

EXECUTIVE
Document
s47E(d)

24 MAY 2021

SUPPORT UNIT

		DECISION BRIEF FOR CDF: REQUEST FOR DIRECTION TO INQUIRE INTO ADDITIONAL MATTERS	
Group/Service: Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force		Reference:	s47E(d)
For information: NA		Due date:	Routine

Purpose

1. To request you direct me to inquire into command oversight of matters raised in the Afghanistan Inquiry Report.

Recommendation

2. That you direct me to inquire.

Key Issues

3. On 10 November 2020, the IGADF delivered to CDF the IGADF Afghanistan Inquiry Report (the Report). The Report detailed IGADF's inquiry into rumours of serious misconduct by Australia's Special Forces in Afghanistan. Some of the rumours potentially disclosed war crimes. As a result of the Report's findings and recommendations, separate criminal investigations may be commenced against certain individuals identified in the Report.
4. Chapter 3.03 of the Report considers the issue of Command and Collective Responsibility. Although the Report found that commanders were morally responsible for the alleged wrongdoing, the Report found no evidence that there was knowledge, or even reasonable suspicion, at troop/platoon, squadron/company or task group command level, or at higher levels such as Commander JTF 633, Joint Operations Command, or Australian Defence Headquarters, that war crimes were allegedly being committed under their command.
5. The report refers to the indirect contribution of command in the context of otherwise deviant behaviour. You have asked whether I can further explore this on the basis of the material and knowledge already gathered in the course of the IGADF Afghanistan Inquiry and

s22	a. <u>Directed</u> Please discuss
JM Gaynor IGADF Tel: s47E(d) Mob s22 21 May 21	s22 Angus J Campbell GEN CDF 6 June 21 May 21
Contact Officer: GPCAPT s47E(d) DII	Tel: s47E(d)
Clearance Officer: CDRE Fiona Sneath, DIGADF	Tel: s47E(d)

Please keep me informed of progress, assistance that might be required and timeliness of completion. all to the degree you consider it appropriate to do so. A.

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without speaking separately to current and former ADF members who were witnesses to the IGADF Afghanistan Inquiry.

6. The inquiry can be conducted so as to not conflict with any implementation actions following your receipt of the Afghanistan Inquiry. I recommend that the purpose of the inquiry is limited to reviewing and analysing known information in order to inform future action including possible reform of command doctrine and leadership ethics.

7. It is requested that you direct an inquiry to explore that issue further.

Draft Directions

8. A copy of the draft Directions are enclosed for your consideration.

Enclosure:

Directions to Assistants IGADF – CDF Direction IGADF Inquiry into Possible Command Oversight (s47E(d))

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