

(b)(6)-2 / (b)(7)(C)-2
I was able to reach LTC [REDACTED] SJA, 4th ID today.

Here are the facts that he relayed:

(b)(6)-5 / (b)(7)(C)-5
The Article 32 Investigation on LTC [REDACTED] lasted two full days. The government presented all their evidence. There were about 10 members of the media present for the entire hearing. The summarized transcript is being prepared and the 173rd Bde Commander is awaiting the report of the investigating officer. LTC [REDACTED] was represented by detailed military counsel and a LTC(Ret) [REDACTED], a former USMC JA.

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The case will be processed like all other UCMJ cases. As a senior leader and field commander, the 173rd Bde Cdr, a Colonel, will have multiple options to consider ranging from dismissal of the charges to recommendation of a general courts-martial. It is improper for headquarters officials or others in the government to attempt to influence these decisions.

There was no AR 15-6 investigation in this case. Rather, the 4th Infantry Division Commander directed one of his assistant division commanders to do a "Commander's inquiry" (authorized under RCM 303) to look into a complaint by one of LTC [REDACTED] battery ISGs.

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The ISG's complaints were focused on the command climate of the division artillery, a higher echelon unit above LTC [REDACTED] (and the ISG's) battalion.

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There was a minor mention in the complaint about alleged rough handling of a detainee by LTC [REDACTED] and alleged rough handling of another detainee by a Macedonia Platoon that is part of the 4th ID Task Force.

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The Commander's Inquiry was thus focused on three parts: The alleged poor command climate of a unit (not [REDACTED] battalion), the alleged rough handling of a prisoner by LTC [REDACTED], and the alleged rough handling of the other detainee by the Macedonia platoon.

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There were only 6-7 statements obtained in the commander's inquiry. They were all related to the incident involving the detainee questioned by LTC [REDACTED]. When it appeared criminal action might be involved, the assistant division commander turned over the statements to the staff judge advocate, and they were then turned over to CID to start a criminal inquiry. They will be part of the final CID ROI - which is still pending.

No further statements were obtained regarding any parts of the commander's inquiry. The alleged rough handling of a detainee by the Macedonia platoon and the alleged poor command climate of another unit were inquired into and handled by the senior leaders of the 4th ID. Those matters are considered closed.

The 4th ID's focus is on the on-going military operations in Iraq.