



~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

JAN 24 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY
AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: ~~(S//NF)~~ Department of Defense Support to UAE Shabwah Offensive in Yemen

~~(S//NF)~~ This memorandum requests and recommends the President's approval of the attached DoD operational proposal to support a ~~(b) (1) (A)~~ for the United Arab Emirates' (UAE's) planned offensive to clear al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) from Shabwah Governorate, Yemen. It also requests that ~~(b) (1) (A), (b) (5)~~

~~(b) (1) (A), (b) (5)~~ Please provide my recommendation to the President and request his approval of the proposal.

~~(S)~~ The recommended U.S. assistance to the UAE operation would further the President's policy to disrupt and degrade AQAP's external operations capability and would also strengthen our counterterrorism partnership with a significant regional power. The UAE has proven a reliable and capable partner but lacks the proficiency and capabilities in the areas of support requested. DoD assesses that it can support the UAE's request for U.S. military support with minimal impact on ongoing U.S. operations, including Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. I assess that the force protection risks for U.S. personnel are within acceptable levels.

~~(S//NF)~~ Key elements of DoD's recommended support to the UAE include:

~~(b) (1) 1.4(a) (b) (c) (d), (b) (5)~~

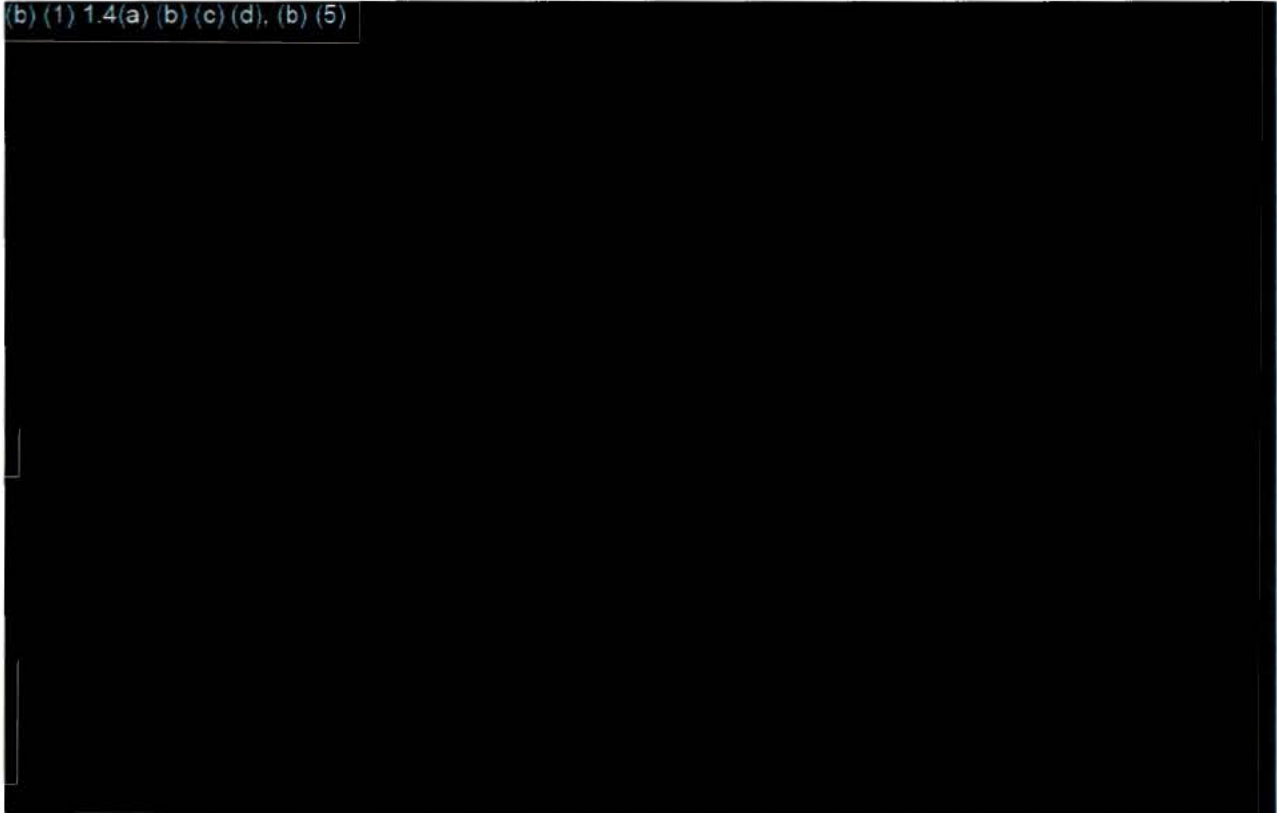
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(b) (1) 1.4(a) (b) (c) (d), (b) (5)



~~(S//NF)~~ Specifically, I request the President's approval for the following to support the planned UAE offensive in Shabwah, Yemen:

(b) (1) 1.4(a) (b) (c) (d), (b) (5)



(b) (1) 1.4(a) (b) (c) (d), (b) (5)



(U) Thank you for your assistance in presenting this request to the President.

REQUEST URGENT APPROVAL DUE TO OPTIMUM
CONDITIONS FOR IMMEDIATE COMMENCEMENT.

v/n
J. Mattis

Attachment:

1. (~~S//NF~~) DoD Concept of Operations for Supporting the UAE Shabwah Offensive