



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE/NEW ZEALAND
DEFENCE FORCE
COVER SHEET
To accompany documents to
Minister of Defence

DCOS
COPY
OCDF 478/10
S109

Subject:	OPERATION WATEA: HQ ISAF CIVILIAN CASUALTY INVESTIGATION INTO OPERATION BURNHAM 22 AUGUST 2010		
MOD File No.	MoD Tracking #.	Minister's Tracking#: (For Minister's office)	
NZDF File No.	NZDF 03130/DSC/2 NZDF Tracking # 375/10		
Priority:	ROUTINE	Request Ministerial response by:	
Contacts:	1. PSR(IC)3 2. PSR(IC)3		

Sheet not to exceed one page. Please complete shaded areas.

Purpose:	The purpose of this note is to inform you that HQ ISAF has initiated a Civilian Casualty Investigation stemming from the operation conducted by the Crisis Response Unit and TF81 on Sunday 22 August 2010, in Baghlan province, Afghanistan.
Recommendations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Note that there have been allegations made by the Sub Governor of the TALA WA BARFAK district that civilians were wounded and killed in the operation conducted by ISAF and ANSF (TF81 and CRU) on Sunday 22 August 2010. b. Note that HQ ISAF has initiated an investigation into the allegations and appointed a Brigadier as the investigating officer. c. Note that the SNO and OC TF81 have been interviewed by the investigating officer. d. Discuss this note with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister.
MOD/NZDF Consultation	NZDF
Minister's comments:	
Minister's Action:	Signed / Noted / Agreed / Approved / Declined
	Referred to:
Signature:	Date:

J. Mateparae
J. MATEPARAE
Lieutenant General
Chief of Defence Force

Date 25 Aug 10

~~SECRET REL ISAF~~



NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE

Te Ope Kaatua o Aotearoa

HEADQUARTERS NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE

Private Bag, Wellington, New Zealand

PSR(IC)3

NZDF 03130/DSC/2

25 August 2010

Minister of Defence

OPERATION WĀTEA: HQ ISAF CIVILIAN CASUALTY INVESTIGATION ON OPERATION BURNHAM 22 AUGUST 2010

Purpose

1. The purpose of this note is to inform you that HQ ISAF has initiated a Civilian Casualty Investigation stemming from the operation conducted by the Crisis Response Unit and TF81 on Sunday 22 August 2010, in Baghlan province, Afghanistan.

Background

2. The Crisis Response Unit and TF81 conducted a disruption operation targeting the insurgent group operating within the Bamyán/Baghlan border region. This insurgent group conducted the recent fatal attack on the NZPRT patrol on 3 August 2010. During the operation a number of armed insurgents were engaged by the ground and air forces and killed. Afghan citizens within the TALA WA BARFAK region have alleged that innocent civilians were killed during the operation, and HQ ISAF has commenced an investigation into the allegations.

3. HQ ISAF has a policy of investigating all alleged civilian casualties as a result of operations conducted by coalition forces. A Brigadier has been tasked to lead the investigation into the allegations, and he has spoken to the Senior National Officer (SNO) and Officer Commanding (OC) TF81 on Tuesday evening. He then reviewed the "gun tapes" from the Apache helicopters and AC-130 Gunship that were involved in the operation to determine if they had adhered to coalition Rules of Engagement (ROE). Over the next two days he plans to travel to Baghlan and speak to the German Commander of Regional Command North, and to the Governor of Baghlan province in order to ascertain the veracity of the claims, and gauge the atmospherics of the region. If security permits he will travel to the TALA WA BARFAK region to meet with the local Sub Governor of the district.

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4. The investigating officer complimented the SNO and OC for their thorough post operational assessment and for providing extensive, open and honest comment. He explained that the process is not a "witch-hunt", but is intended to ensure that the coalition treats fairly any civilians casualties that were directly attributed to the operation conducted on 22 August.

5. I will keep you apprised of any developments and outcomes and would recommend that you discuss this with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister.

Recommendations

6. It is recommended that the Minister:

- a. **Note** that there have been allegations made by the Sub Governor of the TALA WA-BARFAK district that civilians were wounded and killed in the operation conducted by ISAF and ANSF (TF81 and CRU) on Sunday 22 August 2010.
- b. **Note** that HQ ISAF has initiated an investigation into the allegations and appointed a Brigadier as the investigating officer.
- c. **Note** that the SNO and OC TF81 have been interviewed by the investigating officer.
- d. **Discuss** this note with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister.


J. MATEPARAE
Lieutenant General
Chief of Defence Force

