

BMI Downgrade - RESTRICTED

D/PJHQ/5/8135/12/1

JOINT COMMANDER'S MISSION DIRECTIVE
TO
THE UK NATIONAL CONTINGENT COMMANDER
OPERATION TELIC

The context of this directive is that HMG is assumed to have concluded that the present strategy of coercion will not cause Saddam Hussein to comply with UNSCRs in an acceptable timescale and that coalition military action is necessary to secure national objectives for Iraq and the region.

ISSUED BY: Lieutenant General J G Reith – Joint Commander (Jt Comd)
ISSUED TO: Air Marshal B K Burridge – National Contingent Commander (NCC)

References:

- A CDS/08/03 dated 182359Z MAR 03: Edition 2 of CDS' Execute Directive to the Joint Commander
- B. D/PJHQ/5/8135/12/1 dated 29 Jan 03: Jt Comd's draft mission directive to the NCC
- C. D/PJHQ/3/3000/220/5/2 dated 19 Feb 03: Jt Comd's directive on appointment of the NCC

BACKGROUND

1. In UNSCR 1441, the Security Council decided that Iraq was in material breach of its disarmament obligations under UNSCR 687 and other relevant resolutions. The Council gave Iraq a final opportunity to comply by co-operating with the enhanced inspection regime established by UNSCR 1441, but warned of the serious consequences of failing to do so. The evidence shows that Iraq has failed to comply with the terms of Resolution 1441 and is now in further material breach of its obligations. In these circumstances, the use of force to enforce Iraq's compliance with its disarmament obligations is authorised by UNSCR 678 and is therefore in accordance with international law. The obstacle to Iraq's compliance with these obligations is the current Iraqi regime, supported by the forces under its control. The UK Government has concluded that military action is necessary to enforce Iraqi compliance and that it is therefore necessary that the current Iraqi regime be removed from power, in order to create the conditions in which Iraq can be disarmed in accordance with its obligations.

2. Scope. This directive applies to those UK forces assigned to Op TELIC and committed to coalition operations against Iraq within the designated JOA. It will become effective only on my order, at which time it will supersede References B and C. It does not encompass direction to UK forces in the aftermath of hostilities other than for support to planning. This directive is issued to you prior to authorisation to ensure that you are fully prepared to initiate offensive military operations, possibly at short notice.

3. Reference Document. This directive should be read in conjunction with the supporting information and instructions contained in the Op TELIC Reference Document (TRD), which is attached at Enclosure 1.

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UK SECRET - UK EYES ONLY

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23. Financial Accounting and Policy Advice. Your financial accounting instruction and policy advice are detailed at Section 7 to the TRD.

[REDACTED]

25. PW and Detainees. The processing of PWs and detainees is to be in accord with the provisions of the Law of Armed Conflict. You have a legal liability to acquaint yourself with the Geneva Conventions and Protocols and you are responsible for ensuring that all members of UK contingents and components comply with them. Any PW and detainee handling by UK forces is to be conducted strictly in accordance with the provisions of JWP 1-10.

26. Deployment of Civilians. Details of all civilians deploying on Op TELIC are to be passed to PJHQ. Instructions for deployed contractors are at Section 8 of the TRD.

³ Comprising equipment and tactics, techniques and procedures