

## STAFF - INVESTIGATION

Case Ref No: 64695/03

MOD Form 266A/B  
(Introduced 12/03)SERVICE POLICE  
WITNESS STATEMENT

(CJ Act 1967, S.9;MC Act 1980, SS.5A(3a) and 5B;MC Rules 1981, r70)

Statement of: JOHN LIGHTEN	
Rank/Status: Maj	
Age if under 18: Over 18 (if over 18 insert "over 18")	Occupation: HM Forces (Army)
This statement (consisting of 5 pages each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.	
Signature: J LIGHTEN	Dated the 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2006

I am Maj John Lighten [REDACTED] at present serving with the Tyne Tees Regiment, Gillesgate, Durham.

During Op Telic 2 I was deployed as B Coy Commander, 1 QLR based in Iraq with battle group main.

I have today been asked by WO1 NA Smith RMP (SIB) to detail my involvement and my observations of the handling, conditioning and treatment of Iraqi detainees.

Prior to deployment my unit undertook a period of training during which we dealt with how detainees should be treated.

This training instructed each soldier to follow the Geneva Convention. Each soldier was required to have passed the law of armed conflict, ITD and whilst on OP Tag training we were instructed in Prisoner of War handling.

I have been asked by WO1 Smith to explain what the interpretation from this training was in relation to restraining detainees. Although I can't recall specific instructions the interpretation was that those arrested for looting would have their hands restrained with Plasticuffs whereas those arrested during house searches would be both Plasticuffed and have sand bags placed over their heads (as suspected terrorists).

As a Company my unit was involved in a number of arrest operations and the arrest of looters. In these instances and following the training the soldiers in my unit were instructed to always use the minimum forces required to affect an arrest and whilst this would have required the use of force it was always proportionate.

I have been asked by WO1 Smith about instruction received during CO's O groups relating to the handling of detainees. In response I can state that on the numerous occasions this was discussed the message passed down from Bde HQ to the Unit CO and then to the Coy Commanders was to be robust with looters and as we as a Unit I believed throughout the tour were always in a war fighting role that instruction was left to the Company Commanders to interpret. However, when I briefed my Unit my instruction was to follow the training given. At no time was I briefed nor did I brief that detainees should be handled in a manner other than as taught during the training undertaken prior to deployment.

Signature: J LIGHTEN

Signature Witnessed By: NA SMITH

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