

(b)(6)

From: Lapan, David COL OSD PA
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2010 1:49 PM
To: (b)(6) COL MIL USA USCENCOM CCCI/PA
Cc: James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Embeds

Roger all, thanks. I'd just add that while we were pretty tight on embeds in OIF because of the nature of how that developed, once the media focus shifted back to Afghanistan, I don't think we paid as much attention to the structure and processes for OEF -- complicated, as you note, by the NATO/coalition element. Doing that now will be helpful.

r/DAL

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) COL MIL USA USCENCOM CCCI/PA
 [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2010 12:37 PM
To: Lapan, David COL OSD PA
Cc: James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; (b)(6)
 (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Embeds

Dave--
 We'll take this on. Specifically our goal is to determine/define the appropriate processes for disembedding journalists, to include the appeals process, in the CENTCOM Theater. The processes will be different for OEF and New Dawn because of the forces involved. Afghanistan has a coalition, and Iraq does not.

Our POC to oversee this is (b)(6) cc'd. He will also be the go-to person for the latest disembed from OEF.

As for the history, without trying to research supporting documentation from 7 years ago, I believe we have always delegated embed control to the senior headquarters on the ground. This was easy for OEF...there were fewer journalists because the fight in OEF was overshadowed by the fight in OIF.

CENTOM oversaw a huge embed program for the start of OIF. When MNF-I was established in Baghdad, we delegated oversight and the media accreditation processes to MNF-I to run from Baghdad.

All this said, I think we might see embedding and accreditation (if it

continues for any reason) for Iraq eventually creep back to CENTCOM as our forces there continue to reduce in number.

Vr/ (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Lapan, David COL OSD PA (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2010 9:37 AM
To: (b)(6) COL MIL USA USCENTCOM CCCI/PA
Cc: James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA
Subject: RE: Embeds

(b)(6): Not to dump this on you since it happened before you got there, but the major disconnect seems to be that after OSD-PA delegated authority and responsibility for the embed program to CENTCOM in late 2003, that either by decree or over time that responsibility devolved down to the theater commands. You might start by trying to determine if CENTCOM desired or directed that change or if it happened on its own over time. When there were few instances of reporters being dis-embedded, and few challenges after they were, this issue probably remained submerged. However, in light of recent events, it's a good time to review what and how we got to where we are today and for CENTCOM to decide if the process should remain decentralized as it appears to be now. In addition, even if there is a decision to leave responsibility at the theater level, there should be some discussion of codifying the procedures for dis-embedding and appeal. In my view, consistent with the initial OSD PAG on media embeds, some sort of appeal process is necessary. We just need to lay out the rules and procedures.

r/Dave

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) COL MIL USA USCENTCOM CCCI/PA
[mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2010 9:27 AM
To: Lapan, David COL OSD PA
Cc: James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA
Subject: RE: Embeds

Yep...that's my fear too. I think we need to have a review of our last disembed and the numerous appeals that resulted. The last case required weigh-ins from NATO, OSD, CENTCOM and ISAF.

Where's the best place to start? Think we'll need a good review of what

happened last time, with a recommended standard for doing these, in order to get in front.

-----Original Message-----

From: Lapan, David COL OSD PA (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2010 8:19 AM
To: (b)(6) COL MIL USA USCENTCOM CCCI/PA
Cc: James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA
Subject: Embeds

(b)(6): Per your remarks on the call this morning, and the new "disembed" actions, we probably need to have a broader discussion about this issue. The confusion is going to bite us in the butt.

r/Dave

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