUSSIONS. AS SUCH, THE GREATEST THREAT IS THAT DESTABILIZING ELEMENTS WILL USE RAMADAN AS A HIGHLIGHTED STAGE UPON WHICH TO ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE COALITION EFFORTS TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT.

1.B. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.** RAMADAN IS A "MONTH OF BLESSING" MARKED BY PRAYER, FASTING, AND CHARITY. IT IS A TIME OF WORSHIP AND CONTEMPLATION WHEN MUSLIMS CONCENTRATE ON THEIR FAITH AND SPEND LESS TIME ON THE CONCERNS OF THEIR EVERYDAY LIVES. IT IS ONE OF THE FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAMIC FAITH AND IT IS THE MONTH IN WHICH MUSLIMS BELIEVE THE KORAN WAS FIRST REVEALED

AS GOD'S GUIDANCE TO MANKIND. THIS YEAR RAMADAN BEGINS ON 26 OCT AND ENDS 25 NOV WITH THE FESTIVAL OF EID UL-FITR, THE "FESTIVAL OF BREAKING THE FAST," ONE OF THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT ISLAMIC CELEBRATIONS. DURING RAMADAN WORK CONTINUES AND BANKS ARE OPEN BUT PEOPLE USUALLY ONLY WORK FOR HALF A DAY. ACTIVITY AFTER DARK WILL DRAMATICALLY INCREASE IN NUMBERS AND FERVOR AS MUSLIMS SPEND SEVERAL HOURS PRAYING AND STUDYING THE KORAN DURING THE DAY, AND CELEBRATING OUTSIDE AFTER EVENING. THE KORAN DOES NOT PROHIBIT FIGHTING DURING RAMADAN AND THERE IS AMPLE HISTORICAL PRECEDENT FOR CONTINUED COMBAT BY MUSLIMS DURING THIS PERIOD.

1.C. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ **KEY DATES.** KEY DATES DURING RAMADAN REQUIRING SPECIAL CONSIDERATION:

1.C.1. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ 03 NOV 05. EID AL-FITR. EID MEANS A DAY WHICH RETURNS OFTEN. IT IS CELEBRATED AT THE END OF A PERIOD OF FASTING. THE JOY AND HAPPINESS OF THE OCCASION ORIGINATE MAINLY FROM MANAGING TO COMPLETE THE RAMADAN FASTING AND IN BEING NEARER TO GOD.

1.C.2. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ 21 NOV 03. JUMAT AL-WADA. THIS IS THE LAST FRIDAY OF THE RAMADAN, THE HOLY MONTH OF DEVOTIONAL CELEBRATION THAT IS EAGERLY AWAITED BY MUSLIMS AND MISSED WHEN IT ENDS. IN THE SAME WAY AS A RESPECTED VISITOR IS TREATED, RAMADAN IS GIVEN A GREAT WELCOME AND LIKEWISE A SPECIAL FAREWELL. OTHERWISE, FRIDAY IS THE MUSLIM'S HOLY DAY OR DAY OF ASSEMBLY. MUSLIMS GATHER AT THE MOSQUE TO PRAY TOGETHER AND LISTEN TO THE IMAM PREACH HIS SERMON (KHUTBA) AT NOON EVERY FRIDAY. THIS PARTICULAR FRIDAY IS SIGNIFICANT AS IT IS THE LAST FRIDAY OF THE HOLY MONTH AND A FEELING OF BOTH SADNESS AND HAPPINESS IS EXPERIENCED. ALL THE EXCITEMENT OF THE MONTH COMES TO AN END AND THE PEOPLE LOOK FORWARD TO ITS RETURN AFTER A YEAR.

1.C.3. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ 22 NOV 03. LAILAT AL-QADR - 27TH OF RAMADAN (THE NIGHT OF DECREES). IT WAS ON THIS NIGHT THAT THE QUR'AN WAS REVEALED TO THE PROPHET MOHAMMED BY THE ARCHANGEL GABRIEL. IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT IT IS KNOWN AS "THE NIGHT OF POWER" DEVOTING THEIR TIME SO FULLY TO THE REMEMBRANCE OF ALLAH, THEY HOPE TO RECEIVE THE DIVINE FAVORS AND BLESSINGS CONNECTED WITH THIS BLESSED NIGHT.

1.C.4. (U) EACH FRIDAY MOSQUE NOON PRAYER SERVICE.

1.C.5. (U) LAST WEEK AND BREAKING OF FAST. SIGNIFICANT CELEBRATORY FIRE IN BOTH RURAL AND URBAN AREAS.

1.D. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ KEY LOCATIONS REQUIRING SPECIAL CONSIDERATION. MOSQUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPHET OR MUSLIM SAINTS TAKE ON THE ROLE OF BECOMING PILGRIMAGE SITES FOR MANY MUSLIMS DURING RAMADAN, THOUGH NOT AS PRONOUNCED AS DURING THE HAJJ. CAREFUL ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ALL COALITION ACTIVITIES AND OPERATIONS IN PROXIMITY TO ANY MOSQUE, HOWEVER, SPECIAL CARE SHOULD BE AFFORDED TO THOSE LISTED BELOW:

1.D.1. NAJAF: AL-RIWAQ; IWAN AL-SAHN; HUJRAT AL-SAHN; ARD AL-SAHN; WADI AL-SALAM.

1.D.2. KAZIMYAN: IWAN AL-DHAHAB; HUJRAT AL-DHAHAB; WADI AL-IMAN.

1.D.3. KARBALA: AL-RIWAQ; IWAN AL-SAHN; HUJRAT AL-SAHN; WADI AL-SALAM.

1.D.4. SAMARRA: AL-RIWAQ; HUJRAT AL-SAHN; ARB AL-SAHN; AL-TARIMA.

1.D.5. THE MESOPTAMIA RIVER VALLEY SOUTH OF BAGHDAD BETWEEN THE TIGRIS AND EUPHRATES RIVERS CONTAIN NUMEROUS HISTORIC, RELIGIOUS, AND ANTIQUITY SITES WHICH WILL LIKELY BECOME THE OBJECTS OF INTEREST BY PIOUS IRAQIS AND PILGRIMS.

1.E. **IMPACTS.** ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ DURING THIS PERIOD THERE IS THE POTENTIAL FOR PILGRIMAGES AND INCREASED BORDER CROSSINGS. FOREIGN FIGHTERS AND TERRORISTS WILL EXPLOIT THE INCREASE IN CROWDS AND INFLUX OF VISITORS AS CONCEALMENT TO MASK BORDER INFILTRATION, AND PRE-OPERATIONAL AND OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES. THERE WILL LIKELY BE AN INCREASE IN THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN FIGHTERS IN IRAQ'S HOLY SITES SUCH AS AN NAJAF OR KARBALA; HOWEVER, UNITS MUST ANTICIPATE A SPIKE IN WALK-IN REPORTING AS CIVILIANS REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT REFLECT THREAT ACTIVITY. THE INCREASE IN CIVILIANS ON THE STREET AFTER DARK IS LIKELY TO COMPLICATE TRAFFIC PATTERNS AND ACTIVITIES, WHICH INCREASE THE RISK OF ACCIDENTAL CIVILIAN ENGAGEMENT OR COLLATERAL DAMAGE DUE TO COMBAT BETWEEN COALITION FORCES AND FRLS AND T&FF. ADDITIONALLY, CELEBRATORY FIRE IS COMMON AT THE END OF RAMADAN, INCREASING THE PROBABILITY OF MIS-PERCEIVED ATTACKS, INADVERTENT ENGAGEMENTS, AND DEATH OR INJURY DUE TO FALLING ROUNDS.

1.F. **THREAT CAPABILITIES.** ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ AS OF 25 SEP, THERE WAS NO SPECIFIC REPORTING ON THREATS TO THE RAMADAN PERIOD. FRL AND TERRORISTS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS WILL RETAIN THE CAPABILITY TO CONDUCT IED, MORTAR, RPG, MINE, SNIPER, COMPLEX AMBUSH, AND HAND GRENADES ATTACKS, AS WELL AS VBIID AND SUICIDE ATTACKS DURING RAMADAN. ATTACKS MAY TEND TO PARALLEL A DECREASE IN POPULATION ACTIVITY DURING THE DAY AND AN INCREASE IN ACTIVITY AT NIGHT AS ATTACKERS SEEK THE CONCEALMENT OFFERED BY CIVILIAN RAMADAN POPULATION ACTIVITIES. RAMADAN MAY PROVIDE AN OPERATIONAL PAUSE FOR TERRORISTS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS TO CONSOLIDATE, REORGANIZE, OR CONDUCT PRE MISSION RECONNAISSANCE AND PLANNING. HOWEVER, DESTABILIZING ELEMENTS WILL RAPIDLY EXPLOIT ANY DECREASE IN FORCE PROTECTION POSTURE OR IDENTIFIED VULNERABILITY. FRLS, T&FF, AND OTHER ANTI-COALITION ELEMENTS MAY ATTEMPT TO CAPITALIZE ON THE RELIGIOUS FERVOR TO ESCALATE TENSION AND INCITE ANTI-COALITION SENTIMENT AND VIOLENCE, TO INCLUDE SPONTANEOUS ATTACKS AGAINST COALITION OR NGO/PVO SOFT TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY. ADDITIONALLY, DESTABILIZING ELEMENTS MAY DELIBERATELY TARGET RAMADAN ACTIVITIES AND CELEBRANTS TO DEMONSTRATE A LACK OF COALITION SECURITY AND CONTROL, AND TO CAPITALIZE ON THE EMOTION OF SUCH AN ATTACK AND SUBSEQUENT VENTING AGAINST COALITION FORCES. RAMADAN PROVIDES TERRORISTS WITH AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A SPECTACULAR ATTACK, NOT ONLY TO UNDERMINE COALITION ACTIVITIES BUT ALSO TO HIGHLIGHT THE COALITION'S INABILITY TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT DURING A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT AND HIGH PROFILE ISLAMIC EVENT. A SUCCESSFUL ATTACK, RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF IRAQI CITIZENS DURING RAMADAN WOULD CERTAINLY DRAW INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM FROM OTHER ISLAMIC GROUPS AND WILL PROVIDE THE IMPETUS FOR FURTHER TERRORIST ATTACKS AND GENERAL POPULATION RESISTANCE TO OCCUPATION.

1.G. **THREAT MLCOA:** ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ DESTABILIZING GROUPS, THOUGH SHARING COMMON PURPOSE AND DESIRED ENDSTATE, ARE MOTIVATED BY DIFFERENT FACTORS AND SUBJECT TO DIFFERENT MORES REGARDING RELIGION AND RAMADAN, THEREFORE, ASSESSMENTS ON LIKELY THREAT ACTIVITY DURING THIS PERIOD ARE PROBLEMATIC; HOWEVER, OVERALL IT IS ASSESSED THAT RAMADAN IS NOT LIKELY TO HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF ATTACKS FROM DESTABILIZING ELEMENTS, AND THERE ARE NO EXPECTED CHANGES IN ANTI-COALITION ACTIVITY LEVELS DURING THIS PERIOD. HISTORICALLY, THE OFFENSIVE ENGAGEMENTS CONTINUE TO OCCUR THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD WITH NO CHANGE IN OPERATIONAL TEMPO. THE CONTINUED ATTEMPTED EXECUTION OF A HIGH PROFILE ATTACK SUCH AS THAT DIRECTED AGAINST THE UN AND ALI-IMMAM MOSQUE IN NAJAF, OR THE SHOOTDOWN OF LARGE AIRCRAFT, OR OTHER SIMILAR EVENT CAN BE ANTICIPATED.

2. (U) MISSION. [CHANGE]

2.A. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ DURING THE RAMADAN SEASON AND THE FOLLOWING THREE DAY CELEBRATION COALITION FORCES WILL SUPPORT IRAQI FREEDOM TO CELEBRATE RAMADAN WITHOUT INCURRING UNDUE RISK IN SECURITY OPERATIONS AND MAINTAINING COALITION FORCES OFFENSIVE INITIATIVE THROUGHOUT THE AO IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE IRAQI POPULATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THAT COALITION FORCES RESPECT THE ISLAMIC CULTURE AND UPHOLD FREEDOM OF RELIGION IN IRAQ.

3. (U) EXECUTION. [CHANGE]

3.A. (U) COMMANDER'S INTENT. [CHANGE]

3.A.1. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ USE RAMADAN AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD A SENSE OF IRAQI COMMUNITY. EDUCATE AND ENCOURAGE SOLDIERS AND LEADERS TO REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS TO ENGAGE THE CITIZENS OF IRAQ IN A POSITIVE MANNER BY RESPECTING THEIR CULTURE AND TRADITIONS. ACHIEVE THIS THROUGH AN INFORMATION OPERATION TO DEMONSTRATE COALITION GOODWILL AND RESPECT DURING THE RAMADAN HOLIDAY. . MAINTAIN THE INITIATIVE AGAINST NON-COMPLIANT FORCES. DO NOT JEOPARDIZE OUR SOLDIERS OR OUR SECURITY MISSION.

3.A.2. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ **ENDSTATE**. MINIMIZE COALITION NEGATIVE IMPACT ON RAMADAN. ESTABLISH A SENSE THAT THE COALITION AND THE IRAQI PEOPLE ARE WORKING TOGETHER TOWARD A COMMON VISION OF A BETTER IRAQ. THE IRAQI PEOPLE DISAVOW NON-COMPLIANT ELEMENTS AS HARMFUL TO IRAQ'S FUTURE.

3.B. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ **CONCEPT OF OPERATION**. [CHANGE] THIS OPERATION CONSISTS OF THREE PHASES: PHASE 1 PREPARATION, PHASE 2 ACTIONS DURING RAMADAN, AND PHASE 3 ASSESSMENTS.

3.B.1. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ **PHASE 1: PREPARATION**. THIS PHASE BEGINS UPON RECEIPT OF THIS ORDER AND ENDS THE FIRST DAY OF RAMADAN.

3.B.1.A. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ EDUCATE LEADERS TO MANAGE SOLDIER BEHAVIOR, TO KNOW HOW TO DRAW POSITIVE BEHAVIORS FROM INTERACTIONS WITH IRAQIS WHO PRACTICE RAMADAN, AND TO IMPLEMENT THE IO CAMPAIGN WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS IN ORDER TO PROPERLY SUPERVISE SOLDIERS AND ARTICULATE THE COMMANDER'S INTENT TO THE IRAQI LEADERSHIP.

3.B.1.B. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ TRAIN SOLDIERS TO BE SENSITIVE TO IRAQIS PRACTICING RAMADAN, TRAIN SOLDIERS TO USE INFORMATION OPERATIONS TALKING POINTS DEVELOPED SPECIFICALLY FOR RAMADAN TO GUIDE THE INTERACTION BETWEEN SOLDIERS AND IRAQIS DURING THE RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY.

3.B.1.C. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ PREPARE THE POPULATION FOR OUR STEPS TO HELP THEM CELEBRATE RAMADAN, TO DEPICT THE ADVANTAGES OF GREATER UNITY AND SENSE OF COMMUNITY AS WELL AS WARN OF THE DANGERS OF CELEBRATORY FIRE IN ORDER TO INSURE UNDERSTANDING OF SOLDIER ACTIONS AND PROTECT THE POPULATION FROM UNNECESSARY INJURY.

3.B.1.D. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~, INFORM LOCAL MEDIA OF THE OPPORTUNITY FOR GREATER UNITY RAMADAN PROVIDES US AND REITERATE THE EXPECTATION THAT CONFLICT WILL CONTINUE IN ORDER TO IMPROVE INTERNATIONAL OPINION REGARDING COALITION FORCE MEASURES.

3.B.2. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ **PHASE 2 ACTIONS: DURING RAMADAN.** THIS PHASE BEGINS WITH THE FIRST DAY OF RAMADAN AND ENDS WITH THE LAST DAY OF LESSER RAIRAM, THE THREE DAY CELEBRATION FOLLOWING RAMADAN.

3.B.2.A. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ **COALITION FORCE ACTIONS.**

3.B.2.A.1. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ MSC COMMANDERS WILL ADJUST CURFEWS AND FACILITATE TRAFFIC CONTROL BASED ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THEIR AO. COALITION FORCES WILL MODIFY THEIR BEHAVIOR AND LOCAL EMPLOYEE WORK LOAD TO DEMONSTRATE RESPECT FOR RAMADAN ACTIVITIES AND OUR COMMITMENT TO UPHOLD THE FREEDOM OF RELIGION.

3.B.2.A.2. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ MSCS WILL CONTINUE OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS ADJUSTING THE FREQUENCY, TIMING, AND TARGETS TO REDUCE COALITION IMPACT ON RAMADAN WITHOUT RELINQUISHING INITIATIVE.

3.B.2.B. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ PSYOP, PA, AND CA WILL EXECUTE THE INFORMATION OPERATIONS WILL INFORM IRAQIS OF COALITION EFFORTS TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND SECURE RAMADAN HOLIDAY TO IMPROVE IRAQI ATTITUDE TOWARD THE COALITION. THEY WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO SHAPE THE ENVIRONMENT BY ENCOURAGING IRAQIS TO FOLLOW THE SPIRIT OF RAMADAN, EDUCATE THE POPULATION CONCERNING THE DANGERS OF CELEBRATORY FIRE, AND REITERATE THAT THE RULE OF LAW IS STILL IN EFFECT.

3.B.3. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ **PHASE 3: ASSESSMENTS.** THIS PHASE BEGINS THE LAST DAY OF LESSER RAIRAM UNTIL COMPLETE. COALITIONS FORCES WILL CONDUCT ASSESSMENTS OF COALITION IMPACT ON POPULATION PERCEPTION AND OPERATIONAL IMPACT IN ORDER TO CONSIDER MODIFICATION OF EXISTING AND FUTURE RESTRICTIONS.

3.C. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ TASKS TO SUBORDINATE UNITS/STAFF. **[CHANGE]**

3.C.1. (U) **ALL MSCS.**

3.C.1.A. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ MAINTAIN OFFENSIVE AND SECURITY OPERATIONS.

3.C.1.B. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ REVIEW OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS TIMINGS, TECHNIQUES, AND MITIGATION OF 2ND & 3RD ORDER EFFECTS.

3.C.1.C. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ ENHANCE TRAFFIC CONTROL AND SECURITY AT SHRINES, MOSQUES, AND CEMETERIES.

3.C.1.D. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ MODIFY SOLDIER ACTIONS AS APPROPRIATE.

3.C.1.E. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ REVIEW/MODIFY CURFEWS. WHERE APPLICABLE CONDUCT A TEST CASE OR EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT.

3.C.1.F. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ EDUCATE SOLDIERS/LEADERS.

3.C.1.G. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ INCREASE CHARITABLE TYPE OPERATIONS/PROGRAMS.

3.C.2. (U) **IO.**

3.C.2.A. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ DEVELOP TALKING POINTS FOR SOLDIERS TO USE THAT ADDRESS RAMADAN ISSUES.

3.C.3. (U) **C5.**

3.C.3.A. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ NEST INTENT AND IO WITH CPA STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS.

3.C.4. (U) **PAO.**

3.C.4.A. (U) MITIGATE CONSEQUENCES OF COALITION/IRAQI INCIDENTS.

3.C.5. (U) **EFFECTS.**

3.C.5.A. (U) REVIEW/MODIFY ENGAGEMENT PLAN DURING RAMADAN.

3.C.6. (U) **CA.**

3.C.6.A. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ INCREASE CHARITABLE TYPE OPERATIONS/PROGRAMS.

3.C.7. (U) **CHAPLAIN.**

3.C.7.A. (U) INCREASE CHARITABLE TYPE OPERATIONS/PROGRAMS.

3.C.8. (U) **C2.**

3.C.8.A. (U) PROVIDE PREDICTIVE ASSESSMENT OF RAMADAN ACTIVITY AND IMPACT WELL IN ADVANCE OF EVENTS.

3.D. (U) COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS. **[CHANGE]**

3.D.1. (U) MSCS AND STAFF BE PREPARED TO BACK BRIEF PLANS NLT 1 OCT 03.

4. (U) SERVICE SUPPORT. **[NO CHANGE]**

5. (U) COMMAND AND SIGNAL. **[CHANGE]**

5.A. (U) COMMAND. **[NO CHANGE]**

5.B. (U) SIGNAL. **[CHANGE]**

5.B.1. ~~(S//REL TO USA and MCFI)~~ POC

(b)(3), (b)(6)
(b)(3), (b)(6)

ACKNOWLEDGE

SANCHEZ
LTG

OFFICIAL:

(b)(3), (b)(6)

ATTACHMENTS:

1. **ANNEX P (IO) RAMADAN**
2. **APPENDIX 1 [IO EXECUTION MATRIX] TO ANNEX P RAMADAN**
3. **APPENDIX 2 [TALKING POINTS] TO ANNEX P RAMADAN**

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, COALITION
UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
7115 SOUTH BOUNDARY BLVD.
MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA 33621-5101

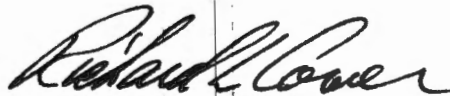
Dear General Al Shwiter,

On behalf of the men and women of the United States Central Command, it is my pleasure to wish you a peaceful Ramadan. Ramadan is a special month of the year for inner reflection, devotion to Allah and self-control observed by over one billion Muslims throughout the world.

May you be renewed during this time of intense worship, reading of the Qur'an, charitable giving, and good deeds.

Central Command appreciates the friendship and respect between our militaries and values highly the relationship we have built. May this Ramadan bring you many treasured moments of happiness.

Sincerely



RICHARD L. COMER
Major General, U.S. Air Force

BG Abdulkader Al-Shwiter
Yemen Senior National Representative
7115 South Boundary Blvd.
MacDill Air Force Base, Florida 33621-5101

From:

(b)(3), (b)(6)

Sent:

Tuesday, October 21, 2003 11:56 AM

To:

Cc:

(b)(3), (b)(6)

Subject:

Ramadan related issues ...

(b)(3), (b)(6)

The month of Ramadan is for prayers, peace and fasting. All adult healthy Muslims must fast from Sunrise to Sunset for 29/30 days depend upon the lunar month. Fasting means fasting - no smoking, no drinking, not even a plain water or juice, absolutely nothing in the mouth not even any kind of medicine. As a born Muslim here are my views on the following issues:

1) VETCAPs:

There should not be any issue regarding VETCAPs during Ramadan. Fasting during the month of Ramadan is for humans, not for animals.

2) MEDCAPs:

In my opinion, there is no reason to cancel MEDCAP during the month of Ramadan. People who benefit from MEDCAP are medically sick. If you are sick, you must not be fasting, it may make you more sick. The religion is very flexible, if a person is sick, fasting is not permissible period. If he/she got sick during the fasting period then he/she must break it. The Quran has allowed that person to make it up the missed days at the end of Ramadan's celebration period - 3 days. The person can then fast the days he/she has missed.

One thing you as a non-Muslim, out of respect for the month of Ramadan, should do is to refrain from eating, drinking or even smoking a cigarette or chewing gum in front of Muslims. My suggestion would be, as a respect for those who are fasting, to designate a place away from the crowd where you can eat drink water or juice and smoke a cigarette and not be seen by the crowd.

3) Cancellation of an opening or Project completion ceremonies.

There is no reason for doing any of that. As a matter of fact it would be considered admirable if the timing of the ceremony is set close to the breaking of fasting time. So at the end of the ceremony a food is presented to the audience. According to Quran and Sunna it is the noblest gesture a person can offer to a Muslim.

4) Labor work during the Ramadan.

A Muslim observing fasting during Ramadan need no favors just because he/she is fasting. He/she should be able to do a day's job for the day's pay just like any other normal non-fasting person. You as an employer may give a person a break and allow him/her to make up for the time after breaking the fasting or send home if he/she is unable to do the job without pay.

Hope that helped understand Ramadan period and answer some of your questions.

If you need to contact me, my phone numbers are below or send email.

(b)(3), (b)(6)

Ramadan Restrictions

1 of 2

- On Camp As Sayliyah
 - You should expect business as usual.
 - Please be considerate and refrain from eating, drinking, or smoking in front someone who is fasting
- Off Camp As Sayliyah
 - **Abstain** from eating, drinking, or smoking **in public** (this includes vehicles, shops, or city streets) **from Sunrise to Sunset.**
 - Dress more conservatively; No tight fitting clothes (Arms and legs should be covered)

Ramadan Restrictions

2 of 2

- Off Camp As Sayliyah (cont.)
 - No public displays of affection
 - Daylight-Only MISSION ESSENTIAL
Business and driving in Doha is allowed
 - Gates closed for exiting traffic 1700-1800 daily (except emergency)

APPENDIX 2 [IO TALKING POINTS] TO ANNEX P [INFORMATION OPERATIONS] TO FRAGO XXX
[OPERATION RAMADAN] TO CJTF-7 OPOD 03-036

RAMADAN

(U) PURPOSE: To provide leaders and soldiers with messages for use in conversation with key leaders, religious leaders, and Iraqi populace in order to stress themes of tolerance and respect for Ramadan and the coalitions commitment to a safe and secure Iraq.

(U)BACKGROUND: Ramadan is the most important Muslim religious celebration of the year. During Ramadan populace activities and behavior shift from the concerns of day to day life to religious observance and contemplation. Iraqi religious and cultural sensitivities will be heightened and intrusions on the celebration of Ramadan unwelcome.

You should not read these messages verbatim. Not all messages should be provided to every audience. Present only those messages appropriate to the situation. Provide unit specific details for reward information.

(U) MESSAGES:

- COALITION LEADERS AND SOLDIERS ARE BEING TRAINED ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HOLY HOLIDAY OF RAMADAN.
- COALITION FORCES WILL SHOW RESPECT FOR ISLAMIC CUSTOMS AND CELEBRATIONS DURING RAMADAN.
- WHENEVER POSSIBLE, COALITION FORCES WILL AVOID EATING OR SMOKING IN FRONT OF IRAQIS DURING THE RAMADAN HOLIDAY
- COALITION FORCES WILL MAINTAIN A RESPECTFUL DISTANCE FROM RAMADAN CELEBRATIONS AND HOLY SITES UNLESS ASSISTANCE IS REQUESTED BY IRAQI SECURITY FORCES.
- THE COALITION WILL CONTINUE SECURITY OPERATIONS IN ORDER TO MEET THE COALITIONS GOAL OF PROVIDING A SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT
- COALITION FORCES ASK THAT IRAQI'S NOT FIRE THEIR WEAPONS DURING RAMADAN CELEBRATIONS.
- BULLETS SHOT INTO THE AIR DURING CELEBRATIONS HAVE RETURNED TO EARTH AND KILLED AND INJURED INNOCENT BYSTANDERS
- CELEBRATORY FIRES HAVE LED TO ACCIDENTAL ENGAGEMENTS BETWEEN IRAQIS AND SECURITY FORCES.
- IF YOU ARE HOSTING A RAMADAN CELEBRATION, PLEASE ASK YOUR GUEST NOT TO FIRE THEIR WEAPONS IN CELEBRATION

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

APPENDIX # (IO TALKING POINTS FOR ICDF) TO FRAGO XXX TO CJTF-7 OPOD 03-036

- 2

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

Pages 1 through 3 redacted for the following reasons:

b)(5), (b)(6)





UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER
7115 SOUTH BOUNDARY BOULEVARD
MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA 33621-5101

21 May 2013

GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 1C (GO-1C)*

TITLE: Prohibited Activities for U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) Personnel Present Within the U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR).

PURPOSE: To identify and regulate conduct that is prejudicial to the good order and discipline of forces in the USCENTCOM AOR (as defined in FM 1-02, page 1-12).

AUTHORITY: Title 10, U.S. Code (U.S.C.) §164(c); and the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), 10 U.S.C., §§801-940.

APPLICABILITY: This General Order (hereinafter, Order) applies to all U.S. Armed Forces (as defined in 10 U.S.C. §101), DOD employee (as defined by 5 U.S.C. §2105), and contingency contractor personnel (as defined by DOD Instruction (DODI) 3020.41), present in the USCENTCOM AOR. This Order does not apply to personnel assigned to other Executive Departments or agencies (as defined in 18 U.S.C. §6 and 5 U.S.C. §101) (e.g., personnel assigned to Defense Attaché Offices or U.S. Marine Corps Security Detachments), with the exception of personnel assigned to Security Cooperation Offices (SCO) and Security Assistance Offices (SAO) who remain subject to this Order. The definition of the term "Service members" as used in this Order is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces to include members of the National Guard or Reserve Component. The term "DOD civilians" includes DOD employees and contingency contractor personnel.

1. STATEMENT OF MILITARY PURPOSE AND NECESSITY: Current operations and deployments place Service members and DOD civilians in USCENTCOM AOR countries whose local laws and customs may prohibit or restrict various activities, which are generally permissible in Western societies. Adhering to restrictions upon such activities is essential to preserve United States and host-nation relations, ensure the success of combined operations between U.S. and friendly forces, and protect the health, safety, and welfare of members of the U.S. and friendly forces. In addition, the high operational tempo combined with often-hazardous duty faced by Service members and DOD civilians in the region makes it prudent to restrict certain activities in order to maintain good order and discipline and ensure optimal force readiness.

* This General Order supersedes General Order Number 1B, dated 13 March 2006 (see Paragraph 7)

GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 1C (GO-1C)

2. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES:

a. Alcohol.

(1) This Order prohibits the actual or attempted importation, introduction, exportation, possession, purchase, sale, resale, distribution, transfer, manufacture, or consumption of any alcoholic beverage or alcohol-containing substance within the countries of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq. The terms "alcoholic beverage" or "alcohol-containing substance" are defined as items containing more than .5% alcohol by volume; however, this Order prohibits beverages or substances non-commercially distilled, fermented, or otherwise manufactured producing any alcohol content. Alcoholic beverages do not include near beer or non-alcoholic sparkling wine offered at dining facilities; Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) facilities; or sold at exchange activities (Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES), Navy Exchange (NEX), or Marine Corps Exchange (MCX)). Items with alcohol content such as over-the-counter medications, hand sanitizers, and oral products (mouthwash, Carmex, Orajel, etc.) are exempt from this prohibition, providing these items are not used as intoxicants.

(2) The following are exceptions to the prohibitions of paragraph 2(a)(1):

(a) As an exceptional matter to recognize special holidays, occasions, or events, the Commander, U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, within the Combined Joint Operations Area Afghanistan (CJOA), has non-delegable authority to grant written, event-specific, waivers to paragraph 2(a)(1), for personnel subject to this Order. The Commander, International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), within the CJOA, has non-delegable authority to grant waivers to paragraph 2(a)(1), for U.S. Service members and DOD civilians assigned to purely North American Treaty Organization billets (i.e., Headquarters, ISAF).

(b) SCO Chiefs in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Iraq only, in coordination and with the concurrence of the Chief of Mission, have non-delegable authority to issue directives authorizing personnel assigned to the SCO to possess and consume alcoholic beverages. These SCO Chiefs will forward such directives to the USCENTCOM, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate (CCJA). These SCO Chiefs also have non-delegable authority to grant written, event-specific, waivers to paragraph 2(a)(1), in advance, for service members and DOD civilians subject to this Order to consume alcoholic beverages for official SCO events, or as official guests in the homes of Security Assistance Personnel, U.S. Embassy personnel, or host-nation officials.

(c) Exchange activities may import, introduce, export, possess, sell, and transfer alcoholic beverages only to Department of State (DOS) personnel and DOS contractors in Iraq at the following locations where The Exchange operates retail activities: the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad (Chancery compound), Basrah, and Sather. The Exchange will ensure proper use, storage, and control of alcoholic beverages possessed under this exception. This exception does not authorize The Exchange personnel or contractors to consume alcoholic beverages, nor does it authorize the introduction, possession, sale, resale, distribution, or transfer of alcohol to personnel not authorized to possess or consume alcohol.

GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 1C (GO-1C)

(d) Subject to the written approval of senior U.S. Military commanders upon consideration of host-nation laws and customs, Military Chaplains may obtain, possess, and securely store alcohol, such as wine, obtained through official military supply channels, and use such alcohol during recognized religious services in which alcohol is a necessary component of the religious service. Service members and DOD civilians subject to this Order may consume alcohol only when participating in religious services where alcohol is a necessary component of the religious service, provided a Military Chaplain directly performs, authorizes, and supervises any alcohol consumption. This Order prohibits the introduction, possession, sale, resale, distribution, transfer, or consumption of alcohol used in religious services to otherwise unauthorized personnel.

(3) Regardless of any exception listed in paragraph 2(a)(2)(a-d), or any properly authorized temporary waiver to paragraph 2(a)(1), and in all other USCENTCOM countries, all Service members and DOD civilians will conform to their respective Service or organizational component leadership restrictions on alcohol, and maintain appropriate behavior by respecting host-nation laws and customs. To maintain good order and discipline, ensure optimal force readiness, and protect U.S. and friendly forces in all locations where this Order does not prohibit alcohol or where I have granted an exception, I direct all officials, commanders, and senior leaders to exercise discretion and good judgment in promulgating and enforcing appropriate guidelines and restrictions, and specifically ensure all personnel subject to this Order receive express guidance on the appropriate and responsible alcohol or alcoholic beverage use and limits. Guidelines should recognize that in some countries alcohol consumption may be legal within certain facilities (e.g., hotels) but that persons, upon any consumption of alcohol, may be presumed under host-nation laws to be under the influence upon leaving the facility or upon operating a motor vehicle (e.g., Qatar, United Arab Emirates). Officials, commanders, and senior leaders should regularly review alcohol consumption guidelines and restrictions to ensure the policies are commensurate with current or reasonably foreseeable operations, threats, and host-nation laws.

(4) Any listed exceptions or subsequent waivers to paragraph 2(a)(1) do not authorize the importation, introduction, exportation, possession, purchase, sale, resale, distribution, transfer, manufacture, or consumption of alcohol by personnel not expressly authorized by the exception or waiver. Personnel subject to this Order who may be unclear if a listed exception or waiver applies to them should seek express authorization in advance from their leadership, and not presume an exception or waiver applies.

b. **Controlled Substances and Drug Paraphernalia.** This Order prohibits the actual or attempted importation, introduction, exportation, possession, purchase, sale, resale, distribution, transfer, manufacture, use, or consumption of any controlled substances. This Order further prohibits the use of any chemical, product, or substance with the purpose or intent of obtaining an altered state of mind (e.g., psychoactive changes in perception, mood, cognition, behavior, decreased motor function, loss of concentration, and impaired short-term memory), an unnatural feeling of euphoria, or stupefaction of the central nervous system, including, but not limited to, substances known as or similar to: synthetic cannabis or synthetic cannabinoids (Spice), substituted cathinones (bath salts or Khat), Phenethylamine (Smiles or 2C-drug family), Salvia Divinorum, Mitragyna Speciosa, Korth, Armanita Muscaria mushrooms, Nymphaea Caerulea, Convolvulaceae Argyreia Nervosa, Lysergic Acid Amide, Datura, 5-Methoxy-dimethyltryptamine,

GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 1C (GO-1C)

nitrous oxide, misused over-the-counter medication, paint products, glue, canned air, or other similar items.

(1) This Order prohibits the importation, introduction, export, possession, purchase, use, sale, resale, distribution, transfer, or manufacture of drug paraphernalia (*see definition*, 21 U.S.C. §863). Personnel subject to this Order may purchase and possess souvenir items from Exchange activities or MWR outlets (i.e., on-post bazaars) such as hookah pipes, but such pipes are only for smoking tobacco products.

(2) This controlled substances and drug paraphernalia provision does not include lawfully prescribed controlled substances, medications, or medical devices, provided such substances, medications, or medical devices are used in a manner consistent with their intended medical purpose and the prescribing physician's instructions. The original prescription label must accompany all prescribed medication, especially when traveling, identifying the prescribing medical facility or authority. Additionally, the prohibitions of paragraph 2(b) do not apply to tobacco products, caffeine, or sugar, nor traditional bath or Epsom salt products.

(3) Service members and DOD civilians are subject to probable cause, competence for duty, limited inspection, and limited drug testing when a Commander, in consultation with their supporting Judge Advocate, determines a violation of paragraph 2(a) or (b) or when probable cause exists to warrant an inspection or test.

c. Currency. This Order prohibits the selling, bartering, or exchanging of any currency other than at the official host-nation exchange rate.

d. Firearms. This Order prohibits the importation, introduction, exportation, possession, purchase, sale, resale, transfer, manufacture, or use of privately owned firearms, ammunition, or explosives. This prohibition encompasses items acquired by means other than through official military issue. This Order permits the purchase of souvenir or antique firearms (as defined in 18 U.S.C. §921(a)(16)), determined on the purchase date) obtained at Exchange activities or MWR outlets (i.e., on-post bazaars), but these firearms cannot be fired or used in theater; removing these items from theater is subject to applicable U.S. Customs and Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms laws and regulations.

e. Gambling. This Order prohibits gambling of any kind, including sports pools, lotteries, and raffles, unless permitted by applicable service regulations and host-nation laws. MWR sponsored card games and other games of chance are permissible subject to the Joint Ethics Regulation (JER) and service regulations.

f. National Treasures. This Order prohibits removing, possessing, selling, defacing, destroying, or defiling archeological artifacts or national treasures. The term, "defiling" includes actions that are indecent, reproachful, or detract from the significance, status, or position of a national treasure.

g. Pets. This Order prohibits adopting as pets or mascots of any kind, caring for, or feeding any type of domestic or wild animal due to elevated zoonotic disease risk (e.g., rabies) in many USCENTCOM AOR countries. This prohibition does not apply in those USCENTCOM AOR

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countries where Service members and DOD civilians live off military installations and the Component Commander, Joint Task Force Commander, or Unit Chief issues a written policy permitting domestic pets, providing all personnel comply with the local command policy.

h. Photography and Videotaping.

(1) Except as authorized for official use and purposes described below, this Order prohibits the taking, making, possession, reproduction, or transfer (to include uploading) of photographs, videos, depictions, and audio-visual recordings of the following:

(a) detainees or former detainees; detention facilities; active combat operations (e.g., firefights); flight-line operations or equipment, subject to written, local exceptions; improvised explosive devices or damage resulting from an improvised explosive device; casualty transfers; damaged or destroyed ISAF, coalition, or U.S. equipment; or battle damage;

(b) human casualties, defined as deceased, wounded, or injured human beings, to include separated body parts, organs, and biological material, resulting from either combat or noncombat activities; however, this Order does not prohibit taking or possessing photographs of wounded personnel while in a medical facility and during periods of recovery, only with the patient's express consent;

(c) the interior, underside, or the ballistic hull showing any armor design, or disclosure of the tactics, techniques, and procedures of a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle or associated equipment; any classified or cryptographic communications equipment; electronic countermeasure (jamming) equipment; any vehicle or aircraft performance testing results; and any depiction violating or disclosing operational security measures (such as position access points, gates, guard towers or locations, checkpoints, or any other security measures); or,

(d) any photographic or video image, depiction, or audio-visual recording, however obtained, the nature, substance, or release of which, under the circumstances, is prejudicial to good order and discipline or brings discredit to the service. Personnel subject to this Order will consult their supervisory chain of command with questions concerning paragraph 2(h) before potentially engaging in any prohibited conduct.

(2) Subject to paragraph 2(h)(1)(d), the prohibitions listed in paragraph 2(h)(1)(a-c) do not apply to the possession of photographic or video images acquired solely from open media sources (e.g., possessing print or online images from recognized magazines and newspapers); possession of open media sources images are subject to applicable copyright protections or notices. This Order does not prohibit possession and distribution of open media source images if required for official duties (e.g., official briefings, investigations, or Public Affairs personnel).

(3) Official use and purposes for taking photographs or videos include:

(a) evidence collection in preparation for prosecution;

(b) military intelligence purposes;

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(c) tactical site exploitation;

(d) medical treatment;

(e) photographing or videotaping directed by commanders, Detention Facility Officers-In-Charge, Military Police, or medical personnel in order to document and protect USCENTCOM and Coalition Forces personnel against false allegations of detainee abuse;

(f) properly appointed administrative or claims investigations or inquiries;

(g) criminal investigations; or

(h) other official purposes specifically relating to operational requirements (e.g., command briefings, Combat Camera).

(4) Official photographs, videos, depictions, and audio-visual recordings are those obtained on government and non-government equipment for official uses and purposes. Unofficial photographs, depictions, and audio-visual recordings are those obtained for personal use or purposes.

(5) Before using non-government equipment for official photographs, videos, depictions, and audio-visual recordings, individuals must obtain the non-delegable approval from a commander in the grade of O-5 or higher.

i. Pornography. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Order, and in keeping with the customs of the countries within the USCENTCOM AOR, this Order prohibits the actual or attempted importation, introduction, exportation, possession, purchase, sale, resale, distribution, transfer, manufacture, use, or display of any pornographic or sexually explicit picture, photograph, video, streaming media, film, DVD, movie, audio recording, drawing, book, magazine, digital or computer image made by any means, visual depiction, or anime containing such images or similar representations (collectively, images).

(1) For purposes of this order, "pornographic" and "sexually explicit" mean any images, the theme of which is the graphic, obscene, lascivious, or lustful depiction or portrayal of sexual organs, a woman's breast or breasts, and includes sexual intercourse, sodomy, or sexual excretory activities.

(2) The prohibitions contained in subparagraph 2(i) shall not apply to Armed Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS) broadcasts or commercial picture, photograph, video, streaming media, film, DVD, movie, audio recording, drawing, book, magazine, or other media sold, distributed, or displayed through Exchange activities, or MWR outlets (i.e., Red Cross or on-post bazaars) located within the USCENTCOM AOR, or to the same material purchased or obtained through other comparable commercial outlets (e.g., iTunes, Netflix, but not pornographic outlets).

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(3) The prohibitions of paragraph 2(i) shall not apply within those areas exclusively under the jurisdiction of the United States, such as aboard U.S. Government vessels and aircraft, which shall remain subject to service regulations.

j. **Property.** This Order prohibits taking or retaining public or private property belonging to an enemy or former enemy, except, private or public property may be seized or temporarily retained during operations only on order of a Commander when based on military necessity. Private property will be collected, inventoried, processed, secured, and stored for later return to the lawful owner. Contraband property or public property lawfully seized by Service members or certified Law Enforcement personnel is the property of the United States. At the time of this Order's publication, no military operation or exercise allows the United States to seize public property permanently.

(a) This Order permits the receipt and importation of foreign gifts by individuals or units to the United States or overseas U.S. military installations, provided receipt of such gifts is in accordance with U.S. and applicable international laws; the JER; CCR 27-3, Gifts from Foreign Governments; and applicable service regulations.

(b) This Order permits the lawful acquisition of tourist souvenirs if such items can legally be imported into the United States or overseas U.S. military installations in accordance with U.S. or international laws.

(c) The restrictions in paragraph 2(j) do not apply to private property seized during counter piracy operations and held as evidence for possible criminal proceedings or law enforcement investigation.

k. Religious Matters.

(1) This Order prohibits entrance into a mosque or other site of Islamic religious significance by non-Muslims, unless directed to do so by military authorities, required by military necessity, or as part of an official tour conducted with the nondelegable approval of a commander in the grade of O-6 or higher and the host-nation. This prohibition does not apply to Service members and DOD civilians, their families, or official visitors of the Office of Military Cooperation in Egypt when visits to mosques or other sites of Islamic religious significance in Egypt are tourist sites, open to non-Muslims, and approved for visitation in advance by the Chief, Military Cooperation, Egypt. Commanders may further restrict this provision when warranted by the local security situation.

(2) This Order prohibits creating or reproducing an image or likeness of the Prophet Muhammad.

(3) This Order prohibits intentionally desecrating or defiling the following:

(a) religious items or symbols (regardless of the religion);

(b) religious holy books, such as the Qur'an, Bible, or Torah;

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(c) any religious shrine or place of worship (such as a church or mosque);

(d) national flags containing religious notations (such as the Afghanistan, Saudi, and Iraqi national flags);

(e) any historical or cultural artifact, relic, or location.

(f) The term, "desecrating" includes divesting or diverting from a sacred to a profane use or purpose by blasphemous, sacrilegious, irreverent, contemptuous, or disrespectful action. The term "defiling" includes actions or words that are abusive, cruel, indecent, reproachful, or detract from the significance, status, or position of a person or property.

(4) This Order prohibits proselytizing of any religion, faith, or practice to local nationals or third country nationals in countries in the USCENTCOM AOR. This rule does not prohibit Chaplains from performing their official religious duties.

(5) Internment of deceased Muslim will be done in accordance with Muslim religious practice and customs. This Order prohibits burning or cremating Muslim remains under any circumstances.

1. **Violations of Host-nation Laws.** This Order charges all personnel subject to this Order with the responsibility to become familiar with and respect the laws, regulations, and customs of their host-nation insofar as the host-nation laws, regulations, and customs do not interfere with the execution of official duties. Violations of host-nation laws, regulations, and customs may be punishable under applicable U.S. criminal statutes or U.S. military administrative regulations.

3. **PUNITIVE ORDER:** Paragraph 2 of this General Order is punitive. Persons violating this Order are subject to appropriate administrative, non-judicial, or judicial action. DOD civilians may also face criminal prosecution or adverse administrative action for violation of this Order. The intent of this Order is not to preempt already enumerated UCMJ offenses. If a court or higher authority supersedes or determines a provision within this Order is legally unenforceable or insufficient, the unaffected portions of this Order will remain enforceable.

4. **INDIVIDUAL DUTY:** Personnel subject to this Order have the individual responsibility to know and understand the prohibitions contained herein.

5. **LEADER RESPONSIBILITY:** This Order charges all commanders, SCO Chiefs, senior leaders, and military and DOD civilian supervisors to brief ALL PERSONNEL on the prohibitions and requirements of this Order. Commanders and SCO Chiefs may further supplement and restrict the conduct of their forces and personnel concerning matters set forth in this Order; however, the CCJA will receive a copy of such restrictions upon publication.

6. **CONFISCATION OF OFFENDING ARTICLES:** Items determined to violate this Order may be considered contraband by command or law enforcement authorities if found in the USCENTCOM AOR. Before destroying any contraband, commanders or law enforcement personnel will coordinate with their servicing Judge Advocate. Military Customs officials and


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other pre-clearance officials will enforce this Order in their inspections of personnel before departure from the AOR.

7. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** This Order is effective immediately. This Order rescinds GO-1B, dated 13 March 2006, all waivers granted pursuant to GO-1B, and any other order, directive, or policy conflicting with this Order.

8. **EXPIRATION:** This Order will expire when rescinded by the Commander, USCENTCOM, or higher authority.

9. **WAIVER AUTHORITY:** I grant non-delegable authority to waive or modify the prohibitions of Paragraph 2 of this Order only to the USCENTCOM Deputy Commander, and the USCENTCOM Chief of Staff.



LLOYD J. AUSTIN III
General, U.S. Army

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Ramadan 2014

Do's and Don'ts

- **Do not** offer anybody partaking in Ramadan food or drink (including water) between SR and SS
- **Do not** eat or drink in front of fasting persons
- **Do not** smoke in front of fasting persons
- **Do** be patient with partakers, they will be agitated due to the fast

Prayer Schedule

- First prayer starts between **0330 and 0350**
- Second prayer starts between **1210 and 1215**
- Third prayer starts between **1550 and 1555**
- Fourth prayer starts **1905 and 1920**
- Fifth prayer starts between **2035 and 2100**

Night of power (when the first verses of the Quran were received), occurs on an odd number night during the last ten days of ramadan (19th, 21st and so on, no specific night is set)

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