

D/DPS(A)/7541-C398

07 May 10

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**STATEMENT FOR THE MOD PUBLICATION SCHEME BY THE ARMY SERVICE INQUIRY COORDINATOR IN RELATION TO THE INQUIRIES INTO THE DEATH OF 555260 CAPTAIN JA PHILIPPSON LATE 7<sup>th</sup> PARACHUTE REGIMENT ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY**

I would be most grateful if you could arrange for the following statement below to be published on the MOD Publication Scheme.

The Board of Inquiry into the death of Captain JA Philippson on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2006 was one of several that Headquarters LAND Command<sup>1</sup> finalised in December 2007. During scrutiny of the Inquiry in January 2008 it was discovered that Major JDM Bristow SCOTS was 'affected by the findings of the board', but had not been made a Rule 11 witness<sup>2</sup> and consequently direction was issued to the effect that a copy of the BOI be sent to him to see if he had any comment.

Following the Coroner's Inquest into the death of Captain JA Philippson, on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2008, Headquarters Land Forces directed that a second inquiry, a Service Inquiry<sup>3</sup>, should be convened to rectify the procedural errors of the first inquiry, the Board of Inquiry.

This statement confirms that, due to the procedural shortcoming of the first inquiry, the Board of Inquiry, no weight or reliance is to be given to it and that the second inquiry, the Service Inquiry published on the MOD website in Nov 09, is the definitive record of the circumstances surrounding the death of Captain JA Philippson on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2006.

As the Service Inquiry Coordinator for Land Forces I apologise for the errors of the Board of Inquiry and any damage that may have been caused to the professional reputation of Major JDM Bristow by its findings.



MT Griffiths  
Brigadier  
Director of Personal Services (Army)

<sup>1</sup> Headquarters Land Forces with effect from 01 April 2008.

<sup>2</sup> [if] any witness or other person to whom this rule applies may be affected by the findings of the board, the authority or, as the case may be, the president shall take steps as are in his view reasonable and necessary to secure that such witness or other person has notice of the proceedings and, if he so desires, has the opportunity of being present, and represented, at the sittings of the board, or at such part thereof as the authority or, as the case may be, the president, may specify." Rule 11.

<sup>3</sup> Under Armed Forces Act 2006 Boards of Inquiry were replaced by Service Inquiries with effect from 01 October 2008.