

Lebanon Update

27 July 2006

1. Regional Developments

- Media reported the heaviest day of fighting to date in southern Lebanon yesterday. The barrage of Hizballah rockets attacks on Israel continued, and heavy Israeli air strikes in and around Tyre have been reported today. Israel is calling up three more reserve divisions.
- At least 400 Lebanese and 50 Israelis have been reported killed since hostilities began. The UN estimates that over 700K Lebanese have been displaced and that more than 150K have fled to Syria.
- Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) are requiring all travel requests along designated humanitarian corridors to be funneled through the UN or ICRC to an IDF coordination cell for approval. Any travel in southern Lebanon that is not coordinated through the IDF will be targeted.
- Although the first humanitarian convoy successfully reached southern Lebanon from Beirut yesterday, relief efforts are still hampered by the security situation.

2. USG Diplomatic & Humanitarian Response

- The USG continues to allocate the \$30M authorized by Secretary Rice for humanitarian operations in Lebanon.
- USAID DART planners in Cyprus are arranging the shipment of 20,000 blankets, 2,000 tarps, and two support vehicles to Beirut. US Embassy Beirut is seeking to re-establish a sea link to bring in fuel, food, and medical supplies requested by USAID.
- Assisted departures from Beirut are now being conducted every other day with processing set to resume tomorrow.
- US Embassy officials arranged the departure of 173 citizens from Tyre on the Canadian-chartered PRINCESS MARISSA yesterday and continue to facilitate departure options for Americans wishing to leave southern Lebanon.

3. DoD Unclassified Operational Update

- A total of 14,312 Americans have been evacuated from Lebanon to date. This includes 918 in the last 24 hours (455 on ORIENT QUEEN, 250 on VITTORIA M., 40 by helicopter, 173 on PRINCESS MARISSA).
- Approximately 9,200 Americans have returned to the US via USG-provided transportation to date.
- DoD continues to coordinate the transportation of blankets, tarps, and other supplies to Beirut with USAID.
- Over 5,700 US military personnel are currently participating in the assisted departure and humanitarian operations. These include 470 in Cyprus and 86 at the US Embassy in Beirut.

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