

## S50 HLZ STATEMENT, OBJ BURNHAM

Statement of Civilians Observed at HLZ, OBJ Burnham 220030hrs – 220340hrs  
(Local) Aug 10

HLZ Location 42S VD 22723 91686

CRU

I was the Group Comd of a 6 person, <sup>PSR(C)</sup>x NZ SOF TF 81 and PSR(R)1 ANP) group, tasked as an HLZ security party for Obj Burnham.

Our group along with others were inserted by CH47 at the HLZ location (see GR above) at approximately 220030hrs Aug 10. The HLZ was a wheat / grain field which was waist high. The HLZ was bordered by a building and a stream running from S to N, on the NE side with a prominent stone wall bordering the southern side of the HLZ.

On exiting the aircraft and whilst in a fire position while the Aircraft was lifting to clear the HLZ, the building on the NE side of the HLZ was observed to contain light probably a candle that was shortly after put out. This building was 20 to 30m from the centre of the HLZ.

As my group deployed to covering positions movement was observed by and around this building. This was in the form of an unarmed man running away to the east into the stream and then away to the N. This happened very quickly and the individual was illuminated by white light. He was an older man with grey hair and beard wearing white manjams. He was challenged but did not stop running and was let go as per orders for this situation.

CRU

After he had departed the scene, I tasked PSR(R)1 pers to check the building, on approaching the building they encountered 2 x females at the door and therefore did not enter the building. They told the females to remain in the building which they did.

Approximately 15 minutes after the first individual was seen, an individual was seen approaching the building from the stream, and I believe this to be the same individual seen earlier. He was not armed and he was challenged and illuminated with white light again. He turned and ran quickly away to the N down the stream. The distance between our position and him was approximately 25m across the stream. He was not chased as I did not want to split my small force which would have affected my ability to complete my primary function of securing the NE of the HLZ. He was unarmed and deemed not a threat.

Approximately 45 minutes later another individual was observed walking up a track on the other side of the stream moving from N to S. He was initially observed under IR light, challenged and illuminated under white light, he was not armed. He was a middle aged individual with a dark beard and hair with a brown turban and vest over white manjams. When challenged he stopped turned and moved away down the

track he was on to the N . As he was not armed, and as per orders, for the mission, he was directed to move away from the area by a (CRU) per in the local language.

Approximately 1 and ½ hours after landing another individual was seen approaching the building from the stream. This individual was identified, as the same individual in the first and second sighting. He was again challenged, illuminated with white light, he turned and ran away. One of the (CRU) pers attempted to catch this individual and fired a one round in his direction which missed. I instructed them to stop chasing and firing which they did and this individual ran away again down the stream to the N.

It must be understood that to that time there had been a lot of support fire coming into the area and the (CRU) pers were young and had not been exposed to this type of situation before and were on edge and hence in the heat of the moment one fired a round when it shouldn't have been. Fortunately it did not hit the individual.

As the extraction of the task group commenced I closed my group in around the building of concern. As we departed that location to board the last CH 47 to depart the HLZ I checked the location of the woman and observed they were still in the building.

I believe the older individual who attempted to return to the building was doing so out of concern for the safety of the women.

At no time were any weapons seen being carried by any of the individuals encountered and as per the ROE they were not engaged.

The round that was fired was by an excited and on edge individual who was reminded of his responsibilities.

PSR(S)2, PSR(C)2, PSR(IC)3

**24 Aug10**

**Annex:**

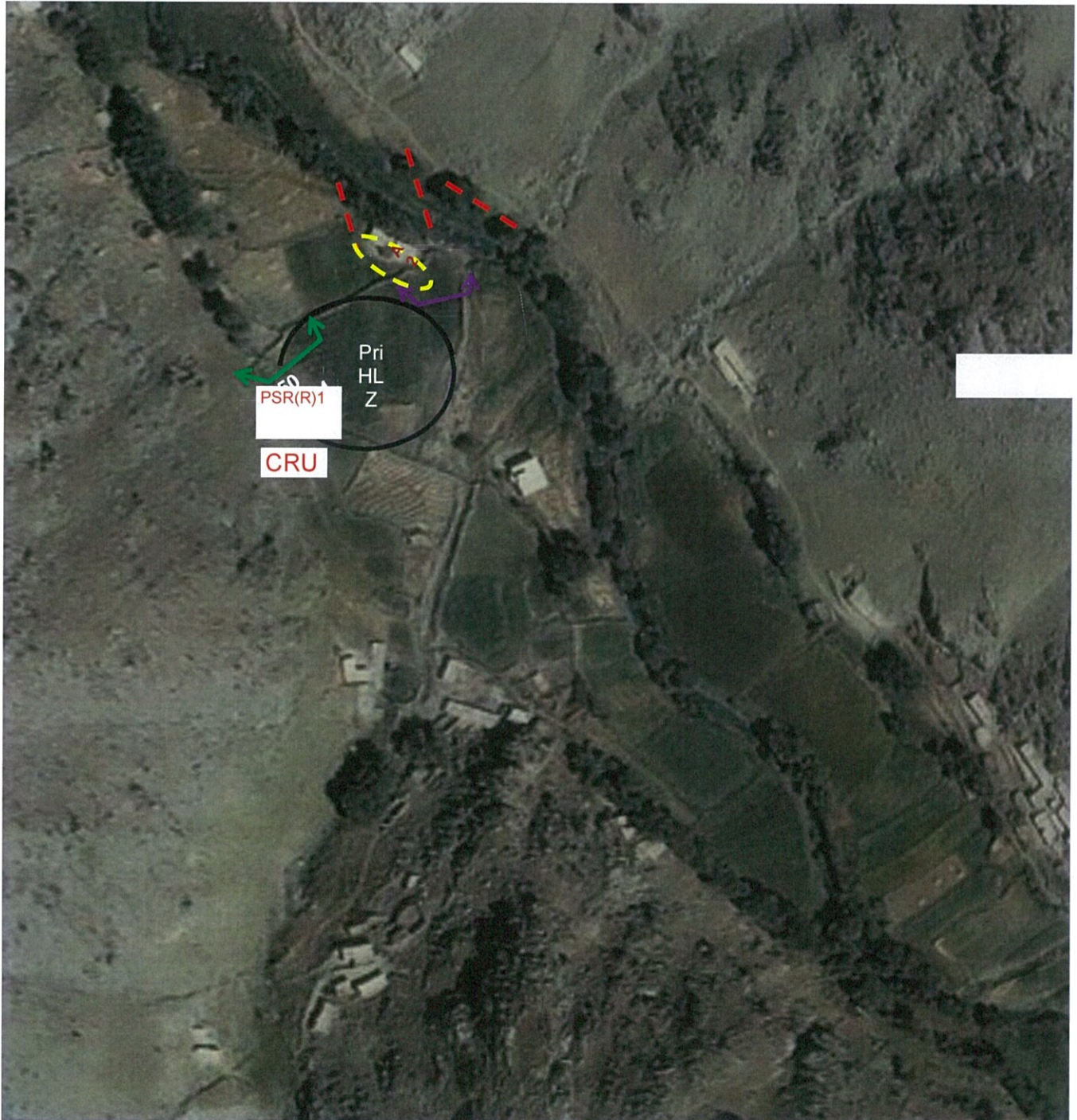
A. Photo Showing Key Statement Detail.

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ANNEX A TO  
S50 HLZ STATEMENT, OBJ BURNHAM  
DATED 24 AUG 10

PHOTO SHOWING KEY STATEMENT DETAIL.



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