

FOI 229/15/16



**ARMY HEADQUARTERS
(GENERAL STAFF DIVISION)**

MINUTE

DCGS 2350 /96

Minister for Defence

For Information:

Minister for Defence Industry, Science and Personnel

CDF Secretary

**MILITARY POLICE INVOLVEMENT AT MUSGRAVE PARK BRISBANE
ON 19 OCTOBER 1996**

Purpose

1. To advise you of the results of the Army investigation into the subject incident and of the action Army is taking to prevent a recurrence.

Background

2. On 19 October 1996, five members of 16 Military Police Platoon (16 MP Pl) based in Brisbane conducted joint patrols with local Queensland Police as part of arrangements for Exercise SUMAN WARRIOR, involving some 300 foreign troops on leave in the Brisbane area.

3. The MP were conducting joint patrols in the Brisbane central business district and adjacent Fortitude Valley when a major disturbance took place at a rock concert at Musgrave Park. The five MP subsequently became involved at the periphery of the disturbance. They remained behind the police line, they did not touch any member of the public and their actions were restricted to directing members of the public along a police line.

Investigation

4. A formal investigation has been conducted by the Army. The investigation concluded that the accusations made against the MP who attended the incident were unsubstantiated.

6. I have accepted the recommendations of the investigation, as listed below, and these will be implemented as a matter of urgency:

- a. **Training.** MP training will be reviewed to ascertain the adequacy of instructions regarding liaison with, and assistance to, civil police.
- b. **Formal Agreement.** Detailed protocols, specifying the action by MP on requests for assistance by civil police, will be produced prior to conducting MP patrols outside military areas.
- c. **Joint Patrols.** Joint MP - Police patrols will cease as they have the potential to commit MP to police emergencies.

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- e. **MP Instructions.** Future MP instructions relating to liaison with Police will be scrutinised at an appropriate level prior to dissemination to ensure they contain practical and comprehensive guidance.
- f. **MP Vehicles and Communications.** MP will use only military vehicles when patrolling. There is to be adequate communications (either mobile phones or radios) between MP patrols.
- g. **Preferential Treatment.** Civilian police should accord no preferential treatment to soldiers apprehended by them where civil charges would normally follow.

7. On subsequent legal advice, provided from the Director of Army Legal Services, I am continuing to pursue some long term legal aspects of Defence aid to the civil authorities relating to incidents of this nature.

Recommendation

8. That you note this brief.

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Noted

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31 Oct 96