

**TO: THE AUSTRALIAN SENATE - STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN
AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE**

**The Operation of the Australian Defence Force's resistance to interrogation
training.**

I,

State:

1. I served in the Australian Regular Army as a Soldier Regimental Number in the Royal Australian Corps of Signals as an Information systems and Cipher (Cryptography) Operator from 1994 to 2002 gaining the rank of Detachment Commander (Corporal). In 2002 I transferred to the Royal Australian Airforce as an Airman in the CISCON mustering gaining the rank of Communications Manager (Sergeant). I served overseas on Operation Bel Isi (Peace keeping force) and Operation Catalyst (The occupation and rehabilitation of Iraq). I discharged from the Australian Defence Force in January 2008.
2. In January 1998 I was posted to the Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) as a Signaller and was allocated to 152 SIG SQN (SASR).
3. At the time 152 SIG SQN (SASR) in addition to its normal Special Forces activities provided radio communications support to the SAS selection course and SAS Patrol Course at the SAS training facility in Bindoon, Western Australia.
4. In 1998 whilst providing support to the Patrol Course I witnessed a group of Patrol Course Candidates arrive on a white mini bus. The SAS Directing Staff (DS) had Middle Eastern head-dress covering their faces and were carrying weapons some of which were discharged in the air. The DS were yelling very loudly at the candidates and roughly brought them into the holding area one at a time. The candidates all had pillow cases on their heads and were made to crouch on the floor with their hands behind their heads. All the candidates were lined up on the floor in rows while the DS continued to yell at them.
5. The DS ordered some of the Soldiers of 152 SIG SQN (SASR) and other support staff who were in the area at the time (including myself) to walk between the lines of candidates and not speak. As we walked between the lines of Candidates crouching on the floor the DS ordered the candidates to remove items of clothing and place them in front of themselves (whilst leaving the pillow cases on their heads). As the candidates slowly removed their items of clothing the DS ordered the support staff (including myself) to kick their clothing items forward out of reach. I was uncomfortable performing this task and felt sick in my stomach being made to do this to fellow Australian Soldiers. I observed some of the candidates visibly frightened, upset and shaking uncontrollably as they removed their clothes and placed them (where they thought their other removed clothing items were) and then realising that their clothing items were not where they put them.

6. Eventually all the candidates were completely naked and crouching on the floor with pillowcases on their heads. The DS staff continued yelling at them and the support staff walked up and down between the rows. After some time the candidates were finally allowed to dress and were moved to another area.

The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed by:

19 March 2016

Witnessed by:

19 March 2016