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Fenton Maj E GBR (INET)

From: Fenton Maj E GBR (INET)
Sent: 16 September 2003 20:49
To: Robinson Maj M GBR (INET)
Cc: Landon Maj J GBR (INET); Clifton Maj R GBR (INET); Burbridge Capt CW GBR (INET)
Subject: TQ and detention

Chaps

Regardless of where the current investigation goes into the death at 1QLR, we need to review TQ procedures and responsibilities.

We need to define who is responsible for the welfare of the detainee; is it the CO of the Bn, or the person conducting TQ? Are we currently conducting a hand over between guards and TQ? Does the TQ sign them back over to the guards, both parties ensuring the detainee is fit and well at the end of questioning?

You may reassure me that all this happens, but if not, I'll need convinced that it is something we need not do. This is as much to protect those involved in the system, as the individuals themselves.

What are the laid down timelines for how long the BGs can hold people for?

Are we still, under phase 4 ROE and status, allowed to keep detainees handcuffed and hooded? I understand the need to maintain the 'pressure' in order to get a better product, but I feel we are going to have to work hard to justify this in future. Is there an alternative – i.e. if we do not want them to communicate, should they not be kept in separate rooms: if not enough rooms at one locn, why do we not use multiple locns? Do we need to build/adapt a Bde TQ holding facility?

Make no mistake, we may consider ourselves at the 'front line of a war on terror', but I guarantee UK will not see it that way, and we cannot get away with treating people in this manner. So, let's tighten up what we do:

Legal; comment on our obligations

Int: comment on the TQ procedure, the risk we run of losing continuity; identify if we can get the TIF to turn info around faster, thus encouraging BGs to get detainees there sooner. When/how do we get Bde pers on the TQ cse? Have we told 20 Bde to get people qualified?

Ops: BPT issue an SOP that will be enforced by Bde.

DCOS: any thoughts?

Ed

E A FENTON
 COS
 HQ 19 MECH BDE
 PATRON [REDACTED]

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