

CCG-CAG

28 May 2005

MEMORANDUM THRU Executive Officer to the Commanding General  
FOR General Abizaid

**SUBJECT: Hotwash - IFPA-Sponsored CENTCOM Conference on Syria & Iran (25 May 05)**

1. **Purpose:** To provide the CG with a brief hotwash of the background, topics & participants at the IFPA-Sponsored, DTRA-funded, CENTCOM Conference entitled, "Opportunities and Challenges in U.S. Middle East Policy," held in the Reagan Center, Washington DC on 25 May 2005.

2. **Background:** Pursuant to your interactions with her in October 2004, CAG worked with Dr. Jackie Davis, IFPA, to generate a DTRA-funded, CENTCOM-driven conference with prominent academics, policy experts and government officials focused on the topics of Syria & Iran. As reported to you in iterative CAG updates during the winter & spring, this conference came together nicely under IFPA oversight and DTRA-funding (cost-free to CENTCOM). RADM Moeller worked closely with Jackie Davis and IFPA over past month to tie together themes, and to serve as senior CENTCOM representative and conference co-host. You have already received a summary e-mail of conference overview bullets from RADM Moeller. COL Jim Herson attended for CAG and summarizes the conference in paragraph #3 below. Jim assessed the day as of high quality and value for the Command. IFPA is working on the conference summary and conclusions to forward to participants & USCENTCOM. CAG will work with CCJ5 and IFPA to get you a reviewed copy of this report when done; and, will craft a thank you note for your use with Jackie & IFPA once we get that deliverable. This is the type of cost-free topics-in-conference that CAG will look to generate again with IFPA and other think tanks in the upcoming year.

3. **Summary Points:** Conference was anchored on three sessions, with the kick off speakers starting the discussion, followed by insights and commentary by conference participants.

**Session 1's main discussion points: The Bush Administration's grand strategy, regional security, and stability planning for the Middle East after Iraq's elections.**

- Kick off speakers were Richard Perle (AEI), Danielle Pletka (AEI), & Henry Sokolski, (NPEC).

**Session 2's main discussion points: Iran and Syria: Assessing capabilities, intentions, and the prospects for new relationships with the United States.**

- Kick off speakers were Ken Pollack (Brookings), and Marius Deeb (John Hopkins- SAIS).

**Session 3's main discussion points: Implication for U.S. Security Planning and Interagency Collaboration**

- Kick off speaker was the Honorable Doug Feith (DoD).

4. Among the key participants included by IFPA for the day were:

Dr. David Albright President, (Institute for Science and International Security), Ms. Erica Barks-Ruggles (Policy Planning Staff-DOS), Mr. Ilan Berman, VP for Policy (American Foreign Policy Council), Dr. Hans Binnendijk (Director, Center of Technology NDU), Dr. Soner Cagaptay (Director, Turkish Research Program, Washington Institute for NE Policy), Major General Trudy H. Clarke (USAF, D/Dir, DTRA), Dr. Patrick Clawson, D/Dir, Washington Institute for NE Policy), Dr. Ariel Cohen (Heritage Foundation), Dr. Marius Deeb, (John Hopkins), Mr. Michael Eisenstadt, (Director, Military and Security Program, Washington Institute for Near East Policy), Mr. Richard Gullickson, (Director, Advanced Systems and Concepts Office, DTRA), Dr. Shireen Hunter, (Director of Islam Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies), Dr. Jenneth Katzman, (Middle East Studies, Congressional Research Service), Dr. Moshe Ma'oz, (Senior Fellow, US Institute for Peace), and over fifteen others.

VR/ CAG