

From:

[Redacted]

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Sent:

Thursday, October 1, 2015 5:29 PM

To:

Counter Boko Haram Coordination DL Group
<CounterBokoHaramCoordinationDLGroup@state.gov>

Cc:

[Redacted]

Subject:

C-BH 30 Sept SVTC readout

Attach:

15-9-30 Counter Boko Haram SVTC Readout.docx

RELEASE IN PART B6, B7F

All,

The readout from Wednesday's counter Boko Haram SVTC is attached.

As you saw, we'll be changing up the format of the SVTC next week. I will send out a request for agenda items as usual, but please do send me themes that you would like to include for the next week as soon as you can so that we can plan the agenda.

Best,

[Redacted]

Bureau of African Affairs

U.S. Department of State

Temporary Phone Number:

[Redacted]

SBU

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RELEASE IN PART B5SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED**Counter Boko Haram SVTC Readout**

September 30, 2015

0800 – 0900

Introduction from Senior Coordinator on Boko Haram

- **Amb. Mozena Trip Readout**
 - Thanks to control officers and teams for putting together and supporting great visits to AFRICOM, Nigeria and Cameroon
 - AFRICOM
 - Highlight of visit was meeting with General Rodriguez, DCME, DCMO, and many others
 - General Rodriguez reiterated that we need to have realistic expectations of what Buhari can do
 - Police and civil administration are unlikely to be able to fill in behind military in Nigeria at this point
 - Fight against BH is Africa's battle – America is not taking over
 - 3 lanes of SOCAF engagement with African partners
 - Intel Sharing
 - CT/COIN strategies
 - Institution building especially civ/mil and MIST
 - Abuja
 - Impressed by quality of most of the Sr. Military Staff, especially the Chief of Army Staff, Chief of Air force, Chief of Defense Intelligence
 - Explored expanding engagement
 - Laying the groundwork for General Rodriguez's trip
 - Police and NEMA were less encouraging
 - Inspector General of Police discounted the idea that there is not manpower for police, stating that he has 4,000 people available
 - Cameroon
 - Trip to Maroua and Garoua was a success
 - Shift in BH tactics, becoming more unpredictable, undercutting agriculture and livestock production, setting stage for a humanitarian disaster
 - Minister of Defense and MNJTF Sector 1 commander (Cameroonian) did not have the same view on troops whom the Sector commander is to lead. The commander made clear that his MNJTF-associated force is all Cameroonian; the MinDef said the force is made up of Cameroonians, Chadians and Nigeriens. The take-away is that MNJTF has a lot of work yet to do in becoming operational.
- **P3 demarche sent Wednesday**
 - Mostly about supporting MNJTF and where we see the MNJTF going
 - Push for AU-LCBC MOU on MNJTF
 - Scaling up P3 support to MNJTF
 - Support idea of Nigeria hosting a regional meeting on MNJTF
- **UNGA**
 - Nigeria joining C-ISIL coalition
 - Buhari's speech talked about Boko Haram, among other topics
 - A/S LTG will be hosting a P3 and AU meeting on C-BH/MNJTF on Wednesday

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Updates from Emb Abuja

- Working on plan to train Battalions
- Working on plan for assessment on ISR
- Nigeria is looking to get Super Tucanos through FMS
- ISR platforms on fixed wing aircraft in next 3 months
- Leahy/Remediation
 - AF Vetting officer can start looking at the Battalions that will be trained early on to make sure there are no red flags
 - Everyone is on board with the idea of remediation
 - Reminder that remediation has only occurred 5 times in the world so that bar is high
 - Trying to identify some cases to do fairly easily as well as important cases that may present more challenges
 - There isn't a total restriction on the 7th division as a whole
 - There are sub-units within the 7th division that are approved under Leahy and every unit will be reviewed on a case by case basis
 - The 7th division is assigned to the northeast and we will have to find a way to work with them in the context of counter Boko Haram

Updates from Emb N'Djamena

- Embassy is under authorized departure since September 11
 - Processing M clearance for any visitors
 - Still very limited TDY
- MNJTF Update
 - Ambassador put out a cable with the latest on the MNJTF
 - Had a meeting with Deputy commander General Nka (Cameroon) who mentioned his frustration with the delivery of communications equipment
 - He said there are other countries in the region that have airlift capacity
 - General Abbah is traveling – not sure when he will be back
 - The two MNJTF locations are close to each other
 - Interim facility
 - Facility to house Benin contingent
 - From AU: Might be quicker to purchase 5 man portable satellite systems for the MNJTF HQ to satisfy the urgent request to allow commander to communicate with sectors

Updates from Emb Yaoundé



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Updates from Emb Niamey

- One attack last week in Diffa where 10 BH members came across the river on horseback and looted for supplies and food / killed civilians

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- Shift in tactics
- A bit of frustration from population to security forces for not protecting against this kind of attack
- OTI has conducted a study on recruitment that is being translated and will be released soon
- Cessna training is still ongoing
 - Begun preparation for handover ceremony on 21 October
 - Niger will wait till military training is complete in November to move them

Updates from Emb Cotonou – did not participate

- ACOTA training of MNJTF contingent scheduled for 5 October
- Still on track to provide 750 troops to MNJTF

MNJTF/AU Discussion (USAU)

- General Rodriguez and DASD Dory were at AU and met with Sr. Leadership
 - Continued support for movement of equipment
- Kevin Warthon will be working with the AU on which equipment they want moved to N'Djamena because they also want some equipment moved to Addis, which we can't do under the drawdown
- The AU-LCBC MOU is to be signed on 16 October in N'Djamena
- AU is in contact with MNTJF and will be responsible for coordinating requests
 - Developing a matrix to identify gaps and deconflict requests
- EU liaison informed that they have received a request from the AU to support 70 staff officers including per diem, and additional civilian and local salaries
- UK also providing support (maybe for construction of MNJTF HQ)
- Believe that U.S. may have received request for advisors because of the heavy support other partners are already providing/will be providing in other areas

USAID

- USAID West Africa attended CVE conference. Main takeaways:
 - How do we balance regional approaches versus bilateral efforts: The group concluded that CVE in West Africa has to use a regional approach because the layers of ethnicity, history, illicit trade routes and violent extremist organizations (VEOs) are transboundary in nature. However, this is in juxtaposition to the issues that CVE programming has to take into account the localized community-based grievances that VEOs leverage
 - Threats are opportunities: The participants identified many threats (fluid environments, youth are vulnerable, weak government structures) but these same threats were also opportunities that programming can take address.
 - Successes: Despite the CVE programming challenges/threats, CVE programming has found some successes such as radio programming that creates inclusion among ethnic groups, positive messaging (stressing tolerance, pluralism, etc.) is more effective than counter-messaging, working with community leaders is critical, and that CVE programming needs to be based on persistent engagement.
 - Reintegration: CVE reintegration efforts need to occur sooner than later in many of the West African states.
- USAID was requested to put these findings in a front channel cable.

OSD Updates

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- Thinking through what excess equipment can be provided to MNJTF through drawdown
 - Working on providing more specifics to DSCA
- Believe that AU equipment that is airlifted from Bangui to N'Djamena will need to be relinquished to the partners since drawdown support is provided on a bilateral basis vs. to the AU or MNJTF

AFRICOM Updates

- P3 partners are working closely through the CCL
- General Abbah has said that he will deliver equipment assessment – so we are waiting for this
- Concern that only ¼ of the AU equipment in Bangui may be operable – need to check it
 - AU has said that it wants to move the equipment and then evaluate it
 - Reminder that security situation in Bangui may pose challenges for evaluating equipment in Bangui
- General Abbah has said he wants P3 liaisons not P3 embeds
 - Need to work this out with AU
 - All AU requests for planners/advisors have been unilateral to the U.S. – need to coordinate with P3 on this (see comment above from USAU on other requests to P3/EU)
 - USAU: requests for operations and logistics planners are just TDY personnel

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