

~~SECRET//REL USA, GBR~~

WITNESS STATEMENT
(CJ Act 1967, s9; MC Act 1980, s5A(3a) and 5B; MC Rules 1981, r70)

Statement of: UKLO

Rank/Status: MAJ

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

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

Signature: UKLO

Date: 24 Oct 10

1. I was employed as the UK LO to the US HQ responsible for the operation to rescue Linda Norgrove based at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, between 26 Sep – 09 Oct 10. My role was: to provide situational awareness (SA) to Her Majesty's Ambassador (HMA) via the military staff in the Embassy; to influence if necessary the tactical plan; to provide reassurance on the viability of the plan; and to ensure the US HQ understood that HMA (or in his absence D/HMA) had CONOP approval authority.
2. These requirements were exercised via a daily battle rhythm within the US HQ to update the Commander of the US HQ on the development of the operation. All the US HQ's department heads were involved to ensure that consideration of all information and intelligence internal to the TF was made. Within this forum every opportunity was afforded for UK comment/advice. This meeting consolidated the US HQ position prior to the RC (E) Personnel Recovery (PR) Video Teleconference (VTC) each day. Again consideration of the Battle Space Owner's information and intelligence was made with the Commander of the US HQ confirming his assessment. The UK position regarding HMA requirement reference CONOPS approval authority was explained to this wider audience. Throughout the PR planning in US HQ every opportunity was given to me to advise on the development of the plan. However at no stage did I deem this necessary.
3. Additionally I conducted regular communication with BEK staff located at RC(E) HQ to ensure SA was maintained. Frequent communication with other UK LOs occurred each day to ensure a common operating picture was maintained across the UK's liaison structure for this operation.
4. The CONOPS was sent to the UKLO at BEK at 081524z Oct 10 and was subsequently briefed to D/HMA for her approval, which she granted. Verbal confirmation of this was received from BEK UKLO by myself at 081620z Oct 10. The operation was then conducted with H hr at 082005z Oct 10.
5. After the operation, I escorted the SCR in order to receive the body of Ms Linda NORGROVE at BAF. The body arrived at approximately 082305z Oct 10 and was moved to the Mortuary Affairs compound. At 082325z Oct 10, I positively identified the body using photos from Ms NORGROVE's passport and medical insurance identification card. At 091550z Oct 10, I provided National Representation and escorted the body of Ms NORGROVE from BAF to Kabul (RW move) and released custody of the body along with

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personal belongings (Camera, mobile phone, clothes, documents inc passport/work visa/credit card) to the UKLO to BEK at 091615z Oct 10.

Signed UKLO

Date: 24 Oct 10