

**Under** the Inquiries Act 2013

**In the matter of** a Government Inquiry into Operation Burnham and Related  
Matters

**THIRD STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF DR WAYNE DANIEL MAPP**

---

**8 October 2019**

**K I E L Y | T H O M P S O N | C A I S L E Y**

BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS P O BOX 7359 Auckland 1141 Tel 64 9 366 5111 Fax 64 9 303 0338

P T Kiely (kiely@ktc.co.nz)

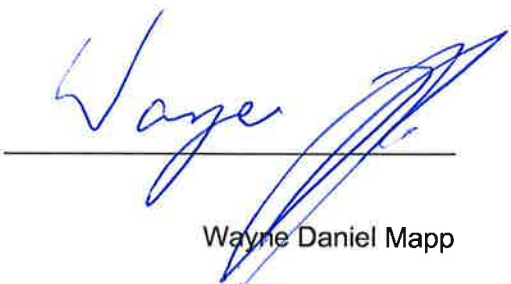
ALSO AT WELLINGTON

102860 - Third Mapp BOE

1. I have read briefs of evidence from the following witnesses:
  - 1.1. Kevin Ronald Short dated 11 September 2019;
  - 1.2. Gordon Ross Smith dated 3 October 2019;
  - 1.3. Richard Rhys Jones dated 3 October 2019;
  - 1.4. Michael Andrew Thompson dated 4 October 2019;
  - 1.5. Christopher John Augustine Hoey dated 3 October 2019;
  - 1.6. James William Blackwell dated 3 October 2019.
  
2. I understand some of the intended evidence is that the ISAF Investigation Report (**IAT Report**) may have been brought to my office on 1 September 2011 and may have been shown to me on that or a later day. I can see that statements of intended evidence include evidence that I was informed that the IAT Report did not provide evidence that civilians were harmed but that the Report also concluded that there was a possibility of unintended civilian casualties during Operation Burnham.
  
3. I have no recollection of ever reading the IAT Report and I do not remember being given the Report to read. In my office all secret documents were kept in the Military Secretary's safe and I never used the safe in my personal office. I did not want to be responsible for the control of secret documents.
  
4. According to my Ministerial Diary, which I have recently retrieved, Colonel Blackwell briefed me on four occasions in 2011. The dates of the briefings were:
  - 4.1. Monday 16 May 2011;
  - 4.2. Tuesday 9 August 2011;
  - 4.3. Monday 22 August 2011; and
  - 4.4. Monday 12 September 2011.

5. The last briefing, on 12 September 2011, occupied a half hour from 3.45pm to 4.15pm.
6. These briefings from Colonel Blackwell were about current SAS operations in Afghanistan. I had asked for these meetings so that I would be aware of what operations the SAS were conducting in Afghanistan. They were essentially part of a "no surprises" policy. I believe the briefings were always initiated by NZDF and which officer briefed me was a matter for NZDF.
7. Although the briefings from Colonel Blackwell were fundamentally oral, Colonel Blackwell would typically bring a briefing book and show me a list of the operations that had occurred in the preceding weeks. The book included photographs. The briefings were about recent SAS operations against Taliban insurgents. Some operations involved exchanges of gunfire. However, the majority seemed to result in arrests of insurgents by the CRU. There seemed to be two or three operations per week.
8. I now have a fragmentary memory of being told by Colonel Blackwell that there was no evidence of civilian casualties but that it was possible that civilian casualties may have been caused during Operation Burnham due to a misaligned gun on the United States Apache helicopter. I had no memory of being told this before retrieving my Ministerial Diary and reading Colonel Blackwell's evidence.
9. I have no recollection of the detail of the briefing by Colonel Blackwell. However, I was not left with any reason to think I had to take further action. I did not inform the Prime Minister's office, discuss the matter with my political advisor Mr Stuart Boag or discuss it with the Minister of Foreign Affairs who I worked closely with on Afghanistan issues. Nor was I left with the impression that I had to correct my answers to the Q+A programme from April 2011 as there was no actual evidence that civilians had been killed or injured.
10. The most important event in the week of 29 August was the funeral of Corporal Doug Grant in Linton. Much of that week was given over to dealing with this event. I felt a deep sense of personal responsibility as I had been heavily involved in the decision to deploy to Afghanistan.

11. This was followed shortly thereafter by the death in Afghanistan of Lance Corporal Leon Smith on 28 September 2011. I attended his regimental service on 6 October.
12. The other major topic I was dealing with at the time was the upcoming PRT deployment. I was particularly concerned for the safety of personnel being deployed. This resulted in a number of serious discussions with the CDF, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Prime Minister.
13. My Ministerial Diary has helped me to reconstruct my movements in the fortnight around 1 September 2011. I did not attend my Ministerial office from Thursday 1 September to Monday 5 September 2011 inclusive.
14. I was not in Wellington on Thursday 1 September 2011.
15. In September 2011 my political advisor was Mr Stuart Boag. I have spoken to Mr Boag to ask him whether he has a recollection of me discussing the IAT Report with him in September 2011. He told me he had no recollection of a discussion of the document, or of Operation Burnham. I am sure Mr Boag could corroborate what I have said.
16. When the documentary, "Collateral Damage" screened in June 2014, I did not recollect any briefings from Colonel Blackwell about the possibility of civilian casualties. However, based on the photographic evidence presented in the programme, I concluded it was probable that civilian casualties had in fact occurred and that what I had said on the Q+A programme was probably wrong.



Wayne Daniel Mapp

8 October 2019