

**DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENCE FOR CENTRAL ASIA , DAVID SEDNEY
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN
AFFAIRS**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

Afghanistan and Pakistan: Resourcing the Civilian surge

Chairman, Members of the Committee; thank you for the opportunity to appear today with my interagency colleagues.

As you know, the President's strategic review of Afghanistan and Pakistan recommended a dramatic increase in U.S. and international civilian efforts in Afghanistan. Beyond our own analysis this conclusion was based on extensive consultation with our allies, partners, and friends, and particularly with the United Nations. The challenge is to ensure that we integrate this increased civilian effort with military efforts.

The Department of State, USAID, USDA and other civilian agencies are currently implementing a civilian increase of more than 400 personnel to be in place throughout Afghanistan by March 2010.

DoD is working closely with our interagency partners to ensure that civilians deploying into theater will be integrated into our military effort and have the military support they need. In February 2009, for instance, CENTCOM pledged to support additional civilians with security, lodging, work space, and mobility as may be required. DoD also is discussing with the State Department whether or not additional civilian personnel may be

Responsibility: USD(Policy)

May 19, 2009

required beyond those already identified. Should a need arise for more civilian experts, DoD stands ready to support our State Department colleagues as needed. We have the Civilian Expeditionary Workforce (CEW), for example, to quickly provide such civilian expertise.

In his May 11 memorandum, Secretary Gates directed USD (Personnel and Readiness) to “identify civilian employees capable of deploying to Afghanistan in support of U.S. government initiatives” The memorandum is intended only to identify personnel in anticipation of Department of State requests.

The Civilian Expeditionary Workforce personnel and former employees are pre-identified and can respond within 90 days to support DoD and State-led operations.

Planning is under way to ensure civilians arriving in country will be integrated with the military units on the ground. The Integrated Civilian-Military Action Group, ICMAG, located in Embassy Kabul, formed in November 2008 as an interagency team to improve USG-wide coordination along all lines of effort has the lead in this effort. However, as many of our additional military forces will be deploying to the south of Afghanistan, outside the U.S.-led area of operations, a key challenge will be to integrate expanded civilian efforts with our partners from the UK, Canada, the Netherlands, and elsewhere. We already are working closely with these key partners to synchronize our efforts with theirs in a way that will be mutually reinforcing.

Thank you again. I look forward to your questions.

Responsibility: USD(Policy)

May 19, 2009
