



MOD-83-0000353-A

Case Ref No: 64872/04



**SERVICE POLICE
WITNESS STATEMENT**

(CJ Act 1967, S.9; MC Act 1980, SS.5A (3a) and 5B; MC Rules 1981, r70)

Statement of: SO36

Rank/Status: Capt

Age if under 18: Over 18 (if over 18 insert "over 18") Occupation: HM Forces (RM)

This statement (consisting of 5 pages each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything, which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: SO36

Dated the 12th day of April 2005.

I am Cap SO36. At present I am serving as the Intelligence Officer, 40 Cdo RM, Norton Manor Camp, Taunton, Somerset. I have held this position for approximately 9 months.

Further to my statements dated 18 Dec 04 and 14 Jan 05, I have been asked by Sgt Williams, RM Police (att SIB) to provide further information relating to the shooting incident between members of my unit and a suspected VBIED. In particular I have been asked to expand on the details passed to the patrol prior to their deployment on the ground.

With regards to this, I would first of all like to state that due to this incident occurring sometime ago, I cannot recall exact details without first referring to material, which is still held in theatre. What I can recall though, is that I would generally brief patrol members, prior to the commencement of their patrol. I recall at that time that there was a generic threat from VBIED's, two or three of these had been specific threats, however, I cannot recall the make, model, colour, VRN or any other details relating to these. This information when received would have immediately been passed to the patrols deploying on the ground. To assist in briefing the patrols, I would use photographs to give the patrol members an idea of what 'kind' of vehicles were being used. These photos were not of the specific vehicles suspected of being the VBIED but of a vehicle which was the same colour, make or model of the suspect VBIED, so that the patrol would have an idea of what to look for. They were also advised to study documentation, which was printed from the Inet, detailing vehicle descriptions, year of manufacture, etc. This documentation was held in the briefing room and was readily available to all patrol members.

With regards to briefing patrol members of the tactics used by VBIED's, I can recall briefing that they, the patrol, should be suspicious of any vehicles approaching at speed from behind and trying to penetrate the convoy prior to detonation.

Our SOP's against this occurrence were to issue or use high visibility signals to warn the driver to slow down, and in occasions when this failed, raise the personal weapon to the shoulder and repeat the

Signed: SO36

Signature Witnessed by: A Williams

STAFF - INVESTIGATION

(Continuation Sheet)

Sheet No	2	Case No:	64872/04
Continuation of statement of:	SO36		

warnings. Reports from patrols had indicated that in all the occasions when this had been adopted, vehicles, which were not a threat to the patrol and simply getting too close, had got the message and backed away from the patrol accordingly. Ultimately if this failed it was down to the discretion of the men on the ground to decide which further action should be taken.

It is worthy of note that at the time of this incident there had been no recorded incidents of VBIED's in our area, however, we had received reports that certain personalities were migrating from the north of Iraq into our AOR and bringing tactics with them, which included VBIED's.

In addition to the above the area in which this happened, which was colloquially known as the 'Two Mosques Roundabout', was on the main road from Az Zubayr port to Basrah, which was a high risk area due to IED's previously being found and detonated at the side of the road. In fact this area had been placed out of bounds due to this fact and at the time of the incident had only recently been brought back in bounds.

Signed: SO36

Signed: AF Williams
Sgt
RM Police (att SIB)