

Witness Name: SEAN JOSEPH O'GORMAN

Statement No.: [ONE]

Dated: 28 JULY 2010

THE BAHAMOUS PUBLIC INQUIRY

Witness Statement of SEAN JOSEPH O'GORMAN

I, SEAN JOSEPH O'GORMAN will say as follows: -

1. I am [REDACTED] Lieutenant Colonel Sean Joseph O'GORMAN ROYAL ARTILLERY, currently assigned to Headquarters Land Warfare Centre as Staff Officer Grade One, G7 Training Joint/Multinational, responsible to the Director General Land Warfare for Training Policy, Joint and Multinational Training and other issues as directed by Chief of Staff Land Warfare Centre.

2. I have been directed to answer Question 26 from the Inquiry's letter to Jeremy Williams of 21 December 2009:

“Is TQ&I doctrine adequately visible to commanders at company and battlegroup level so that they understand what is permissible and what is prohibited in the physical handling of CPERS during, or as an aid to, tactical questioning of CPERS held by their units or sub-units?”

3. TQ is covered briefly during the OPTAG detainee handling lesson delivered to all personnel about to deploy during their Mission Specific Training (see paragraph 5 below). I therefore believe that Commanders at Battlegroup and Company level are aware of their key responsibilities including those relating to physical handling of CPERS, most specifically the prohibition on using the '5 Techniques' as a conditioning process. Furthermore, SOIJ3/9¹ (the policy covering the current detention in Afghanistan) demands that all personnel with chain of command and/or

1. This document can be found at MIV000001.

oversight and governance responsibilities for personnel engaged in TQ are to read the 2008 Tactical Questioning and Interrogation Policy (MOD042382). They will be able to turn to the TQ trained personnel in their units for more detailed guidance.

4. Detailed individual training requirements for Battlegroups are laid down in the Land Forces OP HERRICK Mounting Order; this document is a unit Second in Commands detailed guidance in terms of Force Preparation. This is being updated and the latest draft [MIV002789] states that 'All units are likely to be required to handle prisoners and conduct limited TQ and therefore each sub-unit is to qualify 2 x soldiers in TQ in accordance with the Statement of Training Requirement (SOTR).' The SOTR [MIV002884] gives a short explanation of the aim of TQ and the type of soldier who should be sent for training. A review of the recent Post Training Report submitted from theatre by HQ 4 Bde indicates that ground holding battlegroups are training the correct number of TQ'ers during MST however Colonel S069's statement covering question 24 addresses this issue in more detail (it is not an LWC responsibility to ensure that sufficient are trained).

5. For the bulk of the deploying force TQ is mentioned during the Detainee lesson delivered by a Military Provost Service SNCO on the Operational Training and Advisory Group (OPTAG) All Ranks Brief and Individual Reinforcement Course. The lesson plan is at exhibit [MIV004598]. Everyone deploying to Theatre for periods longer than 5 days receives this training. This brief explicitly mentions the prohibition of the '5 techniques' and also states that TQ may only be conducted by qualified personnel; it must be recorded correctly; and the questioner must consider and monitor the emotions of the detainee throughout.

6. I understand that ICSP HUMINT Pol are close to finalising a revised TQ Policy which will stand alone from Interrogation Policy. This policy will reflect current advice from Theatre and will include a requirement for each Battlegroup to appoint a Unit TQ Coordinator to ensure that TQ is conducted

in accordance with existing guidelines, properly recorded using a common format and the records passed up the Chain of Command for archiving. The new policy will state the requirement for Battlegroup COs to receive a specific brief on TQ rather than it being dealt with as a subset of detention. This will be delivered by PJHQ J2 staff during MST and ensure that Commanders have more detailed knowledge of the policy. The new policy will be reflected in future versions of the HERRICK Aide Memoires and MST training events. More detail on the revised TQ&I policy is contained in the statements of Captain Adams (DISC) and Colonel S069 (PJHQ).

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the witness.

Dated

28th July 2010

Documents referred to in the Witness Statement of SEAN JOSEPH O’GORMAN, dated 28/07/2010:

Paragraph #	URN	Title
3	MOD042380	Reissue of MOD Policy on Interrogation and Tactical Questioning
4	MIV002789	Land Forces OP HERRICK Mounting Order: Battle Group Training Requirement (Appendix 2a to Annex E to HQLF/CTS)
4	MIV002884	OP Herrick Statement of Training Requirement (H-SOTR) V11
4,6	MIV004991	Witness Statement of S069
5	MIV004598	Operational Training and Advisory Group All Ranks Brief and Individual Reinforcement Course - I SPEC - Op Herrick Detention on Operations
6	MIV006123	Witness Statement of PETER ADAMS