Subject: ADF contingency planning in response to humanitarian crisis unfolding on Libyan border

Purpose:
To inform you of ADF contingency planning for deployment of a C-17A and personnel in response to the unfolding humanitarian crisis on the Libyan border.

Key Points:
1. The continuing Libyan internal conflict is precipitating a humanitarian crisis as foreigners evacuate the country. Displaced person camps are being established on the Libyan borders with Egypt and Tunisia. These camps are without basic provisions resulting in calls on the international community to provide humanitarian assistance.

2. As per our discussion yesterday (2 March), I propose the ADF continue planning to deploy a C-17A to provide air lift options as an element of the Australian whole-of-government response to this developing crisis.

3. Planning over the past 24 hours indicates the preferred way forward would be to use our C-17A operations to supplement a UK humanitarian assistance operation. While individual sorties would likely be tasked by a UK headquarters, I will retain the command and control of Australian personnel and assets under Chief of Joint Operations.

4. Headquarters Joint Operations Command staff remain in contact with counterparts in the UK Permanent Joint Headquarters to gain further clarity on the requirements for our C-17A. To support our oversight and assist the integration of our C-17A, I would also seek to deploy liaison officers to the UK headquarters.

5. Should the UK agree to this proposal, we will seek agreement from UAE authorities for use of Al Minhad Air Base as a staging base for C-17A humanitarian assistance operations in North Africa. Diplomatic clearances would need to be negotiated with Tunisia and other nations for landing and over flight rights as required for our C-17A operations. The timeframes to request and acquire diplomatic clearances is being explored.
Recommendation:

That you:

i. note the contingency planning underway to facilitate deployment of a RAAF C-17A in support of humanitarian assistance operations on the Libyan borders in cooperation with the UK.

Noted / Please discuss

Approved By

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3 March 2011
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Resources:

6. To be determined.

Consultation:

7. HQJOC (COL R. Maddalena, A/JS) and IPDIV (A/FASIP Lachlan Colquhoun) provided the details for the preparation of this submission.