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18 Sept 03

CO
 Bn 2ic
 QM
 OsC
 Adjt
 Ops Offr
 RSM
 RMP Det
 Provo Sgt

RECOMMENDATIONS ON BATTLEGROUP INTERNMENT PROCEDURES

1. The death of a detainee in custody has highlighted a number of areas where improvements should be made in order prevent a reoccurrence of such an event. The SIB investigation is still ongoing, however, in the interim period a review of procedures is still of use.

FACILITIES

2. An appropriate lockable cell facility is to be requested formally as a Statement of Requirement for the current holding facility at BG MAIN. This will allow prisoners to be left unaccompanied within the cell but observed and for cuffs to be removed, without the danger of a guard being attacked or the prisoner escaping out of the holding facility.

EQUIPMENT

3. The QM should indent for proper restraints to be held by the RP staff that will be used once the detainee has arrived at the holding area. Troops, at the point of arrest, should use two plasticuffs interlinked to allow limited movement.

4. A request to Brigade for the use of blacked out ski masks should be made as a counter intelligence measure for use in transit and when moving out of the holding facility.

MEDICAL

5. Currently all prisoners are inspected on arrival by the RMO, at this stage all medical ailments and requirements are established and if necessary the issue of medicines is undertaken. Any bruising, cuts or breaks from the process of capture must be recorded and a prisoner health state certificate issued by medical staff.

6. Medical staff have paid regular visits to the holding centre at the request of the RP Staff. A more regular routine of visits, one on the hour every

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hour should be developed in order to provide a constant monitor of the health of prisoners – this should not prove difficult as the medical facility is located 50m from the holding centre. These visits should be recorded on the prisoner health certificate.

QUESTIONING

7. The opportunity to question is still an important aspect of the receipt of combat intelligence for immediate follow up. Comd Legal will be requested to allow the use of questioning by qualified personnel as we now have the time to be deliberate in our follow up. Questioning should not have to be conducted in the manner of TQ and should be recorded as evidence. Once they go to the TIF this valuable opportunity is lost. My recommendation on TQ is that it is suspended until a clearly defined policy directive is issued by the chain of command.

8. The BGIRO will provide direction to the questioner and oversee their proceedings. The BGIRO will then only be required to confirm their name, address, age and family details before reviewing the evidence collected during the arrest and questioning for a decision on internment.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR DETAINEE/PRISONER HANDLING

9. The responsibility for the handling and welfare of prisoners will go to the sub-units who made the arrest and who are to provide the guard. The guard force will come under the command of the RP staff and the normal chain of command adopted in a UK military establishment.

PROCESS AND GUARD PROCEDURES

10. On each occasion the Guard will be formally briefed on the treatment of prisoners using a set format provided by the RP staff. Each member of the guard will sign the occurrence book. The BGIRO will be present for this brief and countersign the book.

11. A log will be kept in the occurrence book held by the RP staff and kept in the holding area when in use. All visitors will be recorded. All prisoners' movements recorded. The BGIRO will be required to sign for each prisoner in turn when taken away for questioning or TQ. The Adjutant should also inspect the detainees and the guard twice during their stay.

CAPACITY

12. The question must be asked: how many detainees can we take at any one time? This will have to be reviewed carefully as we do not want to limit ourselves if a successful operation requires overflow. As with previous operations additional resources will be requested.

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