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File Ref

Date

CO JSIO
 CO 3 MI Bn
 SO2 Coord, JSIO
 OC 3 (Trg) Coy, JSIO
 OC 2 (Res) Coy, JSIO
 OC Branch, JSIO
 OC S Branch, JSIO

Copy to:

RSM, JSIO

(DRAFT)

LD/LSL – POST OPERATIONAL TOUR REPORT
- LAND COMMAND COMPONENT JOINT FORWARD INTERROGATION
TEAM

References:

A. JWP 1-10 – Prisoner Handling

GENERAL

1. [REDACTED] deployed on Op TELIC on 01 Mar 03 as the Operations Warrant Officer (OPSWO) Land Component Command (LCC) Joint Forward Interrogation Team (JFIT). The JFIT was made up of reservists from HMS Ferret, 7630 Sqn RAuxAF, 3 MI Bn (V). The OC was a regular Royal Naval Officer from 2 (Res) Coy, JSIO, and the 2 i/c was a regular Intelligence Corps Officer from S Branch, JSIO. The tour ended on 10 May 03 for myself, but several of the team remained in theatre to continue to work in the JFIT and 3 members were re-rolled to 16 Air Assault Brigade's Field HUMINT Team (FHT).

2. This report has been deliberately submitted several weeks after departure from theatre to allow a suitable period of reflection and for the other team members to have their input. The report addresses a number of topics, some of which are internal to the JFIT. These issues have been included for interest/information. A number of other points are raised for the information of CO JSIO and OC 3 (Trg) Coy with regards to the teaching of those who deploy and ideas either for future courses or the enhancement of the current, PH & TQ and Interrogation Courses and pre-deployment training. And to

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of identification did at times prove problematic because the Prisoners could get them off and some did swap them. We did issue the PW with our own numbers to aid in control and identification this did prove very useful and no PW were lost within our system. No prisoners escaped or attempted to escape, but a very small number did get aggressive and attempt to grab the Guards' weapons. However these individuals were quickly restrained using minimum force.

20. There were occasions when Prisoners turned up with injuries which they claimed were received after capture or at the point of capture. On one occasion we could not interrogate a Prisoner due to him being so badly beaten at the point of capture. It was unknown if these injuries were due to him resisting or from over zealous capturing troops.

21. After approximately two weeks into the operation the International Committee (ICRC) requested that the PW's hoods be removed. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] During this time a visit to the JFIT by Col Chris Vernon and a civilian spin-doctor, Marcus de Ville, combined with a paper from SO1 LEGAD at 1 (UK) Div led to a decision by the GOC that there was to be no hooding in the UK AOR. Some Prisoners were not happy about this because they wanted to preserve their identity from other Prisoners. Also the behaviour of the PW changed dramatically. They became more confident as they could gain support from others through verbal and sign communication. This was difficult to prevent due to the large numbers of Prisoners (eighty four at one point) and so few guards (as little as eleven at one point). The Prisoners could also see what was going on around them and there was a concern about security as some of the Prisoners did get released into the population. Therefore they could have gathered intelligence and knew where we were located. Also some of the JFIT Staff were re-rolled into FHTs and could be recognized later when carrying out such duties. A limited number of blindfolds were taken into theatre but some were quickly lost or stolen but sandbags were plentiful. [REDACTED]

RECOMMENDATIONS

22. The following recommendations are made:
- a. A JFIT must have its own support Staff including; SQMS and one Admin JNCO, an IT expert, a technician to maintain the communications systems and monitoring equipment and a clerk. The clerk and technician could also double up as PW movements.
 - b. A JFIT must deploy with its own equipment table (see Annex A). The phrase "You will get it in theatre" to say the very least is simply not true.
 - c. The JFIT must consist of more regular personnel, perhaps on a 50/50 level. Too much was expected of the [REDACTED] regular Staff when they had not worked

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