

IFIT-35-115 Chief [REDACTED] (b)-1 A11

I'm with CW2 [REDACTED] He's the CID agent of the 44th Military Police detachment CID 4 from Fort Lewis, Washington. Chief could you please state your name, give the spelling of your last name for me and where you're located from.

RENAUD: My name is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I'm CW2 from Washington.

Q: And when were you deployed here to Camp Buka?

[REDACTED] I arrived here at Camp Buka on 3 May of this year.

Q: Chief could you please give me a rundown of exactly what your duties here are with the CID at Camp Buka.

[REDACTED] My primary duties at the CID at Camp Buka myself personally are the EPW screens, prisoner of war screenings and the conduct of the war crimes investigations.

Q: And chief, could you give me a little more of an explanation of each of the different areas. We can start with the screening of the prisoners first.

[REDACTED] All the EPWs go through a screening process conducted by the US. What we're trying to determine is there status as civilian or military. If they're civilian, we're trying to determine if they were missing civilian, unlawful combatant or criminal that was arrested for looting or a prior offense. If they're military, we're trying to

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determine what their role in the war was and any information we can get. Our main focus, the CID, is trying to determine (break in tape) and put to the right place, and if they're military if they have any information on war crimes committed by the Iraqi army.

Q: How long of a process does the screen take?

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All [REDACTED] The screening itself can take anywhere from 15 minutes to an hour depending on if the individual is being honest with us, what type of information we feel the individual might have. If they are identified as a criminal, they're merely put into a hold and we'll go back to actually investigating the criminal offense at a later date.

Q: Is there a definition for what is considered to be a criminal?

[REDACTED] The definition's kind of broad. There are a lot of people that are arrested for numerous offenses like looting as the war was going on. We're mainly trying to focus on their release prior to the start of the war. When Saddam opened his prisons and let everybody out. (break in tape)

Q: OK Chief, you were explaining going through the screening process and what is the definition of a criminal.

[REDACTED] Well mainly our focus is the violent major crimes. The rapes, crimes like that. All the people who are sentences to life in jail, sentenced to death, long term

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sentences were all released, given rifles and told to go fight. Of course, they dropped the rifles and just went back to their homes. We're trying to identify them to keep them from (break in tape). We're also trying to identify war criminals. This would be senior officers or senior non commission officers participating in violations of the Geneva Convention, be it this war, '91 war or all the way back to when they use chemical weapons. (break in tape) The shooting of POWs, execution of POWs, the pillaging of Kuwait, the raping of the Kuwait women, mistreatment of the American POWs during the war. Any violations of the Hague and Geneva Convention is what we're trying to concentrate on. Mainly focusing on (break in tape) And using the lower ranks, trying to get the information on who (break in tape).

Q: Okay and when you're going through the screening process, what are the ages groups of some of these--the prisoners that are coming through?

b(6)-1 [REDACTED] The majority, I mean we started--there was [REDACTED] on b(2)-3 this camp at one point and you know we're down to [REDACTED] The majority are probably males from the age of 18 to 30, the fighting age. The majority of the individuals picked up are denying being (break in tape) are claiming to be farmers. And that's where the interview process, the

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screen process, although rapid, needs to be thorough and you know in depth. (break in tape) Obviously some do get by. (break in tape)

Q: Okay Chief, when you do find a person that has been a soldier, what are some of the signs that you're looking for?

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All [REDACTED] If they admit they're a soldier, we're mainly asking them pretty standard screening questions. What their job was in the army, where they were assigned, what actions they took during the war, did they receive any orders that they would take to be unlawful. Such as, killing retreating soldiers, killing any prisoners of war, using any type of chemical weapons. Quickly going through--just because they were identified as a soldier, all we're trying to do is just kind of get a focus on what happened on the battlefield and possibly identify anybody who might have been in the area of something that we might be interested in later.

Q: And, to date, for your time that you've been here, have you been able to identify any of these type of prisoners?

[REDACTED] Oh, absolutely. Obviously a big focus of CID right now is the actions of the Iraqi soldiers with our American POWs and the 507 Maintenance Company. We've identified several individuals that were in the area, that were

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witnesses to it and that participated in it and maybe more come through, but the ones we have identified have provided very good information.

Q: And could you give us an accounting, a short accounting of what exactly happened with the 507?

[REDACTED] Unfortunately I can't. That would have to be something that came out of my Commander [REDACTED] because that is a secret investigation right now.

Q: OK. With those individuals that you may have found that were connected with the 507, what will happen with those individuals?

[REDACTED] The primary individuals we're looking for are the ones that were in charge of, that were in command, that took the American soldiers after the ambush. Took them through the streets of Nasriye and put them on display, put them on the television. We've identified so far more of the side players, the people who were involved in the attack itself but not the after effect. Now, obviously the ambush on the American convoy wasn't a war crime, but it was the actions after the ambush that people are investigating.

Q: And have these prisoners, these former soldiers, have they given you additional information where to find the other soldiers?

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[REDACTED] (break in tape) Every soldier we talk to can either

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help us better our timeline or better our locations. So there hasn't been one soldier that's just been able to lay it all out for us but there's been numerous that have either helped with the times or locations or what units were in that area, who was responsible. There's been a lot of information gathered from the EPWs that we've spoken with. (break in tape)

Q: If the soldier is cooperative and is willing to give you more intelligence and more information, is there a special treatment that may be given to that individual?

[REDACTED] Not really special treatment. What we try to do is that we get as much--we make every attempt to get all the information that we can from this individual and then get him released. (break in tape) we're trying to push the (break in tape) as absolutely as quickly as possible. So if we identify somebody with that information on that type of subject, we don't have to hold them here because they want to be cooperative. So we take the time, we do full interviews of them at that time, get as much information as we possibly can, and continue with their outprocessing.

Q: With the EPW soldiers that you've identified, are there certain standards that you have to follow under the Geneva Convention?

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A11 [REDACTED] Oh absolutely, I mean they have to be treated like any other POWs which is outlined in the Geneva Convention. We don't do any (break in tape) interrogations, everything is voluntary. We make sure they understand that the information they do give us is voluntary. We don't force them to provide the information. They're just interviews, they're not interrogations.

Q: During the interviews, is there an interpreter present?

[REDACTED] Yes. We work with several interpreters.

Q: And while we're getting toward the end of the actual war right now, are you finding more soldiers that are coming in or are you finding more criminals that are coming in?

[REDACTED] More criminals now. About 50 percent of the soldiers denying they're soldiers. Because when they're initially brought into the camp, the rumor across the camp was that the soldiers were going to be kept and the civilians were going to be let go. When actually it was quite reverse. The soldiers, when they admitted to being soldiers, were released. The civilians were the ones that had to be screened, identified as either criminal or an unlawful combatant. So, we're sorting through that but the soldiers, as they're coming in, when they identify themselves as soldiers, get released rather quickly.

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Q: Okay and with the civilian detainees that have been brought in. Can you give me an example, perhaps, a couple circumstances of how they were truly a citizen as to someone that may have been lying to you?

b(6)-1 [REDACTED] Best example would probably be when the British came up here to the Basrah area, they pretty much swept up any male that was probably within the fighting age of, I'm going to say 17 to 30 and just processed them in as EPWs, just because they didn't know. There were so many soldiers that were putting on civilian clothes. So to avoid this basically, killing, they grabbed up everybody that appeared to be a soldier and brought them in. That made it extremely difficult because you had a lot of civilians non-combatants mixed in with combatants who were wearing civilian clothes. That's why the screening was so important. A lot of them were completely innocent civilians. We've identified roughly, you know, thousands of completely innocent civilians that were captured. The British and the Americans also arrested a lot of--or detained a lot of civilians for looting and various other crimes. Murders, rapists in the camp. (break in tape) by the US or the British, either the soldiers observed them doing or based on the information they got from the public. Which is important, when they come to the camp, we have to

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know why they were brought to the camp, then we have to do a quick screening to determine are we going to keep them or are we going to release them. A lot of the looters were released because it was such a minor offense and we had a lot of the major criminals that we're dealing with. (break in tape) because there's no court system in Iraq right now, a simple charge of looting isn't something that we're going to have a POW camp for.

Q: With the people that you've identified to be criminals and they--you have proof that they are criminals. What will happen to them after that point then?

[REDACTED] They are going to be held, I believe until the interim b(u)- government gets a little bit more control over what's going on. And they're looking for a permanent jail (break in tape) to house these people until we can turn them over to a firm government it will be up to them to either release them, retry them, reinvestigate the case. You know, whatever they decide to do with them. We're just not going to take responsibility for releasing them back out into the public where they can rape, murder and do harm again. Once the government's established, they'll decide what they want to do with the criminals that we've identified.

Q: With the EPWs that were identified as soldiers, are you looking for other identifying things about them that will

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identify them as a soldier. For instance, tattoos or are there other distinguishing marks?

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A11 [REDACTED] Oh, absolutely. Like in the states, there are (inaudible) soldiers (break in tape) the units they're with. Especially the Saddam (break in tape) or the militia group here have very distinctive tattoos. The prisoners, we can usually identify someone who's been in jail in Iraq based on what tattoos they have. So we do check their upper body and lower body to see if there are any tattoos and we've started to kind of identify what tattoos go with what units. So if someone comes in claiming they're a tomato farmer and they have a tattoo of the (inaudible), we know they're not telling the truth. (break in tape)

Q: OK Chief, could you give me a little bit of a description of what would be considered war crimes and how you investigate those.

[REDACTED] We have a--well CID's main function here in the theater is investigating war crimes. Not only committed by the Iraqi forces but any allegations of war crimes committed by coalition forces. Down in (break in tape) their entire job is gathering information on any crimes, such as the use of chemical weapons, the execution of EPWs, the '91 Gulf and the execution of the Kurds, using the gas back in (break in tape). Other crimes include just the pillaging, the raping,

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executing of your own soldiers. The way we work that is that we start off with information gathered through either the screenings or soldiers on the ground or information that we know of the history. We start collating the information and as we identify soldiers and units that are in a particular area, take for example the 507 ambush that happened in Nasriye. We know it happened on the 23rd of March, we know in the area at the time was the 11th division Iraqi, 11th Iraqi division. So using that, we can start narrowing down our scope on the EPWs that were arrested in Nasriye between say the 22nd and the 25th. We'll describe any soldiers that identify themselves as with the 11th division and we start working from there. Looking back as far as the '87 gassing, we know that your 18 and 19-year-olds aren't going to have anything to do with it, so we spend most of our time, we find all of the general officers, colonels or above that have been in the army 20-30 years. Find out what units were involved in the area at the time, where these general officers were assigned, and start working that direction. (break in tape) working hundreds of individual war crimes cases at sometime are all going to be presented to the Hague to try Saddam, probably an abstention obviously if he doesn't appear. But every information, every interview that we do

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here, is focused on trying to get more information on all these allegations. 30 years of mistreatment of these people. Crimes against humanity, crimes against his neighboring countries.

Q: And when you identified someone that falls under these conditions that you've mentioned, what happens to the prisoners at that point?

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A11 [REDACTED] We do interviews with them. At that time, we go from a screening interview to a more detailed, obviously a voluntary interview. We can't force them to tell us anything. So we sit down with them, explain to them what we're trying to do. We ask for their cooperation. About eight times out of ten, we are getting cooperation. These guys are willingly coming forward after 30 years of being oppressed and having nothing. They know they were mistreated and they're actually talking and we're gathering some really good information. Detailed information from senior offices across the Iraqi army.

Q: Are you at liberty to discuss any of these details on some of the details on some of the areas that you may have found?

[REDACTED] Some of the details, stuff such as today, I was talking to some general officers who had information. One of the big focuses is the Kuwaiti EPWs from the '91 Gulf

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war. (break in tape) information that they had been alive up until the very recent, I'd say within three or four months of the war starting. Talked with a general officer today who, although couldn't confirm with any hard facts and dates, led us to believe that he knew the EPWs, the prison in Baghdad, that Saddam gave the order to execute them prior to him leaving the country. Little bits of information like that, knowing this guy's position that he was a communications officer, so he would be privy to information, we tend to take it not as fact but as pretty solid information. That maybe they were alive, maybe they were in Baghdad at the time. And that's how we've got to piece it together. With that, he gives us information on who was running the jail and then we go start tracking down him or he gives us information on some guards at the jail who we could potentially talk to. It's a long process looking at so many incidents, like I said the ambush on the 507, just hundreds and hundreds of crimes against humanity, crimes against other countries. So you have to kind of pick and choose and any information that you get, you send it back to the war crime cell at Arifjan and they pop it into the proper case file and send a request back here for further information. Because there's other camps across Iraq that might also be getting the same information and so

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my general might say, you know he was here on this date and another camp might get information that we have to go back and question him about. So it's a cooperation across the entire country right now.

Q: What does a CID agent have to do to bring the cells up to the level of each of these scenarios or circumstances as they may appear in world events?

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All [REDACTED] You have to know what we're looking for, otherwise you're just going into an interview blind. You get brief time, when events happen, what kind of events, what constitutes--what crimes we're looking into, the general knowledge, you know anything this general officer might have or the soldier might have. So, it's just a lot of readings, a lot of briefings and knowing what's going on and knowing what's (break in tape)

Q: So obviously you're getting a lot of intel reports, a lot of op reports to give you a more in depth detail of what the circumstances might have been with each of these events, wherever they may occur.

[REDACTED] Correct. As information becomes available, they try to distribute it out as quickly as possible. I did three interviews with general officers today (break in tape) to Arifjan tonight and by tomorrow it should be kicked out to all the other agents so that everybody across the theater

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is reading what I'm doing, CID wise. So, if it corresponds to their investigation, they know you know, hey, before we let this guy go, ask him this question.

Q: OK, you had given me some information on one general officer you'd interviewed. But what about the other two?

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An [REDACTED] The other two actually, ironically, were naval officers. They were acu ((sp?)) Navy. It isn't real productive, isn't real active. They really didn't have too much information. They'd been in the navy for (break in tape) but they really didn't have too much information. We're going to hold on to them, I'm going to shoot their names down to Arifjan and if their names (break in tape) interviews, we'll probably go ahead and recommend release on both of them.

Q: Would these two individuals, since they're in the navy, have anything to do with manning any of the ports or anything?

[REDACTED] No and that was one thing we questioned them about and that's another thing we talked about their activity during this war. And both of these individuals were (break in tape) within a day or two of the war starting (break in tape), so they really had no information on this war. One of them was in Italy during the first Gulf war, he wasn't

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even in the country. So there wasn't too much we could get from either one of them.

Q: And were they still held or were they released?

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[REDACTED] They'll probably be released within the next day or two.

(break in tape)

Q: OK, Chief, could you tell me a little bit more of and get a little bit more detail of the--when you have to investigate our own forces, our own military police for any of these charges.

[REDACTED] (break in tape) our own forces for more than abuse. Obviously CID's main function is felony criminal investigations for the US Army. So we handle both peacetime and wartime, all serious accusations against soldiers. Some of the main areas we concentrate on over here is obviously the EPWs. In the three weeks (break in tape) approximately five complaints from EPWs or groups of EPWs of mistreatment or abuse. We're working a very serious one right now. About 44 EPWs were assaulted by several MPs. They were unprovoked attacks. The case is still in progress right now but it seems like just for one reason or another, a group of 10 military police officers (break in tape) a group of EPWs and they roughed them up during an escort mission. Extremely serious allegation.

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The Army takes it very seriously. And unfortunately it looks like it's going to be a felony that did occur.

Q: I'm sorry could you please repeat that.

b(u)-1 [REDACTED] Unfortunately it looks like it's going to be a founded case. It looks like the allegations as initially reported are true. These MPs acted unprofessional, did assault some Enemy Prisoners of War. Obviously the CID has a charter to investigate, we investigate (break in tape) very openly. The Red Cross was made aware of it. Our reports will be floated through the chains of command. (break in tape) and very much, on the up and up everything's all (break in tape).

b(u)-1 Q: And what would happen with any of these personnel that are found guilty? What would their possible punishment be and what kind of proceeds would take place for them?

[REDACTED] Most likely they're going to be charged in the UCMJ versus the charges of standard Army offense instead of a war crime offense, which will be your assault, your maltreatment of the EPWs. (break in tape) could carry a sentence of up to ten years. I believe that most of the MPs involved are charged with three to four offenses each and numerous accounts of each of those offenses. (break in tape) jail time, jail terms, if convicted.

Q: These MPs, were they Reserve or National Guard units?

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[REDACTED] Reserve.

Q: Reservists. So, since they were in active duty for this deployment, they would still fall on under any active duty court then.

[REDACTED] Absolutely, absolutely. I believe that (break in tape) is the convening authority at this time for the entire theater. (break in tape) it would absolutely fall to a (inaudible) duty court martial.

Q: Were there any other instances that you can discuss that involve any military police, whether it be founded or unfounded charges?

[REDACTED] Some other things we've had is some shootings that we've had to (break in tape) started a fight in a camp a while back. A guard had to use the one two levels of force, had to shoot and kill the EPW. That's something we also have to investigate, obviously, to protect the Department of Defense interest and to report all the facts as they occurred. Turned out to be a justifiable homicide case. The MP did act within the rules of engagement and it showed he used the proper levels of force and unfortunately it just escalated (break in tape) where deadly force had to be used. Another case was a military police officer standing guard, observed a civilian approaching the fence, approaching the perm. (break in tape) halt, both in Arabic

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and English, the individual did not halt. He fired a warning shot. Unfortunately he didn't follow the rules of engagement (break in tape) warning shots, and fired it in a safe direction therefore (break in tape) strike the civilian, hit him in the face with a projectile. Fortunately the civilian did live, he was severely wounded. And that soldier is being charged with reckless (break in tape) and failure to follow the lawful order and rules of engagement so. All incidents that happen on the camp have to be documented and reported properly so that there can be no allegations from the international community (break in tape). Everything that happens we try to report all the facts, (break in tape) as possible.

Q: Are you finding that our forces, the military police, are acting in a professional manner in treatment of the EPWs?

[REDACTED] In a whole, yes. There are very (break in tape) incidents that do occur but as a whole, I think the military police, I believe they're all reservists, are extremely professional. They're very good at what they do, and they run this camp very well. (break in tape) it's not for the fault of the military police officers, it's just it was something all new. He had 7,000 people to process through a small camp and with what they had to work with, I think it went very well. I think the (break in tape) could

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have been a little a bit better because there was a lot of EPWs that slipped through the system but the (break in tape) in general handled themselves extremely professional, other than the very limited number of complaints we have had.

Q: OK and would you say that perhaps the EPWs have provoked the military police to react in certain ways where they've had to show force or react in a positive way to a squelch any kind of riot or any other kind of incident?

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All [REDACTED] Prior to my arrival here on May 3rd, I heard there was a lot of riots in the camp. I heard they (break in tape) so I can't really speak of that. Since I've been here, there haven't been any riots and the only assault I know of is an unprovoked assault and that's the one we're investing.

(break in tape)

Q: Okay Chief, could you give me more information on additional investigations that you may perform, for instance, rape or soldier on soldier crimes?

[REDACTED] OK obviously our last mission here, which is probably our most important, is just protecting the troops. Both from civilians and from themselves. We've had several, be it soldier on soldier (break in tape)soldier on civilian crimes. Not war crimes, it's just normal your standard

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crimes. Your high dollar thefts, your assaults, your rapes, possibly murders if it comes to it. I believe here in Camp (break in tape) been very limited what we call general crime. We have recently had a American soldier (break in tape) who alleged that she was raped by a British which is an investigation that obviously we were joining with the British investigators. But also agents in theater worked hundreds of stolen military equipment cases, worked down at the port where vehicles being stolen, high dollar (break in tape) being stolen. It's a part of our job which we call logistic security. We basically make the army logistics less vulnerable to pilferage and thievery (break in tape). It's a very important role in a theater like this. We have just millions and millions of dollars of equipment coming in and somebody has to provide security for it. We don't provide your traditional gun and foot on the ground security. We try to find out where it's systematically being (break in tape) from. So there are huge investigations that go down to the ports to find out who's stealing our (break in tape). And most cases, abundant, unfortunately our soldier (break in tape) have been down. But that's pretty much you know (break in tape), which is enough considering we only have about

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(break in tape) the troops and war crimes, it's a lot of work. All of the CID keeps busy.

Q: And how many agents are here at Camp Buka?

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All [REDACTED] Currently we have six and we're getting ready to reduce down to (break in tape) just because of manning requirements, we need agents elsewhere.

Q: Okay and here at Camp Buka with the soldier on soldier crime, you mentioned that there hasn't been too many cases. What type of cases have occurred though?

[REDACTED] Like I said, we did have a rape case. Well, an alleged rape, it was more of a sexual assault. We've had the--you know I can't even think of another one right now, in the last three weeks. All we've had is the soldier that alleged that she was sexually assaulted. So it's been pretty quiet, I mean as far as the general crimes arena, it's been okay. I think when there's a build up of troops, you have to have law enforcement.

Q: OK. Chief are there any other comments you'd like to add to this interview and, or give any opinions of your investigations?

[REDACTED] No, in general, I've (break in tape) experience working in an EPW camp. I mean, I don't know how many people ever get to (break in tape) do it, to witness military tribunals, (break in tape) to see the

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professionals, the MPs as they handle the EPWs (break in tape) worked. A limited number of the assaults on the EPWs and I think this camp is run very well. The organization initially was a little confusing but I think the US Army has done a great job here. I think we've gotten the guilty people, and I think we've let the innocent people go. And I'm very proud to be a part of it.

Q: Thank you very much for this interview. This concludes our interview (break in tape). This is the 20th of May 2003.

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