**MI7 Intelligence File**

**Standard Operating Procedures For Zone Incursions**

**Destroy If At Risk Of Capture**

**MI7 Standing Orders**

This document supersedes any orders prior to the date you were handed this folder. In the absence of orders to the contrary within this document agents should operate according to all standard MI5 procedures and protocols. This document should be kept on your person at all times and should not be shown to anyone else, even other MI7 personnel. Our work is heavily compartmentalised, it may well that your standing orders differ from others.

**1. Operating Protocols**

1.1 Official policy is to deny the existence of MI7, even in the face of contradictory evidence.

1.2 The first priority of all officers is to maintain assigned cover at all times. All other priorities are secondary to this.

1.3 Assigned cover will come with specific mission objectives. Given the nature of the assignments being handed out, some objectives may seem unnecessary, confusing, or outright contradictory. This is a feature of work in the Zone. It is not your place to question objectives once an assignment is underway.

1.4 Except where specified in individual mission briefings or in the pursuance of the above protocols, officers should not kill anyone.

1.5 Except where specified in individual mission briefings or in the pursuance of the above protocols, officers should not be engaging in any activity purely for personal financial gain.

**2. Communication Protocols**

2.1 All officers should do their utmost to maintain the timetable for communication with handlers, except where to do so would contravene 1.2.

2.2 All communications must maintain a certain level of security, based on methodologies outlined in individual mission briefings. Given the absence of electronic means of communication most officers will be using dead drops or similar. Every effort must be made to protect the security of dead drops, except where to do so would contravene 1.2.

2.3 Under no circumstances should any officer use radio as a means of contacting their handler. Use of radios for operational or combat purposes is acceptable.

2.4 Where the officer’s handler goes dark for a period of time the officer shall maintain their cover and mission until contacted. All handlers are required to log their contact methodology with command, so when the handler is replaced they will be back in contact as their highest priority. Check in with dead drops on the planned timetable until a new handler makes contact.

2.5 Where instructed use codes. Given the lack of technology, straightforward transpositional ciphers are acceptable, but a better way forward is the use of full codewords and maintaining a book. Obviously the security of the book becomes an extremely high priority.

2.6 The various research and development ongoing in the Zone is highly unpredictable. If engaging in a face to face meeting with your handler do not assume you cannot be seen or heard just because no-one is visible. Underground facilities maintain surface surveillance equipment for security purposes, so sweep potential meeting sites with care. Avoid buildings, these are almost all in use as either shelter by freelancers, concealed entrances to buried facilities, or occasionally even as test sites on unwitting freelancers.

2.7 Communications with the outside world are not possible for officers. Handlers have limited ability to receive new orders and send reports out. Where necessary handlers can messages to family and loved ones on behalf of officers but this is by necessity in emergencies only. Messages to be sent in the event of death can be logged with your handler as standard.

**3. Social Protocols**

3.1 Forming social and romantic relationships may well be a necessary part of your mission protocols. The penalties for a change in loyalties can be severe so caution is strongly advised. Particular care must be made to avoid pregnancy, given the lack of family planning services or contraception within the Zone. To the best of anyone’s knowledge no-one has yet given birth in the Zone and the senior staff are very keen that this does not happen in an uncontrolled environment. Again, nothing must be done to contravene 1.2.

3.2 Infiltrating a faction may require a certain amount of deception and the maintenance of beliefs running counter to your own. Advice and guidance on specific beliefs is available from your handler but in general terms officers are reminded that their moral duty is to the safety of the United Kingdom and its citizens, and sometimes inherently immoral deeds must be carried out in pursuit of that higher moral duty.

3.3 Should an officer find themselves questioning their loyalties they should report this to their handler who can arrange a transfer to a new assignment. No black mark will be held on an officer’s record if such a transfer occurs. The senior staff accepts that some factions within the Zone are capable of making very compelling arguments and has no intention of penalising staff who have been honest with them.

**4. Combat Protocols**

4.1 All general combat protocols are secondary to 1.2. In broad terms do whatever is necessary to maintain cover and complete your mission.

4.2 Where a ranged firefight occurs officers should follow the protocols of the group they are with. When alone or with other MI7 there is no requirement to ensure the death of enemy combatants assuming the combat occurs over reasonable range. Where a firefight occurs at close quarters and there is significant risk of the officer being remembered or identified then efforts should be made to ensure the death of any enemy combatants.

4.3 Government and military issue weapons are forbidden unless there is a clear evidence trail to demonstrate they were stolen or purchased from smugglers within the Zone itself. Several CIA officers were identified and killed a couple of years back, based solely on the weapons they carried. We are not making that mistake. Where personal firearms are inferior or inadequate steps can be taken to acquire better arms via the smugglers already present. Nothing will be issued so don’t ask.

4.4 MI7 can provide no medical assistance beyond that available amongst the general Zone population. Officers are encouraged to attend training on field dressings before deployment and to ensure their personal medical supplies are kept in good order regardless of the prevailing attitude of whoever they are infliltrating.

4.5 It is understood that officers may need to make use of pharmaceutical products or alcohol to infiltrate a group or maintain their cover. Officers should be mindful of withdrawal and ensure they do not place themselves in debt to others in pursuit of drugs or alcohol. Where operational efficiency is likely to be impaired by substance use or withdrawal, the handler must be informed and contingencies put in place. Substance misuse is still frowned upon, but senior staff understand the necessity. Substance misuse outside the requirements of 1.2 will lead to serious disciplinary action.

**5. Anomalous Protocols**

5.1 Officers should only interact with known anomalies in the furtherance of any assigned mission objectives, or to maintain cover. Study any briefing materials thoroughly paying particular attention to obvious hazards and any warning signs of anomaly presence.

5.2 Where doing so does not conflict with 1.2 or mission objectives, all officers are expected to do what they can to acquire copies of scientific data from anomalies that have been studied by others. These copies can be left in your usual dead drops in whatever format they are in.

5.3 Where using the primary dead drop is not possible a secondary archive is located at runner.dice.matter and officers should upload data there and then retain their copy. **Paper copies and other physical media cannot be left at this archive.**

5.4 Many groups within the Zone try to capture anomalies to utilise them for profit. Notable current examples are the Creed of the Well monopolising the so-called Fizzy Well anomaly. These groups are not to be interfered with, except where 1.2 demands otherwise.

**6. Autonomy and Initiative**

6.1 There is little to no point in hiring and training some of the world’s finest covert operatives only to leave them sitting in a shack with conspiracy theorists. All officers are expected to take the initiative when opportunities present themselves to further the wider goals of the organisation (see below).

6.2 All officers are expected to be able to fend for themselves in the Zone and acquire sufficient food, water and shelter to keep themselves in reasonable physical condition. Vitamin supplies will be provided where concealment is an option. Exercise is vital, a suitable programme of basic exercises that can be undertaken almost anywhere has been provided.

6.3 MI7 has no interest whatsoever in cooperation with corporate interests. Whilst taking the initiative is a worthwhile activity, alliances or exchanges with corporate interests are a non-starter.

6.4 His Majesty’s Government has a list of governments and agencies it is happy to cooperate with and a list it is not. MI7 maintains its own list of cooperative nations as follows:

 Israel (specifically Mossad)

 U.S.A. (The Presidency, both Houses, most federal agencies, but **not** the CIA)

 Germany (no specific agencies)

 Egypt (no specific agencies)

 UAE (no specific agencies)

 Saudi Arabia (specifically the House of Saud via the Crown Prince)

 None of these groups maintain a Zone presence as far as we know, but the CIA does. Where it does not conflict with any other protocol or objective the efforts of the CIA are to be contested at every opportunity.

6.5 Officers are welcome to forge alliances with the various factions of permanent Zone residents, but with the caveat that such alliances may well need to be abandoned at short notice and officers should be sure they are comfortable with the inevitable betrayal of trust they are likely to have to commit.

**7. Evacuation Protocols**

7.1 Should an officer’s cover be compromised evacuation is not guaranteed. Report to your handler as standard but be aware that they may deploy you back to the central team instead of remove you from the Zone. The central team need to maintain a unit of reliable operatives for their own objectives, so a comprised officer may be more use there than outside.

7.2 Officers should maintain a “bug-out bag” at a secure location. Where possible inform the handler of said location. If they check the location and the bag is not there then that may help in any future investigation into a missing officer. It is suggested that a 3 day supply of food and water is the bare minimum needed, but others materials to be used as bribes/currency are recommended.

7.3 Officer Graham Brady maintains a million credit account with all four bars. In a worst case scenario present yourself to a bar and give that name. Be aware that doing so announces your status as a government officer to that bar, so this contingency is very much a last ditch resort. Graham Brady is a fiction created by MI7 so you are in no way compromising anyone other than yourself when using that name. These credits should not be used to purchase goods or services, they are to be used solely to buy passage out of the Zone as soon as possible.

7.4 Officers have little to no influence over the military so any attempt to breach the perimeter without MI7 sanction or assistance is unlikely to work. Similarly attempts to breach the inner cordon are unlikely to work.

7.5 On a purely technical level all field officers of MI7 hold the rank of Captain within the Armed Forces. Due to the political situation at Westminster and recent field losses it is highly unlikely that rank will be respected in any practical situation. Exercise caution and be aware of 7.4.

7.6 Once clear of the Zone by whatever means every officer’s first duty is to report back to base at Whitehall. Where circumstances prevent this digital communication is acceptable as a last resort.

**8. MI7 Objectives**

8.1 These objectives are given so that officers can interpret their field assignments in a broader context and to assist with 6.1. They are not up for debate and officers should not attempt any “creative interpretation” of said objectives.

8.2 It is currently theorised that our recent field losses were the result of conflict with MI5, most likely with outside assistance. MI7 wishes to understand MI5’s antipathy and if necessary eliminate their presence in the Zone. Orders were originally given for MI5 to stand down but their field officers rejected those orders for reasons unknown. Establish the reasoning then eliminate the agents.

8.3 MI7’s core mission is to establish who is actually in charge of government operations in the Zone. The Prime Minister seems to have been quietly removed from all decision-making regarding the Zone, and the Chief of the Defence Staff does not seem to be offering any information in defence briefings. The Defence Secretary is potentially in charge, but none of our people anywhere near them can learn anything. As far as anyone can establish no-one in the immediate chain of command or on the CSC is taking responsibility and all elected officials have been removed from any oversight position. The assumption is that the whole project has been taken out of the traditional security structure. MI7’s goal is to re-establish direct political oversight, which means first understanding the current structure.

8.4 In the early years of the Zone several other nations made efforts to establish a presence. By and large those presences have been removed, but it remains a standing order to disrupt and destroy any attempt at establishing a permanent presence by any foreign power.