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G2 Branch
Headquarters 19 Mechanised Brigade
British Forces Post Office 647



Reference: G2/PHTQ1

See Distribution

Date: 27 Sep 03

PRISONER HANDLING AND TACTICAL QUESTIONING PROCEDURES (PHTQ)

References:

- A. MND SOI 390 Tactical Questioning of Detainees.
- B. ITD 9 Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC).
- C. 19mb/g3/101 Timeline dated 18 Sep 03.
- D. Tactical Questioning Report HQ 3 Div Force MI.

GENERAL

1. The aim of PHTQ is to gain time sensitive tactical intelligence from a detainee and to determine if they require detention and further questioning at JFIT. Timely intelligence gained from TQ can lead to cascade operations and general building of the intelligence picture. Correct prisoner handling is vital in order to gain maximum benefit from tactical questioning and remain within the confines of the Geneva Convention. These two components (PH&TQ) are inextricably linked and must be considered together, not as separate entities.

CONDUCT

2. Reference A defines how PHTQ should be conducted and highlights the importance of using qualified personnel (Para 3). 19 Bde have fully endorsed MND (SE) SOI 390 and full direction is enclosed at Annex A. BGs are to ensure prisoner-handling procedures are strictly adhered to. Reference B covers vital issues that all soldiers must fully conversant with when dealing with detainees. Reference C highlights time lines to be adhered to from detention to movement to TIF or release (further information can be found at Annex B). Reference D provides a framework for TQ to follow (Annex C) in order to extract information of tactical value and assist JFIT. A simple Bde produced PH Aide Memoir is at Annex D. It is intended to assist commanders at all levels to ensure detainees' welfare and maximum benefit from TQ.

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3. Incorrect PH will lead to the possible harm of the detainee and reduce dramatically the effectiveness of TQ. PH must be included in the Service Support section of the orders process and a SNCO or officer put in command to ensure it runs to the principles laid down in Annex D.



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Annexes:

- A. Standing Operational Instruction (SOI) Tactical Questioning (TQ) of Internees.
- B. PHTQ Timeline.
- C. Tactical Questioning Report.
- D. Prisoner Handling – A Battle Group Guide.

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ANNEX A TO
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INSTRUCTION FOR THE HANDLING AND TACTICAL QUESTIONING OF
INTERNEES

AIM

1. The aim of Tactical Questioning (TQ) is to extract time sensitive tactical intelligence from an internee or to establish if an internee requires interrogation in the Theatre Interrogation Facility (TIF). Normally only individuals who have been detained during an intelligence lead operation should be subject to TQ. An exception may be made during a reactive operation if an individual is detained who, from indications on the ground, is believed to be of intelligence interest, that is to say former high level Ba'athists, terrorists or who is considered to be a clear threat to security.
2. Since the aim of TQ is to extract tactical intelligence persons detained for criminal activity are not to be subjected to TQ. Such individuals are to be handed to RMP/CIVPOL in accordance with Div/Bde SOPs.

CONDUCT

3. TQ may only be carried out by personnel who have undergone and passed a course of qualification in TQ and/or Interrogation run by F Branch Joint Services Interrogation Organisation (JSIO) or a course run by qualified instructors and sanctioned by JSIO. Additionally TQ should only be carried by persons who have either carried out TQ operationally or taken part in practical resistance to interrogation training with 4 (CAC) Coy within the last two years.
4. TQ can not be undertaken without the internee first being examined by a suitably qualified Medic. This should be at the first practical opportunity and the following must occur:
 - a. The MO is to sign a fit for detention and questioning form.
 - b. Any medical attention that is required should be administered. If necessary the internee should be removed to local medical facilities.
 - c. If any detainee is found to be unfit for detention or questioning then they are be removed to a safe place until such time as they are fit for questioning.
 - d. It is important to note the timeliness of the information is critical and if the period of recovery should extended past a point when any intelligence gained is of no tactical value the internee should be released or transported to the TIF.
5. In order to undertake TQ the following rules must be followed:

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- a. Permission to establish a TQ Operation must be sought from the next higher formation (minimum Bde HQ) stating clear reasons for the requirement to detain an individual for TQ. For a planned lift operation this permission should be given before the operation starts. A nominated individual must be in charge of the TQ.
 - b. Under normal circumstances no more than two TQ sessions should be required to obtain initial intelligence/information. The second session is to allow confirmation and further exploitation.
 - c. The period of detention for the entire TQ phase for each internee should last no longer than 12 hours. At the end of the 14 hr period the internee should either be released, handed to the Police, or moved to the TIF for questioning.
 - d. The internee should be treated in accordance with the Geneva Convention at all times and must not be subjected to any physical punishment.
6. The nature of the current operation may make it difficult to abide by these rules all of the time. If for any reason they cannot be adhered this must be notified to Bde HQ level immediately.

GUARDING AND HOLDING OF DETAINEES

7. Whilst the guarding and holding of internees is a J/G3 function it forms an important part of the conditioning process which allows an internee to be susceptible to the approaches of the TQ.
8. For the TQ element of the holding process the guard forces should have been instructed by a Prisoner Handling Instructor, who has taken a course of qualification in Prisoner Handling and TQ and in the correct manner of holding and moving internees through the TQ centre. Such instruction is to occur prior to the operation and/or be conducted as part of routine training procedures. Suitable "on barracks" real estate should be identified and used. This will ensure that any short notice TQ operations fall back on a proven and thought through system. The following procedures are to be followed:
- a. The TQ Operation is to be supervised at all times by the senior Tactical Questioner (SNCO or WO). This individual has no responsibility for wider issues of control of internees outside the TQ process.
 - b. A holding area is to be established and sufficient guards provided (the normal ratio is two per internee).
 - c. TQ rooms or areas are to be established. The holding and TQ areas should be supervised by an officer or SNCO.

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- d. Movement between the holding area and TQ rooms is to be controlled by two guards, under the instruction of an NCO. Instruction should be given to these guards as part of the TQ stand up procedure prior to the operation.
9. Internees are not to be hooded during the TQ process, however the Geneva Convention allows for internees to be blindfolded when moving around a military sensitive area. Likewise internees are not to be held in stress positions. They are to be made to sit or stand depending on the environment or tactical situation.
10. Once TQ is completed and it is intended that an internee should be moved to the TIF then a copy of all TQ reports must be passed to the JFIT either directly or via J2X at Div HQ through Bde.

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PHTQ TIMELINE

1. The detention of individuals either as part of a planned or reactive operation is an expected activity. It should continue to happen. Information, which may be held by detainees, may be of immediate tactical value. TQ of detainees in a controlled environment is often the only way in which this can be determined.
2. TQ must only take place after an individual has received a medical examination. It should be conducted by qualified personnel only. They must have passed the PH&TQ course run by JSIO.
3. TQ should be conducted in a single session. If the questioner assesses that the detainee has more useful information, they should be transferred to the TIF for further questioning. Comds should use discretion at this stage. If he believes that the information is time critical then further questioning may be justified. This should be annotated in the final report.
4. The table below details the timeline which must be followed following the arrest and TQ of suspects. The timeline below is a minimum requirement and discretion should be employed by comds to ensure that, where possible, a more lenient regime is followed.
5. 'A'hr indicates arrival time at the location for TQ:

Ser	Time (a)	Required Activity (b)	Remarks (c)
1	A Hr	Arrival at TQ location Medical Inspection Water made available	A detailed log is initiated. To be conducted by a RMO
2	A + 1 onwards	Water made available hourly	Water to be avail more frequently if required
3	A + 3	Examination by RMO	Record kept.
4	A + 6	Meal provided. Examination by RMO	Record kept
5	A + 9	Examination by RMO	Record kept
6	A + 12	Meal provided.	
7	NLT A + 14	Final Examination by RMO Depart for TIF	BG to inform Bde if this timeline will not or has not been met, with justification.
8	A + 16	Consolidated report to Bde HQ	This must include any complaint made by the detainee during his questioning. It must state whether no complaint has been made.

7. Medical Records. Records must be kept of all medical examinations. This will allow the detainees to be transferred to the TIF on or before the 14 hour mark, without the concern that he/she will not receive medical attention before 0900hrs when the TIF medical staff start their duty.