

employed him in my mobile command group where his responsibilities were to provide me with close protection when I was engaged in close proximity to local Baswaris. This allowed me to remain secure whilst adopting a less threatening, more open posture whilst in conversation with members of the population. Pte S037 was subsequently Mentioned in Dispatches for his action in securing and disarming an Iraqi male who was trying to detonate a grenade whilst stood beside me. His duties did not include exercising prisoners and at no time did I brief him or encourage him to do so.

- 29 On or about 10 September 2003 a discussion between myself and my CSM (WO2 Parry) and Company Second in Command (Capt Gary Pinchen) took place during which they raised concerns that the atmosphere and attitude within the company had changed following the arrest of the ten members of the Geramsha tribe. Both were concerned that the soldiers, particularly the younger ones, might over react and consider that we were now in a fight rather than operating as a pseudo police force trying to keep the peace. The CSM had picked up what I would describe as 'chat' that some heavy handedness had taken place during the arrest of the Geramsha and was certain from his own observations that some of those men had left our custody with bruises and minor cuts. He could not attribute this to anyone or any event either during the arrest or subsequently. I decided to speak to the Company in order to 'reset the tone,' which I did that evening at the volleyball court. I should say that speaking to the Company was something I did routinely and considered to be part of my duties in exercising command. This was not therefore a 'one off' as has been suggested by some. I recall that I briefed the Company on the circumstances that had led up to the arrest of the ten members of the Geramsha tribe and the reasons for my decision to take them into custody. I also reminded the company that if any poor treatment of the detainees had occurred, then it was wrong and would result in disciplinary action if any perpetrators were subsequently discovered. The Company were left, in my opinion, being aware that I would not tolerate bad treatment of detainees.