

Interrogations

- The United States is at war. In the Global War on Terror, the most important weapon in our arsenal is intelligence. Because of the intelligence gathered from interrogations we have thwarted enemy attacks and saved American lives.
- The President directed in February 2002 that all persons in U.S. custody are to be treated humanely. This decision was made by the President and it is in accordance with all applicable national and international laws.
 - The so-called “torture memo” was a speculative work that explored the limits of detainee treatment under U.S. and international law. It was not a policy recommendation.
- DoD policy requires that all interrogation practices be humane.
- Intelligence gathered from detainee interrogations contribute to Coalition success in the Global War on Terror.
 - Interrogations played a key role in the capture of Saddam Hussein.
 - Interrogations are critical to determining how foreign fighters get into Fallujah and Ar Ramadi.
 - Interrogations are critical to discovering improvised explosive devices targeted at Coalition forces.
- The actions depicted in recently released photos from Abu Ghraib violated DoD policy and the Geneva Convention and were not authorized.

Support The Troops

Gifts for deployed personnel are discouraged since they overload the transportation and distribution systems and offer a threat of bio-terrorism to deployed personnel. DoD urges the public not to send unsolicited mail, care packages or donations to service members unless they are family members or personal friends.

In lieu of sending mail, the public may log on to the following websites to show support.

http://www.defendamerica.mil/support_troops.html (on-line thank you card for troops)

<http://www.usocares.org/hom.htm> (contribute to the purchase of a care package of items requested by troops such as sunscreen, disposable cameras, prepared calling cards)

<http://www.army.mil/operations/iraq/faq.htm>.

<http://anyservicemember.navy.mil> (email message to deployed troops of any Service from your home state)

Important Websites

CPA Website

www.iraqcoalition.org

Defend America

www.defendamerica.mil

Doing Business in Iraq

www.rebuilding-iraq.net

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Department of Defense

Legislative Update

Our Adversaries

- The adversaries in the Global War on Terror are unlike any the United States has known.
 - They do not seek an armistice, they seek to destroy our way of life.
 - They have no territory to defend, and no populace to answer to.
 - Terrorists only need to be lucky once. As Defenders, the Coalition must be get it right all the time.
- The only way to win the war is to root out terrorists at their source by planting the seeds of freedom and democracy.
- The defeat of tyranny in Iraq and the rise of democracy in the heart of the Middle East will be a major victory in the War on Terror.

Geneva Conventions

- The provisions of the Geneva Conventions have been and are fully applicable in Iraq.
 - Detainees who were members of the Iraqi armed forces are treated as regular prisoners of war under the Third Geneva Convention.
 - Other detainees have been held as criminal or security detainees under the Fourth Geneva Convention (civilians) which is applicable to civilians and the occupation.

June 23, 2004

- The actions of the soldiers in the Abu Ghraib photographs were perpetrated by a small number of U.S. military, they were also brought to light by the honorable and responsible actions of other military personnel.
- Eight Iraq-related detention lines of inquiry have been ordered by DoD.
- At least seven soldiers now face or may soon face criminal charges. Three of them have been preferred for court martial
 - Charges include dereliction of duty, conspiracy to maltreat subordinates, maltreatment of subordinates, indecent acts, and battery.
 - Additionally, two noncommissioned officers were charged with aggravated assault.
- Since the onset of the war in Iraq, the United States government has recognized and made clear that the Geneva Convention applies to our activities in Iraq. General Sanchez has instructed the forces under his command of that obligation.
- Orders placing Abu Ghraib under the tactical control of the 205th Military Intelligence Brigade in no way changed the rules governing the conduct of the military police and military intelligence personnel in Iraq with respect to the laws of war or the Geneva Convention.
- Contractors at the prison were primarily used for translation, interpretation, and interrogation purposes. Felony criminal sanctions for any crimes a defense contractor may commit are available under U.S. Federal law.

- Terrorists still intend to do harm to Americans and it is vital that we do everything within our means to prevent further attacks and bring those who have killed and injured innocent Americans to justice.
- The President set guidelines in February 2002 for detainee operations at Guantanamo Bay. The processes and procedures that followed were a reflection of our nation's values and called for all detainees in our custody to be treated humanely, and to the extent appropriate and consistent with military necessity, in a manner consistent with the principles of the Geneva Convention.

Of course, our values as a Nation, values that we share with many nations in the world, call for us to treat detainees humanely, including those who are not legally entitled to such treatment.

– President Bush
Presidential Directive
February 7, 2002

- Development and approval of interrogation techniques were done in a deliberate manner with strict legal and policy review to ensure the protection of detainees, our institutions and our troops responsible for carrying out those operations.
- Throughout this conflict the procedures have been constantly reviewed and modified when deemed necessary and appropriate.
- The implication that the United States government has, in one way or another, ordered, permitted, or tolerated torture is simply not true.
- Individuals who have abused the trust and confidence placed in them, regardless of rank or position, will be held accountable

DoD responded immediately to allegations of prisoner abuse:

Oct / Dec 03

Alleged detainee abuse occurred

January 13, 2004

Prisoner abuse reported to Army officials

January 14, 2004

Army initiates criminal investigation

January 16, 2004

CENTCOM announces investigation

January 18, 2004

Leadership of Battalion involved in allegations is suspended

January 19, 2004

CJTF-7 requests CENTCOM appoint Investigating Officer

March 20, 2004

Charges preferred against six accused

March 20, 2004

Brigadier General Kimmitt press conference announcing charges

April 28, 2004

Brigadier General Kimmitt updates public on status of investigation

May 19, 2004

Court Martial in Baghdad of one of the accused