

STATEMENT MAJOR WARRENTON DIXON

Warrenton DIXON states

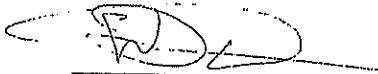
1. I am Major Warrenton DIXON of the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) where I am currently employed as Officer Commanding HQ Coy 1 JR. I have been a member of the JDF for over eighteen (18) years.
2. During the internal security operations conducted in Tivoli Gardens in May 2010 I held the appointment of Mortar Officer. As Mortar Officer it was my responsibility to provide support to the Main Effort Unit (2JR) as directed by HQ JDF. My stated task was to use the mortars to create a diversion by firing into open areas that had been previously plotted.
3. I had previously received training as a Mortar Officer at Warminster, a military school in England for which I received certification which qualified me to undertake the duty.
4. In preparation for my task I underwent a series of training exercises with my mortar crew to ensure that we were all well rehearsed and current with our knowledge and skills to ensure that the mortars could be fired accurately.
5. Prior to the commencement of the operation I did several covert reconnaissance of the operational area to conduct assessment of the locations that would be suitable for the mortar line. I had to be very meticulous as I wanted to ensure that the mortar base plate was located relatively close to me and to the operational area, also that I was positioned so that I could ideally overlook the area in which the mortar rounds were intended to fall.
6. These efforts were made in order to minimise the possibility of errors due to meteorology (weather) and to be in a position to quickly respond to the team at the mortar baseline in the event they needed my assistance. I also did prior calculation of ballistic information for open fields and other areas that could be used as quick reference points.
7. Efforts were also made to ensure that the equipment was in good working condition and that the ammunition was functioning properly and accurately.
8. For the target area I was guided by the intent of the HQ, which was to support the second battalion by creating a diversion that would confuse, disorient and distract the gunmen. The specific directive was that we would fire into open areas where there was little or no likelihood of causing injury or fatalities to civilians or even the gunmen themselves.
9. With respect to the number of rounds, that was not stipulated but it was understood that the mortars would be fired only on the directive of HQ JDF.
10. A part of the Operation Orders prepared for the operation has specific instructions for the mortar element. This document was prepared by me and approved by HQ JDF. The structure of

this document is standard in the JDF except that it was specific to the mortar support for the operation.

11. At the beginning of the operation it was planned that the first salvo of rounds was pre-authorised and these were fired at 1058 hrs according to the plan.

12. After this there were additional request for mortar fire. These requests were routed through HQ JDF for approval and once approval was granted the rounds were fired. The requests remained consistent with the intent to fire into open areas as a diversionary tactic in support of manoeuvring friendly elements.

14. to my knowledge no mortar round impacted any building in the area of operation or anywhere else.



W O DIXON
Major

/s/ June 2015