

DEPARTMENTS OF THE AIRFORCE AND THE ARMY  
FLORIDA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD  
Office of the Adjutant General  
St. Francis Barracks, P. O. Box 1008  
St. Augustine, Florida 32085-1008

FL-IG (20-1)

27 July 2004

SUBJECT: Preliminary Analysis for Treatment of POW Violations

1. Background: Last week the Office of the Inspector General (IG) of the Florida National Guard (FNG) was made aware of a video which contained segments portraying actions by FNG Soldiers which appear to be in violation of Army regulations and the Geneva Conventions. The video allegedly portrays Soldiers of Company B (CoB), 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 124 Infantry (1-124 IN) mistreating enemy casualties and prisoners of war during operations in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The video was being played on a government computer in the West Palm Beach Armory and was allegedly being viewed by SFC [redacted] of CoB, 1-124 IN, and [redacted] and SSG [redacted] of 2nd Battalion, 265<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Artillery Battalion (2-265th ADA). Allegedly, one of these three Soldiers stated that he hoped the video never "gets out". The existence of the video was reported to the FNG Staff Judge Advocate (SJA), who then forwarded the report to the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID), Ft. Stewart, GA. Two CID agents responded and interviewed the individual who initially reported the video to SJA. Allegations 1- 5 below occurred while the soldiers were on Title 10 active duty status. Allegation 6 - 8 concern full time staff of the FLNG.

2. Allegations:

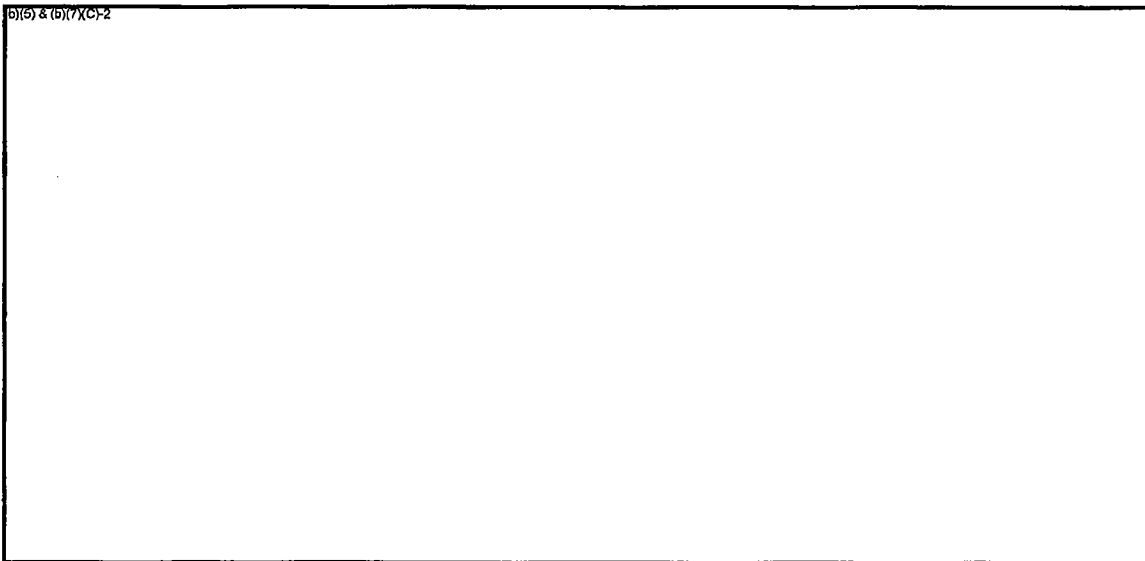
[redacted]

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3. Actions Taken:

- a. Inspector General, FNG notified DAIG Assistance Division of incident and possible allegations against FNG full-time staff on 27 July 2004.
- b. Florida National Guard inquiry/investigation on hold pending CID investigation.

(b)(6)-1 & (b)(7)(C)-1

(b)(6)-1 & (b)(7)(C)-1

IG, FNG

Chief, Assistance and Investigations

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## Statement

In follow-up to my telephone conversations with Lt. Col. (b)(6)-2 & (b)(7)(C)-2, and Col. (b)(6)-2 & (b)(7)(C)-2, the following information is provided:

On the afternoon of 13 June 2004, I became aware of the existence of a composite video that appeared to show combat and security operations being performed by members of B Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 124<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment during the unit's deployment to Iraq. While in the area of the B Company orderly, I was in proximity to view a computer used by the fulltime staff of the company which was displaying a video of security operation in Baghdad during the unit's recent deployment. The video was being shown on a computer used by Staff Sergeant (b)(6)-2 & (b)(7)(C)-2 who apparently received the video from an M-Day unit member who also shot and edited the final product. Also in the room was Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class (b)(6)-2 & (b)(7)(C)-2 and Staff Sgt. (b)(6)-2 & (b)(7)(C)-2 was showing the video to (b)(6)-2 & (b)(7)(C)-2. The video contained as many as 12 different soldiers, however, I did not see any officer, Sgt. Major or 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. in these segments. The video appeared to be filmed by an enlisted member of the unit who covered the actions of his squad or team. Not knowing any of the unit personnel, I cannot identify any of the personnel in the video.

The disk contained various video segments of nighttime operations, raids, and the evaluation of events immediately after these operations. The video contained what I determined to be disturbing images of soldiers displaying dead bodies and body parts of enemy combatants, insurgents, and other civilian-clad personnel. In a number of segments, the soldiers in the scenes used vulgar language and conducted themselves in a manner that I felt was inappropriate conduct for American soldiers.

Two scenes stood out. The first involved a segment in which a team of soldiers from the unit had just conducted a raid. The video showed soldiers around an injured Iraqi who was on the ground, hands bound behind his back. The soldiers rolled him over to display for the videographer the bullet hole in his abdomen. They also stated that it appeared to have an exit wound out the wounded man's back. Although there was discussion about getting a medic, but during this segment of video no medical help appeared. Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class (b)(6)-2 & (b)(7)(C)-2 said while the video was playing something to effect that they "weren't in any hurry to get medics there," and "I think he eventually died before the medics arrived." While the injured Iraqi was on the ground, he was moaning and speaking. Though I do not speak the language, it could be assumed that he was asking for medical help. At some point during this scene, an American soldier kicked the Iraqi in the face. The segment continued on for a few minutes, but did not show any medical personnel arrive to transport the victim.

In another scene, during a daylight operation, a prisoner was apprehended and was sitting on the ground, hands bound behind him. A female military translator was asking the prisoner questions. Although the translator was beginning to pass in front of the camera, it appeared that one of the American soldiers struck the prisoner in the face with the butt of his rifle without provocation.

The many other scenes contained soldiers during operations entering homes, knocking down doors, searching property and interacting with Iraqi civilians. This video appeared to be quite long and contained titles to each segment. Although I witnessed only brief segments totaling about 7 to 8 minutes, it was obviously assembled from quite a number of video tapes and edited together to show these specific images. While some may interpret these images differently, as a 25-year member of the Army and a combat veteran myself, the conduct I observed by these soldiers was unprofessional and should be reviewed by authorities.