

On 12 February 2004, a team of officers, directed by Major General Antonio Taguba, conducted the following interview. Major General Taguba was appointed as an Investigating Officer under the provisions of Army Regulation 15-6, by Lieutenant General David D. McKiernan, Commanding General of the Coalition Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC), to look into allegations of maltreatment of detainees, detainee escapes and accountability lapses, at Abu Gharib, also known as the Baghdad Central Confinement Facility (BCCF). The panel also inquired into training, standards, employment, command policies, and internal policies, concerning the detainees held at Abu Gharib prison. Finally, the panel looked into the command climate and the command and supervisory presence.

The following persons were present.

COL [REDACTED] MP, CFLCC – PMO, Interviewer
LTC [REDACTED] JA, CFLCC – SJA, Interviewer
LTC [REDACTED] 705th MP Battalion, Interviewer
SFC [REDACTED] 372nd MP Company, Interviewee
SSG [REDACTED] 27D30, CFLCC – SJA, Recorder

The interview is summarized as follows:

My name is [REDACTED]. My social security number is [REDACTED]. I am a Sergeant First Class. I am currently with the 372nd Military Police Company, at Abu Gharib BCCF. I am Reserve.

My unit moved here from Al Hila, Iraq. Our mission there was law and order and combat support operations. About the middle of September 2003 we moved back to Kuwait for unit reorganization and resupply. In the beginning October 2003 we moved to the prison.

At the MOB station we trained on all combat support, to include battlefield circulation control, MSR control, Base defense, and a little bit of law and order. We didn't receive any training on our current mission.

I am the NCOIC of the hard site. The duties of personnel working there are to safeguard prisoners, make sure inmates receive meals on time, supervise Iraqi corrections officers (ICO's), and man the different wings of the prison.

Our day-to-day activities are governed by the Rules of Engagement (ROE). Our Rules of Engagement are can't shoot until prisoner reaches final barrier, shout, show, shoot, and use of minimum force necessary. We received a briefing at the MOB site on the Geneva Hague Convention, and customs of the country. The rules are not posted. I've tried to get some kind of policies from the Military Intelligence (MI), for MP's who work in the MI wing on what they expect the MP's to do. I've asked CPT [REDACTED] Chief [REDACTED] and CPT [REDACTED] the Jag officer who works with MI. I've asked months ago. CPT [REDACTED]

promised it to me, but then she went on leave and I assumed she forgot and I was never able to catch up with her.

MI issued the rules we followed, specifically for the MI wing. We received guidance from MI on altered diets, turning on and off of radio, and sleep management. At first we didn't keep documentation and then we started getting everything in writing signed by LTC [REDACTED] or Chief [REDACTED]. The requests were all laid out with times to do everything. It became a problem for us because it took away from normal health and welfare for the inmates. We were trying to get someone from MI to take care of the MI wing business, so that we could do our regular MP duties. I assumed they refused, but I never asked

The request were kept in the individual detainees folder, we have a folder for each cell. I don't know if they're still there or not because I have not been there for over a month. It is possible that MI could have taken the request, because they just sit in an MRE box on that wing. The MP NCOIC of the wing is in charge of the documents.

My role is to walk around visiting the soldiers making sure they are all right. I see if they needed a break or anything, if so I would take their spot until they got back. I would sit with the shift NCOIC to see if he needed anything, and would help him out. At the beginning we didn't have a computer in the office, so I did a lot of work in my office at the LSA typing up a spreadsheet listing the prisoners and what cells they were in.

I chose to alter my shift so that I could work with my day shift and my night shift. At times it got to be pretty rough as far as manning the prison with limited personnel. We made a request for more personnel through our company, CPT [REDACTED] he went up through the Battalion. As far as I know it went all the way up to the Brigade, and we got no help. We finally did get our second platoon up from Al Hila, they just came up maybe a week ago.

The battalion commander is LTC [REDACTED]. He comes down maybe 2 or 3 times a week, not necessarily in the prison but on the grounds. In the MI section we keep a log on as to who comes in and speaks to certain detainees. As far as the other sections we didn't keep a log, if there were a visitor coming in they were either escorted by CPT [REDACTED], CPT [REDACTED] or someone else from the Battalion.

I am aware of the allegations of the abuse of the detainees. Four of the soldiers involved belonged to my platoon. Only MP's worked the hard site. There was a mechanic involved who was doing maintenance to the generator and an admin clerk who worked for the battalion, who should have never been in there. It was a violation to let these individuals in.

I am not positive if MI asked the guards to do any of those things that occurred that night. Since this investigation we have been here so I am not exactly sure if anything has been done as far as mitigating so this doesn't happen again.

A few people did some things they knew they shouldn't have done. Posted or not, what I heard is not against Geneva Convention, it just against command policy. I don't care if it's written or not they should have none not to do that

There were conflicts between the MP's and MI. MI wanted to know why we wanted everything in writing. We needed everything in writing to keep everything flowing to make sure we didn't miss something. After a while we got to the point that we were almost being taken advantage of. They wanted us to do this and that, to escort the prisoners to their interrogation area, and to stand in on the interrogation. We didn't have enough personnel to do that, so we convinced them that they were going to have to escort their own detainees, and use their own people for interrogation.

I have never heard the term "softening up" used; I assume it means breaking down. I've heard MI saying that we have to break them down. I assume the term means break them down mentally to get them to speak free. It is my understanding that the orders MI handed down were legal. We tried to get limitations from MI on what we could and could not do, but we never received any.

We brought problems up to LTC [REDACTED] he said he would do the best he could. He was able to resolve a few problems such as power, we had a big problem with power and the reekyards, we were running four tiers running through 2 reekyards, so then they finally got a contract to get more reekyards.

We never got any SOP's from brigade. We never seen the Brigade Commander, the first time I seen her is when I got here and had to report to her. I don't know when she took over the brigade. I was transferred back to the 372nd back in February 2002. I've only seen her one time since the change of command back in June 2003. Her name is General Karpinski. The first time I seen the Brigade Sergeant Major is when I had to report to the general. I didn't know there was a change in SGM's, I didn't know the first SGM. There was a lack of Brigade presence at the facility. I don't know for sure, but I feel the Brigade had a lot to do with the problems associated with getting issues resolved at the prison.

I am a USAR soldier.

I am an electrician in my civilian career.

The MI wing is wing 1, where the security detainees are held, Wing 2,3,4,5, and 6 are regular inmate wings.

CPT [REDACTED] is the MI company commander, CPT [REDACTED] is the Judge Advocate for MI.

I submitted some operations matters to MAJ [REDACTED] who is with the MI unit under COL [REDACTED] specifically to get MI people into wing 1, 24 hours so that they could handle MI business.

I have known SPC [REDACTED] since February of 2003, but didn't know him very well, In October 2003 he was assigned to my platoon. He worked with SFC [REDACTED] who gave him a very good recommendation.

Weapons weren't allowed into 1A and 1B, until there was a serious force protection issue. We were receiving intelligence from Camp Vigilance and Camp Ganci about a plot to overthrow the guards at the prison.

The detainees were allowed 1 hour of recreation per day. CPA and ICO came up the idea. It was only for wings 1-4, wing 1 didn't get any recreation time.

I chose to work a modified shift so that I can work with all my soldiers. I wanted to be able to interact with my night shift and my day shift.

CPT [REDACTED] was in charge of 1A and 1B until mid-December, he basically was the OIC of the hard site, and I was the NCOIC of the hard site. I lead the shift NCO's. I would be there for support if they needed anything. I visited 1A and 1B on a regular basis. When CPT [REDACTED] left CPT [REDACTED] asked me to keep an eye on 1A and 1B.

Orders came from LTC [REDACTED], but if I had a problem I would go through my operations or the company commander depending on the situation, then up the chain to MAJ [REDACTED] then to LTC [REDACTED].

The panel gave SFC [REDACTED] a list of items, to be addressed, and be written on a Sworn Statement.

SWORN STATEMENT

For use of this form, see AR 190-45; the proponent agency is ODCSOPS

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

AUTHORITY: Title 10 USC Section 301, Title 5 USC Section 2951; E.O 9397 dated November 22, 1943 (SSN)
PRINCIPAL PURPOSE To provide commanders and law enforcement officials with means by which information may be accurately
ROUTINE USES Your social security number is used as an additional/alternate means of identification to facilitate filing and
DISCLOSURE Disclosure of your social security number is voluntary

1 LOCATION CAMP VICTORY, IRAQ	2 DATE (YYYYMMDD) 2004/2/12	3 TIME 2001/12/12	4 FILE NUMBER
5 LAST NAME FIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME [REDACTED]	6 SSN [REDACTED]	7 GRADE/STATUS E7	
8 ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS			

9 I, [REDACTED], WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT UNDER OATH

Q WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE HARD SITE?
A CPT [REDACTED] WAS IN OIC OF THE HARD SITE AND CAMP VIGILANT THE CPA WAS ULTIMATELY IN CHARGE OF THE HARDSITE

Q DESCRIBE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MI AND MP IN WINGS 1A AND 1B WHO'S ORDERS TOOK PRECEDENCE?
A THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MI AND MP WAS A VERY GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS MI WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE MP'S PERFORMANCE THEN MI PERSONNEL BEGAN TO EXPECT THE MP'S TO DO MORE AND MORE FOR EXAMPLE ENFORCEMENT OF FOUR DIFFERENT SLEEP MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR FOUR DIFFERENT DETAINEES, PLUS TAKING SPECIAL CARE OF TWO DETAINEES THAT WERE ON MI'S "GOOD GUY" LIST THE MP'S STARTING REQUESTING THAT ALL INSTRUCTIONS BE PUT INTO WRITING, WHICH SEEMED TO FRUSTRATE SOME OF THE MI PERSONNEL ORDERS FROM THE 320TH MP BN TOOK PRECEDENCE FOR THE MP'S WORKING IN WING 1. THERE WERE A FEW CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, WHEN THIS OCCURRED THE MP'S WOULD HAVE THE MI OPERATIONS CHIEF CONTACT THE 320TH SO THAT THE TWO COMMANDS COULD WORK OUT THE SITUATION

Q DESCRIBE THE ORDERS, HOW WERE THEY RECEIVED, WHO SIGNED THEM, WHERE WERE THEY KEPT
A THE ORDERS THAT WE RECEIVED, PRIMARILY SLEEP MANAGEMENT SCHEDULES, WERE HAND CARRIED TO WING 1 BY A SOLDIER FROM MI, USUALLY THE DETAINEES HANDLER THAT THE SCHEDULE WAS FOR IT WOULD INCLUDE TIMES THAT THE DETAINEE WAS TO BE AWAKE, WHEN HE WAS TO SLEEP, WHEN HE WAS TO BE GIVEN A MEAL AND WHEN THE MEAL WAS TO BE TAKEN AWAY THESE WRITTEN ORDERS WERE SIGNED BY EITHER COL PAPAS OR CHIEF [REDACTED] THEY WERE AND, IF THE DETAINEE IS STILL BEING HELD THERE, SHOULD STILL BE WITH THE DETAINEES FILE ON WING 1

Q DID MI GIVE ANY ORDERS, WRITTEN OR ORAL AGAINST THE GENEVA CONVENTION?
A YES, AN ORAL ORDER WAS GIVEN TO ONE OF THE MP'S BY AN MI SOLDIER TO "STRIP THE CELL" OF A SPECIFIC DETAINEE THIS WAS TO INCLUDE CLOTHING AND BEDDING WHEN THIS WAS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF CHIEF RIVAS HE IMMEDIATELY HAD IT CHANGED

Q DID MI GIVE ORDERS TO USE PHYSICAL VIOLENCE?
A NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE

Q DESCRIBE SUPERVISORY CLIMATE WHO ELSE WOULD VISIT WING 1
A LTC [REDACTED] AND/OR CHIEF [REDACTED] WOULD VISIT WING 1 ALMOST DAILY AT RANDOM TIMES, CPT [REDACTED] ALSO VISITED DAILY AT RANDOM TIMES LTC [REDACTED] CPT [REDACTED] SGM [REDACTED] CSM [REDACTED] 1ST SGT [REDACTED] ALSO VISITED QUITE OFTEN CSM [REDACTED] FROM MI CAME IN WITH LTC [REDACTED] ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AND COL [REDACTED] RECENTLY BEGAN TO VISIT MORE OFTEN

10 EXHIBIT	11 INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT [REDACTED]	PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES
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ADDITIONAL PAGES MUST CONTAIN THE HEADING "STATEMENT _____ TAKEN AT _____ DATED _____

THE BOTTOM OF EACH ADDITIONAL PAGE MUST BEAR THE INITIALS OF THE PERSON MAKING THE STATEMENT AND PAGE NUMBER MUST BE BE INDICATED

STATEMENT OF

[REDACTED]

TAKEN AT CAMP VICTORY

DATED 2004/02/12

9 STATEMENT (Continued)

Q: DESCRIBE ACTIONS TAKEN TO ELIMINATE SOME PROBLEMS

A: AFTER THE SHOOTING INCIDENT IN WING 1/A THE REQUEST WAS SUBMITTED THROUGH THE CHAIN OF COMMAND TO HAVE THE UPPER WINDOWS BOARDED UP IT WAS FOUND THROUGH INVESTIGATION THAT THE PISTOL AND KNIVES WERE RECEIVED BY THE DETAINEE FROM AN ICO THROUGH THE TOP TIER WINDOW THE WINDOWS WERE SOON COVERED THIS ALSO HELPED FOR COMFORT OF THE DETAINEES BECAUSE THERE IS NO HEAT IN THE HARDSITE AFTER AN ESCAPE OF TWO INMATES FROM WING 3/A THROUGH A WINDOW AND UNFENCED AREA, MORE PRESSURE WAS PUT ON THE IRAQI CONTRACTOR FROM THE COMPANY AND BATTALION TO INSTALL MORE FENCING WHICH INCLUDED ADDITION RECREATION YARDS. THE REQUEST FOR THE RECREATION YARDS HAD BEEN SUBMITTED SEVERAL TIMES TO THE CPA, THERE WERE FOUR WINGS OF INMATES (APPROXIMATELY 600 DETAINEES) TO CYCLE THROUGH TWO REC YARDS EACH DAY DURING A POWER OUTAGE AT NIGHT A REQUEST WAS PUT IN TO THE BATTALION FOR OUTDOOR LIGHTING PORTABLE LIGHTING WAS BROUGHT IN WITHIN 30 MINUTES WHEN DETAINEE SUPPLIES BECAME EXTREMELY LOW BECAUSE THE CPA WASN'T ABLE TO, OR JUST DIDN'T SUPPLY THE HARDSITE WITH THE BASIC NEED ITEMS, I ASKED, THROUGH CPT REESE, THE BATTALION FOR SOME SUPPLIES THE BATTALION USED THEIR SUPPLY SYSTEM WHICH SUPPLIED CAMP VIGILANT AND CAMP GANCI, TO SUPPLEMENT THE HARDSITE UNTIL THE CPA WAS ABLE TO COME THROUGH WITH THOSE NEEDED ITEMS ////////////////END OF STATEMENT////////// [REDACTED]

AFFIDAVIT

I, [REDACTED], HAVE READ OR HAVE HAD READ TO ME THIS STATEMENT WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 1, AND ENDS ON PAGE 2. I FULLY UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS OF THE ENTIRE STATEMENT MADE BY ME. THE STATEMENT IS TRUE. I HAVE INITIALED ALL CORRECTIONS AND HAVE INITIALED THE BOTTOM OF EACH PAGE CONTAINING THE STATEMENT. I HAVE MADE THIS STATEMENT FREELY WITHOUT HOPE OF BENEFIT OR REWARD WITHOUT THREAT OF PUNISHMENT, AND WITHOUT COERCION, UNLAWFUL INFLUENCE, OR UNLAWFUL INDUCEMENT.

[REDACTED]

(Signature of Person Making Statement)

WITNESSES

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized by law administer oaths, this 12 day of FEB, 2004 at CAMP VICTORY, IRAQ

[REDACTED]

(Signature of Person Administering Oath)

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

[REDACTED]

(Typed Name of Person Administering Oath)

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

PLT 136 UMI

(Authority To Administer Oaths)

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT [REDACTED]

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