



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
 COMBINED/JOINT TASK FORCE (CJTF)-180  
 OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM  
 BAGRAM AIRFIELD, AFGHANISTAN  
 APO AE 09354

REPLY TO  
 ATTENTION OF

CJTF-180-IG

22 FEB 04

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, CJTF-180, Bagram, Afghanistan, APO AE 09354

SUBJECT: Inspector General Sensing Session, Gereshk Collection Point 19,20 Feb 04

1. The CJTF-180 IG conducted a sensing session of the 3/17<sup>th</sup> CAV, 10<sup>TH</sup> Mountain Division (LI) as part of an inspection on detainee operations on 19 February 2004. The sensing session consisted of 2 separate groups: Enlisted soldiers and NCOs. The following paragraphs contain comments from all sessions. These comments are perceptions of soldiers who participated and are not necessarily founded facts.

2. **Sensing Session Group 1 – Junior Enlisted Soldiers.** The first sensing session was for Junior Enlisted Soldiers the questions and responses are as follows:

Question #1 How many people believe that you are required to report acts of poor treatment of prisoners or detainees/PUCs? 15 of 15 junior enlisted soldiers replied that they had to report violations.

Question #2 Do you know who you could report violations of prisoners' rights to? All Soldiers knew that they could report violations to their chain of command. Most know that they could report it to IG, CID, MPs, or Civil Affairs.

Question #3 Has anyone ever witnessed anyone murder anyone? 15 of 15 junior enlisted soldiers replied No

Question #4 Have you ever seen anyone torture or beat anyone? 15 of 15 junior enlisted soldiers replied No

Question #5 Have you ever seen anyone deprive a PUC of their 5 senses? If so, why and for how long? 14 of 15 junior enlisted soldiers replied yes. One soldier has no

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involvement with the detainees. We place a sandbag on their head for transporting and getting ready for transport.

Question #6 Has anyone seen anyone cruelly treat or degrade a PUC? 15 of 15 replied no.

Question #7 How do you treat PUCs or detainees? Good/Fair/Poor? 11 of 15 felt that we treated detainees Good. 4 of 15 Soldiers felt that we treated them fair because we kept them with sandbags and earmuffs all the time and Deh Rahwod they sandbagged soldiers for at least 5 hours.

Question #8 How many people know what the 5 S's stand for? Search, Silence, Segregate, Safeguard, and Speed to the rear? 9 of 15 soldiers knew the 5 S's.

Question #9 How do you safeguard a PUC against public curiosity? Good/Fair/Poor? 8 Soldiers replied Good, 3 Soldiers replied Fair, 3 Soldiers replied Poor. Those soldiers that stated Poor stated that it was when we initially picked them up. Passersby get out of their car and look at them because the concertina wire is open. But then we transport them in HMMWVs and place them behind Hesco walls.

The vast majority have been blindfolded, cuffed, and put behind wire because they match a description. We took 37 Anti Coalition Militants at a Traffic Control Point vicinity of Punjway. We let them pray and built them a fire.

Question #10 Has anyone ever taken a picture of a PUC? 1 of 15 junior enlisted soldiers replied Yes. The rest stated that the only time a photo is taken is for intelligence reasons.

Question #11 What would you do if you found a PUC with large sums of money? This happened once that we stopped an Afghani with large amount of money and we called the Military Police. The MPs stated that it was for his business and we let him go. If we find money on a detained person, we count it in front of him.

Question #12 What is the rule for deadly force against a PUC in the event that they are escaping? 4 of 15 new the rule for use of deadly force against an escaping prisoner.

**Closing Comments from the soldiers.**

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- a. If a prisoner wants to pray and he's handcuffed and leg cuffed, should we let him pray. We did this. The IG advised them to let them pray, tactical situation permitting.
- b. We were on a repatriation mission and someone came by the vehicle and said to split their heads if they move. However, we didn't do this and left an element behind to make sure that a taxi didn't hit them. This allegedly occurred on a prior repatriation mission
- c. What is the age to PUC someone? SFC (b)(6)-2 (b)(7)(C)-2 advised them 15. They had a teenager throwing rocks at them and they sandbagged him and flexicuffed him. His mom came over and begged for the kid back. So, we let him go.

3. **Sensing Session Group 2 – NCOs.** The second sensing session was for NCOs, there was one NCO who abstained answering from most questions. The questions and responses are as follows:

Question #1 Do you have a unit SOP to take, handle, and care for detainees/PUCs? 13 of 14 NCOs replied that they were familiar with their SOP.

Question #2 How quickly do you hand over PUCs to MPs? 5 replied within 72 hours and 1 replied within 48 hours and 8 didn't know.

Question #3 Is mistreatment of a PUC an SIR? 10 of 13 NCOs replied yes, 3 Didn't know, and 1 abstained from answering.

Question #4 Did your unit train on Law of War prior to deploying or during deployment? 13 of 14 NCOs replied yes and one replied that he did not receive any training because he was a filler.

Question #5 What do you use to track and account for captured personnel? 13 of 14 NCOs replied that they filled out a report to track captured personnel.

Question #6 How do you account for money taken from captured/detained personnel? 12 of 14 NCOs account for money. If it is large sums of money, they call the Mps to find out who the guy is. We had an individual with large sums of money with several employees (27-30 people). We called the MPs and they didn't come. We found the number 1 guy and he verified who they were so we let them go.

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Question #7 What do you allow a captured/detained person to keep on their person? We bag all personal belongings and take pictures and number the bag and number the individual.

Question #8 Does your SOP cover the 5s? 12 of 14 said yes and that they have a unit card on their person.

Question #9 Does your SOP include the date of capture, grid coordinates of capture, and how the person was captured? All NCOs replied yes as well as what he does for a living.

Question #10 How do you prevent physical or mental torture or coercion of the detained person? 13 of 14 said that they didn't torture. That they safeguarded the PUC by having more than one guard. They keep the PUC in a separate area. They also supervised their soldiers.

Question #11 If a detained person refuses to answer your questioning can threaten the Detainee? Can you insult the Detainee? 13 of 14 NCOs replied No. 1 of 14 didn't reply.

Question #12 How do you take care of the prisoners basic needs for food, water, clothing, shelter, and medical treatment? ? 13 of 14 NCOs replied good. They give them 3 meals a day per their unit SOP.

Question #13 Do you keep detainees near fuel, ammo, or commo equipment? 14 of 14 NCOs replied that they didn't.

Question #14 Do you believe that you are required to report acts of poor treatment of detainees or PUCs? 13 of 14 NCOs replied Yes. 1 NCO abstained.

Question #15 Has anyone ever witnessed anyone murder anyone? 14 of 14 NCOs answered No.

Question #16 Have you ever seen anyone torture or beat anyone? 14 of 14 NCOs answered No.

Question #17 Have you ever seen anyone deprive a PUC of their 5 senses? If so, why and for how long? 13 of 14 NCOs replied Yes. During movement off of a bird

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(helicopter or plane), their hands are bound, during transport, and during initial detainment.

Question #18 Has anyone seen anyone cruelly treat or degrade a PUC? 14 of 14 replied No.

Question #19 How do you safeguard a PUC against public curiosity? Through quick decision making on the objective. We always draw a crowd during cordon and search. There is no shelter in a concertina wire. We use closed HMMWVs to move the PUC.

Question #20 Has anyone ever taken a picture of a PUC? 1 of 14 NCOs have taken a picture. The picture was taken at Gardez. SF and Tactical HUMINT teams have taken a picture of the PUCs inside the wire.

Question #21 What is the rule for deadly force against a PUC in the event that they are escaping? All NCOs knew that deadly force was not authorized within the facility and that they used a whistle. 14 of 14 NCOs did not know the rule for an escaping prisoner. They all stated that deadly force was not authorized. They did state that they would use the proportionate amount of force. After explaining that they could use deadly force we asked them how many times they had to use the word halt. All of them believed that they had to yell Halt 3 times.

4. Point of contact is the undersigned at DSN

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MAJ, IG

CJTF-180 Inspector General

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