

Unique Reference Number	427
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IPAB Referral Form

The Referral process provides advice and support from Police and Government departments. Please submit at least 14 days before the commencement of the project. (For detailed information see the guidance notes)

(Please use font - Aerial 11)

Title of Referral	Five year strategic partnership with Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ministry of the Interior – Continuation Training across multi-disciplinary activities
Contact Details	
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1. Project Details

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) Ministry of the Interior (MoI) has a long term plan to increase its technical capability particularly with regard to forensic disciplines and an ability to deal with hi-tech crime as well as other specialist skills that are described in paragraph eight. It has chosen

the College of Policing¹ has a potential long term strategic partner to deliver this work. The Mol also has aspirations to develop a regional forensic centre of excellence and would wish the College to be a partner in achieving that objective.

The College submitted a proposed business plan to the Mol for consideration in early May 2012 to be followed up by a visit to KSA for further discussions and to conduct a detailed training needs analysis. This plan was made up of four phases of activity and delivery as follows;

Phase 1, CSI Programme for Senior Officers and Fingerprint Training Programmes

Phase 2, High Tech Crime Training and Footwear Specialist Programme

Phase 3, Forensic Science Laboratory Programme

Phase 4, Development of a Centre of Excellence

The original referral was submitted at the beginning of the long term strategic programme of technical and proposed leadership training for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

BACKGROUND

Since 2009 staff from the College of Policing Forensic Centre, Harperley Hall have been providing modular fingerprint, crime scene investigator and laboratory training programmes to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ministry of the Interior (Mol). The Mol comprises about 300,000 officers and has a comprehensive range of responsibilities including national security, prisons, fire, civil defence and civilian policing. Over this time a trusted and professional partnership has been established. In September 2011 Major General Al Arifi led a delegation of eight senior KSA Mol officers on a Foreign and Commonwealth funded official visit to the United Kingdom. In February 2012 the College received an invitation from Major General Al Arifi to visit Saudi Arabia and discuss how the College could assist in developing the capability of the Saudi Arabia Police Force. The meeting with Major General Al Arifi discussed how the College could provide training across a range of topics. Leadership training was also discussed as a possible future opportunity.

Since the terrorist attacks in the USA on 11th September 2001 the KSA has developed an extensive counter terrorism infrastructure. This cuts across many Government departments and supports the King's reform agenda. The British Embassy in Riyadh counter terrorist team has been engaged for several years with the Mol and in this time has created credibility and access which has led to the current invitation to the College of Policing.

The expansion of UK Terrorism Act statutes that have extra-territorial jurisdiction means that UK / KSA interoperability is becoming of even greater importance, with the in-country Counter Terrorism and Extremism Liaison Officer now handling evidential as well as intelligence requests, for example the find of the printer cartridge bomb at East Midlands airport in 2010. Therefore any assistance that College can provide to assist developing the evidential gathering and investigative

¹ Reference to the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) in the original submission have been changed to the College of Policing

capability and crime scene management of the Saudi Arabia Police could potentially be of benefit for prosecutions in the UK or for prosecutions in the KSA that concern UK interests. Any such training is conducted to UK standards which meet ISO 9000/1 and ISO17025 requirements.

- Update 27.11.2013

Phases 1 (Fingerprint Training Programme) and 2 (High Tech Crime) of the KSA Forensic Programme have commenced and are continuing with great success. The Programme enjoys full support in country, supporting both Saudi and UK collaboration agreements and Government to Government political and security initiatives.

The Programme is contributing to these agreements and is now about to start Phase 3 of the Programme (Footwear Specialist Development Programme), having lost none of the momentum or achievement of objectives following transition from NPIA to College of Policing.

This update is to highlight the commencement of an intended scoping visit scheduled to take place sometime in January 2014 to assess the processes, procedures and level of competence of various forensic science disciplines and is commencing with DNA, drugs and toxicology and questioned documents. The scoping visit will not involve any sharing of forensic or scientific information or techniques.

The scoping will be carried out by 3 associate forensic scientists each of whom are specialists in the forensic disciplines above and who are all former employees of the Forensic Science Society and highly regarded in their specific fields.

All of these disciplines fall within the original aims and objectives contained in the original IPAB and support the overall objectives of the Forensic Programme.

- Update January 2016

The Four Phase Programme has continued to be delivered in the most part with some elements still to come to final fruition.

Phase 1, CSI for Senior Officers has been completed up to Milestone 5. The final Milestone 6 is a one week assessment of competence and forms evidence of continuous professional development for the practitioners working in the field of Crime Scene investigation. A proposal regarding the content, cost and timescales has been provided to the KSA Ministry of Interior Public Security Training Department. Confirmation of their acceptance is awaited.

A proposal was also put forward by the College to deliver a CSI Programme for the non-enlisted men working in Crime Scenes Department. This fully costed Programme and schedule of delivery has been provided to the MOI which has been accepted in principle and the College awaits final agreement regarding the dates for commencement and the details of the non-enlisted men attending.

The Fingerprint Programme has been particularly successful; over 120 Fingerprint personnel are in the process of being trained. The Programme is made up of five Milestones from Foundation to Advanced and delivered in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and also in the UK. The content and

curriculum in each of these Milestones reflects that of the UK Fingerprint Programme and the coursework and outcome of the final assessments is expected to be achieved at the same standard as that of a UK Fingerprint Expert. To date six out of the 12 cohorts of ten students' have completed all five Milestones, 35 of whom have achieved the level of Advanced Fingerprint Identification.

To date only Fingerprint Group 12 Milestone 2 remains to be delivered in Saudi Arabia. All other Groups and Milestones will be completed in the UK as planned.

Phase 2; High Tech Crime Programme, to date no further High Tech Crime training has taken place other than the original four groups which have already completed their initial training.

Footwear Specialist Training Programme; Four Groups of Officers have undertaken this training and have completed Stage 12 and Stage 2. The final Specialist stage has yet to be delivered. At present there is no agreed timescale for this.

Phase 3; Forensic Science Labs; An initial scoping study was carried out by the Forensic Scientists employed by the College and report submitted to the MOI for consideration. As yet no further work has been commissioned in this area of business although the need still remains for the Forensic Science capability to be improved within the Kingdom.

Phase 4; Centre of Excellence; Building work has already commenced at the Training location in Riyadh. There has been no request made to the College to advise on this as yet, although there is some expectation that this may happen in the future.

2. Dates

From November 2011 to date

3. Staff Details

In KSA:

***** (S40(2)), the UK Counter Terrorist Liaison Officer, has now been superseded by *** (S40(2)) CTELO, British Embassy Riyadh who will act as point of contact in country..

In UK:

***** (S40(2)), College of Policing, Territory Manager for the GCC (based in the British Embassy Bahrain)

***** (S40(2)), International Liaison Officer, College of Policing, Organisational Development and International Faculty

4. Strategic Objectives

(Please state the objectives this project will work towards e.g. HMG, recipient country, UK Police)

HMG: Foreign Policy (Security & Development)

- Diplomatic – Supports regional high priority MENA country - KSA
- National security / CT (Home Safety / Contest)
- Development (Security & Justice Sector)

College of Policing: Enhancing global security through policing assistance

- Improve professional (technical) best practice, accreditation & justice sector values
- Build local sustainability (professional leadership & technical legacy)
- Externally funded (commercial benefit / cost-recovery for Agency / Service)
- Partnership working – KSA (MOI) / College of Policing International Academy & Forensics Centre.
- Promote equality, diversity and human rights through British policing assistance.
- Assist in achieving 'value-added' for the College through providing an income generating business opportunity. This will assist in off-setting reductions in College corporate finance and securing the long term sustainability of College units to maintain their national and international capabilities.

5. Human Rights

While there have been some improvements in recent years, the UK remains concerned about the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia, in particular over the use of the death penalty, women's rights, the rights of foreign workers and the quality of judicial procedure. These concerns are a matter of public record, including statements at the United Nations.

The UK Government remains committed to raising human rights with the KSA authorities at every appropriate opportunity at working, Ambassadorial and Ministerial level. The UK, as a member of the European Union, strongly advocates the abolition of the death penalty in Saudi Arabia.

The UK Government also recognises that the situation is slowly improving. There are now two semi-governmental human rights bodies in the Kingdom: the Human Rights Commission and the National Society for Human Rights. These institutions raise awareness of human rights in the Kingdom and help individuals by taking their concerns to the interested governmental body. There is also the King Abdullah Scholarship programme that is sending thousands of Saudi women abroad to study.

Since 1996, Saudi Arabia has signed and / or ratified the following: The Convention on the Rights of the Child 1996; the International Covenant on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1997; the Convention Against Torture, 1997; and the International Covenant on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women in 2000.

The UN Human Rights Council conducted a Universal Periodic Review of Saudi Arabia's human rights record in Geneva on 6 February 2009. The UK recommended that Saudi Arabia make the following changes:

1. To enact and implement a law of association to guarantee the right to form civil society organisations and protect those organisations from government interference;
2. To abolish the guardianship system, which severely limits the rights of women to act as autonomous and equal members of Saudi society; and
3. That the code of criminal practice be amended to stipulate that only individuals over 18 years old will be tried as adults. As a result, the executions of any individuals who were less than 18 years old when they committed the crime should be commuted to a custodial sentence.

The proposed College of Policing partnership with the KSA MoI will contribute to the strengthening of the UK / KSA relationship as well as contributing to policing and security reform. It will assist in raising the quality of the evidence that is obtained by the authorities. This will contribute to the move away from confession and witness based convictions to forensically based evidential prosecutions. Such a move will also contribute to ensuring that innocent individuals are identified quicker and more easily and reducing the likelihood of miscarriages of justice.

This programme of training supports the College role in global security and is aligned to the HMG priorities in security, development and counter terrorism overseas.

The training programmes will reinforce the need for:

- robust forensic evidence underpinned by,
- a transparent and auditable chain of evidence,
- and appropriate procedural standards.

These contribute to the reliance and confidence of the judiciary to make safe decisions in determining the outcomes of criminal and civil cases and the democratic principles of justice for all.

The following issues will be emphasised throughout the training programmes:

- Current legislation / practices and procedures in relation to the collection of evidence.
- Organisational structure.
- Integration of forensic evidence within the investigation.
- Training of current staff (both specialist and general police training).
- Available resources.
- Specialist equipment.

- Current judicial practices and procedures.

The officers who are trained will be exposed to British policing methods and culture at various key times during the programmes, thereby reinforcing the democratic policing and human rights messages.

Identification of Risks

The principal risks can be summarised as follows:

- That the skills being trained are used to identify individuals who later go on to be tortured or subjected to other human rights abuses.
- That media attention highlights UK involvement in a country with a poor human rights record.
- Staffing for the project needs to be identified. The proposal is that a secondee post(s) will be selected for Harperley Hall through an open selection process to support some internal restructuring and to assist with the project. This post will be funded through the project cost recovery.
- The transition to the College of Policing may cause some delay. It is therefore essential that this project receives full and ongoing support from the College Chief Officer Team.
- The contractual arrangements with third party service providers e.g. for some of the forensic delivery need to cater for the transition arrangements and be able to fully meet the requirements of the project. It needs to be clear who carries the risk if a service can not be provided, the College or the service provider.

If the College declines to support this initiative now it may be interpreted by the Mol as the UK reducing its traditional partnership with the KSA, with wider risks to UK partnerships and trade. It is also quite possible that they will then move away from any attempts to develop human rights compliant policing methods.

Mitigation of Risks

Mitigations to the identified risks can be summarised as follows:

- The training is always placed in the context of UK police investigation processes, both of which are recognised as world leaders in terms of effectiveness and human rights compliance.
- Some of the training will be delivered in the UK, with visits to selected operational policing sites as appropriate. Hence the attendees have the opportunity to see the application of forensics training in the UK operational context.
- Both senior investigating officers and forensic specialists are being exposed to the training in order that the investigators are fully aware of the benefits of moving away from over reliance on confession and witness evidence. The proposed training does not include the

use of force.

- If it is shown that any skills that have been provided have been used in human rights violations the F&CO / College of Policing would make immediate approaches to the MoI and reconsider the training provision.
- The College will work with Embassy staff to promote and publicise the training when in country in order to raise awareness amongst the general public as well as senior police officers and politicians.
- The College, in conjunction with the F&CO, could prepare a press statement emphasising that the forensics training is part of a wider programme to assist the Saudi authorities move to democratic policing methods.

Overall Risk Assessment

Although the training has little impact on the sentencing policy in Saudi Arabia, i.e. the use of the death penalty, it can be argued that as part of the wider transition to democratic, human rights compliant policing methods, it is a necessary first step. The proposed project does not contribute to the use of the death penalty. The project does complement the Embassy's efforts to encourage the judicial reform programme started by King Abdullah in 2008 and now continued under King Salman bin Abdullaziz

Overall therefore the risk of continuing to carry out the new programme of police forensic training to improving human rights compliance in KSA is low.

The risks to UK interests and the transition to human rights compliance in KSA are potentially substantial.

6. Duty of Care

The College of Policing has all relevant corporate and insurance covers in place for all Officers and Police Staff members deployed on its business.

7. Funding and Costs

This project will be funded by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Ministry of the Interior. It will be run on a cost recovery basis.

8. Any other information for the boards consideration

Proposed courses

1. All aspects of Cyber Security
2. Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems
 - Editing

- Compare
 - Respondent lists
 - Bureau Quality Procedures, ISO 9001
3. Footwear examination and identification programme
 4. Intelligence led investigation and detective of crime courses
 5. Forensic Awareness Course
 6. Forensic Laboratory including Fire Investigation, Explosives, Firearms, Glass, Soil, Paint, Drugs and Toxicology
 7. All aspects of DNA including detection, retrieval, enhancement, (analysis and interpretation)
 8. Forensic Pathology including the training of pathologists and technicians
 9. CCTV systems training including trawl and collection strategies
 10. The establishment of a dedicated CCTV viewing unit to include the enhancement and analysis of fixed and moving images
 11. Questioned Documents (Forgery Detection) Courses
 12. High Tech Crime and IT Digital Forensics training to expert witness level including:
 - The examination of storage media
 - The retrieval and analysis of deleted file
 - The decryption of digital storage media
 - NCase, FTK, Hexway, Lynex, Unix, Mackintosh and windows
 13. Voice Recognition and voice recognition courses
 14. I-Phone and GSM mobile telephone GSM examination and analysis
 15. Senior Investigating Officer Training

The College has provided specialist and technical assistance to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for several years. This includes several KSA officers attending the international leadership programmes at the International Academy, Bramshill. The consequence of this relationship is that the Mol now sees the College of Policing as the preferred provider for this project.

Please now e-mail this form as an attachment to *******S31(1)(a)**

National Police Chiefs' Council works in partnership with the Stabilisation Unit:

www.gov.uk/stabilisation-unit

