

BMI Downgrade - RESTRICTED

D/PJHQ/5/8135/12/1

**JOINT COMMANDER'S MISSION DIRECTIVE**  
**TO**  
**THE UK NATIONAL CONTINGENT COMMANDER**  
**OPERATION TELIC**

*The context of this directive is that HMG is assumed to have concluded that the present strategy of coercion will not cause Saddam Hussein to comply with UNSCRs in an acceptable timescale and that coalition military action is necessary to secure national objectives for Iraq and the region.*

**ISSUED BY:** Lieutenant General J G Reith – Joint Commander (Jt Comd)  
**ISSUED TO:** Air Marshal B K Burrige – National Contingent Commander (NCC)

**References:**

- A CDS/08/03 dated 182359Z MAR 03: Edition 2 of CDS' Execute Directive to the Joint Commander
- B. D/PJHQ/5/8135/12/1 dated 29 Jan 03: Jt Comd's draft mission directive to the NCC
- C. D/PJHQ/3/3000/220/5/2 dated 19 Feb 03: Jt Comd's directive on appointment of the NCC

**BACKGROUND**

1. In UNSCR 1441, the Security Council decided that Iraq was in material breach of its disarmament obligations under UNSCR 687 and other relevant resolutions. The Council gave Iraq a final opportunity to comply by co-operating with the enhanced inspection regime established by UNSCR 1441, but warned of the serious consequences of failing to do so. The evidence shows that Iraq has failed to comply with the terms of Resolution 1441 and is now in further material breach of its obligations. In these circumstances, the use of force to enforce Iraq's compliance with its disarmament obligations is authorised by UNSCR 678 and is therefore in accordance with international law. The obstacle to Iraq's compliance with these obligations is the current Iraqi regime, supported by the forces under its control. The UK Government has concluded that military action is necessary to enforce Iraqi compliance and that it is therefore necessary that the current Iraqi regime be removed from power, in order to create the conditions in which Iraq can be disarmed in accordance with its obligations.

2. Scope. This directive applies to those UK forces assigned to Op TELIC and committed to coalition operations against Iraq within the designated JOA. It will become effective only on my order, at which time it will supersede References B and C. It does not encompass direction to UK forces in the aftermath of hostilities other than for support to planning. This directive is issued to you prior to authorisation to ensure that you are fully prepared to initiate offensive military operations, possibly at short notice.

3. Reference Document. This directive should be read in conjunction with the supporting information and instructions contained in the Op TELIC Reference Document (TRD), which is attached at Enclosure 1.

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**STRATEGIC ISSUES**

4. HMG's Objectives.

a. Political Goal. To rid Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction (and their associated programmes and means of delivery, including prohibited ballistic missiles) as set out in UNSCRs.

b. Strategic End State. HMG's strategic end state is as rapidly as possible for Iraq to become a stable, united and law abiding state, within its present borders, co-operating with the international community, no longer posing a threat to its neighbours or to international security, abiding by all its international obligations and providing effective government for all of its people.

c. Wider Political Objectives. The wider political objectives in support of both the military campaign and the achievement of HMG's strategic end state are to:

(1) Demonstrate to the Iraqi people that our quarrel is not with them and that their security and well-being is our concern;

(2) Work with the UN to lift sanctions inhibiting the supply of humanitarian and reconstruction goods, and to enable Iraq's own resources, including oil, to be available to meet the needs of the Iraqi people;

(3) Sustain the widest possible international and regional coalition in support of military action;

(4) Preserve wider regional security, including maintenance of the territorial integrity of Iraq and mitigating the humanitarian and other consequences of conflict for Iraq's neighbours;

(5) Help create the conditions for stable and law-abiding governance of Iraqis;

(6) Further our policy of eliminating international terrorism.

d. Strategic Military Objective. To support the coalition effort, within allocated resources, in order to enforce the disarmament of Iraq in accordance with UNSCRs.

e. Objectives in Support of the UK's Higher Political Intent.

(1) Support efforts of humanitarian organisations to mitigate the consequences of hostilities.

(2) Facilitate international efforts for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Iraq.

(3) Contribute to the preservation of the territorial integrity of Iraq and the wider regional security within the JOA.

5. UK Operational Endstate. The UK's operational endstate will have been achieved when the following conditions apply:

- a. Iraq's WMD capability has been destroyed, removed, or transitioned to competent authority;
- b. Iraq is capable of defending its territorial borders and maintaining internal security;
- c. Iraq's territorial integrity is intact;
- d. CMO activities have transitioned to IO/NGO/HN;
- e. A safe environment with a responsible government has been established in Iraq;
- f. UK forces have redeployed.

6. Assessed Centres of Gravity.

- a. Iraq.
  - (1) Strategic. Saddam Hussein and his regime.
  - (2) Operational. Republican Guard forces, WMD and delivery means, and SSMs.
- b. Coalition.
  - (1) Strategic. International will and coalition co-operation.
  - (2) Operational. Mounting and sustaining operations.

7. [REDACTED]

APPOINTMENT

8. You are appointed the United Kingdom National Contingent Commander (UK NCC) for specified UK forces deployed on Op TELIC within the defined JOA. As such, your responsibilities are as laid down in this mission directive.

9. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**MISSION**

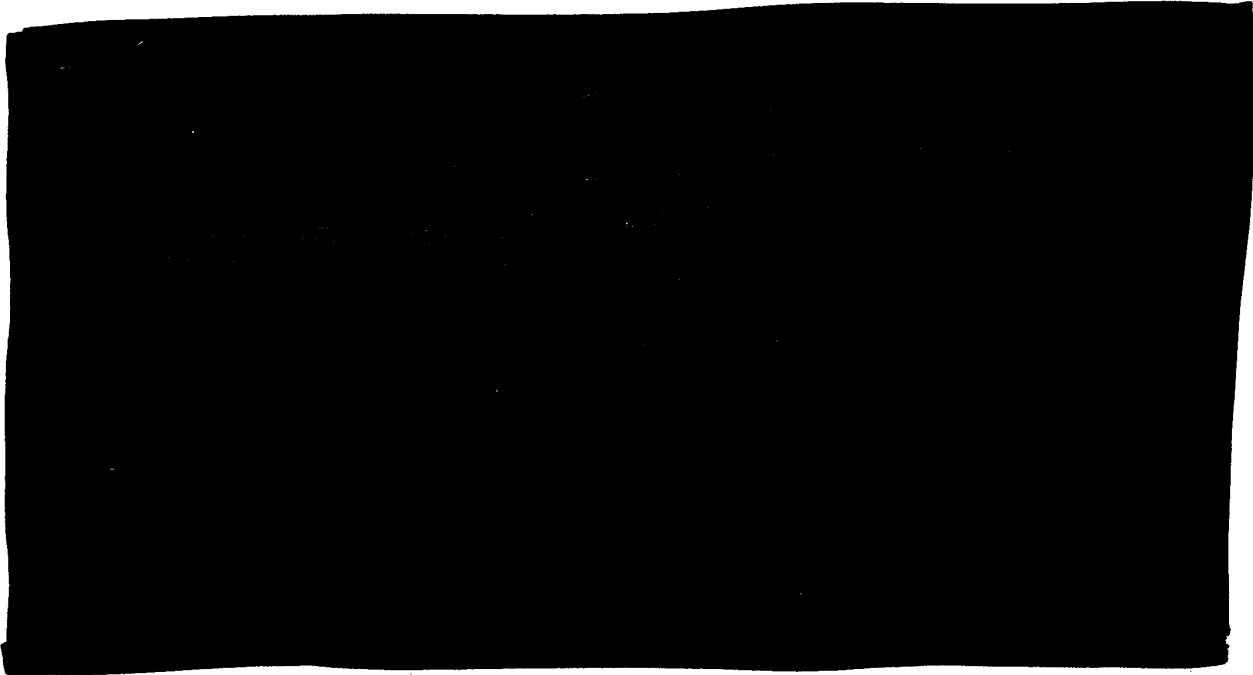
12. You are to exercise national command of specified UK forces deployed on Op TELIC in the execution of authorised tasks, within a coalition framework, in order to contribute to the UK's strategic and military objectives for Iraq.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



16. Main Effort. My main effort prior to the commencement of offensive operations is ensuring the preparedness and integration of forces. On committal, and within the overall Coalition main effort, my operational priority will lie with the prosecution of decisive operations by the land contingent supported by air and maritime forces.

17. Specified Tasks. You are to execute the following specified tasks:

- a. Direct the employment of the UK contingents to meet those tasks authorised by me.
- b. Provide support to and influence on Coalition operational planning to ensure that UK's objectives can be achieved, noting that any changes of mission need to be referred to me.

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<sup>2</sup> The subject of a separate Jt Comd directive.

- c. Advise the Coalition Force Commander (CFC) of the criteria governing the employment of UK forces and refer to me any tasks that you consider to be beyond the scope of this directive or that are high risk or contentious.
- d. Identify and report early any targeting issues that exceed your delegated authority.
- e. Support the CFC in building and sustaining the coalition.
- f. Facilitate the integration of sanitised national intelligence into the coalition, and implement and maintain effective intelligence gathering efforts throughout the JOA.
- g. Ensure the protection of UK deployed forces.
- h. Support international efforts to find and eliminate Iraqi WMD capacity, its means of delivery and infrastructure.
- i. Within available resources, be prepared to support humanitarian efforts to mitigate the consequences of conflict.
- j. As quickly as possible, establish a safe and secure environment within which humanitarian aid agencies are able to operate.
- k. Sustain UK forces assigned to Op TELIC.
- l. Exercise the national red card when appropriate. You should consult me in advance of your intentions, unless time disallows, when doing this.
- m. Be prepared to deter any external interference to the military campaign.

18. Conduct of Operations. All military operations by UK forces and from UK territory are to be conducted in accordance with the UK's obligations under Law of Armed Conflict (also known as international humanitarian law) and UK national law. Further guidance on these legal obligations is contained in Sections 2 (ROE) and 4 (Targeting) of the TRD; legal advice will be available at all times when required. You are to ensure that UK personnel comply with national ROE when deployed in the JOA.

**COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

23. Financial Accounting and Policy Advice. Your financial accounting instruction and policy advice are detailed at Section 7 to the TRD.

[REDACTED]

25. PW and Detainees. The processing of PWs and detainees is to be in accord with the provisions of the Law of Armed Conflict. You have a legal liability to acquaint yourself with the Geneva Conventions and Protocols and you are responsible for ensuring that all members of UK contingents and components comply with them. Any PW and detainee handling by UK forces is to be conducted strictly in accordance with the provisions of JWP 1-10.

26. Deployment of Civilians. Details of all civilians deploying on Op TELIC are to be passed to PJHQ. Instructions for deployed contractors are at Section 8 of the TRD.

<sup>3</sup> Comprising equipment and tactics, techniques and procedures