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# FIVE SAS SOLDIERS IN MURDER PROBE OVER JIHADI DEATH

## EXCLUSIVE

By **Mark Nicol** Defence Editor

**FIVE** serving SAS soldiers are facing possible murder charges over the death of a suspected jihadist in Syria, the Mail can reveal today.

In a case that has provoked fury inside the Special Forces, top brass have alleged the troops used excessive force and should have arrested the man instead.

The soldiers, who remain on active duty, were adamant he posed a threat and intended to carry out a suicide attack.

According to Special Air Service sources, a primed suicide vest was found nearby but the suspect was not wearing it when killed. The incident, which happened two years ago, can now be reported for the first time.

Following an investigation by the Defence Serious Crimes Unit, military chiefs sent files recommending murder charges against the five soldiers to the Service Prosecuting Authority. The SPA is the military equivalent of the civilian Crown Prosecution Service.

If charged, the men would appear before a court martial at a date to be confirmed. At a murder trial they would probably remain anonymous and provide testimony from behind screens. For now, and pending a charging decision by the SPA, they are permitted to remain

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