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CLP

PM/ISO:MHARDY
04/09/2002 202-647-0904
S:THESECRETARY

s/ES

S/ES-O

PM/ISO: SDINOBILE S/ES:DJSMITH S/ES-O:FJBAME
PM/ISO: CWILSON
EUR/UBI: RKING
S/S-CR: BHAMBRICK
P: SCURRAN
D: KBUE
T: SKRAHAM

PRIORITY LONDON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, OPDC, PREL, UK

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF ROYAL NAVY PARTY 1002 ON DIEGO GARCIA

1. THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. PLEASE SEE PARA THREE BELOW.

2. BRITISH SUPPORT AT DIEGO GARCIA IS ESSENTIAL TO EXECUTING OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM SUCCESSFULLY AND MAINTAINING STABILITY IN THE ARABIAN GULF REGION. THE UNITED KINGDOM'S DETACHMENT, ROYAL NAVY PARTY 1002, ON DIEGO GARCIA EXEMPLIFIES THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF COOPERATION AND FLEXIBILITY IN CONDUCTING MILITARY MISSIONS. ROYAL NAVY PARTY 1002'S EFFORTS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

3. PLEASE FORWARD THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO JACK STRAW, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, FROM SECRETARY POWELL. THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT PLAN TO RELEASE TEXT OF MESSAGE BUT HAS NO OBJECTION IF HMG WISHES TO DO SO. THERE WILL BE NO SIGNED ORIGINAL.

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4. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR JACK:

I WISH TO EXPRESS MY DEEPEST APPRECIATION FOR THE EFFORTS OF ROYAL NAVY PARTY 1002 ON DIEGO GARCIA IN SUPPORT OF THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM. IN PARTICULAR, I WOULD LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT THE SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE OF COMMANDER ADAM PETERS, COMMANDING OFFICER OF ROYAL NAVY PARTY 1002, WHO ACTED DECISIVELY TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEEDS OF UNITED STATES AND OTHER COALITION FORCES AT A CRITICAL TIME.

ROYAL NAVY PARTY 1002 DEMONSTRATED SUPERLATIVE COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES WHILE CONDUCTING OPERATIONS ON DIEGO GARCIA. THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMBINED DEFENSE FORCE FOR THE ISLAND EXEMPLIFIED THIS SPECIAL COOPERATION AND ENABLED THE UNITED STATES AND SIX ADDITIONAL COALITION COUNTRIES TO OPERATE SUCCESSFULLY FROM THE PROTECTION OF THE FACILITIES AT DIEGO GARCIA. IN ADDITION, ROYAL NAVY PARTY 1002'S SUPPORT IN MODIFYING THE LOGISTIC FOOTPRINT ON THE ISLAND PROVIDED A SMOOTHLY FUNCTIONING FORWARD-OPERATING BASE FOR THE UNITED STATES AND ITS COALITION PARTNERS. WE ARE HAPPY THAT WE CAN RELY ON YOU FOR CONTINUED COOPERATION.

I AM CONVINCED THAT ROYAL NAVY PARTY 1002'S ABILITY TO OPERATE QUICKLY AND DECISIVELY IN A DYNAMIC ENVIRONMENT HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT ON OUR WAR EFFORT. THIS UNPARALLELED SUPPORT FOR THE FORCES ON DIEGO GARCIA STRENGTHENED THE "ONE ISLAND, ONE MISSION, ONE TEAM" PHILOSOPHY THAT IS SO DEEPLY SHARED BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS.

PLEASE EXPRESS THE APPRECIATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO YOUR MINISTRY OF DEFENSE FOR THE SUPERB ACHIEVEMENTS OF COMMANDER ADAM PETERS AND ROYAL NAVY PARTY 1002.

SINCERELY,

COLIN L. POWELL

END TEXT.

5. DEPARTMENT POINT OF CONTACT IS COMMANDER STEVE

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