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**DELIVERING A DEFENCE INTERROGATION & TQ CAPABILITY
(INTERROGATION & TQ SUPPORT TO OPERATIONS)**

(A Paper by the Defence HUMINT Policy Group)

ISSUE

1. The delivery of a viable Defence Interrogation & TQ capability.

TIMING

2. Routine. COS' have been presented with the Future Support to HUMINT Operations Paper (CDI 3/1 dated 20 Dec 02) and noted that a study into the most effective way of providing and projecting the Defence interrogation capability was underway. If endorsed, the creation of this capability will coincide with the formation of the Defence HUMINT Unit (DHU).

AIM

3. The aim of this paper is to inform the VCDS study into the tri-Service intelligence capability of the requirements for a deployable interrogation capability.

RECOMMENDATIONS

4. VCDS is invited to:
 - a. Note that this Paper covers the requirements for a *deployable* interrogation & TQ capability but that its operational effectiveness relies on the early nomination of a properly constituted and trained Prisoner of War Handling Organisation (PWHO).
 - b. Recognise Tactical Questioning as a J3 responsibility, which requires the nomination of a policy focus and appropriate training for front line units.
 - c. Agree that a permanent Joint Forward Interrogation Team (JFIT), (as part of the DHU), should be established by rationalising existing manpower.



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BACKGROUND

5. The UK's interrogation organisation is a Cold War legacy. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. Recent deployments, requiring interrogation capability have received inadequate or ad hoc support. The chain of command is poorly educated in the complexities associated with handling of a PW and the utility of interrogation.

6. The JFIT is not the 'complete capability' but just one small specialist element of a much larger PWHO, which must be provided from elsewhere. There is adequate doctrine (JWP 1-10) *but the UK has not invested in the means to deliver it.*

ASSUMPTIONS

7. It is assumed that:
- a. This Defence capability will be part of the DHU but that it will only deliver the specialist JFIT component to a designated PWHO, produced by the formation being supported.
 - b. The DHU will have priority call on the reservist elements supporting HUMINT operations.²
 - c. The term "interrogation" or the willingness to employ the skills necessary to exploit unwilling human sources as one capability within the HUMINT Spectrum is accepted.
 - d. A JFIT will not be required to operate independently and thus will not need to be self-supporting.

FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION

8. Dedicated or Embedded within the DHU. It is inevitable that some personnel will possess more than one HUMINT skill and could easily work in either a JFIT or a Field HUMINT Team (FHT). However, the CONOPS, size, skills and equipment requirements of the two teams are different and their capabilities should not be confused. History suggests that, unless there are personnel dedicated to the interrogation role, the function is given secondary importance resulting in a lack of preparedness. Whilst trained manpower could easily be found from within the planned establishment of the DHU, if the UK is to take this requirement seriously, it is vital that personnel are dedicated to the task.

¹ [REDACTED]

² CO DHU should be afforded an appropriate command authority enabling him to nominate reserve personnel to tasks particularly where they have a language skill.

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i.

j. Prisoner Handling and Tactical Questioning (PHTQ) – Interrogation Continuum. Because of the very close relationship between PH&TQ and Interrogation it is recommended that JSIO, DISC remains the primary deliverer of this training until at least a regular JFIT is formed. This training must be considered routine for all units likely to detain PWs and not saved to the last minute.⁶ Current thinking suggests that two personnel in each front-line sub-unit be trained as tactical questioners.

k. Training the PWHO. The early nomination of the PWHO is vital to successful interrogation. Whilst a certain amount of education can be achieved in 'peacetime' it is unlikely that attention will focus on the impact of the task, and thus proper training conducted, until this mission has been assigned to a unit.⁷ Early attachment of a JFIT in order to conduct collective training is most important. High Readiness formations should, as a matter of course include PWHO as part of their training requirements.

12. Field HUMINT Teams (FHTs). FHTs may have personnel who are interrogator trained on their Establishment, but this will be by coincidence rather than design. Depending on the circumstances, limited Tactical Questioning or debriefing could be conducted of *willing* human sources but the two capabilities should not be confused. Only one task (FHT or JFIT) could be conducted at any one time.

13. Employment of the JFIT in Peace. A JFIT will probably deploy infrequently, however, there is plenty to occupy the team during peace whilst maintaining a relatively high state of readiness. The JFIT will provide education and training to and train with High Readiness formations and potential PWHOs. [redacted] training can be supported although this must not be viewed as a cover for interrogator training. Language training can be conducted. Training can be delivered to reserve JFITs and vital character player support can be provided to JSIO, DISC.⁹

⁶ The SOTR 03/04 bids for RN [redacted] and LAND [redacted] suggest that insufficient attention is being paid to this area of training need. This fact is supported by the demand for immediate training of over [redacted] personnel for Op TELIC.

⁹ CDI 3/1 dated 20 Dec 02 – HUMINT Support to Operations indicated that the preferred location of the DHU is Chicksands making the assistance to training much easier and relatively cost neutral.