

JSIO/2102

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CO JSIO

INTERROGATION - DOCTRINE, ASSETS , TRAINING AND THE WAY AHEAD

References:

- A. JSP 391 – Instructions for the Handling of Prisoners of War.
- B. STANAG 2044 – Procedures for Dealing with Prisoners of War.
- C. JSP 120(6) – Interrogation in War.
- D. STANAG 2033 – Interrogation of Prisoners of War.
- E. JWP 1-10 – Handling of Prisoners of War.

INTRODUCTION

1. JSIO is the unit responsible for the training of UK Armed Forces personnel, both Regular and Reservist, in interrogation techniques. These personnel are trained to interrogate Enemy Prisoners of War (EPW) within the constraints of the Geneva Convention (GC) and within the guidance laid down in References C and D. These publications are not easily applicable to the modern trend towards operations below Article 5 level.

AIM

2. The aim of this paper is to examine current interrogation doctrine, assets and training and seek policy direction as required.

RECENT USES OF INTERROGATION

3. UK Forces have conducted interrogation of prisoners on at least three occasions since 1980. This does not include any activities which may have taken place in Northern Ireland. The occasions were:

a. The Falklands Conflict. After initial instruction from the Cabinet Office that interrogation of Argentine PW was not to take place, it then permitted 'Specialist Tactical Questioning', a term not seen prior to or since the conflict. An ad hoc Joint Forward Interrogation Team (JFIT) comprising various Spanish language speakers was set up on a piecemeal basis.

b. The Gulf War. At first HMG intended to hand all EPW to [REDACTED]. The subsequent realisation that the UK would first need to promulgate a specific derogation of its Geneva Convention responsibilities for EPW forced a change of attitude. Thus UK Forces held EPW which were then duly interrogated by the JFIT attached to 1(UK) Div. In addition, Detailed Interrogation Centres were set up in four sites in the UK but it is believed that only one of them was used. Iraqi nationals detained in the UK were

interviewed at the centre on Salisbury Plain, but no EPW were transported back from the Gulf.

- c. Northern Iraq, post-Gulf War. Interrogation of Iraqis captured crossing the border was conducted by UK personnel during operations in Northern Iraq.

CURRENT DOCTRINE

4. References A to D are the current national and NATO publications covering EPW handling and interrogation in war. They are somewhat dated, stemming from the Cold War and the in-built assumptions that conflict would be more simplistic and at a higher level than is currently the norm. By adopting STANAGs 2033 and 2044 the UK appears, by default, to have adopted their content as national doctrine. Extensive searching has not revealed any parallel national requirements.

5. Reference E will be the replacement for Reference A but is still at the draft stage. Although it details D INT CORPS as the provider of advice on interrogation, tactical questioning techniques and the processing of captured documents and equipment for intelligence purposes, it otherwise deals with interrogation in a cursory manner. There is, as yet, no evidence of any intention to replace Reference C.

CURRENT INTERROGATION CAPABILITY

6. To date an interrogation capability resides within all 3 MI Battalions, JSIO, the RNR Interrogator Branch and 7630 Sqn, R Aux AF. Of those units, only 22 MI Coy (V) of 3 MI Bn (V) currently possesses formed, trained and exercised Forward Interrogation Teams (FITs). It is configured to provide \blacksquare x FITs \blacksquare from each Section of the Coy. The Coy is presently \blacksquare strong of which \blacksquare are trained Interrogators. (It does not, however, have any vehicles or equipment, other than personal, dedicated solely to the FIT task.) The other two Regular MI Bns and JSIO have FHTs only and although many of their personnel have done the JSIO Interrogation Course they are largely devoid of language capability.

7. The RNR Interrogator Branch (currently \blacksquare Officers), those Interrogators in JSIO who are not already part of the FHT, and 7630 Sqn (currently \blacksquare Officers) are not warned off to form any part of any JFIT and have not been since the demise of the Joint Service Interrogation Wing (JSIW). Consequently there has been a period of at least 3 years where many trained Interrogators have done little or no exercising in their primary function and there is no organisational framework in place to accept them should an exercise or operation be called.

8. Prior to 1991, the war role of the three Reservist Interrogator Units (HMS FERRET, 22 MI Coy(V) and 7630 Sqn RAuxAF) was to be allocated to Interrogation Teams in the UK at Detailed Interrogation Centres at JSIW Ashford, Pontrilas and Edinburgh. They would also form 2-man JFITs at certain ports, airfields and in UK and BAOR.

9. Post the Gulf War, JSIW proposed to PJHQ/MOD the formation of 12-man JFITs (now called Field HUMINT Teams). No answer can be identified but history