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DASD 62/1

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DGIC

DMO

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DNO

DAO

D ARMY RP

DACOS Ops/Cts LAND

MA/ACGS

PRISONER HANDLING & TACTICAL QUESTIONING CAPABILITY

1. The developing operational situation in Afghanistan brings the potential intelligence acquisition from prisoners through timely and effective tactical questioning into sharp relief. I have the impression that the unit and formation capability which the Army maintained during the Cold War, and utilised to considerable effect during Op CORPORATE, has atrophied. The Army used to have personnel trained in PH&TQ available to battle-groups. These played a vital role in both timely acquisition and identifying prisoners who may have been of longer term interest to our intelligence organisation. In peace they also trained personnel in the handling of prisoners.
2. Service responsibilities for PH&TQ policy appear to be unclear. Currently 2SL and HQ LAND jointly sponsor the PH&TQ course run at DISC. I understand 2 SL believes that it is no longer appropriate for him to sponsor the course. That said the RN is the only Service to articulate a requirement for trained personnel (currently █ per year). Thus there is only one PH&TQ course for █ personnel run annually with █ places reserved on the first week of the Interrogation Course to qualify an additional █ personnel in PH&TQ only. I suspect that there is also an Air Component requirement.
3. The lack of PH&TQ trained personnel within deployed force elements risks the loss of potentially accurate, timely and live-saving information/intelligence during war-fighting operations. I understand that ADI HUMINT will assume responsibility for Interrogation Policy from April 2002. I believe TQ policy should be an integral part of this function and would welcome DGIC's views.
4. Within the Army I believe we need to address the capability requirement and mechanisms whereby we can redevelop our ability to exploit the intelligence value inherent in the capture of enemy personnel whilst ensuring deployed elements adhere to prisoner handling techniques to meet both intelligence and legal/moral requirements. The less well trained our troops are, the greater the chance that they may mishandle prisoners.
5. In the light of the current operational commitments I think that plugging this capability gap is urgent. Should it not also be part of the New Chapter SDR work?

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Original Signed

B W BARRY

Brigadier

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CHOt: DASD-DIRECTOR



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