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Last Update: 29 Sep 03	Tactical Questioning Reference: Annex C to MQ MNDSE SOI 390	Tac Note No: 2010 Author: Int Offr
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GENERAL

1. The aim of Tactical Questioning (TQ) is to extract time sensitive information from an internee or to establish if an internee requires interrogation in the Theatre Interrogation Facility (TIF). During TQ the questioner aims to exploit the shock of capture and disorientation felt by the suspect in order to gain intelligence that will lead to subsequent operations. It is fundamentally different to the interrogation process used by trained questioners at JFIT.

AIM

2. The aim of this Tac Note is to outline the regulations covering the use of TQ in the South Basrah AO in order to ensure that the maximum possible benefit is gained from the process without infringing the rights of all involved.

INFORMATION / PROCEDURE

3. Authority. Authority to conduct TQ procedures must be gained through the chain of command. During OP TELIC that authority rests with Bde. A nominated individual at Unit or Sub Unit level must in charge of the TQ Operation, this should not be the questioner.

4. Time. The TQ process must not last more than 12 hours. At the 12 hour point the decision to release, to hand over to the IZ Police or to intern must be made. If this decision cannot be made within the 12 hour window an extension may be requested through the chain of command. The lowest level at which this decision can be made is Bde HQ.

5. Medical. Suspects must be examined by a Doctor before TQ can commence. The first examination must be complete as soon as is practical. Subsequent reviews must occur at the 3, 6 and 12 hour point after initial arrest. The MO is to sign a fit for detention and questioning form, any suspect being unfit for questioning should receive the necessary treatment from qualified medical staff.

6. The Questioner. The actual TQ may only be conducted by individuals who have attended a course in TQ or Interrogation that has been approved by the Joint Services Interrogation Organisation (JSIO).

7. Prisoner Handling. Only individuals who are suspected of being able to offer intelligence supporting the CF Mission should be subjected to the TQ process. Criminals who pose no threat to the CF or their mission are not to be TQ'd. Where possible the handling of prisoners should be coordinated by a SNCO who is a qualified Prisoner Handling Instructor. Prisoners should not be subjected to unnecessary risks. In the South Basrah AO particular attention must be paid to the effects of prolonged exposure to the sun and the effects of dehydration.

8. Hooding / Blindfolding. Suspects are not to be hooded using sandbags or any other material. Likewise stress positions are not to be used. Annex C to MQ MNDSE SOI 390 refers to the Geneva Convention when allowing suspects to be blindfolded when in sensitive military areas. Should suspects require blindfolding goggles with the lenses covered by black tape are to be used.

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