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Dempsey: President Seeks Advice on Improving Iraq Mission

By Jim Garamone
DoD News, Defense Media Activity

President Barack Obama has asked the military for recommendations on how to make the effort to train and equip Iraqi security forces more effective, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said here today.

"What he's asked us to do is take a look at what we've learned over the last eight months in the train-and-equip program and make recommendations to him on whether there are capabilities that we may want to provide to the Iraqis to actually make them more capable," Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey said to reporters traveling with him.

"He's asked us to look at whether there are other locations where we might establish training sites," the general added. "He's asked us to take a look at how we might develop Iraq's leaders."

The president asked military leaders to examine where there has been success and where the effort "may have been moving at a pace that's late-to-need or where certain units have not stood and fought," Dempsey said.

Looking at Ways to Instill Confidence

The Joint Chiefs are looking at ways to instill confidence in Iraqi forces or other means to improve their training, the chairman said. They have made some recommendations, he said, but follow-on questions must first be answered, such as how recommendations would be implemented, what risks they might entail to the mission and the force, and trade-offs around the globe.

U.S. military capabilities are needed in other parts of the world, Dempsey

noted. U.S. forces are operating in Europe to reassure NATO allies in the face of Russian aggression in Ukraine, there are additional issues in the Persian Gulf region related to reassuring allies against Iranian threats, and U.S. forces still are needed in Afghanistan, he said.

In addition, the general said, "some of our Pacific allies are unsettled by Chinese reclamation projects, so we've got work to do with our allies there."

Necessary Troop Levels Undetermined

Whether more troops will be needed in Iraq remains to be seen, the chairman said. The process calls for the U.S. Central Command Commander Army Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III to determine how recommendations would be put in place, he explained.

"We try not to negotiate the resources before we negotiate the concept," Dempsey said. "Then we ask at some point is if he has the resources currently assigned." If the answer is no, then we look across the force to see where they can be generated.

"I haven't received from Centcom the assessment of resources required," he continued, "and that is appropriate, because I want to first understand that we have a concept that could actually improve capability."

The president specifically asked about enhancing the train-and-equip mission, Dempsey said. "It wasn't whether there are options that would imply the strategy is ineffective, it was, rather, 'Are there things we can do?'" he said. The military has two lines of effort against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in Iraq. One entails a combination of airstrikes and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets to support the Iraqi security forces. The other is to train and equip the Iraqi security forces to take the fight to ISIL.

New program prepares Airmen, families to bounce back after deployments

By Master Sgt. Christian Michael
Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center
Public Affairs

Air Force services recently added a new tool to encourage service members and their families who are affected by deployments to participate in morale, welfare, and recreation programs and activities. The "Recharge for Resiliency" (R4R) initiative was designed to help Airmen readjust to life at home and also include families in their reintegration.

"Not only does R4R create new opportunities for Airmen to spend time with families in a decompressed environment, but it also exposes them to numerous programs already available to them through the morale, welfare and recreation programs at Air Force installations," said Linda Weston, the special programs manager at Air Force Services Activity.

At Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Youth Programs



and Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston mobilization and deployment, R4R recently funded a campout with multiple military families, which offered families the chance to experience recreational camping in a group environment.

"Military families are looking to do things together as a family," said Jared Moore, the teen director at Lackland youth programs. "Camping is one of those activities that some families are not willing to do alone, so we provided an inexpensive family recreation environment that people are willing to participate in because other military families will be present."

With lots of positive feedback from the campout participants, Moore said that the R4R program was great for military families and had a lot of potential if given the chance to grow, especially given R4R's versatility and ability to connect people to a real decompression

For more on "families to bounce back" see page 2

Photo Perspective



Lajes recognizes its newest Technical Sergeant selectees at the Top of the Rock Club, June 9. There were 25 selectees from Lajes Field. (U.S. Air Force photo/Guido Melo)

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outlet.

"The advantage that the R4R program provides is it creates a nonthreatening environment where people can recharge themselves," Moore said. "I can only hope that people take advantage of the opportunities that are to come."

Still other units are using R4R for AFSVA's Golf Player Development program. Hurlburt Field, Florida; Dover Air Force Base, Delaware; Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska; Aviano Air Base, Italy; and Osan AB, South Korea, are just some of the bases scheduled to host this exciting new program. The Golf Player Development program consists of four, 1.5-hour clinics conducted with the assistance of former Ladies Professional Golf Association Tour professionals, who play alongside participants.

Because R4R uses existing programs, AFSVA is able to focus on making programs highly customizable to each location based on local resources, facilities and demographics. Also, to reduce impact on current programs and

workload, the initiative can be implemented as best suits each unit, ranging from ready-to-launch program schedules to custom events created on-site. "Services programs are critical parts of the Air Force readiness and retention equation," Weston said. "These programs contribute to readiness and productivity by promoting fitness, esprit de corps and quality of life. To support Airmen and the mission requires organizing, training and equipping properly to ensure success."

The \$1.5 million initiative is voluntary for units. Currently, 38 Air Force installations participate in R4R, and any remaining units interested in participating must execute funds allotted for their populations by Sept. 30. Air Force Reserve Command doesn't offer R4R, as it already operates the Yellow Ribbon Program for reservists en route to and from deployment. For more information on available R4R programs, contact the local base force support squadron.

Base Announcements

- Lajes Field Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate (DAVA) Services
- The Air Force Credentialing Opportunities Online (AF COOL) Program
- Base Honor Guard
- Eagle Eyes
- GTC Payment Options
- Expanded Influenza Vaccine Available
- New Housing Website

Changes to the 65th Medical Group

All members PCS'ing from Lajes Field with Privately Owned Vehicle (POV)

TMO Information

Civilian Personnel Newsletter

Non-Command Sponsored Dependents Memorandum

BAH Revalidation Required for All Airmen

65th Medical Group Closed for Training 2nd Tuesday of Each Month

MPS Career Development/Customer Service Closed Every Wednesday

[Click to read for more Base Announcements](#)

Community Events

- Airmen's Lunch Every Wednesday
- CS Change of Command 17 June
- SFS Change of Command 17 June

Click to read for more Community Events

Where can you find a listing of the hours of operations for various base services?

To find a list of the hours of operations for various base services visit www.lajes.af.mil and click on

BASE SERVICES
OPERATING HOURS

Commander's Action Line
65cc.actionline@us.af.mil



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