Chadwick, Sanchia CAPT

From: Heyer, Simone MAJ
Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2014 5:16 PM
To: AHQ-PBA
Cc: AHQ-Media; Constance, Rebecca MISS; Kennedy, Mitch COL; Saines, Ryan MR
Subject: QTB - Swan Island [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Categories: UNCLASSIFIED
Attachments: 141002_QTB - PROTESTORS ON SWAN ISLAND.doc

UNCLASSIFIED

PB-A - here it is. DSRG needs to make some additions, COFS has cleared.

thanks
Simone

Major Simone Heyer
Directorate of Army Communications
R1-4-8096 | +612 6265 1065 | PO Box 7902 Canberra B.C ACT 2610

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence and is subject to the jurisdiction of section 70 of the Crimes Act 1914. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email.
Talking Points

- Eight protesters have been arrested after trespassing on Commonwealth land at Swan Island, Queenscliff.

- Four protesters were detained by Defence members before being transferred to Victoria Police, and an additional four protesters were detained by Victoria Police.

- Protesters breached the perimeter of the base; but did not gain access to secure areas.

- The Department of Defence respects the democratic right of all Australians to express their views, provided this is done in a peaceful and law-abiding way.

- Under the Defence Act, ADF personnel have the powers to detain persons they suspect are trespassing on Defence land.

- All questions relating to the charges should be directed to Victoria Police.

- As the incident is a matter for Victoria Police, it would be inappropriate for Defence to provide further comment.

*If asked: How did the protesters get on base, is there an issue with security?*

- Defence understands the protesters breached the perimeter however did not gain access to secure areas of the base.

*If asked: Did Army members threaten or physically assault the protesters?*
Under the Defence Act, ADF personnel have the powers to detain persons they suspect are trespassing on Defence land.

Defence has initiated a review into the incident and as such it would be inappropriate to provide further comment until this review is completed.

**If asked: For what is Swan Island used?**

- Swan Island is a Defence facility used for Army training, including counter-terrorism training activities.
- Due to operational security and in order to protect tactics, techniques and procedures, Defence is unable to provide specific details on the type of training conducted.

**If asked: What measures have been taken to prevent this happening again?**

- Defence will not discuss security measures used at our facilities.

**If asked: Have the protesters been charged?**

- Victoria Police have reported that eight protesters have been charged with Commonwealth trespass.

**If asked: Given heightened security at Government facilities, was it irresponsible for the protesters trespass on the base?**

- The Department of Defence respects the democratic right of all Australians to express their views, provided this is done in a peaceful and law-abiding way.

---

**Background**

Swan Island Peace Convergence started its planned protest at Swan Island the week of 28 September 2014.
At approximately 7am, on Thursday, 2 October 2014, Melbourne radio broadcasted an interview with Mr Greg Roles, who made claims that he and other protesters were trespassing within the restricted areas of Swan Island Training Area. In response to these claims, ADF personnel, in cooperation with Victoria Police, began conducting security patrols.

At approximately 8.00am ADF personnel identified four protesters on the facility. Two were initially detained by ADF personnel and were handed over to Victoria Police.

At approximately 9.30am two further individuals were found and also handed over to Victoria Police.

Security searches continued until early afternoon with the Victoria Police whereby a further four trespassers were detained by Victoria Police.

All Defence facilities are at a higher security alert status in response to the raising of the national terror threat level.

Under Section 72 of the Defence Act, Defence personnel are given the ability to detain persons they suspect of trespassing on Defence land, until they can be transferred to civilian authorities.

In April and June 2010, July 2011, September 2012 and September 2013 members of the Swan Island Peace Convergence staged anti-war protests at the entry to Swan Island resulting in the arrest of a number of protestors. These protests have generally been peaceful with a number of incursions onto Defence land and the bridge connecting Swan Island to the mainland. Victoria Police removed protestors and effected several arrests for trespassing.

Swan Island Peace Convergence have reported on their website, Facebook and Twitter that their members were detained, physically and verbally abused by Australian Special Forces members before Victoria Police arrived.

Victorian media have reported Swan Island Peace Convergence's story.

**Point of Contact**
Brigadier Cheryl Pearce, Chief of Staff, AHQ, (02) 6265 1790
Information valid as at: [date]

Page 4 of 51
At approximately 7am, Melbourne radio broadcast an interview with Mr Greg Roles, who made claims that he and other protesters were trespassing within the restricted areas of Swan Island Training Area.

In response to these claims, Australian Defence Force personnel in cooperation with Victorian Police began conducting security patrols.

Swan Island Training Area is a restricted location and unauthorised personnel are not permitted within the boundaries, both for security concerns and their own safety.

At approximately eight o'clock ADF personnel identified four trespassers on the facility. Two were initially detained by ADF personnel and were handed over to Victorian Police.

At approximately 9.30am two further individuals were found and were also handed over to Victorian Police.

Security searches continued until early afternoon with the Victorian Police whereby a further four trespassers were detained by Victorian Police.

All Defence facilities are currently at a higher security alert status in response to the raising of the national terror threat level.

Under Section 82 of the Defence Act, Defence personnel are given the ability to detain persons they suspect of trespassing on Defence land, until they can be transferred to civilian authorities.

Defence had initiated a review of the incident will not comment further at this time.

Swan Island

Swan Island is a Defence facility used for Army training, including counter-terrorism training activities.

Due to operational security and in order to protect tactics, techniques and procedures, Defence is unable to provide specific details on the type of training conducted.

Below are the previously cleared Media Responses:

Question 1: How many (a) Australian Defence Force and (b) Defence civilian personnel are currently stationed or employed at the Swan Island Training Area?

Question 2. How many other Australian Government or other personnel are currently stationed or employed at the Swan Island Training Area?

Question 4: What other government organisations use Swan Island's facilities. E.g ASIS?

Response to questions 1, 2, 4: For security reasons it would be inappropriate for Defence to provide a response to these questions.

Question 3: What Australian Defence Force training activities are carried out at the Swan Island Training Area?
Response to question 3: Swan Island is a Defence facility used for Army training, including counter-terrorism training activities.

Due to operational security and in order to protect tactics, techniques and procedures, Defence is unable to provide specific details on the type of training conducted.

Question 5: What is the security rating of Swan Island and why was it given that rating?

Response to question 5: Defence does not apply a security rating for a base/establishment. Security ratings are applied against assets in accordance with Government policy.

Question 6. What changes have been made since protestors attempted to access the compound in 2010?

Response to question 6: For security reasons it would be inappropriate for Defence to provide a response to the above question.
From: MediaOps
Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2014 6:00 PM
To: AHQ-Media; DSRG-OSCDF-Ministerial Parliamentary & Communication; Kennedy, Kate MRS; Furini, Craig COL; Reis, Alison MS
Cc: Strategic Issues Management; COO-MECC-Mediaops Advisors; COO-MECC-IMT; Anderson, John MR 4; Banham, Mike MR; Briedis, Richard MR; Brightman, Aimee MRS; Comer, Elyssa MS; Costello, Sean MR; Curtin, Robert MR; Dodd, Mark MR; Gillies, Craig FLTLT 1; Hanrahan, Jo MS; Horton, Rebecca MS; McKellar, Robert MR; Nicholls, Andrew MR 4; Nordstrom, Brett MR; Pelos, Stephen MR; Petch, Chloe MS; Ridd, Douglas MR; Rowswell, Brad MR
Subject: Holding statement - Swan Island protestors - 2 October 2014 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Good evening all,

Media Ops has provided the below holding statement to:

- Paul Millar at The Geelong Independent
- Victoria Webb-Taylor at BayFM Geelong
- Charis Chang at news.com.au
- Helen Davidson at The Guardian Aus
- Tess Armstrong at ABC
- Jane Lee at The Age

Many thanks for your assistance. We will keep you across any further enquiries received on this issue.

Kind regards,

Leonie Kolmar | Acting Assistant Director
Media Operations | Department of Defence
Russell Offices | PO Box 7909 | Canberra BC | ACT 2610
P: +61 2 6127 1999 | E: medlaopt@defence.gov.au

UNCLASSIFIED

Good afternoon,

Please find below a response to your Defence media enquiry, attributable to a Defence spokesperson, not a named individual.

Defence can confirm that eight protesters breached the perimeter of the Swan Island Defence establishment at Queenscliff, Victoria in the early morning of Thursday, 2 October 2014.
2014.

Four protesters were detained by Defence members before being transferred to Victoria Police. An additional four trespassers were detained by Victoria Police.

Defence understands the protesters have been arrested and charged with Commonwealth trespass by Victoria Police.

The Department of Defence respects the democratic right of all Australians to express their views, provided this is done in a peaceful and law-abiding way.

Under the Defence Act, ADF personnel have the powers to detain persons they suspect are trespassing on Defence land.

As the incident is a matter for Victoria Police, it would be inappropriate for Defence to provide further comment at this time.

Kind regards,

Media Operations | Department of Defence
Russell Offices | PO Box 7909 | Canberra BC | ACT 2610
P: +61 2 6127 1999 | E: mediapress@defence.gov.au

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IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence and is subject to the jurisdiction of section 70 of the Crimes Act 1914. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email.
Gilmore, Peter MAJGEN

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2014 2:13 PM
To: Morrison, David LTGEN; Gilmore, Peter MAJGEN; Sengelman, Jeffery MAJGEN; Furlnl. Craig COL; Pearce, Cheryl BRIG; Kennedy, Mitch COL; Ashley, David WC; Smith, Chris LTCOL 2
Subject: Protesters breach perimeter at Swan Island - Detained by Defence personnel and allege assault [SEC=PROTECTED, DLM=Sensitive:Personal]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Purple

PROTECTED Sensitive:Personal

Sir,

At: Pre-dawn 2 Oct 14.
At: Swan Island.

What: Protesters breached the security perimeter and were detained by Defence personnel before being handed to VICPOL. Protesters have made allegations they were assaulted by SAS members. Allegations of the assaults have been published online and the website/media release from protesters is contained below.
What: VICPOL were called and arrested eight protestors. VICPOL have released a holding statement (below) indicating the protesters were detained and will be charged with trespass. Defence Media Ops have received media enquiries in relation to the incident. The incident is reported in the Herald Sun.
What: QA initiated. HIB and Ministerial correspondence to be drafted. Army is preparing media responses.

VICPOL Holding Statement
Victoria Police are aware of protests planned for the week of September 28 at Swan Island near Queenscliff. Police have arrested 8 protesters for breaching the island just before 7am and they will be charged with Commonwealth trespass. Police will continue to monitor the situation and will respond accordingly to ensure community safety.

Swan Island Peace Protesters Media Release

BREAKING NEWS: Australian peace activists detained and assaulted by SAS on Swan Island

2 October, 2014
MEDIA RELEASE
UPDATE : 11amBefore dawn this morning, 8 peace activists entered the top secret Swan Island military base near Queenscliff.

The group entered in the early hours of the morning to nonviolently disrupt preparations for the imminent war in Iraq. Four of the activists were discovered, detained and assaulted by SAS soldiers on the base. The treatment of the activists by the SAS bordered on torture.

The experiences of the four were:
- Forcebly stripped naked, handcuffed, struck on the face and choked
- Activists clothing were cut off with knives
- Hessian bags were placed over their heads and told "welcome to the bag motherfucker and asked
“do you want to go for a swim” before being dragged naked across the ground
- SAS personnel stood on activists’ heads and backs causing injury and said “If you move we will kick you in the face”
- Dragged and dropped on the ground when didn’t respond to questions

When the Victorian Police arrived on the scene the assaults ceased. “I was thankful for the arrival of the police, when they got there I finally felt safe” said peace activist Sam Quinlan. An ambulance was called to the front gate as activists were released from custody to attend to activists’ injuries.

“The use of these tactics on citizens of Australia peacefully protesting the actions of the SAS is an alarming indication of the use of torture SAS is employing in Iraq, Afghanistan and other undisclosed locations” says Greg Rolles an activist who entered the military facility.

“We were trying to disrupt the preparations for this imminent war and are concerned that Australia’s involvement will only play into the hands of militant extremists” said Jasmine Pilbrow another member of the group.

The group are particularly concerned about the role of the SAS, who use Swan Island in their ongoing role in Afghanistan as well as likely roles in Iraq and Syria.

“There are clear alternatives to bombing ISIS” said Fiona Taylor who is currently at the Swan Island main gate. “Blocking oil supply channels, having arms embargoes and support of a regional solution all will cripple ISIS without breeding another generation of militant extremists”.

The protestors are part of the Swan Island Peace Convergence, which has seen protestors blockading the island’s only entrance since Tuesday, preventing traffic onto the island. It is the fifth consecutive year of protests at the Island.

Contacts: 0402 857 915; 0439 823 898
Photographs and video are available on request
www.swanislandpeace.org
Social media: #SIPC14

Swan Island Peace

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The 1st Commando Regiment
2 Company Fort Gellibrand, Williamstown Victoria 3016

QA /14/

QUICK ASSESSMENT BRIEF FOR DSOC

QA INTO AN ALLEGED INCIDENT INVOLVING SWAN ISLAND ARMY DETACHMENT PERSONNEL DURING THE SWAN ISLAND PEACE PROTEST ON 02 OCT 14

cc: DJALO

Date of Report 02 October 2014

Direction

1. (A/CO 1st Commando Regiment) has appointed as the QAO in relation to an incident involving members of the Swan Island Army Detachment (SIAD) and civilian personnel (involved with the Swan Island Peace Convergence).
   a. Report on the facts of the incidents as they occurred and
   b. Provide recommendations to the chain of command.

Background

2. During the period 27 September to 03 October 2014, civilians associated with Swan Island Peace Convergence conducted their annual protest rally IVO the entrance and waterways leading to the Swan Island restricted zone. Due to the sensitivities of the facility VICPOL (S33) and Defence conducted up to five separate meetings IOT establish a robust security plan. As a result VICPOL relocated 2 x Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats (RHIB), from Williamstown, to patrol the waterways (and transport civilian security staff onto the island) and 2 x Police Officers on motorcycles to patrol the island.

3. As part of the security plan, SIAD dispositions were as follows;
   a. 
   b. 

Occurrence

4. Pre-dawn on Thursday 02 Oct 14 at SIAD (Queenscliffe Victoria), protestors from the Swan Island Peace Convergence (SIPC) entered SIAD restricted area and were detained by Defence personnel and then handed over to Police. As a result of their detention, SIPC have
made allegations of assault by defence members in the conduct of their duties. These allegations have been published by SIPC via their online website.

5. During the incident VICPOL members, assigned to overwatch the protest, were called and detained 8 individuals. VICPOL has released a statement indicating that 8 members of SIPC, involved in the incident, will be charged with trespass. As a result, media enquires have reported the incident and have published an article in the Herald Sun (online 02/11/00; Oct 14).

Sequence of events on 02 Oct 14

6. A synopsis of the incident is as follows:

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

g.

h.

i.

j.

h.

i.

j.
Further detail of the incident is contained in annexes A to D to this report.

Actions taken to date

8. On 02 Oct 14 the QAO requested and obtained written statements from the following personnel;
   a. OIC SIAD
   b. Duty Piquet
   c. Acting Senior Sergeant (VICPOL).

9. Due to the ongoing protest the QAO travelled to SIAD at 021830 Oct 14 to conduct an assessment of the incident. The QAO conducted his interview and walk through (of the key locations) with SIAD staff during the POD 02-03 Oct 14.

Interviews IRT the occurrence

10. The QAO interviewed the OIC SIAD, IRT the security plan. The OIC had stated that;
   a. 
   b. 
   c. 
   d. 

11. During the QAO visit to SIAD, OIC SIAD was as able to obtain/receive a statement from Acting Sergeant. The Officer stated that;
STAFF-IN-CONFIDENCE

Assessment of the occurrence

12. In conduct of the QA, into the incidents highlighted in this report the QAO believes;

Recommendations

STAFF-IN-CONFIDENCE
18. In accordance with your guidance, I hereby submit my recommendations:

a. Due to the heightened security threat and subsequent increase in SAFE BASE level that the actions of SIAD staff in the detention of SIPC members involved in trespass was fair and reasonable.

Agree/Disagree: I agree, albeit it may have been heavy-handed.

Noted/Please discuss

b. During interviews with VICPOL, SIPC members did not lodge any formal complaints IRT their treatment by members of SIAD or the police.

Noted/Please discuss

Signed electronically:

QAO
2 Company
1st Commando regiment
03 October 2014

DSOC Comments:

I agree that the actions were justifiable, but believe they could have been handled in a manner that was less likely to attract adverse media attention, e.g., SIAD per S47E rather than S47E on SIPC. This needs to be better briefed next time.

Deputy Commander
Special Operations Command- Australia
3 Oct 2014

Page 15 of 51
STAFF-IN-CONFIDENCE

Annexes:
A: Statement by [redacted] - OLIC SIAD dated 02 Oct 14
B: Statement by [redacted] - Duty Piquet dated 02 Oct 14
C: Schematic of Incident Swan Island dated 02 Oct 14
D: Statement by Acting Senior Sergeant [redacted] - VICPOL received 02 Oct 14
From: [Redacted]
Date: 7 October 2014 10:29:41 pm AEST
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Swan Island Peace Convergence Protest

[Blank Page]
Annex D to
QA for DSOK
Dated 03 Oct 14

Regards

ASA/SST
Water Police Squad
100 Nelson Place, Williamstown Victoria
Ph: (03) 91997500
From: HIB Distribution
Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2014 3:52 PM
To: Chadwick, Sanchia CAPT
Subject: Army HIB - Protesters Breach Swan Island Perimeter [SEC=PROTECTED, DLM=Sensitive]

HIB CA 31-2014 Protesters Breach Swan Island Perimeter

NATURE OF THE INCIDENT:

- Eight protesters breached the Swan Island Defence establishment perimeter at Queenscliff, Victoria in the early morning of Thursday, 2 October 2014.
- The protesters were detained by Defence personnel, after which they were arrested by Victoria Police and are expected to be charged with Commonwealth trespass.
- The protesters have alleged they were assaulted by SASR personnel and have published their allegations online and in the media.
- Media outlets are reporting the incident and Defence media has received enquiries.

THE DATE AND TIME OF THE INCIDENT:

- Approximately 7:00 am on 2 October 2014

ACTIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY:

- Defence is supporting Victoria Police's investigation.
- Defence has commenced enquiries into the incident.

Date Issued: 02 October 2014

Contact Officer: [REDACTED]  W: 02 6265 2010  M: [REDACTED]
Authorised by: COL M. Kennedy  W: 02 6265 4377  M: [REDACTED]
ASSIM Clearance: Mr Mark Jeffries  W: 02 6265 7897  M: [REDACTED]
Group or Service Final Clearance: BRIG C. Pearce  W: 02 6265 1790  M: [REDACTED]
IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence and is subject to the jurisdiction of section 70 of the Crimes Act 1914. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email.
Hi COL Kennedy

As discussed, AMINDEF has requested an urgent phone hook-up to discuss. Simply, he would like some additional detail. For example:

- Where did the protesters get to?
- Who detained them?
- What powers were the protesters detained under?
- How did this go (noting this is the first incident under Charlie)?

As mentioned, AMINDEF has an engagement this evening and will be unavailable from ~1830hr. Preference is for call in next 20 mins please.

Apologies for the late notice.

Kind regards,

Elyssa Comer | Departmental Liaison Officer

Office of the Hon Stuart Robert MP
Assistant Minister for Defence
Ph: 02 6277 7730 | 51AF
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
e.lyssa.comer@defence.gov.au

---

HIB CA 31-2014 Protesters Breach Swan Island Perimeter

NATURE OF THE INCIDENT:
- Eight protesters breached the Swan Island Defence establishment perimeter at Queenscliff, Victoria in the early morning of Thursday, 2 October 2014.
- The protesters were detained by Defence personnel, after which they were arrested by Victoria Police and are expected to be charged with Commonwealth trespass.
The protesters have alleged they were assaulted by SASR personnel and have published their allegations online and in the media.

Media outlets are reporting the incident and Defence media has received enquiries.

THE DATE AND TIME OF THE INCIDENT:
• Approximately 7:00 am on 2 October 2014

ACTIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY:
• Defence is supporting Victoria Police's investigation.
• Defence has commenced enquiries into the incident.

Contact Officer: [Redacted] W: 02 6265 2010
Authorised by: COL M. Kennedy W: 02 6265 4377
ASSiMiL Clearance Mr Mark Jeffries W: 02 6265 7897
Group or Service BRIG C. Pearce W: 02 6265 1790
Final Clearance

Date Issued: 02 October 2014

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Hello all,

Please see SITREP below re the Swan Island protest activity. The region has no further information to provide at this stage but will provide another SITREP by COB today.

Please note that the Attorney-General's Department manages the security contract for the site.

Regards,

Kate Heinrich
A/Director Ministerial, Parliamentary and Communication
Ministerial, Parliamentary and Communication Team
Enterprise Governance Branch
Chief Operating Officer: Organisation
Department of Defence

Leila Fetter
Communication Adviser
Enterprise Governance Branch
Chief Operating Officer: Organisation
Department of Defence
Hi Leila,

A SITREP for Swan Island protest activity

DS-VT advises that the Swan Island protest activity has escalated this morning from a blockade of the site to trespass by a number of persons. The details which we have been advised are:

- Earlier this morning Defence staff at Swan Island became aware that trespassers had accessed the Swan Island without authorisation.
- It is understood that the trespassers are associated with the Swan Island Peace Convergence protest activity, and may have accessed the base by kayak and by swimming.
- The trespassers are believed to have posted photos on the Internet and forwarded them to media outlets.
- A search by VICPOL and Defence personnel have located and eight trespassers who are in the custody of VICPOL and will be removed from the site.
- Defence personnel on the island have indicated that protesters did not enter any sensitive areas of the base.
- The Swan Island security office has reported that protestor activity at Check Point 1 main gate is continuing with about 20 persons involved.

Please contact me if there are any further enquiries.

Phil Jackson
Phil Jackson RFD | Department of Defence
Regional Coordinator
Defence Support & Reform Group
Victoria - Tasmania

Defence Plaza Melbourne
Level 1, 661 Bourke Street, Melbourne VIC 3001.
Phone: +61 3 9282 3609 / 9282 3609
Email: phillip.jackson6@defence.gov.au

NOTE: This e-mail could be a Commonwealth record. Defence users may need to capture it in a record keeping system such as DRMS. DIMPI 5/2001 provides more guidance on the capture of e-mail as records
From: Heyer, Simone MAJ
Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2014 17:18
To: Media Ops
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Holding statement Swan Island [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Media Ops,

Here's the holding statement for Swan Island.

thanks
Simone
<start>

Defence can confirm that eight protesters breached the perimeter of the Swan Island Defence establishment at Queenscliff, Victoria in the early morning of Thursday, 2 October 2014.

Four protesters were detained by Defence members before being transferred to Victoria Police. An additional four trespassers were detained by Victoria Police.

Defence understands the protesters have been arrested and charged with Commonwealth trespass by Victoria Police.

The Department of Defence respects the democratic right of all Australians to express their views, provided this is done in a peaceful and law-abiding way.

Under the Defence Act, ADF personnel have the powers to detain persons they suspect are trespassing on Defence land.
As the incident is a matter for Victoria Police, it would be inappropriate for Defence to provide further comment at this time.

<end>

Major Simone Heyer  
Directorate of Army Communications  
R1-4 B9066 | +612 6265 1066 PO Box 7902 Canberra B.C ACT 2610

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IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence and is subject to the jurisdiction of section 70 of the Crimes Act 1914. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email.
Chadwick, Sanchia CAPT

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Friday, 3 October 2014 10:49 AM
To: Pearce, Cheryl BRIG; Kennedy, Mitch COL
Subject: FW: QA FOR DSOC - SWAN ISLAND PROTEST - 02 OCT 14 [DLM=Sensitive:Personal]
Attachments: QA FOR DSOC - SWAN ISLAND PROTEST - 02 OCT 14.pdf

Ma'am

Please find attached QA for the recent incident at Swan Island.

DSOCAUST has added his comments.

If you or your staff have additional questions pls ask.

Regards [Redacted]

---

From: [Redacted] On Behalf Of SOHQ Registry
Sent: Friday, 3 October 2014 10:43
To: [Redacted]
Subject: QA FOR DSOC - SWAN ISLAND PROTEST - 02 OCT 14 [DLM=Sensitive:Personal]

Sir,

As requested.

[Redacted]

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence and is subject to the jurisdiction of section 70 of the Crimes Act 1914. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email.
PROTESTERS BREACH SWAN ISLAND PERIMETER

NATURE OF THE INCIDENT:
- Eight protesters breached the Swan Island Defence establishment perimeter at Queenscliff, Victoria in the early morning of Thursday, 2 October 2014.
- The protesters were detained after which they were arrested by Victoria Police and are expected to be charged with Commonwealth trespass.
- The protesters have alleged they were assaulted by SAS personnel and have published their allegations online and in the media.
- Media outlets are reporting the incident and Defence media has received inquiries.

THE DATE AND TIME OF THE INCIDENT:
- Approximately 7:00 am on 2 October 2014.

ACTIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY:
- Defence is supporting Victoria Police's investigation.
- Defence has commenced inquiries into the incident.
From: Heyer, Simone MAJ
Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2014 2:04 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: Kennedy, Mitch COL; Bird, Kathryn MISS
Subject: FW: media query re arrests at Swan Island [SEC: UNCLASSIFIED]
Importance: High
Attachments: Swan Island protest allegations.msg; Allegations that activists were mistreated at Swan Island.msg; Queenscliff protest.msg; queenscliff.msg

UNCLASSIFIED

Sr,

As below -

VICPOL have already provided the below to the media upon request.

Victoria Police are aware of protests planned for the week of September 28 at Swan Island near Queenscliff. Police have arrested 8 protesters for breaching the Island just before 7am and they will be charged with Commonwealth trespass. Police will continue to monitor the situation and will respond accordingly to ensure community safety.

From: MediaOps
Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2014 13:59
To: Reis, Alison MS; Furlini, Craig COL
Cc: COO-MECC-Mediaops Advisors; AHQ-Media; DSRG-OSCDF-Ministerial Parliamentary & Communication; Kennedy, Kate MRS; MediaOps
Subject: FW: media query re arrests at Swan Island [SEC: UNCLASSIFIED]
Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Good afternoon Ali and COL Furlini,

FYSA - we have been approached by a number of journalists regarding allegations SAS members mistreated protesters at Swan Island (see attached and below).

We are working with Army and DSRG to prepare a statement and will ensure it is sent for OCDF clearance before release.

VICPOL have already provided the below to the media upon request.

Victoria Police are aware of protests planned for the week of September 28 at Swan Island near Queenscliff. Police have arrested 8 protesters for breaching the Island just before 7am and they will be charged with Commonwealth trespass. Police will continue to monitor the situation and will respond accordingly to ensure community safety.

Regards,

Lauren Harriss
Public Affairs Officer
Media Operations
Department of Defence

Russell Offices | PO Box 7909 | Canberra BC | ACT 2610
P: +61 2 6127 1999 | E: medopps@defence.gov.au

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From: [email protected]
Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2014 13:47
To: MediaOps
Subject: media query re arrests at Swan Island

Hello,
Can you confirm or correct any aspects of this statement below, that defence personnel detained protesters at Swan Island prior to the arrival of Victoria police?
Thanks and regards

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IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence and is subject to the jurisdiction of section 70 of the Crimes Act 1914. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email.
Good morning,

Claims have been made to us this morning by at least one protestor from the Swan Island Peace Convergence that they were detained by island staff, believed to be SAS, after gaining access to the island this morning. They allege that during this time were ‘crash’ tackled, stripped, choked, had hessian bags put over their heads, were threatened with sticks and interrogated. They say this only stopped with the arrival of Victoria Police.

It would be most appreciated if we could interview someone about these allegations. This would be a pre-recorded phone interview for news.

In the case this is not possible, a written response to these allegations would be appreciated.

Kindest regards,

Senior Journalist - BayFM Geelong

21/10/2014
Hi,

A group of peace activists have suggested that SAS officers mistreated them after they broke into a secret military base at Swan Island near Queenscliff early this morning.

They say that they were mistreated, strip searched, their clothes were cut off with a knife, they were dragged naked over the ground and SAS personnel stood on activists’ heads.

They say that police arrived later and an ambulance was called.

1. Could you please confirm that police did attend the military base and an ambulance was called to attend to the activists’ injuries?
2. What was the condition of the activists when police arrived?
3. Were they strip searched?
4. Were their clothes cut off with a knife?
5. Were they dragged naked over the ground?
6. Did SAS personnel stand on their hands?
7. What would Defence say about allegations that the activists were mistreated?

Here is a link to their report: http://swanislandpeace.org/convergence-2013/2014/10/02/breaking-news-australian-peace-activists-detained-and-assaulted-by-sas-on-swan-island/

I am on deadline for this story so a response asap would be appreciated, thank you.

Kind Regards,

---

Journalist, news.com.au

Level 3, 2 Holt Street Surry Hills NSW 2010
18-34 Sydney Rd

W www.NewsCorpAustralia.com

Proudly supporting 1 degree, A News Corp Australia initiative.
Hi Lauren, we have been informed by Victoria Police that eight protesters were arrested at the Swan Island Military base, Queenscliff this morning. They have been charged with trespassing on Commonwealth Property.

Can we get some comments from Defence about the incident.

How far had they got into the facility?

Who were they arrested by?

At a time when defence personnel have been placed on a higher alert level was the latest protest ill advised and dangerous.
Protesters have told me that four were captured by SAS soldiers at the base. They claim they were strip-searched beaten, dragged naked and threatened with sodomy. One claims he suffered a broken nose.

Have not run any of this online, will wait until we get some comments from Defence.
The Swan Island Peace Convergence has been held this week. Myself [REDACTED] have been staying at SAD conducting regular patrols since Saturday 27th September. I have positioned [REDACTED] on the Observation Tower to monitor the protest and send us updates.

VIPo have had two Ritas with crew and two more Ritas incident staying on the island also.

---

I believe we used the minimum force appropriate to detain the protesters and VIPo on the scene were happy with our conduct [Acting Senior SI].

We only detained them as we were the closest ones to the protesters. They were in the SAD area. After the initial verbal orders given to the protesters then we did not engage in any verbal activity with them. It was a silent running activity until VIPo arrived.

The group that VIPo detained have posted pictures of themselves IVO the [REDACTED]

All SAD staff are bound by the following:

Under section 82 of the Defence Act anyone on or near the residence of the member of the Defence Force may arrest a person without warrant if the member has reasonable grounds to believe that the person:

(a) is trespassing on or near a building or land used by the member of the Defence Force or a defence aircraft.

We only detained the protesters until VIPo could process them.

If you have any further questions please send them.

---

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--- Forwarded by: [REDACTED] on 14/10/2014 15:14 ---

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Date: 14/10/2014 15:14
Subject: Statement of Events SAD - 1 OCT 14 (RED-SECRET)

25/11/2014
I hope this is enough information. If you require anymore information please don't hesitate to contact me.

Regards

[Redacted]

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--- Forwarded by [Redacted] on 14/10/2014 16:14 ---

FW: Swan Island Protest update (EOD=SEGREST)

[Redacted] to: [Redacted]

14/10/2014 16:14

From: [Redacted]

Sent Thursday, 2 October 2014 14:14

[Redacted]

Subject: PM: Swan Island Protest update [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Please find attached report from staff at SIAD.

DISCAUST has directed A/CO 1CCO REFT to task OC 2 CCD COY to conduct a QA into the matter. The Command PAO will issue a statement as soon as he returns to the command.

25/11/2014
Any questions p/s ask.

Regarding [Redacted]

--- Forwarded by [Redacted] on 02/10/2014 02:00 PM ---

From: [Redacted]
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Date: 01/01/2014 00:00 PM
Subject: [Redacted]

Please find below a description of the events that took place on Swan Island this morning. I will provide continued information as it comes to hand.

--- Forwarded by [Redacted] on 07/10/2014 01:47 PM ---

From: [Redacted]
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Date: 02/10/2014 00:00 PM
Subject: [Redacted]

The Swan Island Peace Convergence has been held this week. Myself, [Redacted], have been staying at SIAD conducting regular patrols since Saturday 27th September. I have positioned [Redacted] on the Queenchurch side to monitor the protest and send us updates.

We only detained them as we were the closest ones to the protesters and they were in the SIAD area. After the initial verbal orders given and the protesters detained we did not engage in any verbal activity with them. It was a silent running activity until VicPol arrived.

I believe we used the minimum force appropriate to detain the protesters and VicPol on the scene were happy with our conduct (Acting Senior SGT [Redacted]).

All SIAD staff act under the following:
Under section 82 of the defence act any member of the defence force may arrest a person without warrant if the member has reasonable grounds to believe that the person:
- is trespassing on a defence installation or land that forms part of a defence installation, a building or land used by the defence force or a defence aircraft.

25/11/2014
We only detained the protesters until VicPol could process them.

If you have any further questions please send them.

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Version

333(a)(i)

333(a)(i)

SOCOMD IM

SOHO

333(a)(i)

From: 333(a)(i)

Date: Friday, 3 October 2014 09:30

To: 333(a)(i)

Subject: QA for DSOC dated 03 Oct 14: SIAD - SIPC (R208-0809119F) - DLM-Sensitive

Sir,

Please find enclosed the SIPC Incident QA wrt to SIAD.

regards

333(a)(i)

SOCOMD IM

SOHO

333(a)(i)

From: 333(a)(i)

Date: Friday, 3 October 2014 09:30

To: 333(a)(i)

Cc: 333(a)(i)

Subject: QA for DSOC dated 03 Oct 14: SIAD - SIPC (R208-0809119F) - DLM-Sensitive

333(a)(i)

Sir

QA for DSOC dated 03 Oct 14: SIAD - SIPC

25/11/2014
Incident Manager - Army
Office of the Chief of Army
Tel: +61 (0) 2 6266 2010
END

Pro #: 533(D)(1)
Sent: Wednesday, 2 October 2014 16:54
To:
Cc: Kennedy, Nick DIL
Subject: Re: Swan Island Protest (SEC-SECRET)

Boss

Initial report is as follows:

0645 - Initial radio interview on SAW with Greg Roles had indicted that protesters were located on Swan Island.
0745 - Two male trespassers were detained by members of the ADF in vicinity of a Defence building on the Northern end of the Island.
0755 - The trespassers were handed over to VICPOL in attendance on the Island.
0931 - Two additional trespassers were detained by members of the ADF and immediately handed over to VICPOL.
0930-1300 - VICPOL detained an additional four trespassers on the Island.

Four ADF personnel were present on SI at the time of the protest.

A total of 8 trespassers were detained on the Island, 4 by ADF personnel and 4 by VICPOL. All were handed over to VICPOL as early as possible.

Minimum force was used IAW instructions provided by VICPOL to the ADF members prior to the commencement of the protest.

DSOCAUST has initiated a QA to be commenced immediately. A/CO 1 CDO REGT was directed that OC 2 CDO COY was to proceed to SIAD and commence a QA.

OC 2 CDO COY will be in location at SIAD by 1730 tonight. An initial draft is due early tomorrow.

A media statement is being prepared and cleared as you read this.

Sir if you have any additional questions please ask.

Regards,

Pro #: 533(D)(1)
Sent: Wednesday, 2 October 2014 16:54
To:
Cc: Kennedy, Nick DIL
Subject: Re: Swan Island Protest (SEC-SECRET)

Boss

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OC 2 CDO COY will be in location at SIAD by 1730 tonight. An initial draft is due early tomorrow.

A media statement is being prepared and cleared as you read this.

Sir if you have any additional questions please ask.

Regards,
VICPOL are stating only 8 were arrested. Can you confirm 12 breached the perimeter or only 8.

Regards

Incident Manager - Army
Office of the Chief of Army
Tel: +61 (0) 2 6285 2010

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25/11/2014
I hope this is enough information. If you require anymore information please don’t hesitate to contact me.
Regards

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Can you please call me to confirm 8 or 12.

25/11/2014
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Sent: 14/10/2014 12:14

To: [Redacted]

From: [Redacted]

Subject: [Redacted]

Hey

VACPOL are stating only 4 were arrested. Can you confirm 12 breached the perimeter or only 8?

Regards

---

Incident Manager - Army
Office of the Chief of Army
Tel: +61 (0) 2 6265 2010

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Sent: 14/10/2014 14:05

To: [Redacted]

From: [Redacted]

Subject: [Redacted]

Can you please call me on UC or 52010.

25/11/2014
Incident Manager - Army
Office of the Chief of Army
Tel: +61 (0) 2 6265 2010

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Forwarded by: [Signature]
14/10/2014 15:14

To: [Signature]
Date: 13/10/2014 14:05
Subject: Swan Island Protest update [SEC-SECRET]

Please find below a description of the events that took place on Swan Island this morning. I will provide continued information as it comes to hand.

---

The Swan Island Peace Convergence has been held this week. Myself and [Signature] have been staying at SAD conducting regular patrols since Saturday 27th September. I have positioned [Signature] on the Queenstown side to monitor the protest and send us updates.

We have had two Rolls with crew and two mortuary staffs staying on the island also.

25/11/2014

Page 50 of 51
I believe we used the minimum force appropriate to detain the protesters and VicPol on the scene were happy with our conduct. (Acting Senior SGT)

We only detained them as we were the closest ones to the protesters and they were in the SIAD area. After the initial verbal orders given and the protesters detaine we did not engage in any verbal activity with them. It was a silent running activity until VicPol arrived.

The group that VicPol detained have posted pictures of themselves NO.533(b)(i)

All SIAD staff act under the following:

Under section 82 of the defence act any member of the defence force may arrest a person without warrant if the member has reasonable grounds to believe

1. That person is trespassing on a defence installation or land that forms part of a defence installation, a building or land used by the defence force or a defence aircraft.

We only detained the protesters until VicPol could process them.

If you have any further questions please send them.

533(b)(i)

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IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Australian Defence Organisation and is subject to the jurisdiction of Section 70 of the Crimes Act 1914. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email.
Protesters Trespass on Swan Island (*New*)

Talking Points

- Eight protesters have been arrested after trespassing on Commonwealth land at Swan Island, Queenscliff.

- Four protesters were detained by Defence members before being transferred to Victoria Police, and an additional four protesters were detained by Victoria Police.

- Protesters breached the perimeter of the base; but did not gain access to secure areas.

- The Department of Defence respects the democratic right of all Australians to express their views, provided this is done in a peaceful and law-abiding way.

- Under the Defence Act, ADF personnel have the powers to detain persons they suspect are trespassing on Defence land.

- All questions relating to the charges should be directed to Victoria Police.

- As the incident is a matter for Victoria Police, it would be inappropriate for Defence to provide further comment.

*If asked: How did the protesters get on base, is there an issue with security?*

- Defence understands the protesters breached the perimeter however did not gain access to secure areas of the base.
If asked: Did Army members threaten or physically assault the protesters?

- Under the Defence Act, ADF personnel have the powers to detain persons they suspect are trespassing on Defence land.

- Defence has initiated a review into the incident and as such it would be inappropriate to provide further comment until this review is completed.

If asked: For what is Swan Island used?

- Swan Island is a Defence facility used for Army training, including counter-terrorism training activities.

- Due to operational security and in order to protect tactics, techniques and procedures, Defence is unable to provide specific details on the type of training conducted.

If asked: What measures have been taken to prevent this happening again?

- Defence will not discuss security measures used at our facilities.

If asked: Have the protesters been charged?

- Victoria Police have reported that eight protesters have been charged with Commonwealth trespass.

If asked: Given heightened security at Government facilities, was it irresponsible for the protesters trespass on the base?

- The Department of Defence respects the democratic right of all Australians to express their views, provided this is done in a peaceful and law-abiding way.
Background

Swan Island Peace Convergence started its planned protest at Swan Island the week of 28 September 2014.

At approximately 7.00am, on Thursday, 2 October 2014, Melbourne radio broadcasted an interview with Mr Greg Roles, who made claims that he and other protesters were trespassing within the restricted areas of Swan Island Training Area. In response to these claims, ADF personnel, in cooperation with Victoria Police, began conducting security patrols.

At approximately 8.00am ADF personnel identified four protesters on the facility. Two were initially detained by ADF personnel and were handed over to Victoria Police.

At approximately 9.30am two further individuals were found and also handed over to Victoria Police.

Security searches continued until early afternoon with the Victoria Police whereby a further four trespassers were detained by Victoria Police.

All Defence facilities are at a higher security alert status in response to the raising of the national terror threat level.

Under Section 72 of the Defence Act, Defence personnel are given the power to detain persons they suspect of trespassing on Defence land, until they can be transferred to civilian authorities.

In April and June 2010, July 2011, September 2012 and September 2013 members of the Swan Island Peace Convergence staged anti-war protests at the entry to Swan Island resulting in the arrest of a number of protesters. These protests have generally been peaceful with a number of incursions onto Defence land and the bridge connecting Swan Island to the mainland. Victoria Police effected several arrests for trespass and removed protesters from the site.

Swan Island Peace Convergence have reported on their website, Facebook and Twitter that their members were detained, physically and verbally abused by Australian Special Forces members before Victoria Police arrived.

Media have reported Swan Island Peace Convergence's story.

Point of Contact
Brigadier Cheryl Pearce, Chief of Staff, AHQ, (w) 6265 1790 (m) S47F
Departmental Information valid as at: 3 October 2014