

DET 2.0 CENTCOM Public Affairs Engagement within the AOR's Emerging Media

Mission (U)







Function (U)

- (U) DET serves as a means to:
 - Counter factual mis/disinformation on US policy and operations in the AOR
 - Challenge assumptions on US motives
 - Inform audiences of important news and facts missing from media coverage
- Current capabilities
 - 4 Arabic Linguists
 - 1 Farsi Linguist





Function (U)

- (U) Main sites engaged:
 - Aljazeera.net
 - Alarabiya.net
 - Aljazeeratalk.net
 - Elaph.com
 - Moheet.com
 - Iranclubs.org
- Social media
 - Arabic Facebook page launched





DET 2.0 Launch (April 2009) (U)

•(U) New Methodology

- -Focus on sites with significant influence in the region
- -Engage in Conversations
 - -Cease repurposing of press releases/video, unless they are of real strategic value (e.g., Mando Zayi bombing)
 - -Reduce DET man hours spent doing translation/editing
 - -Monitor sites for news and discussion of CENTCOM operations/US policy in the region and engage to counter misinformation, add value to discussion

•(U) Research

- Benchmark study of sites of strategic value to CENTCOM (i.e., popular sites that discuss policy areas in which CENTCOM plays a significant role)
- -Review of languages most prevalent in the AOR's on line communities
- -Most popular blogs and news forums, as well as most influential bloggers and participants, with an eye toward biases and agendas.

•(U) Retooling the DET IAW research findings

- -Add media relations skills sets to the team
- -Resize DET IAW review results language demands within the AOR
- -Site visits to agencies for training (State Dept.'s DOT)
- –In House media training
- -Full integration with other CCPA functions and resources





•(U) Social Media Management Tools

- -"Dashboard" tools, Alerts, RSS minimize time spent searching for relevant posts
- -Social Media measurement tools benchmarks
- Ecosystem mapping
- -Measuring influence

•(U) Timeline

-5-15 APR 0 9	Orientation of DET on new ROE, CCPA integra	tion
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-5-15 APR 09 Initial site selection

-15 APR 09 Begin 2.0 ROE;

-Summer 09 Results of benchmark study

AOR social media review

-Fall 09 Resize DET makeup IAW benchmark results

-Fall 09 Implementation of Social Media Management tools





•(U) Issues and Topics

- -Relevant to USCENTCOM activities (operations, policies, engagement)
- -Policy issues
- -Avoid:
 - -Religious doctrine and other philosophical discussion (e.g., "what is terrorism?")
 - -Internal political matters
 - -Regional political figures by name
 - -Criticism of governments or political figures but feel free to engage policies themselves

•(U) Conduct

- -Always provide factual information and let facts speak for themselves
- Information is attributable to USCENTCOM/USGOV
- -Speak for USCENTCOM minimize personal opinions
- -Professional and courteous dialogue no insults or inflammatory language
- Collaboration all products/responses shared with fellow team members and supervisors before hitting send



Samples (U)

.moheet.com/show_news.aspx?nid=250021&pg=1#down

والخبراء يحذرون من ظهلور

طيور الجنة .. آخر هدايا المقاومة العراقية لأمريكا

إعلان أوباما عن الانسماب من العراق بأسرع وقت ممكن لم بأت فقط نتبجة وعوده الانتخابية أو تزايد خسائر القوات الأمريكية وإنما لأن أي دقيقة بعد الآن تحمل لواشنطن ما لا يحمد عقياه والمقصود هنا " طبور الحنا " ، ففي 26 الربل ، أعلنت مصادر تابعة للجيش العراقي عن ملاحقة عناصر خلية تقوم بتجنيد الأطفال والصبية العراقيين للقيام بهجمات ضد القوات الأمريكية والعراقية

احدى الحالات كغطاء لدفع سيارة

اسعاد العملات مواقيت المعلاة مشاركات القراء العالم بين يديك

Translation:

"It is very clear that what these groups are doing in Irag is targeting civilian population and religious events, doing their best to incite sectarian violence. They do not discriminate in choosing their victims, and have killed far more innocent Iragi civilians than US or Iragi security forces. This is an undeniable fact...

As for the US forces, while we are not perfect, we do not intentionally kill civilians, but do our best to protect them from these terrorists. We are in Iraq today under an agreement negotiated with a sovereign Iraqi government chosen by its people, not a foreign power. "

العبوات الناسفة على الطرق جاء على أساس أنهم أقل عرضة للاستهداف من قبل الجنود،غير أنه تم اكتشاف بعض عناصر الخلية الجديدة والتي اكتسبت اسمها من اعتقاد بعض المسلمين بأن الأطفال الذين يموتون

> ورغم أن التصريحات السابقة تحاول تأليب الرأى العام ضد الجماعات المسلحة لاستخدامها الأطفال في هجماتها ، إلا أن الوقائع على الأرض تثبت عكس ذلك

Moheet.com posting, 28 APR 09

UNCLASS/FOUO



Samples (U)

Translation:

"Central Command does not bear any grudges against Islam or Muslims, and does not work in any way to control the region's resources, or to dominate the region. Our mission simply focus on promoted cooperation among nations, responds to crises, and deters or defeats state and nonstate aggression, and supports development and, when necessary, reconstruction in order to establish the conditions for regional security, stability, and prosperity."



Aljazeera.net posting, 29 APR 09

عربية من بينها مصر و دول خليجية لمو أجهة "تهديدات" تتظيم القاعد

تفاعلات

خدمات الموفع



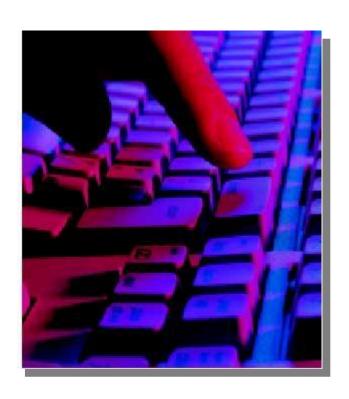
Issues and concerns (U)

•(U) Personnel

- Right mix of language/cultural expertise and PA/media relations competence
- -Right mix of languages for AOR internet audiences

•(U) Engagement vs. "broadcast"

- -Can't "fire and forget" must engage in conversation and stay engaged
- –More difficult to "stay in your lane"
- -Difficult to avoid being viewed as "trolls"
- -Difficult to avoid personal attacks/vitriol
 - -Nature of the medium
 - -Who we are
- —Issues not limited to current events historical perspective
- -"Working without a net"





Long Term Goals (U)

(U) What do we want to gain from this?

- -Greater penetration of our message
- Relationship building No longer viewed as "trolls" but respected as contributors of a different point of view
- –Messages valued as sincere even if not agreed with
- Less questioning of motives
- -Fewer accusations, more questions
- Less likely to accept conspiracy theories and misinformation

