

briefings remained essential in order for me and my colleagues to fully understand what had happened in the last 24 hours. For example, it would have been essential to know whether there had been any trouble in a certain area or whether any land rovers had been blown up, etc, such that we would need to take special care in some areas over others. We were not told any items of specific intelligence at these briefings. The content of our briefings was kept general to what was going on in the area. In any event, I would not be privy to any items of specific intelligence. If there were any items of specific intelligence concerning the area, all I would be told was that a certain area needed to be patrolled or that there was a certain task that needed to be undertaken as part of the QRF. We might be told to look out for suspects but, as far as I can remember, there were no photographs of suspects in the Operations Room, nor were there any photographs in the Briefing Room.

15. In terms of our patrolling duty, then this was really anything that needed to be done in support of the RUC and their own duties. For example, if someone needed to be issued with a Court Summons then typically we would be needed to support the RUC in doing this, in case of resistance.

Helicopter Operations

16. Circumstances in which helicopter support would be needed would be where, for example, an incident had happened such as a bomb explosion or a suspect device had been identified or a shooting had taken place. The helicopter in these circumstances would act as 'an eye in the sky' telling those on the ground what was happening in and around their location. An Army Liaison Officer would be required on such helicopter activity where the pilot did not know the location well. For example, if the Commander on board the helicopter wanted to go to a certain location or road then I, or whoever was acting as the Liaison Officer, would be able to direct them to the exact location because of my local knowledge. Otherwise, being reliant on grid references only, the pilot and the ability of the helicopter to move from location to location would be significantly delayed. Therefore, selection of a