

A11

From: LA11
Sent: 02 May 2003 12:26
To: SP Pol-AFBT5; DCMC CCT2C
Cc: SP Pol-MW D; SP Pol-WF DD
Subject: RE: OP TELIC: SofS and HCDC, Request for Briefing

Richard,

At first glance, your suggested list of topics strikes me as too UK-focussed.

It may be that three of the lessons learned from the campaign are

1. the need for an early decision and consultation with coalition partners on whether to appoint a Protecting Power
2. the need to identify who should take responsibility in the future for the Civilian Information Bureau
3. the need to clarify the powers and responsibilities of those engaged in detaining enemy combatants or civilians in the UK.

But I think it is fair say that none of these three issues has been central to the conflict or to the handling of PWs detained by coalition forces. I would expect the HCDC to be more interested in:

- the classification of PWs, and whether PWs status has been afforded to those who are not members of the regular Iraqi armed forces
- who has been responsible for housing and feeding the PWs
- the arrangements with the US and Australia to ensure that PWs (and other detainees) could not be transferred outside Iraq without UK consent
- the plans for the release and repatriation of PWs (already underway)

Ian may have a view on whether the SofS needs briefing on these issues.

Sean.

-----Original Message-----

From: SP Pol-AFBT5
Sent: 29 April 2003 19:37
To: DCMC CCT2C
Cc: SP Pol-MW D; SP Pol-WF DD; LA11
Subject: RE: OP TELIC: SofS and HCDC, Request for Briefing

Ian,

Thanks for this - I will start on this although my impression is that it should be relatively short with an introduction outlining our responsibilities as signatories to the GC and APs and that in general PW handling is well covered by policy and procedure, but that this conflict exposed a number of lesser issues which we are now addressing eg:

- Identification and handling of potentially hostile personnel in UK on the build up to and at the outbreak of hostilities.
- Powers of the authorities (Police, Services etc) to apprehend or detain potentially hostile persons or those who by virtue of belonging to the Services of the hostile nation could be considered PWs.
- Process of guarding any PWs or detainees in UK (soldiers/armed etc)
- Agreement over PW issues, where allies and enemies are not all signatories to the Geneva Convention and its Additional Protocols and whether it remains practical to still bind the UK to the provisions.
- (leading on from above) Appointing or not appointing as the case may be a Protecting Power for PWs and the role of the ICRC in the process.
- Process for the security of PWs sent to UK for medical treatment (ie guarding & protecting)
- Process for repatriation of PWs from UK on or before the cessation of hostilities. (Home Office)
- Accounting for PWs, the audit trail and its management and control (use of ICRC as intermediary etc)
- Release of PWs, particularly where there is no government or regime to release the PW to. (value of the ICRC)
- Handling of Civilian casualties brought back to UK for medical treatment.

with perhaps a few words on each

Richard

-----Original Message-----

From: DCMC CCT2C
Sent: 29 April 2003 12:02
To: SP Pol-MW D; SP Pol-PW D; SP Pol-Vets D; SP Pol-WF DD; SP Pol-Housing AD; LA11; SP Pol-AFBT5; PJHQ-J9-POLOPS(DEPHD)
 ME
Cc: SP Pol-DG SPS; DCMC CCT2A
Subject: OP TELIC: SofS and HCDC, Request for Briefing

<< File: HCDC - briefing request.doc >> << Message: HCDC Inquiry - Initial Briefing for SofS >>

PSA a request for briefing. Returns requested by 13th May.

PS: the issue of "stretch" will need covering. I will circulate a draft on this issue to D M+W and the D's of O in due course.

rgds

Ian G

