

This document is made available through the declassification efforts  
and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

# The Black Vault



The Black Vault is the largest online Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) document clearinghouse in the world. The research efforts here are responsible for the declassification of hundreds of thousands of pages released by the U.S. Government & Military.

**Discover the Truth** at: <http://www.theblackvault.com>



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
OFFICE OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
1155 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1155**

SEP 08 2017

Ref: 17-F-0758  
USCENTCOM  
Case 14-0243

Mr. John Greenewald  
The Black Vault  
27305 W Live Oak Rd  
Suite 1203  
Castaic, CA 91384

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This is the final response to your enclosed Freedom of Information Act request to the U.S. Central Command dated July 1, 2014, a copy of which is attached for your convenience. We received your request on March 29, 2017, along with six responsive pages from the U.S. Central Command and assigned it case number 17-F-0758. We ask that you use this number when referring to your request.

Mr. Mark S. Patrick, Chief, Information Management Division, an Initial Denial Authority for the Joint Staff, has determined that some of the information which has been redacted from the enclosed six pages, has been withheld pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(1), which pertains to information that is currently and properly classified in the interest of national security pursuant to Executive Order 13526, as amended, applying Section 1.4 (d) concerning the protection of Foreign relations or foreign activities of the United States, including confidential sources; pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6), which applies to information that, if released, would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of third parties.

In this instance, fees for processing your request were below the threshold for requiring payment. Please note that fees may be assessed on future requests.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you may contact our OSD FOIA Public Liaison, Jim Hogan, at 571-372-0462 or by email at [OSD.FOIALiaison@mail.mil](mailto:OSD.FOIALiaison@mail.mil). Also, please note that the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) offers services to requesters who have disputes with Federal agencies. You may contact OGIS if you have concerns about the processing of your request. Their contact information is provided below:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740

E-mail: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
Telephone: 202-741-5770  
Fax: 202-741-5769  
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

You have the right to appeal to the appellate authority, Ms. Joo Chung, Director of Oversight and Compliance, Office of the Secretary of Defense, by writing directly to ODCMO Directorate for Oversight and Compliance, 4800 Mark Center Drive, ATTN: DPCLTD, FOIA Appeals, Mailbox# 24, Alexandria, VA 22350-1700. Your appeal must be postmarked within 90 calendar days of the date of this response. Alternatively, you may use the OSD FOIA request portal at <http://pal.whs.mil/palMain.aspx> or email your appeal to [osd.foia-appeal@mail.mil](mailto:osd.foia-appeal@mail.mil). If you use email, please include the words "FOIA Appeal" in the subject of the email. Please also reference case number 17-F-0758 in any appeal correspondence.

If you have any questions about the foregoing, please do not hesitate to contact the Action Officer assigned to your request Mr. Charles Marye at [charles.c.marye.civ@mail.mil](mailto:charles.c.marye.civ@mail.mil) or (571) 372-0407.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles C. Marye". To the left of the signature is a small, stylized mark that appears to be a set of initials or a checkmark.

Stephanie L. Carr  
Chief

Enclosures:  
As stated

22 October 2001

INFORMATION PAPER

Subject: Combat Operations in the Global War on Terrorism during Ramadan

1. (U) Purpose. Recommend continued combat operations during Ramadan.

2. (U) Key Points.

- (U) Based on history, Islamic community members, nation states and organizations, have not paused combat activities for Ramadan. Hostilities continued or increased during Ramadan because of religious tenets.
- (U) **Religious significance:**
  - (U) During Ramadan Muslims focus on enhancing their sense of community and aim to achieve a greater awareness of God. Muslims believe their prayers will be heard especially during this period of reflection. It is similar to the Christian Lenten period.
  - (U) Adult Muslims must fast from sunrise to sunset, however, "Ramadan is actually a time of increased activity wherein the believer, now lightened of the burdens of constant eating and drinking, should be more willing to strive and struggle for Allah."
- (U) **Important dates during Ramadan:**
  - (U) On the 17<sup>th</sup> day of Ramadan (in 624 AD) (3 Dec 01), Almighty Allah separated the truth from falsehood at the Great Battle of Badr, Islam's holiest battle. This decisive victory laid the foundation of the Islamic State. The Muslims became a force to be reckoned with by the dwellers of the Arabic Peninsula.
  - (U) The last ten nights of Ramadan, in particular, were important. Included in these nights is "Laylat Al-Qadr" of **the Night of Destiny, or Power**, which is **the holiest night to Muslims**. It marks the anniversary of the Revelation of the Quran, and is celebrated between the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> days of Ramadan (13 Dec 01). The Night of Destiny is also significant because the majority of Muslim Jurists believe that it is on this night that a good deed is worth the work of a thousand months. **Martyrdom seekers, have since the beginning of Islamic history, sought martyrdom on this night.**
- (U) **Historical dates during Ramadan:**
  - (U) 25<sup>th</sup> day of Ramadan (in 1260 AD), The Muslim armies met and crushed

the Mongols at Ain Jalut.

- (U) October 1973 A.D. Egypt characterized the attack on Israel during Ramadan (and Yom Kippur) as a just war because it was aimed at liberating land held by non-Muslims.

- (U) The Taliban fought through the Hajj, in March 2001. Hajj is the pilgrimage to Mecca and is more sacred to Muslims than Ramadan.

• (U) **Other Factors:**

- (U) The Global War on Terrorism is focused on al-Qadia a terrorist organization, and is not focused on Islam.

- (U) Terrorists do not honor holidays.

- (U) Begin the public affairs campaign now before Ramadan begins. Press the Arab, European, Asian countries and the UN to come forward in action, demonstrate their coalition commitments and actively participate in the Global War on Terrorism.

- (U) Escalate the Information Operations campaign as a **global perception management (PM) tool** by preemptively using this pre-Ramadan period to discuss food shortages and the on-coming winter weather. International help is available to the Afghan people, but is inhibited by the Taliban government's desire to harbor terrorists at the expense and abandonment of the majority of the Afghan people.

-(U) Develop a strategy for the placement of refugee camps within Afghanistan in the northern regions where ample food, housing, clothing and medical supplies are gathered, but are not currently deliverable throughout the country because of the war.

• ~~(S)~~ **Recommendations:**

- ~~(S)~~ Continue combat operations during Ramadan as required by military necessity.

- ~~(S)~~ SecDef/CJCS to discuss the military necessity of combat ops during Ramadan with:

-- ~~(S)~~ MOD/CHOD counterparts,

-- ~~(S)~~ US/Coalition country politicians.

(b)(1)



--(S) Host governments trading the welfare of their citizens to protect terrorists.

-- (S) Humanitarian objectives to prevent famine and re-establish sovereign nation stability.

-- (S) A series of Coalition and US messages supporting the Afghan people, and condemning terrorists.

- (S) Establish refugee camps within Afghanistan before the onset of winter weather, under coalition control.

-- (S) Reasons:

+ (S) Afghans are IDPs, not refugees.

+ (S) Sets the conditions for:

++ (S) UN led humanitarian operations,

++ (S) NGO/PVO re-involvement, and

(b)(1)

Prepared by: (b)(6)



## *Combat Ops During Ramadan*

### Issues

- **Islamic forces have not paused combat ops during Ramadan**
- **Hostilities continued/increased because of religious tenets**

### Discussion

- **Religious Significance--Similar to Christian Lent**
- **Key Dates During Ramadan:**
  - **17th Day (3 Dec 01)-- Almighty Allah separated truth from falsehood at the Great Battle of Badr, Islam's holiest battle**
  - **27th (13 Dec 01) -- “The Night of Destiny,” the anniversary of the Revelation of the Quran. Martyrdom seekers, have since the beginning of Islamic history, sought martyrdom on this night**



## *Combat Ops During Ramadan*

### Way Ahead:

- **Continue Combat Ops during Ramadan, as required by military necessity**
- **SecDef /CJCS to discuss the military necessity of combat ops during Ramadan with:**
  - **MOD/CHOD counterparts**
  - **US/Coalition country politicians**

(b)(1)



- **Global War against terrorists/terrorism, not Islam**
- **Host governments trading the welfare of their citizens to protect terrorists**
- **Humanitarian objectives to prevent famine and re-establish sovereign nation stability**





## *Combat Ops During Ramadan*

### Way Ahead continued:

- **Establish refugee camps within Afghanistan before the onset of winter weather, under coalition control**
  - **Reasons:**
    - **Afghans are IDPs, not refugees**
    - **Sets the conditions for:**
      - **UN led humanitarian operations**
      - **NGO/PVO re-involvement**

(b)(1)

