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Tactical Questioning

Asymmetric Warfare Group

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Tactical Questioning (TQ)

TQ is

- Gathering information from people.
- An expedited interview in the field.
- Used to gain and exploit time-sensitive information for follow-on missions.
- Always an interview, NOT an interrogation.

Conduct TQ when

- Target is secure.
- People of interest are on the objective.
- Talking to a local national.

Prepare for success

- Prepare a TQ annex in the unit OPORD.
- Rehearse TQ (use interpreters).
- Develop standard basic questions.
- Develop a TQ plan.
- Have needed equipment accessible.
- Use site that is out of earshot of segregation area and is undisturbed.

Task Organization

Team Leader (TL)

- Develops plans, conducts the questioning, and controls the interpreter.

Recorder

- Enrolls individuals into the biometric database with the Handheld Interagency Identity Detection Equipment (HIIDE).
- Records notes as questions are asked. Notes may be recorded electronically as a back-up to written notes.

Security

- Conducts search of individual prior to questioning.
- Establishes cover position that does not place interpreter or TL in line of fire. (**DO NOT USE** as a form of coercion.)

Interpreter

- Is the mouthpiece of the interviewer and interviewee.

The Five Ss

These are basic steps to follow when handling detainees to ensure success and safety.

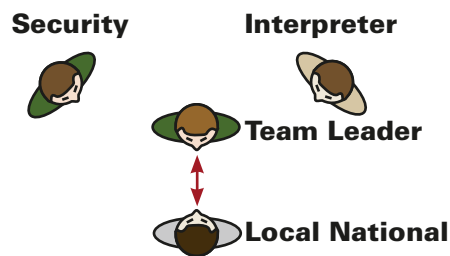
- **Search:** Disarm, restrain, and blindfold to minimize escape opportunities and retain shock of capture. Gather all tactical site exploitation (TSE) materials and personal effects.
- **Silence:** Silence all detainees. If detainees will not comply, gag them.
- **Segregate:** Sort by age groups, sex, rank, etc., to assist in prioritization of searching. Keep children with females and out of earshot.
- **Safeguard:** Ensure that detainee is out of immediate harm.
- **Speed to the rear:** Evacuate detainees to the rear in a timely manner with initial report, TSE items, and circumstances of detention. **Use DD 2745 Capture Tag.**

Use of Interpreters

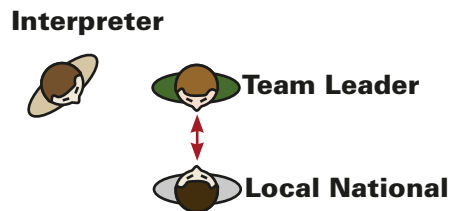
- **Preparation:** Brief the interpreter on the questions you will ask. Ensure he understands your intent and vocabulary.
- **Instruction:** Instruct the interpreter that he is the microphone—nothing more. When you ask “How are you,” **he shouldn’t say** “He wants to know how you are.” The interpreter should reflect the interviewer’s emotion and tone.
- **Sensor:** The interpreter may be able to pick up indicators of lying, ethnic background, or nationality of the detainee. Instruct the interpreter to pass this information to you.
- **DO NOT** talk to the interpreter; ask your questions directly to the detainee. The interpreter only translates what you say.

Example TQ Layouts

With Security inside interview room:



With Security outside interview room:



Leads

Leads are statements or answers that indicate the detainee may have information on another significant subject or additional information on the question being asked.

- **Hot lead:** Time-sensitive information of immediate value or information that answers PIR.
- **Cold lead:** Information that does not meet criteria of hot lead and does not warrant a change in the current interview or current operations.
- **Source lead:** Information that identifies a source that has the knowledge you seek.

Initial Screening (JUMPS)

JUMPS is an acronym to guide any Soldier on the types of questions to ask in any interview. **First question always is: “Is there any immediate danger to my patrol?”**

- **J – Job:** What is your job/profession/rank/tribe (clan)/father’s name/place of birth/age?
- **U – Unit:** What is your unit/the name of your company? Who is your boss/supervisor?
- **M – Mission:** What is the mission of the unit/company you work for? Mission of next higher unit/company, current mission, anticipated future missions?
- **P – Priority information requirement (PIR):** Ask questions pertinent to your commander’s PIR.
- **S – Stuff:** Ask questions about anything that does not fit in the categories above: This is a catch-all category and a good place to tie questions to items that were found on the individual (e.g., “explain this map and these circled spots”).

Types of Questions

Direct: (Only authorized technique)

- An efficient method of asking precise questions toward a specific objective. Normally, who, what, when, where, why, and how begin the question.
- **DON'T FORGET "ELSE"!** (Who else, why else, where else, etc.)

Tips

- "War game" your techniques in rehearsals.
- Do not depend on lists or cheat sheets (you may lose eye contact and miss an indicator of deception).
- Have a focused approach (erratic questions all over the map will confuse both you and the detainee).
- Be specific and focused with questions (if you want to know what the person's profession is, ask "What is your profession?" not "What do you do?").
- Ask questions that cannot be answered with yes or no.
- If you are doing most of the talking, he is winning!

Do Not Use:

Vague:

- Questions that are not specific. These may lead to answers that are misinterpreted by the interviewer or elicit broad answers that are of no use.

Compound:

- Multiple questions contained within a single question: "When did you stage and conduct the attack?"

Negative:

- Phrasing that prompts the interviewee to make a negative response, whether true or not: "You didn't see any CF while on your recon, did you?"

Leading:

- Questions that prompt the interviewee to give the answer he believes you want.

TSE Tie-In

Prior to questioning

- Review all captured pocket litter/ documents/media on detainee.
- Have detention photo in hand (digital).
- Review detention circumstances and location of detention.
- View all TSE materials and have them on hand for shock value if needed.

Sample TSE questions

- What is this used for?
- Who owns this?
- Who made this?
- Where did you get this?
- Where are the rest of the parts?
- Who paid for this?

Indications of Lying

- Making gross body movements
- Moving chair away from interviewer
- Preparing to stand up
- Attempting to leave
- Making grooming gestures
- Rubbing or wringing of hands
- Touching ear, nose, etc.
- Picking or chewing on fingernails
- Licking lips, clearing of throat
- Tapping, swinging, or arching of feet
- Shuffling papers
- Adjusting clothing or jewelry
- Placing hand over mouth while talking
- Crossing arms or legs while leaning back
- Hiding hands by sitting on them
- Holding forehead with hands

Recording Procedures

- **Tag: Use DD 2745** (if unavailable, create an expedient tag with the following information)
 - Date and time of capture
 - Full name
 - Father's name
 - Tribe/sub-tribe
 - Date and place of birth
 - Age
 - Rank/occupation
 - Unit or address
 - Capturing unit (complete)
 - Grid of capture
 - Physical condition
 - List of documents and equipment

Other Tips

Prior intelligence on subject enhances TQ efforts:

- Prior knowledge assists in the interviewer's ability to identify a lie and to direct questions to support PIR.

Audio recorders:

- These should be used to record the interview for follow-on interrogations by trained Soldiers. Additionally, they can be used to confirm the interpreter's truthfulness.

Video recorders:

- These should be used to confirm the team's compliance with the Rules of Land Warfare (Five Ss) and by trained interrogators to identify any missed deception techniques used by the detainee.

Handle all recorded data as classified data: it is sensitive and may be used by the enemy if mishandled.

Reporting Procedures

- Use of the mnemonic **SALUTE** is an effective technique to compile reports that all Soldiers understand. Use the information obtained from TSE and TQ together.

Additional Information

- Include a list of questions and answers in final report.
- Include any identified indicators of lying or deception.
- Include a list of all other local nationals on detention site.

Follow-Through

- Conduct a unit debrief with all unit participants, enablers, and intelligence personnel.
- Write witness statements. Include sketch of objective/place of capture.
- All TSE material and initial questioning information should go to initial interrogation element for expedited exploitation.
- Seized personnel and items will likely go to different locations for interrogation and analysis after initial brigade/battalion interrogations. **Make sure you retain your copy of the DD 2745.**
- Before signing them over, receive the point-of-contact information of the gaining agency. This allows your unit to stay informed and receive further intelligence from follow-on exploitation.