From: Finestone, Josh M.
Sent: Wed, 10 Jul 2019 11:02:32
To: curtis_swager@gardner.senate.gov; Khrestin, Igor (Gardner)
Cc: Aho, Loren K.
Subject: Good morning team Gardner

Curtis and Igor,

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Al Udeid: Home to 11,000 U.S. troops and critical to winning the War on Terror
By POLITICO FOCUS CONTRIBUTOR, SPONSORED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF QATAR
07/02/2019 06:01 PM EDT

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By 2003, the U.S. began shifting more of its air operations from Saudi Arabia’s Prince Sultan Air Base to Qatar, as antagonism toward any U.S. presence in the country had already led to numerous terror attacks on U.S. soldiers in Saudi Arabia in the 1990s and eventually led to increased operational restrictions enforced by the Saudi government. Since the end of the first Persian Gulf War, Osama bin Laden had publicly demanded the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the holy sites of Mecca and Medina, even citing this as the motivation behind numerous strikes against U.S. forces, including the twin embassy bombings in East Africa and the attack on the USS Cole in Yemen. This mounting pressure spurred the Saudi Arabian government to deny American planes access to launching any ground-attacks from its airfields, limiting air activities to non-strike missions only. These restrictions forced American commanders to position attack aircraft in various Gulf countries rather than at one major base, costing the U.S. more money and decreasing efficiency.
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