

NEW ZEALAND EYES ONLY



23 August 2010

OP BURNHAM:

PSR(TS)2

Ad hoc memo from intelligence personnel in Afghanistan to superior in New Zealand

Paragraph 1:

- *Battle damage assessment process can be prolonged.*
- *Conflicting information is coming from different sources.*
- *Accuracy of information can be difficult to determine.*
- *There is confusion in Tala wa Barfek regarding the outcome of the operation.*

Paragraph 2:

- *Sources relatively consistent on general location of attack and compounds.*
- *Wide differences between sources about number and identity of persons killed, including whether persons killed included the targets or civilians.*

Paragraph 3:

- *Intelligence often reflects the fact sources have not been able to verify information.*
- *Some sources sympathise with the targets of the operation and the Taleban.*

Paragraph 4:

- *Conflicting intelligence provides no assurance of accurate picture of the effects of OP BURNHAM in the short term.*
- *Accurate battle damage assessment can take days, often weeks, and should rely on a range of sources of intelligence to form a true picture.*
- *Intelligence obtained relating to OP BURNHAM will be issued in formal intelligence reporting.*

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PSR(IC)3

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