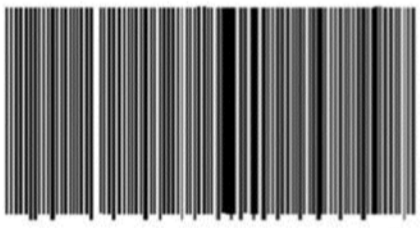
Prepared for OPEN publication in relation to the Independent Inquiry Relating to Afghanistan



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Name Given (SPO DJEP-Temp 6)

From: Morris, Rob Col (NORTHMOOR TEAM-HQ-AH)
Sent: 24 July 2019 11:04
To: IIA480 (Army PM-AH-TECH); IIA869 (Army PM-Pol-Com-SO1); Harvey, John Maj (SIB RMP-NORTHMOOR-HQ-GoldComd)
Subject: 20190724_Op_NM_External_Briefing_Chronology_AHNM
Attachments: 20190128_Op_NM_External_Briefing_Chronology_AHNM-OS.docx

IIA480, IIA869

I have mentioned to you both (and IIA480 you will recall comments made by Peter Ryan in the Gold Group) that there is a view from DJEP that we (RMP) 'catastrophised' the investigation in its early days (2014-2016) particularly around the serious allegations and there were a series of briefings to personnel in Main Building that do not seem to have had their content recorded.

Last year I went through various documents to try and determine who was briefed, by who and when. The result is attached. Since 2016 we have been more disciplined on briefings with their content recorded on to the shared files and or placed into Holmes. I suggest that as we go through the drawdown phase that this kept up to date.

The original is on the sharepoint site.

Rob

Colonel RH Morris| AH Op NORTHMOOR| HQ PM(A) & 1 MP Bde| 2nd Fl Zone 5 IDL 431| Ramilies Bldg|
Contact Details

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Op NM EXTERNAL BRIEFING CHRONOLOGY

2014

- **13 May**: **DSP** briefed at Campion Lines on Op NM & Op CESTRO.
- **23 Jun**: **DSP**, **DJEP**, **DPS(A)**, **DGALS** meeting to discuss Op NM. Investigative detail not briefed.

2015

- **8 Jan**: PM(A) met with N1466 to discuss data management protocols of a certain classification. Investigative protocols and resources were briefed.
- **20 April**: PM(A), AH Tech, SO1 Inv met with **DSP** in Arundel. Concern over Command Responsibility and discussion whether DSP should inform Attorney General (AG) and whether Ministers should be advised through senior officials due to impact on standing and operational effectiveness of non-conventional forces. Agreed AG not to be briefed now but senior officials should be briefed by PM(A).
- **XX May 15**. Draft Minsub to SofS re Op NM. Not sent but circulated to Army Sec and others.
- **15 Jun**: PM(A) office call with **DCGS** (Lt Gen Poffley) to brief him that he has concerns that Op NM might impact on national security and the capabilities provided by SF and that he was trying to determine who he should approach wrt his concerns referencing his responsibilities to the Defence Council. Wanted to reassure DCGS that he wasn't acting unknowingly but he was acting independently.
- **19 Jun**: PM(A) met with **DSP**. DSP to speak to AG by end of month and the NCA Rep scope an office call with DG NCA for advice on briefing to Ministers. PM(A) will then consider whether or not and how to approach the Defence Council.
- **24 Jun**: Briefing to **Army Sec** (IIA901) to discuss best way to get advice to SofS.
- **26 Jun**. Minsub to **DPS/SoFS** on scope, process and resource implications of Op NM.
- **1 Jul**: PM(A) and AH Tech meeting with **Humphrey Morrison** to discuss whether to brief SofS on broader strategic concerns. Advice was to wait until DSP had briefed AG to alleviate any concerns of the SofS wanting to do something with the information that he was given.
- **2 Jul**: PM(A)/**DSP** telecon in which DSP confirmed that he had briefed AG (and Solicitor General) and AG would speak to SofS about PM(A)s concerns. PM(A) now not meeting with DG NCA. This meeting also raised the issue that the AG wants removed from Ops all who are implicated. SO1 Inv to work out how this can be met.
- **2 Jul**: SO1 Gold meet and brief **DG NCA** on Op NM in outline and facilitate on-going mentoring from NCA.
- **6 Jul**: PM(A), with AH Tech briefed **DCGS** (Lt Gen Poffley) on Op NM to allow DCGS to step in and discourage any uniformed discussion at a senior Army level. Advised DCGS that DSP had briefed AG and that latter would brief SofS and that PM(A) had withdrawn from applying to call on the SofS himself. Advised that DG NCA had been briefed and that the latter would mention the operation to the Home Sec. Advised that RMP might soon lose control of the awareness of Op NM due to approaching witnesses.
- **8 Jul**: PM(A) brief with AH Tech present to **DJEP** (Peter Ryan) on allegations and which senior politicians had been briefed.

- **31 Jul**: PM(A) telecon with **DSF**. PM(A) advised him that he had significant concerns and they had been raised to the AG but couldn't tell DSF what those concerns were but might be in a better place to do so in a few weeks.
- **8 Sep**: Meeting with outgoing and incoming [redacted]. Briefing in the round and that interviews would be required in the future.
- **3 Nov**: Meeting AH Tech/ [redacted] **and policy advisor**. Update on issues but no investigative material disclosed.
- **18 Nov**. Minsub to **PS/SofS** re witness interviews in Afghanistan.

2016

- **22 Jan**. Meeting with **DJEP**. No record of investigative material being discussed.
- **4 Feb**: Briefing in MB by SO1 Inv to **COS SofS** and **DG Sec Pol** to seek departmental support for travel to Afg.
- **12 Feb**: Meeting in MB to discuss deployment to Afg: **Ops Dir, PJHQ, FCO, Op NM**. No investigative material disclosed. Outcome is CDS will write to SACEUR asking for permission to use Op RS base to conduct interviews.
- **26 Feb**. **PUS** Briefed on need for FDHC by Lt Col McAllister; unsure what investigative material might have been disclosed.
- **21 Apr**: Brief to **CGS** by PM(A) and SO1 Inv. PM(A) outlined senior engagement to date and SO1 Gold outlined the investigation.
- **25 May**. Minsub from **DJEP to SofS** on Afghanistan Allegations: Assurance
- **27 May**. Brief to Army Sec; [redacted] **and** [redacted] – allows support for David McKay as Op NM develops.
- **3 Jun**. Brief to **PUS** (and an assistant) on Op NM. Led by John McAllister, with AH Tech present. investigative matters discussed and PUS will try and unlock the deployment issue.
- **8 Jun**. Meeting with **DCGS** (Lt Gen Pope) regarding resources allocated to Op NM. Required to write paper to show why we came to current levels and options for other service and contractors.
- **27 Jul**. Meeting with **DCGS** - AH Tech. Related to manning of Op NM and CGS' view that 25 is the number. View (CGS) that directing resources does not impact on independence. No investigative material briefed. Likely meeting with CGS at the end of Aug.
- **1 Sep**. PM(A) meeting with **PUS**. Resources for Op NM HQ discussed.
- **2 Sep**. Discussion with **DCGS** relating to resources for OP NM HQ.
- **13 Sep**. Briefing to **FCO** on Op NM by AH Tech (including DA Kabul and Asst Hd Mission) in order to assist in deployment to conduct interviews. No investigative material briefed.
- **16 Sep**. Inaugural briefing to **Sir Jon Murphy** and **Mark Ellison**; OP NM mentors. Full investigative brief.
- **23 Sep**. Meeting with [redacted] lawyer at PJHQ. Briefing in the round no investigative detail to assist in deployment issues.
- **19 Oct**. Meeting with **DCGS** re Op NM Manning. AH Tech brief and discussion on Manning LM of 13 Oct. Agreed opportunity to scale down manning once TM2 activity is driven down. Imperative to brief CGS had gone and DCGS will discuss in passing with him.

- **25 Nov**. Brief to **Inspector General Australian Defence Force** on Op NM structure and reasons for investigation. ADF likely to set up own investigation into allegations of abuses in Afg by ADF troops. No investigative material discussed outside of what is already public.
- **8 Dec**. Legacy Investigations Brief to **Regt/Corps Cols**. AH Tech brief but no investigative detail, outside of information already public, given.
- **15 Dec**. Minsub from **DJEP to SofS** re latter's meeting with Sir Jeremy Heywood.

2017

- **10 Feb**. PM(A) brief to **VCDS**. Update on Op NM.
- **8 Mar**. Legacy Investigations Brief to **Regt Secs**. AH Tech brief but no investigative detail, outside of information already public, given.
- **14 Mar**. Minsub to SofS on progress.
- **17 Mar**. Update brief to **DSF**. PM(A) and AH Tech. Progress of investigation and understanding of when we might need to speak again.
- **27 April**. Minsub to **SofS** on progress.
- **2 May**. Briefing to **DSP**. Update on investigations and review of JCRP process ('gold standard').
- **4 May**. Briefing to **DDC** on Op NM in the round. Followed by meeting with **Ops Dir** to discuss deployment to Afg. Followed by meeting with **DJEP**.
- **19 Jun**. Meeting with **DCGS**. PM(A) briefed on progress. This had followed a 'meeting engagement' with CGS on the stairs re Op NM.
- **23 Jun**. Meeting with **DJEP**. AH Tech update on recent Gold Gp issues that Peter Ryan hadn't attended.
- **30 Jun**. Minsub to **SofS** on progress.
- **4 Jul**. **CFA** visit to HQ PM(A) & 1 MP Bde. Short non-investigative brief on Op NM to CFA.
- **14 Jul**. Brief to **Matt Lewsey** 1* in DJEP on Op NM. Little investigative material briefed.
- **24 Aug**. **DCGS** Visit to Op NM at RAF St Mawgan. Briefed on some but not investigative material at a certain classification. MA Name Given [redacted] was in during the briefing.
- **31 Aug**. Minsub to **Min AF** on progress.
- **29 Sep**. Minsub to **Min AF** on progress; update on Interviews in Kabul.
- **10 Oct**. Meeting with **ACOS J1 and SO1 Legal** [redacted]. Update on investigation.
- **18 Oct**. Brief to **POLAD Des** Op TORAL. Background brief to give context when deployed. No investigative detail revealed.
- **2 Nov**. Visit of **DJEP** to RAF St Mawgan. Full investigative brief.
- **6 Dec**. Meeting with **DCGS**. Update on progress of investigation by AH NM.
- **18 Dec**. Minsub to **Min AF** on progress.

2018

- **10 Jan**. Meeting in MB: **Ben Sanders** re Disclosure; **DDC** re progress and any new LTT; **Ops Dir** re potential for further deployment to conduct witness interview.
- **23 Jan**. Meeting with IIA901 to discuss submission of Minsubs direct to ministers rather than through Army Sec. Update on investigation (he had previously mentioned 'drop weapons').

- **30 Jan**. Meeting with [redacted] at Army HQ. Update on investigation.
- **5 Mar**. Minsub to **Min AF** on FDHC ([redacted]).
- **14 Mar**. Meeting with **Min AF**. Explanation of FDHC; no investigative detail but interested on likely timeframe for completion.
- **25-26Apr**. Brief to **DDSP** at RAF St Mawgan. Full investigative brief.
- **17 May**. Update brief to **Sir Jon Murphy** at Andover.
- **23 May**. Finance discussion with [redacted] at Army HQ. No investigative material briefed.
- **30 May**. Brief to **BAS** (Op NM CT sits within DCGS BLB) on Op NM. Context and financial expenditure but no investigative detail.
- **4 Jun**. Meeting at RAF ST Mawgan on FDHC. Numerous IS and Sy stakeholders present; full log of attendees held by Op NM. Investigation in the round but no deep detail.
- **6 Jun**. **Gold Group** at RAF Northolt.
- **12 Jun**. Gold Meeting with **GLD**.
- **15 Jun**. Update brief to **DCGS**.
- **21 Jun**. Update brief to [redacted].
- **26 Jun**. **DSP** visit to RAF St Mawgan to conduct investigative Deep Dive as agreed at last Gold Grp that Mentors and DSP would undertake.
- **11-12 Jul. Mark Ellison** visit to RAF ST Mawgan iot undertake investigative Deep Dive.
- **Xx Jul.** Quarterly Brief to **Min AF** by PM(A). Miles Tooke present detail captured in a note.
- **Xx Aug. Sir Jon Murphy** and **IRT** visit to RAF St Mawgan iot undertake investigative Deep Dive and Investigative Review.
- **8 Aug.** Brief to **D Pers** on HQ PM(A) & 1 MP Bde in the round including generic brief on Op NM.
- **11 Sep. Gold Group** at ME office in London.
- **20 Sep.** Generic brief to new HQ PM(A) SO1 Legal (**Lt Col Davies**) on Op NM.
- **9 Oct.** Generic brief to **AH APSG** and **SO1 Legacy APSG** on Op NM.
- **11 Oct.** Routine briefing to [redacted]. Brief as per sheet in Moss.
- **16 Oct**. Routine briefing to **MIN AF**. Some detail on FDHC and other Op NM related discussion captured in a RoD which is on Moss.
- **13 Nov**. Routine briefing to and from **SPLI**.
- **27 Nov**. Update brief to **DCGS** as part of his floorplate visit to HQ PM(A) & 1 MP Bde.
- **17 Dec**. **Gold Group** at ME office in London.

2019

- **15 Jan.** Meeting in MB with **Ben Sanders** re drawdown planning. Updated on current LOE.
- **12 Feb**. Quarterly meeting with **SPLI**.
- **14 Feb**. Meeting with **APSG (Brig Coles,** [redacted]) to discuss feasibility of creating a Legacy Investigations Database of serving and veterans who have been suspects and witnesses. Short investigative update provided.
- **15 Feb**. Routine update to [redacted] on progress of the investigation.

- **11 Mar**. **Gold Group** at ME office in London.
- **11 Mar**. Brief to **DNS MOD** on Op NM. Briefing as per notes on File. Provided detail of allegations.
- **8-11 Mar. IRT** review of investigation at RAF St Mawgan.
- **26 Apr.** F2F discussion with SO1 Legad. Update on progress of remaining LoE.
- **2/3 May.** Full investigation brief to **PM(A) Des** and **AH MP**.
- **10 Jun.** Update brief to **DCGS** as per notes on file.
- **14 Jun. Gold Group** at ME office. Agenda, speaking notes and RoD on File.
- **18 Jun.** Telecon update to SO1 Legad on progress of outstanding LoE. Notes in notebook.
- **4 Jul.** Full investigation brief to **AH Tech**.
- **15 Jul. Gold Group** at MB. Agenda, speaking notes and RoD on file. Decision made to close Op NM
- **16 Jul.** MinSub to **Min AF** informing him of the closure of the Op NM investigation without any referrals to DSP. Distribution list shows also sent to: SofS, PUS, CDS, VCDS, DJEP, Dir DDC, DG Strat Pol
- **16 Jul.** Brief to **DCOS DSF** on progress of investigation and start of a new investigation outside of Op NM ToR.
- **17 Jul.** Office call **PM(A)** with **Min AF** to further brief on decision to close Op NM investigation.
- **17 Jul.** Office call **PM(A)** with **DCGS** to verbally brief on closure of Op NM investigation.
- **17 Jul.** Telecon **AH NM** with **DCOS DSF** to verbally brief him on closure of Op Nm investigation.
- **19 Jul.** Email to **APSG** from **AH NM** informing them of closure of Op NM investigation.
- **22 Jul.** Email to Army Sec IIA901 informing him of closure of Op NM investigation.
- **23 Jul. SO1 Gold** letter to **Leigh Day** informing them that the investigation into unlawful killing as alleged by their clients had pursed all reasonable and proportionate lines of enquiry but the EST had not been met and no individuals would be referred.