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19 May 2004

*Dear David,*

**USE OF HOODING BY UK FORCES**

**Consolidated advice on the practice of hooding by UK Armed Forces.**

**General Background**

The Heath Ruling (2 March 1972) determined that hooding would not be used for the purposes of interrogation. The ruling was based on the Majority Report signed by Lord Parker, which examined interrogation techniques. Neither the Parker Report nor the Heath Ruling covered hooding during transit.

**Training**

All members of the Army receive training on prisoner handling. In the case of officers training takes place at Sandhurst and for other soldiers training takes place during their initial (Phase 1) training. This training is supplemented annually by mandatory individual training for all Army personnel, which includes training on the Law of Armed Conflict and direction on prisoner handling. Anyone deploying on operations must also complete mandated pre-deployment training, which includes prisoner handling.

The Joint Services Intelligence Organisation (JSIO) runs two courses to teach procedures for prisoner handling and interrogation. The Prisoner Handling and Tactical Questioning course is designed for front-line soldiers who are likely to come into contact with enemy prisoners shortly after they have been captured. It is a five and a half day course which is designed to ensure that personnel can conduct initial questioning of prisoners, in adherence with the Geneva Conventions, and determine whether more detailed questioning is warranted.

The JSIO also runs an interrogation course which is an additional five days of training at the end of the Prisoner Handling and Tactical Questioning course. It is designed for Service personnel who are in an appointment that could require them to conduct interrogation of captured enemy personnel. The course teaches them how to question captured personnel, in accordance with the

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