



ASIC-TF81/2010/09/06

6 September 10

ASIC TF-81 SITREP WEEK: 22 August – 6 September 2010

1. This SITREP covers key TF-81 ASIC activities over the period 22 August – 6 September 2010.

SITREP

Operations

2. Having completed four weeks of Ramadan and participated in three operations

PSR(TS)2

6. PSR(Sen)1 (Baghlan/Kabul) – Another PSR(S)2 was attempted against PSR(Sen)1 whose primary operating area is Baghlan and who is linked to the 3 August contact with the NZPRT.
PSR(TS)2

7. OP BURNHAM (Baghlan) – Collating accurate BDA is a time consuming process. The operation, *still not publicly attributed to the TF*, was followed by a quick but robust game of Dead-or-Alive to which PSR(TS)2 could PSR(usefully contribute. This has died down though. TF81 SNO and OC debriefed an ISAF investigative team on the operation, as is the routine here these days, and FMV and other visual recordings of the operation were reviewed. The TF was praised for the excellent preparatory work, their intelligence case, and the conduct of the operation itself.

ASIC Operations

8. PSR(TS)2 visit to TF81. Their day-long visit on 30 August ran smoothly and presented an excellent opportunity to reinforce the partnership that PSR(TS)2 have been working hard to establish over the past 18-24 months. They received a command brief from the SNO and OC and reviewed ASIC, PSR(S)2, PSR(and S2 operations. The command brief covered the TF's hugely successful partnerships with ANSF partner CRU and the likes of PSR(and the
PSR(TS)2

9. As well as reviewing the significant success TF81 has had with ATF24, the command brief highlighted the often overlooked *practical* difficulties of working with an ANSF partner.

Discussion regarding practical and cultural difficulties involved in partnering with Afghan CRU

PSR(S)1, PSR(S)2, PSR(S)3

10. SNO also briefed on ISAF's renewed emphasis on the ink-spot approach. The theory behind the ink-spot approach is to pacify a small region and then work outward like a spreading ink-spot to protect and control the population, rather than treat insurgents as a military force to be destroyed in combat via search-and-destroy operations. Improvements in material standards of living would then win over the population and establish the legitimacy of the government.¹

11. Discussions were also held with the SNO and OC on the ASIC concept and how it has supported the Task Force. The SNO and OC were very positive in their support of the ASIC's deployment, noting the ASIC has; improved the TF's capability to prosecute targets the way ISAF SOF is expected to, increased the safety of the troop on operations, and helped to enhance the credibility of the TF in the eyes of the coalition. Both the OC and SNO understood that this was not a theatre in which they could operate to the standard expected without the ASIC. (I have encountered this positive viewpoint towards the ASIC from SNO right down to trooper – particularly troopers who have deployed to Afghanistan in the past and can discern a more surgical characteristic to the operations this TF undertakes.)

PSR(TS)2

¹ See this link for a 2009 example of the inkspot approach at work in Afghanistan -

PSR(TS)2

IT Issues

PSR(TS)2

17. Received approval to move the [redacted] in order that the [redacted] can be co-located with his primary TF interlocutors during ISR operations.

CapDev

PSR(TS)2

Personnel

PSR(TS)2

21. The new TF81 SNO, NZSAS PSR(IC)3 [redacted] has arrived in theatre and completed handover. I briefed PSR(I) [redacted] on ASIC operations (with outgoing PSR(IC)3 [redacted] sitting in) and also attempted to explain to two warfighters the [redacted]

Happily, despite the rather unimaginative presentation, both [redacted] were quick to recognise Group's interest in this. This provided food for thought for the outgoing SNO in particular as PSR [redacted] is due to move to Army Capability in Wellington at the beginning of 2011 (notably Army ISR will come under P [redacted] purview in this role). PSR(IC)3 [redacted] has now returned to New Zealand.

22. I am a whizz at putting in an IV, unlike the *badged* member who I played guinea pig for! Ironically, I still mostly suck at darts.....

Future Activities

23. The following activities are planned for the forthcoming week:

- a. Continue working with PSR (TC) Theatre Manager and PSR(TS)2 [redacted] discerning shape and direction of PSR(TS)2 [redacted]

b. Prepare paperwork and pack trunk for sending unaccompanied back to NZ; and

c. Move the ^{PSR(TS)2} terminal into the ASIC.

PSR(IC)3

Task Force 81

