

AFGHANISTAN, PHASE 2: THE SMALL GAME BEATING IRAN AT ITS OWN GAME

Strategic Context.

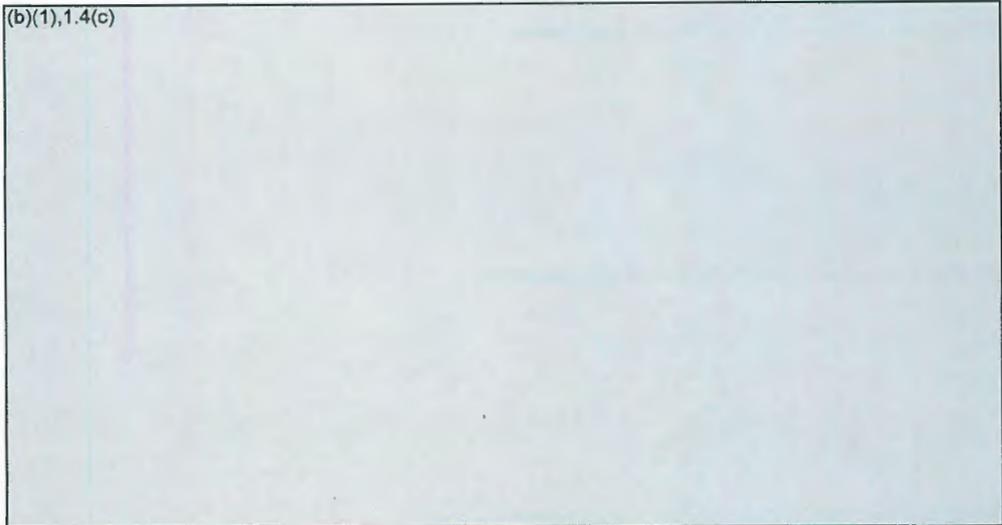
- (b)(1),1.4(d) [Redacted]
- Short-term U.S. interest: continued prosecution of Afghan war aims.
- Long-term U.S. interest: stabilizing moderate regime to preclude re-entry of terrorists, encourage trend toward moderate, democratic governments in neighboring countries.

Problem: Fomenting Instability.

- (b)(1),1.4(d) [Redacted]
 - Includes supporting various warlords, political spoilers, and surviving elements of Taliban/Al-Qaida.
- (b)(1),1.4(d) [Redacted]
- Most troubling, however, are Iranian efforts to destabilize Afghanistan for its own ends and to counteract U.S. influence there.
- U.S. needs to stay ahead of Iran's destabilizing efforts, otherwise:
 - Jeopardize U.S. national security interests in Afghanistan.
 - Risk re-igniting factionalism of fratricidal 1992-96 civil war.
 - Could have repercussions for U.S. presence and influence in Central Asia.

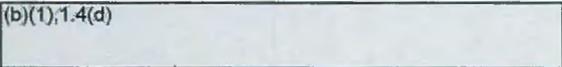
Iranian Objectives.

- Iran trying to reconstitute its historic sphere of influence in Afghanistan, prevent pro-Western constitutional monarchy on its border.
- (b)(1),1.4(c) [Redacted]

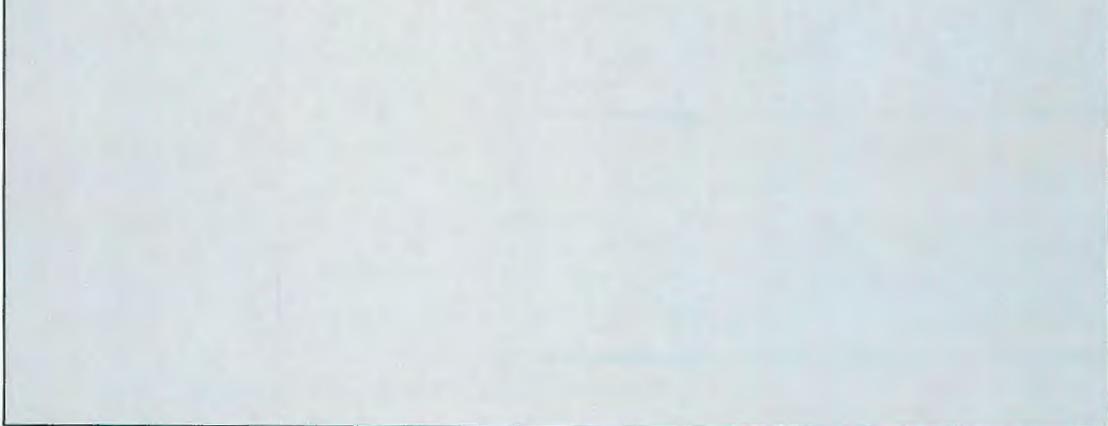


U.S. Objectives.

- Exert U.S. influence so that we do not permit a void into which Iran (and others) move further with money, other support to fundamentalist-oriented warlords.
- Counter Iranian encroachments by providing U.S. support to friendly regional Afghan commanders.

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Operational Concept.

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Action Plan.

- Five-point integrated U.S. strategy of: intelligence actions, security cooperation, aid to local allies, diplomatic steps, and influence operations.
 - Not "nation-building"; rather, robust security cooperation program designed to protect vital U.S. interests.
 - (b)(1),1.4(d)
 - Support to other pro-Western commanders would follow.

1. Incentivize, condition aid to local allies. Objectives: Strengthen national political unity, generate support for new government, demonstrate U.S. commitment and support among key Afghans.

- Task CENTCOM to implement direct materiel delivery to pro-Western regional commanders.
- **Incentives for cooperation:**
 - Food, shelter, clothing for their soldiers and families, returning refugees, internally displaced people.
 - Similar direct materiel assistance to neighboring commanders to leverage U.S. aid in larger sub-regional settings.
 - Secure roles for commanders in Loya Jirga, future Transitional Authority.
 - Basic infrastructure assistance for their areas, including road repair, well drilling, and demining support.
 - Common equipment, training for their personnel; means for eventual integration into new Afghan armed forces, law enforcement units.
- **Conditions for assistance:**
 - Positive public statements about U.S. support and aid.

(b)(1),1.4(d)

(b)(1),1.4(c)

• (b)(1), 1.4(d)



5. Public diplomacy, civil affairs. Objective: Exploit U.S. comparative advantage in mass communications to counteract Iranian efforts.

(b)(1), 1.4(a), 1.4(b), 1.4(c)



- Support Afghan government media activities.