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D/CDS/40/1/13 (03/011)

26 May 04

MA/DCDS(C)

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HOODING

1. In the aftermath of the recent abuse allegations, it has become clear that while the practice of hooding during tactical questioning and intelligence gathering is not permitted under current doctrine, there is currently no prescriptive direction on hooding of prisoners during arrest/transit in any of the relevant manuals, doctrine or military law. CDS would therefore be grateful for advice on how best to resolve this issue.
2. There are justifiable operational reasons for obscuring a detainee's vision following arrest and during transit to a detention facility, including the need to preserve intelligence and to protect the identity of others being held. Although it may be possible to obscure detainee's vision through the use of blindfolds or blacked out goggles, this may not always be practicable and hooding may sometimes be the most effective means.
3. Please arrange for CDS to be provided with policy advice on the practice, taking account of legal advice, and how the policy might be implemented through doctrine, training and instructions.

{Signed on CHOTs}

M A SHARP
Gp Capt
DPSO/CDS
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