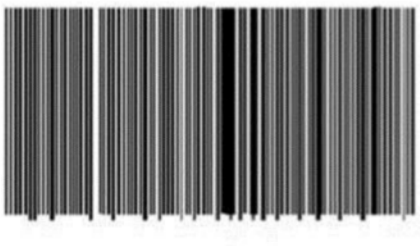
Prepared for OPEN publication in relation to the Independent Inquiry Relating to Afghanistan



RMP-221-0007053-A

## Morris, Rob Col (NORTHMOOR TEAM-HQ-AH)

**From:** Spec Ops RMP-SPCB-OC (Hacker, Philip Maj)
**Sent:** 11 March 2016 11:21
**To:** Army PM-Inv-SO1 (McAllister, John Lt Col)
**Cc:** Spec Ops RMP-SPCB-AST-WOIC (Bostock, Gary WO2); SpecOpsRegt-SPCB-Priddin JR WO2; Army PM-PolComSO1 (McKay, David Mr)
**Subject:** FW: 20160308-Meeting_CTO_NORTHMOOR_OCSPCB-OS

**Categories:** NORTHMOOR

Col,

Please see below. We need to engage with Brig Cole.

Regards

Phil

**Maj PAL Hacker | Officer Commanding, Service Police Crime Bureau, Specialist Operations Regiment, Royal Military Police, Bassett Wilson Building (PP24), Southwick Park, Fareham, Hampshire, PO17 6EJ.**

Contact details [redacted]

---

**From:** ISS Dev-AppServicesHd ([redacted IIA725])
**Sent:** 11 March 2016 10:18
**To:** Army Info-IS-Hd (Cole, Jonathan Brig); Army Info-IS-Svcs-Base-SO1Ops ([redacted IIA765]); Spec Ops RMP-SPCB-OC (Hacker, Philip Maj)
**Cc:** ISS Ops-CS-Hd (Adams, Al Cdre)
**Subject:** RE: 20160308-Meeting_CTO_NORTHMOOR_OCSPCB-OS

Many thanks Jon, and team – Cdre Al confirmed that Design Authority was involved in the early stages, and I have [redacted IIA910] and [redacted IIA730] coming back to me on the details of that. In summary my analysis of the challenges is:

- Cloudera versus Holmes2
  - This is a judicial evidence chain solution that requires regulatory and compliance-based document management that would stand up in International Courts, and supports forensic activity – Holmes2 was selected as a Government-approved forensic investigation toolset proven in use by UK Police Authorities. Cloudera isn't and probably will not be in any medium to long term view
- 6Pb of Data
  - This is utilising analysis of the current storage requirements across multiple UADs and some deletion versus active data analysis from the user community with a sizing factor. This could be elastically purchased in a scaling contract with a hardware supplier, but may be most economic as a SAN purchase upfront with technology refresh baked-in
- Hosting Selection
  - This is predominantly focused on the [redacted Classification] caveat for storage and finding a currently accredited home with space/availability – Corsham does not have that, (I don't believe). St Mawgan may be an unusual choice, but it may also be the most economic available facility

Many thanks, [redacted IIA725]

IIA725
Head of Application Services & DevOps
ISS Development
Building 405, Floorplate B2, MOD Corsham, Wiltshire SN13 9NR
Contact Details

**From:** Army Info-IS-Hd (Cole, Jonathan Brig)
**Sent:** 11 March 2016 10:09
**To:** Army Info-IS-Svcs-Base-SO1Ops ( IIA765 ); Spec Ops RMP-SPCB-OC (Hacker, Philip Maj)
**Cc:** ISS Ops-CS-Hd (Adams, Al Cdre); ISS Dev-AppServicesHd ( IIA725 )
**Subject:** RE: 20160308-Meeting_CTO_NORTHMOOR_OCSPCB-OS

Ta. Can we 3 please meet early next week to discuss? After receiving a bit of a wire brushing yesterday from CDIO I think we need to write formally to him. Issues to cover:

- How project teams are ending up working directly to GDS and PUS whilst bypassing Army HQ and ISS.

- Analysis of the questions posed. IIA725 can help us here.

- Proposed way ahead to approval and contract to stay on the required timeline now that this has received some blockage.

JJC

-----Original Message-----
**From:** Army Info-IS-Svcs-Base-SO1Ops ( IIA765 )
**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2016 09:55 AM GMT Standard Time
**To:** Army Info-IS-Hd (Cole, Jonathan Brig)
**Subject:** RE: 20160308-Meeting_CTO_NORTHMOOR_OCSPCB-OS

Sir,

If you can access the attached Document, I believe this answers most of the questions that you posed to me. Anything over £5M has to go through the Cabinet Office for approval although the portfolio office can confirm that the Cabinet Office has been involved with the development of this requirement, and the selection of the preferred solution – all of which followed the correct procedures (through CCS – * assisted with the development of the requirement). Funding was from PM(A). They are a little unsure why questions relating to site/technology etc have been raised now when they have had plenty of opportunity to raise them in the past. The project team itself has been communicating with the Cabinet Office in the past and this is probably why they were approached directly at this stage.

There was always a risk that this money may not be spent in year and this delay adds to that risk. The Army TLB would have to show this as an underspend this FY (I believe they had put £5M aside for this) if it can't be complete in year and money would have to be found next year.

I am by my phone if you need any further info.

IIA765

IIA765 | SO1 ICS Ops | IS Dir | Army HQ | Floor 1 Zone 4, Blenheim Building, Marlborough Lines, ANDOVER SP11 8HT
Contact Details

[redacted] Contact Details

**From:** Army Info-IS-Hd (Cole, Jonathan Brig)
**Sent:** 09 March 2016 20:14
**To:** Army Info-IS-Svcs-Base-SO1Ops ([redacted] IIA765 )
**Cc:** Spec Ops RMP-SPCB-OC (Hacker, Philip Maj)
**Subject:** FW: 20160308-Meeting_CTO_NORTHMOOR_OCSPCB-OS

[redacted] IIA765

This has been brought to the attention of CDIO, and it happens that I am scheduled to be with him tomorrow.

Pse can we have a telecon in the morning. I am surprised that engagement with GDS and PUS is happening without me. The questions from Liam are fair, and I am not sure if we are well placed to answer them.

JJC

-----Original Message-----
**From:** CDIO-DG-COS-BMCS ([redacted] IIA727 )
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 05:45 PM GMT Standard Time
**To:** Army Info-IS-Hd (Cole, Jonathan Brig)
**Subject:** FW: 20160308-Meeting_CTO_NORTHMOOR_OCSPCB-OS

Hi Jon,

As mentioned earlier PSA background material that Peter Ryan forwarded to me [redacted] IIA909 hasn't seen this yet, but I will show it to him tonight.

Regards,

[redacted] IIA727

**From:** DJEP-D (Ryan, Peter SCS)
**Sent:** 09 March 2016 16:35
**To:** CDIO-DG-COS-BMCS ([redacted] IIA727 )
**Cc:** DJEP-Private Office (MULTIUSER)
**Subject:** FW: 20160308-Meeting_CTO_NORTHMOOR_OCSPCB-OS

**From:** Army PM-PolComSO1 (McKay, David Mr)
**Sent:** 09 March 2016 11:03
**To:** PUS-Private Office (MULTIUSER)
**Cc:** DJEP-D (Ryan, Peter SCS); DJEP-Public Inquiries Hd (Duke-Evans, Jonathan SCS1); Army PM-AH-TECH (Morris, Rob Col); Army PM-Inv-SO1 (McAllister, John Lt Col); Army PM-Cap-MP-Mailbox (MULTIUSER)
**Subject:** RE: 20160308-Meeting_CTO_NORTHMOOR_OCSPCB-OS

[redacted] IIA722

Please find attached.

**David McKay**
**SO1 Policy & Comms | HQ Provost Marshal (Army)**
Ramillies Building, Marlborough Lines, Monxton Road, Andover SP11 8HJ
Contact details [redacted]

---

**From:** Spec Ops RMP-SPCB-OC (Hacker, Philip Maj)
**Sent:** 08 March 2016 17:51
**To:** [redacted]; PUS-Private Office (MULTIUSER); Army PM-Inv-SO1 (McAllister, John Lt Col); Army PM-PolComSO1 (McKay, David Mr); Army PM-Cap-MP-Mailbox (MULTIUSER); Spec Ops RMP-SPCB-AST-WOIC (Bostock, Gary WO2); SpecOpsRegt-SPCB-Priddin JR WO2; Spec Ops RMP-RHQ-CO (Forsythe, Belinda Lt Col)
**Subject:** 20160308-Meeting_CTO_NORTHMOOR_OCSPCB-OS
**Importance:** High

Colonels, David, [redacted IIA722]

**BLUF:** A meeting was called by Liam Maxwell the Govt Chief Technology Officer (CTO) to answer some technical questions on the Forensic Data Handling Computer System (FDHC) for Op NORTHMOOR. The questions concerned the storage size requirement, technology sourced, location and security classification.

**Issues Discussed**

Rationale for Op NORTHMOOR stated in terms of why investigation needed. CTO understood.

**Storage Size Requirement**

Maj Hacker, WO2 Priddin and Bostock explained size requirement and that dip sampling of the hard drives as well as Moore's/Khryder's Laws had been used to estimate storage requiremets at 6PB. CTO explained that oore's/Khryder's Laws inaccurate as this was for processor speed. Discussion followed explaining that this with dip sampling had led us to believe 6PB of usable storage was our upper limit. Discussed type of data we would be forensically examining . CTO remained unconvinced we would need as much as 6PB. Discussed cost ad explained cos arrived at through soft market testing and open competition. CTO remained unconvinced. No alternative answers on storage size given by CTO or his team. Issue remains

**Technology Sourced**

CTO stated we were sourcing old technology. Forensic and tech rationale given. CTO remained unconvinced and stated he had a better alternative CloudEra and he would assist s in contacting them. Stated surprised we had procured HOLMES 2 as outdated.

**Location**

CTO questioned why NORTHMOOR and FDHC were being located in St Mawgan. Explained location was a DIO route which was 70% solution, met security and real life support requirements. CTO remained of the opinion, from a technical perspective, that Corsham was likely to be the best option and not St Mawgan.

**Security Classification**

After explanation CTO understood why data needs to be stored and treated [redacted at a higher level of classification]. Did state that he felt we were Gold plating the system unnecessarily. We stated this had been dictated to us [redacted]. We had literally discussed requirements again [redacted] that morning during a chance meeting.

**Use of FDHC**

CTO stated we needed t clarify use of FDHC. He stated it looked as though we were trying to get a Major Incident Unit built on the back of NORTHMOOR. We stated the business case had been examined many

times and suggestions had been made at different stages to expand on how this technology might be used, so we did We explained we had not attempted sharp practice. We need to state exactly what its use is.

**Procurement**

CTO stated he and his team were there to help to get this signed off by the minister. The team stated procurement timelines were tight and asked for way forward. CTO stated he needed info on first two bullet points below and stated we needed to get the money moved into the next financial year as unlikely we will procure in year.

**Output Required for CTO to convince the Minister that this project is viable**

- An explanation and detail of why we must be located in St Mawgan- request from CTO (Action: HQ PM(A) & OC SPCB)
- A statement of requirement which states exact reason FDHC is required-request from CTO (Action HQ PM(A) & OC SPCB)
- Further examination, bottoming out of issue of 6PB storage requirement- issue still not resolved (Action: OC SPCB & AST, WO2 Priddin)
- Security discussion required between [redacted] and CTO – Action: [redacted] will e-mail separately but this needs to be done I believe [redacted]
- Further discussion to be had with Army IS and procurement (Action: HQ PM(A), OC SPCB, WO2 Bostock)

**PUS Outer Office**

IIA722 bullet points for PUS as requested:

- CTO requested explanation of how we have arrived at location of RAF St Mawgan. He feels Corsham is a viable alternative
- CTO believes that the technology we have sourced for procurement is out dated and that our experience has limited and prevented us from conducting a wider search He suggests Cloud Era technology.
- An impasse was arrived at as to why NORTHMOOR requires 6PB of usable storage. CTO did not believe that £7.5m would cover the cost and felt our estimate was flawed. No alternative on size or method of estimation was given or discussed.
- CTO feels that the system is being 'Gold Plated' from a security perspective.
- CTO advised money to be carried into the next Financial Year as procurement would not e achieved this year.

I am back in office tomorrow and available to discuss matters arising from the meeting.

Regards

Phil