



# Lesson 3.4 How to Conduct a Search

# Lesson 3.4 Content

- NIO searches and limitations
- Search stages
- Search patterns
- Searching vehicles
- Searching personnel

# Lesson 3.4 Learning Outcomes

- Explain what defines and limits NIO searches, including human rights safeguards
- List and explain search stages
- Describe search patterns
- Describe considerations for searching vehicles
- Describe considerations for searching personnel



# NIO Searches

# NIO Searches

- Searches are limited to those necessary to support an administrative investigation, but evidence collected must be managed the same as a criminal investigation
- Searches are restricted to UN bases, UN/TCC property (e.g. vehicles, barracks, facilities and electronic devices) and UN/TCC personnel
- Authority for searches of TCC property and personnel resides with the CO of the TCC
- Searches of UN property or personnel not under the authority of the TCC must be coordinated with OIOS
- Human rights safeguards, including respect for human dignity

# Stages of a Search

1. Obtain approval(s)
2. Approach and secure
3. Initiate preliminary survey
4. Evaluate physical evidence possibilities
5. Narrative description
6. Photograph or video (as appropriate)
7. Prepare diagram/sketch
8. Conduct detailed search
9. Record and collect evidence
10. Conduct final survey and depart

# Obtaining Approvals

- First consider whether evidence can be obtained through less intrusive methods, such as voluntary disclosure or consent
- Human rights safeguards:
  - Reasonable grounds
  - Necessity and proportionality
  - Lawfulness
  - Accountable
- Delineate extent of the search
- Obtain approval from relevant competent authority

# Approach and Secure

- Be alert for discarded evidence
- Take control on arrival
- Brief safety requirements for searching to personnel
- Take extensive notes
- Keep out unauthorised personnel



# Safety when Searching

- PPE gloves
- Anticipate sharp objects and take special care to avoid injuries from concealed objects
- Sharp objects should be placed in a rigid puncture resistant container
- When searching bags, drawers etc, the contents should be tipped out on a flat surface for examination
- Fingers should not be run along or under flat surfaces

# Initiate Preliminary Survey

- Cautious walk-through
- Determine search personnel and equipment needs
- Identify and protect physical evidence
- Take notes

# Evaluate Physical Evidence Possibilities

- Determine what evidence is likely to be present
- Work from most obvious evidence to the least obvious evidence
- Focus first on the easily accessible areas in open view
- Progress eventually to possible out-of-view areas
- Consider whether evidence appears to have been moved or tampered with

# Narrative Description

- Running narrative of the conditions at the scene
- Represent scene in a 'general to specific' way
- Do not permit narrative effort to become sporadic or disorganised
- Methods of narrative — written, audio, video

# Photograph or Video

- Plan before photographing or videoing, but begin as soon as possible
- Obtain permission as required
- Photographic/video log
- Establishing photographs/video first, close-up photographs/video second
- Photograph/video evidence in place before collecting and packaging

# Prepare Diagram/Sketch

- Typical material on rough sketch:
  - Location
  - DTG
  - Authorship
  - Orientation
  - Scale or scale disclaimer
  - Key or legend
- General progression of sketches:
  - Perimeter
  - Record fixed objects, furniture etc.
  - Record position of evidence as it is collected
  - Record appropriate measurements

# Conduct Detailed Search

- The best search options are typically the most difficult and time consuming
- You cannot 'over-document' evidence
- First search visible areas
- Then search for hidden/concealed areas
- Search in a specialised search pattern

# Specialised Search Patterns

- Lane/Strip Search
- Line Search
- Grid Search
- Zone Search
- Circle/Spiral Search



# Record and Collect Evidence

- Decide what to collect
- Photograph/video all items in their original location
- Mark items on diagram/sketch
- PPE to avoid contamination
- Complete evidence log with appropriate notations
- Do not handle evidence excessively after recovery
- Seal all evidence containers
- Do not forget entrance and exit areas for potential evidence
- Constantly check paperwork, packaging notations, and other recordings for possible errors

# Conduct Final Sweep and Depart

- Make sure possible difficult to access areas have not been overlooked
- Double check documentation to detect errors
- Provide receipts for seized evidence (as necessary)
- Check to ensure all evidence is accounted for before departing
- Ensure all search equipment is gathered

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# Searching Vehicles

- Thoroughly document the vehicle by taking photographs, including VIN, number plate, odometer reading etc.
- Organised and systematic search pattern, such as a zone search
- Common types of evidence in vehicles
  - Documentary evidence
  - Physical evidence
  - Forensic evidence

# Searching Personnel

- Only for the purpose of obtaining evidence or prohibited items
- Searches by investigators of the same sex
- Ensure respect for human rights and dignity of personnel being searched
- Organised and systematic search pattern, i.e head to toe, front to back etc.
- Common types of evidence on persons
  - Documentary evidence
  - Physical evidence
  - Forensic evidence

# Lesson Takeaway

- Always be mindful of what defines and limits an NIO search
- Breaking down searches into stages ensures that the search is systematic, and that evidence is not missed or mishandled
- Use the most relevant/appropriate search pattern based on the situation



Questions?



TTX



# Scenario

Josephine is a 28-year old female who owns a small bar in Bouba town. Peacekeepers from the nearby camp visit the bar, especially over weekends. Some of them get drunk, but they generally behave well and are good for business as they buy drinks for the local girls. One evening, Josephine meets Private (Pte.) Jefferey. They like each other and start a consensual sexual relationship that lasts for about 1 year. Pte. Jefferey often visits Josephine at her house, dressed in civilian clothes, and sometimes stays overnight. He brings her some juice from the camp but does not give her any money. Three months before Jefferey's rotation, Josephine discovers that she is pregnant. Pte. Jefferey asks her to keep the baby and gives her USD 50 to buy clothes for the baby. After Pte. Jefferey leaves the mission, they often speak on the phone and he promises to send more money for the baby. When the baby is born, Pte. Jefferey is disappointed that it is a girl and stops contact with Josephine. In the 8 months since the birth, Pte. Jefferey has not called Josephine or sent her any money, and his telephone number in his home country does not work anymore.

# Discussion Points

- As your contingents NIO you have been assigned to investigate this incident
- Based on the information in the scenario:
  - Identify the SEA related misconduct
  - Identify the key elements to address during your investigation
  - Identify the lines of enquiry and sources of evidence
  - Identify specific challenges you may encounter during your investigation
  - Identify any other forms of possible misconduct