

STATEMENT OF

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BEFORE THE READINESS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE  
HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

ON

AUGMENTING THE FORCE

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Good morning Chairman Ortiz, Congresswoman Davis and honorable members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss US Central Command's "In-Lieu-of" personnel with you today. It is my understanding that you are interested in how these units have been performing in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa.

Overall, USCENTCOM is extremely satisfied with the forces that have been identified for In-Lieu-of sourcing. Not only do these units greatly assist in force flow gap mitigation, but In-Lieu-of units have demonstrated an exceptional level of professionalism while providing capabilities that are often in very short supply in the Army. Additionally, In-Lieu-of US Army Reserve and Army National Guard personnel bring additional knowledge and skill sets to the fight based on experiences in their civilian careers.

The bottom line hurdle for USCENTCOM to employ these In-Lieu-of units and personnel is that they must be manned, equipped, trained and certified prior to deployment to perform the mission at hand. Thus far, this requirement has been met with few challenges.

As trained and ready units strive to meet mission requirements, the lack of experience level for the specific mission does degrade their ability to perform the mission. Although, the available training time provides the necessary training, the new or different missions they ultimately perform requires time for the unit to mature. In-Lieu-of sourcing puts additional strain on the pre deployment training process since units have a new mission set to train for. The new mission set training requires additional time and resources to adequately prepare a unit for re-missioning. In the event that sailors and airmen are not fully trained once they arrive on station, USCENTCOM components work with the personnel to bring them up to current

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requirements and familiarize them with local Standard Operational Procedures. All In-Lieu-of units have been receptive to additional training and specifically to training in areas that they feel that they are weak in such as detainee operations and non-lethal weapons. In-Lieu-of units also need additional training on some weapons platforms they will fight with, specifically: Blue Force Tracker, communications equipment and employment of Electronic Counter Measures equipment. Overall, USCENTCOM has been successful in refining the skills of In-Lieu-Of personnel to meet our requirements.

USCENTCOM components provide feedback to Joint Force Providers through the Unit Requirement Form Change process. Recommended USCENTCOM component changes in capabilities, mission and training are forwarded through USCENTCOM for vetting and endorsement at Joint Forces Command and adjudicated by the Joint Staff by exception for current and future rotations.

Challenges:

Challenges that USCENTCOM has to overcome include working through rotation of forces and Joint Force Provider training timelines and standards.

The Air Force and Navy also have varying rotational time frames which creates a challenge when tracking rotation days for the enduring requirement; some units come in at exactly 6 months and others are between 4 to 7 months.

In some instances Mixed-Composition units and Reserve Component units have reported to their mobilization center with less than the required number of personnel and with training shortfalls which is a Joint Force Provider challenge for oversight, which ultimately becomes USCENTCOM's risk to mitigate when requirements are not met due to a delay in force flow.

It would be helpful for training of In-Lieu-Of units to be standardized prior to arrival in theater to prepare them for the range of missions faced when performing operations. In some cases, Joint Force Provider

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interpretation of mission requirements due to a difference between cultures and philosophies may limit the scope of the mission and the capabilities of the In-Lieu-of.

In closing, the bottom line for USCENTCOM is that In-Lieu-of units must be manned, equipped, trained and certified prior to deployment to perform the mission at hand. Thank you again for this opportunity to speak with you and I look forward to answering your questions.

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