

Subject: FW: MOBILE SQUAD

Date: Friday, 28 February 2014 6:25:52 PM Australian Eastern Daylight Time

From: McCaffery, John

To: Dewsnap, Andrew

From: McCaffery, John

Sent: Monday, 10 February 2014 3:30 PM

To: Anthony KNEIPP

Subject: FW: MOBILE SQUAD

Anthony,

We have met with the Mobile Squad recently to discuss how we will work together in the event of an incident at the MIRPC where G4S requires additional assistance.

Having discussed the use of crowd control tactics with the I/C of the Mobile Squad, Senior Sergeant Murray Benjamin, I believe that employing the mobile squad in any crowd control capacity brings with it significant problems:

- Sergeant Benjamin stated that their brief extends primarily to defence of the centre from external threats. However, for internal threats, permission to employ the Mobile Squad would need to be requested through his chain of command (Provincial Police Commander - PPC). Historically, communications with the PPC is problematic with phone calls frequently not being answered or returned. Given the speed at which incidents can occur it is anticipated that any advantage that might be gained through deploying the mobile squad in a timely manner will be compromised by the delay in obtaining deployment permission.
- In discussion with Snr Sergeant Benjamin, the Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTP) that might have been employed by the Mobile Squad here are compromised due to the lack of access to Shields and Batons. Furthermore, the team here has not trained with shields and batons for "a long time". This is of significant concern given the incorrect employment of shields and batons can result in those implements causing very serious injury (VSI) or death of protestors.
 - According to Sgt Benjamin, the escalation of force that would occur if they were deployed is:
 - Voice (discussion with protestors, shouting at them, etc.)
 - Physical coercion using individual officers and then officers as a group (for instance: join arms forming a line and pushing back protestors)
 - Firing of Gas Grenades from grenade launchers
 - Use of Shot guns firing non-lethal ammunition (although even "bird shot" at close range could cause VSI or death)
 - Use of small arms (assault rifles and live ammunition)
 - Such an escalation will be quick and could result in VSI or death of protestors
 - Furthermore, given the indiscriminate way in which deadly force would be employed there is a possibility for collateral damage of Stakeholder personnel.
- As such I am seeking official qualification of:
 - Mobile Squad Rules of Engagement (ROE) / Rules for the Use of Force (RUF)
 - Mobile Squad tasking, as given to them by their higher headquarters,
 - Is there a stipulated task to provide crowd control support within the
 - Mobile Squad capabilities (are they supposed to be here with shields and batons and trained to use them),
 - Confirmation of the chain of command for tasking and to whom we request deployment of the mobile squad in support of our activities and timelines for response?

Recommendations:

- PNG Authorities are requested to deploy fully equipped Mobile Squad Personnel who are

trained in the use of Non-Lethal Force (NLF) crowd control including the use of shields and batons.

- Mobile Squad Rules of Engagement (ROE) / Rules for the Use of Force (RUF)
- A clear articulation of how G4S requests deployment of:
 - o the on duty Mobile Squad
 - on whose authority can they be deployed (currently the PPC is the authority but is not available 24/7)
 - o timely deployment of the off duty Mobile Squad that reside in Lorengau.
 - on whose authority can they be deployed and what is the 24/7 contact (we have the number for the commander but it can take up to two days for an answer to be forthcoming.

Anecdotally, the PNG Police force and Mobile Squad have limited organic capability for NLF training.

If the anecdotal advice is correct, I would suggest that this is an issue of priority that should be addressed as soon as possible with the provision of training teams from Australia where necessary; be they AFP, ADF or from a commercial provider.

Regards,
John

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