

**Ponomareff, Dmitry F, CIV, Net Assessment**

---

**From:** Roger Beaumont (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 08, 2004 6:18 PM  
**Subject:** Re the Current Turmoil

Reflections on the current mess:

While a 1<sup>st</sup> Lt, Military Police Corps, 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, Wisconsin National Guard Division, when it was mobilized 1961-62 : During Survival Escape and Evasion training, following the procedure of our host unit at Fort Lewis, the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, our MPs were used to guard and harrass troops in a fake POW cage. In their attempt to make things "realistic," our lads became a bit too zealous, and officers from other units and out MPs complained, I met with division chief of staff, and it was stopped. When the Stanford experiment results were published a decade or so later, I was not surprised.

At Fort Irwin, while I was Acting Provost Marshal in the "Exercise Bristle Cone" maneuvers - 1962 - I received a command letter from a four-star general asking for details on reports that Military Intelligence interrogators (Reservists called up from the Washington, D.C. area) had roughed up Aggressor PWs and taken away their outer clothing and sleeping bags when they put them out in our compound on a cold desert night. Our MPs had given the "PWs" their sleeping bags - fortunately.

These and other experiences, including the day-to-day leadership challenge of keeping police discretion on a tight leash, heightened my sensitivity to these issues. Many years later, when I had gained some reputation as a military historian, in full expectation that difficulties along these lines would arise in the future, I wrote two pieces on the subject:

"Preventing Atrocity in Low Intensity Conflict," MILITARY REVIEW 63:11 (November 1983).

"Thinking the Unspeakable: On Cruelty in Small Wars," SMALL WARS AND INSURGENCIES 1:1 (April 1990).

Reportedly they showed "The Battle of Algiers" in defense circles before the Iraq War to sensitize them to these very pitfalls. Did they use it as a training film?

5/10/2004