

## PREFACE

1. Given the sensitivity and the potential serious political implications should an error occur when handling Prisoners of War, it is intended to produce an all-embracing, definitive document that should require few additional supporting publications<sup>1</sup>. It will supersede JSP 391.
2. Throughout this publication, the term Prisoners of War is abbreviated to 'PW'. This is in line with the NATO STANAGs. It should be noted that this differs from the earlier abbreviation of the term to 'POW' and from US usage of the term Enemy Prisoners of War 'EPW'.
3. For convenience, the term PW is referred to throughout the publication as 'he'; it must be remembered that PW may be male or female. Particular instructions referring to female PWs, are detailed in the text of the publication.
4. This publication covers three main aspects of PW handling:
  - a. **Principles.** It identifies and examines the various influences that define the PW handling process, which lead to the identification of the principles of PW Handling.
  - b. **Responsibilities.** It outlines the responsibilities for the Joint Task Force Commander and his staff for the correct handling and processing of PW, ensuring they take into account the effect that PW may have on his operational plan.
  - c. **Practices and Procedures.** The publication contains comprehensive instructions covering the complete handling process in order to ensure that the precise requirements of International Humanitarian Law are taken into account.
5. It should be noted that the publication, whilst making passing reference to the interrogation of PW, does not deal with the subject in detail.
6. The doctrine in this publication is applicable in the following circumstances:
  - a. When the UK is engaged in *de facto* hostilities with another party regardless of any formal declaration of hostilities.
  - b. When UK forces are engaged in an operation, the Operational Plan for which contains a specific direction that persons detained during the operation are to be treated as PW.

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<sup>1</sup> Reference may be required to the following documents: JSP 398 (ROE) and Manual of Military Law Part III, due to be superseded by JSP 383.

JWP 1-10

c. **Tactical Questioning.** The object of tactical questioning is to obtain information, the value of which would deteriorate or be lost altogether if the questioning was delayed until a trained interrogator could be made available. In order to achieve this, it is necessary that:

- (1) PW are thoroughly searched even though this may already have been done at the point of capture.
- (2) The tactical questioners should have been provided, by the unit commander and his intelligence staff, with clear information requirements.
- (3) In the course of questioning, tactical questioners are to adhere to the following provisions<sup>4</sup>:
  - (a) A PW, when questioned, is bound only to give his name, rank, number and date of birth.
  - (b) A PW must produce his identity document when asked for it but under no circumstances may this be taken away from him.
  - (c) No physical or mental pressure, nor any other form of coercion may be exerted on a PW in order to induce him to answer questions. A PW may not be threatened, insulted or suffer any disadvantage as the result of refusing to answer questions.
  - (d) A PW who is incapable, for physical or mental reasons of stating his identity is to be handed over to the unit medical staff for evacuation through the casualty evacuation chain.
  - (e) Questioning of PW is to be carried out in a language, which they can understand.
- (4) For each PW, the tactical questioners produce a Tactical Questioning Report referring to the PW number (from the F/PW 778). Interrogators check that PW and any associated documents or equipment have been correctly tagged and that the documents and equipment accompany the PW as he moves rearwards.
- (5) PW are segregated for interrogation, in accordance with STANAG 2033, into the following categories:
  - (a) **Category A.** A PW of high rank in his organisation whose particular knowledge requires him to be interrogated as soon as

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<sup>4</sup> GC III: 17.