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From: Lloyd Etheredge <lloyd.etheredge@policyscience.net>

Subject: 253. Red Team: The new Libyan War, a Cost/Benefit Analysis of Bribery, and Dr. Petraeus's Lesson

Dear Dr. Fischhoff and Colleagues:

It would be worthwhile for a Red Team to take a serious and rapid look at the option to shift American engagement mechanisms in the Libyan war, and perhaps elsewhere in the Islamic world, strongly toward direct *quid pro quo* payments.

We may be too drawn to conventional thinking about how to fight an American war against evil people. In reality, it might be highly effective to use bribery in Libya where many potential supporters of the current leader are making pragmatic calculations and the US could easily make defecting Army commanders (etc.) millionaires, allow them to immigrate to America, and provide other attractive benefits.

Dr. Petraeus wrote [# 63 at www.policyscience.net at II. D] that one of his 14 lessons was " . . . money is ammunition. In fact, depending on the situation, money can be more important than real ammunition . . . [M]oney needs to be provided as soon as possible to the organizations that have the capability and capacity to spend it [effectively and quickly to rapidly achieve measurable results.]"

Ethical Questions

A Red Team/National Academy project also should address the ethical questions. Bribery may be an objectionable major strategy when it is used to corrupt a high-minded leader or government professional. However in highly pragmatic political systems and fluid situations where everybody is bidding, the ethics would be different.

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