

SOTG PAG – OBJ HEGET

Date of Incident	29 Apr 11
Time	N/A
Location	Uruzgan Province
Units Involved	SOTG, PRC-U
POC Name	LT s47F
POC Phone Number	VOIP 99793
IIR Number	122, 122A

~~SECRET~~ **SITUATION** (Not to be released)

ALL TIMES ARE AFGHANISTAN LOCAL

29 APR

At approx 1625DE PRC-U and SOTG were conducting a cordon and search operation in the vicinity of Tarin Kowt, Uruzgan as part of OP TEVARA-SIN 25. During the containment of a compound of interest, 1 x insurgent ~~s33(a)(i)~~
~~s33(a)(i)~~ The insurgent was engaged by SOTG resulting in 1 x enemy killed in action. ~~s33(a)(i)~~
~~s33(a)(i)~~ There have been nil civilian casualties, collateral damage, targeting or rules of engagement issues identified. (EKIA - OBJ HEGET)

~~SECRET~~ **Likely Issues**

Possible negative, exaggerated or false comments by

- Insurgents are likely to utilise web-based forums to spread disinformation and propaganda about the conduct of Australian troops and partnered forces including the ANA and PRC-U through certain media channels, such as www.unjustmedia.com
- Detainee management is a matter of significant policy and public interest. J06 guidance requires that no imagery of detainees is captured except for official purposes and disclosure of names of detainees is to presume innocence before the courts.
- The composition of the Special Forces force element is of interest to the media and is not to be disclosed. Protected Identity status is to be maintained.

~~SECRET~~ **HOLDING STATEMENT**

Afghan National Police and Australian Special Forces conducted a clearance operation in Tarin Kot to detain Hayat Ustad, an insurgent responsible for weapons smuggling and Improvised Explosive Device facilitation.

During the operation, Hayat Ustad drew a pistol and attempted to shoot members of the Australian Special Forces who acted in self defence and killed the insurgent.

TALKING POINTS (Downgraded to UNCLAS if required to release)

- Afghan National Police and Australian Special Forces conducted a clearance operation in Tarin Kot to detain Hayat Ustad, an insurgent responsible for weapons smuggling and Improvised Explosive Device facilitation.
- During the operation, Hayat Ustad drew a pistol and attempted to shoot members of the Australian Special Forces who acted in self defence and killed the insurgent.
- He was a highly influential insurgent and key logistician with links to the senior insurgent leadership in southern Afghanistan. He was responsible for arms smuggling, transporting weapons and fighters and Improvised Explosive Device facilitation. He was also heavily involved in suicide attack coordination, direction and planning.
- The death of Hayat Ustad is the fourteenth high value Taliban target killed or captured by Australian Special Forces since their spring offensive began in March.
- The operations by the PRC-U and SOTG were conducted with strict adherence to Australian rules of engagement.

Q and A (Downgraded to UNCLAS if required to release)

Q What happened on 29 April?

- Afghan National Police and Australian Special Forces conducted a clearance operation in Tarin Kot to detain Hayat Ustad, a known insurgent. During the operation, Hayat Ustad drew a pistol and attempted to shoot members of the Australian Special Forces who acted in self defence and killed the insurgent.

Q Who is Hayat Ustad?

- He was a highly influential insurgent and key logistician with links to the senior insurgent leadership in southern Afghanistan. He was responsible for arms smuggling, transporting weapons and fighters and Improvised Explosive Device facilitation. He was also heavily involved in suicide attack coordination, direction and planning.

Q Who makes up SOTG?

- The current SOTG rotation comprises members from the Special Air Service Regiment, the 2nd Commando Regiment and a variety of supporting units from the ADF.

Q What is the PRC-U?

- The PRC-U acts as a provincial policing response as part of the Afghan National Police that can be called upon for both routine community policing and specific missions as directed by the Provincial Chief of Police.
- Special Operations Task Group operations are Afghan National Police led in order to build confidence in Afghan National Security Forces and improve the connection between the local population and the Afghan Government.
- The local knowledge and community connections of the PRC-U provide invaluable support to the community in building and maintaining security.
- The PRC reports to the Uruzgan Provincial Chief of Police, COL Sherzad.

Q. How do Coalition Forces know when they can engage?

- Rules of engagement cannot be disclosed as they would provide intelligence to insurgents and reveal techniques, tactics and procedures that must be protected in order to save the lives of Coalition and partnered Afghan forces.
- It should be noted that Australian forces apply robust rules of engagement and only engage when a threat is positively identified.

<div style="background-color: red; color: black; display: inline-block; width: 100px; height: 1em; margin-bottom: 2px;"></div> Release Strategy : Proactive release. 30 Apr 11			
Drafted	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Drafted/Updated by	LT s47F	SOTG S09	29 Apr 11
Operational Clearance			
OPSEC (<i>At source</i>)	LTCOL s47F LTCOL s47F	SOTG CO HQJTF633 J09	29 Apr 11 Apr 11
Fact (<i>Subject Matter Expert</i>)	LTCOL s47F MAJGEN A Campbell	HQJOC J3 CJTF	Apr 11 Apr 11
HQJOC Release Authority (<i>1 Star</i>)			
Strategic Clearance			
Policy (<i>SP/IP etc</i>)			
MSC Branch			
DGStratCom (<i>or delegate</i>)			
O/CDF			
ASCAM (<i>or delegate</i>)			
Minister			
Ministerial Action: (<i>To be completed by ASCAM</i>)			
Forward to/Cleared by			

Distribution: National
Release date: 30 Apr 11
Imagery: Nil
Vision: Nil

Australian Special Forces kill high value insurgent in self defence

Afghan National Police and Australian Special Forces have killed a prominent Uruzgan insurgent in self defence.

On 29 April 2011, members of the Provincial Response Company Uruzgan and the Special Operations Task Group conducted a clearance operation in Tarin Kot to detain Hayat Ustad, a known insurgent.

During the operation, Hayat Ustad drew a pistol and attempted to shoot members of the Australian Special Forces who acted in self defence and killed the insurgent.

Commanding Officer of the SOTG said Hayat Ustad was a key Taliban leader in Uruzgan.

“He was a highly influential insurgent and key logistician with links to the senior insurgent leadership in southern Afghanistan.”

“He was responsible for arms smuggling, transporting weapons and fighters and Improvised Explosive Device facilitation. He was also heavily involved in suicide attack coordination, direction and planning,” CO SOTG said.

The death of Hayat Ustad is the fourteenth high value Taliban target killed or captured by Australian Special Forces since their offensive campaign began in March.

The operation was conducted with strict adherence to Australian rules of engagement.