



## **US Department of Defense**

### **Talking Points – Abu Ghraib Prisoners - May 3, 2004**

Following is information about the reported abuse at the Baghdad Correctional Facility at Abu Ghraib.

➤ **The Department of Defense is taking allegations of prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib seriously.**

- On Jan. 14, one day after allegations were first reported by a concerned soldier, a criminal investigation was initiated to examine the allegations of detainee abuse at Abu Ghraib.
- On Jan. 31, the Coalition Forces Land Component Command began an administrative investigation into potential systemic problems relating to detention operations in Iraq, including training of units assigned to the detention facilities and command policies and procedures.
  - The investigation's findings were approved on April 6. They included actions against several commanders and military personnel operating detention and internment facilities in Iraq. Also included were administrative and training recommendations.
- In February, Army Reserve Forces initiated a special assessment of Army Reserve Training with a focus on military police and intelligence operations.
- Also in February, the Army Inspector General began an assessment of doctrine and training associated with detention operations.
- On April 23, the Army Deputy Chief of Staff for intelligence initiated an investigation into intelligence practices in Iraq.

➤ **Individual misconduct is being addressed.**

- Six preliminary charges have been levied against soldiers allegedly involved in the incident. Separately, six other personnel have been issued Memorandums of Reprimand - two of them were relieved of their positions.
- Abuse of prisoners will not be tolerated by the Defense Department.
- The photographs of prisoners in Abu Ghraib shown by various media outlets in the United States and the Middle East are heinous.
- The great majority of U.S. service members conduct themselves in strict accordance with their training, and represent themselves, the United States and the Coalition honorably. The military is a values-based organization committed to the respect of the international laws of armed conflict.

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**Talking Points – Abu Ghraib, Troop Deployment - May 4, 2004**

Secretary Rumsfeld and Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, briefed the Pentagon press corps today on allegations of abuse by U.S. soldiers at Abu Ghraib and troop deployment. Following the secretary and vice chairman's briefing, Gen. George Casey, vice chief of staff of the Army, spoke about the situation at Abu Ghraib. Highlights from his comments are also included.

### **Abu Ghraib**

- **The images shown in the media of the U.S. soldiers and prisoners at the Baghdad Correctional Facility at Abu Ghraib are deeply disturbing.**
  - The photographs depict actions that are fundamentally unacceptable.
  - These actions do not in anyway represent the values of the United States or the Armed Forces, the vast majority of whom serve with honor.
  
- **The Secretary and the Department of Defense are taking the charges and allegations seriously.**
  - On Jan. 14, one day after allegations first came to light, a criminal investigation was initiated to examine the charges. On Jan. 16, CENTCOM issued a press release, and Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt briefed that an investigation had been initiated into reported incidents of detainee abuse.
  - On Jan. 31, Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba, at the request of Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, was appointed to conduct an administrative investigation of procedures at Abu Ghraib.
  - In February, the acting Secretary of the Army directed the Army Inspector General to conduct an assessment of doctrine and training associated with detention operations throughout the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.
  - In February, the Army's Chief of Reserve Affairs initiated an assessment of Army Reserve training with an emphasis on military police and military intelligence activities related to prisoners.
  - On April 23, at Gen. Sanchez's request, the head of Army intelligence provided an investigating officer to investigate military intelligence practices in Iraq.
  - Early this month, the U.S. Navy Inspector General was asked to assess the detainee operations at Guantanamo Bay and at Charleston Naval Station Brig.
  
- **The Department will continue to take whatever steps are necessary to hold accountable those who may have violated the code of military conduct.**
  - Such violations betray the trust of the American people and the men and women in uniform who serve honorably each day.
  - Thus far, from these investigations, six individuals have been identified for Article 32 criminal hearings. At least six other individuals have been given letters of reprimand, and two of these six were relieved of their responsibilities.
  
- **As Gen. Casey emphasized in his opening statement to the press, the Army is extremely disappointed that anyone would engage in the mistreatment and humiliation of detainees or take such pictures.**
  - The U.S. Army is a values-based organization that respects the International Law of Armed Conflict and human dignity. More than 300,000 Army soldiers are deployed around the world, defending the United States and its values.
  - The behavior that led to the images is clearly unacceptable. It does not reflect Army training or values, and is a complete breakdown in discipline.
  - The Army is committed to treating all persons with dignity, respect and humanity.
  - U.S. soldiers recognize they have a moral and legal obligation to provide humane treatment to the personnel in their custody.

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- Commanders will continue to investigate all allegations of detainee mistreatment and take appropriate action. Commanders will continue to set appropriate climate and standards with regard to humane treatment of detainees.
- **The Army has taken action in Iraq to address the allegations of prisoner abuse.**
  - There is new unit leadership at Abu Ghraib, and close coordination between the military intelligence brigade commander and the military police brigade commander.
  - There is now one single person responsible for all the detainee activities. On April 15, Maj. Gen. Jeff Miller took charge of all the detainee operations in Iraq.
  - Additional training on the Geneva Convention and the rules of engagement has been given to all of the new units that have gone into these facilities.
  - A mobile training team of corrections and legal experts is on the ground working at the detention facilities and helping train soldiers to improve operations at the facilities.
  - A lessons-learned process is ongoing and recommended changes are being incorporated into the Army's schools, doctrine and combat training centers.

Secretary Rumsfeld also announced some additional troop deployments during the press briefing.

#### **Troop Deployment**

- **Gen. John Abizaid, commander of U.S. Central Command, has indicated a desire to retain the current level of forces at approximately 135,000.**
  - Recently, 20,000 troops had their deployments extended by up to 90 days to keep force levels at 135,000.
  - These troops will not have their deployments extended further. Instead, Secretary Rumsfeld has approved the deployment of approximately 10,000 replacement personnel.

For more information, please see the news release posted on [www.defenselink.mil](http://www.defenselink.mil) (link to [release](#)).