

**Talking Points on Allegations of Detainee Abuse at Abu Ghraib Prison**

**Question:** *Sixty Minutes II*, *The New York Times*, and the *New Yorker* all report that there have been allegations physical and sexual abuse of detainees by U.S. Forces at Abu Ghraib prison. Is that true? Please describe the allegations and any investigations that are ongoing.

**Background (not for use as Talking Points):**

- At a press conference on 20 Mar 04, BG Kimmit, CJTF7 Deputy Director of Operations, related that charges had been preferred against six reserve MPs for physical and sexual abuse at Baghdad Central Confinement Facility (BCF) at Abu Ghraib.
- BG Kimmett did not name the soldiers or their units.
- The soldiers alleged to have been abusing detainees were assigned to the 372d MP CO, (USAR, Cumberland, MD) of the 320th MP BN (USAR, Ashley, PA). Both units fall under the 800th MP BDE. The 800th MP BDE is a theater asset, assigned to CFLCC and TACON to CJTF-7. It is an internment and resettlement brigade from Uniondale, NY, and many of its soldiers are corrections officers in civilian life.
- The 800th has since redeployed. The six soldiers have remained in Iz and have been reassigned to the 16th MP BDE, an active duty unit.
- A seventh soldier faces possible charges, but has been transferred to CONUS for medical reasons.
- Of the six charged, three Article 32 investigations have been completed, and the investigating officer has recommended referral to courts-martial. The four remaining Article 32 investigations have been delayed at defense request.
- The charges against the six MPs include:
  - Indecent acts for ordering detainees to publicly masturbate
  - Maltreatment of subordinates for non-physical abuse such as ordering detainees into a "nude pyramid" and taking photographs of the nude detainees
  - Assault consummated by battery for shoving and stepping on detainees
  - Dereliction of duty
  - Conspiracy to maltreat subordinates.
- Also, two of these MPs have been charged with aggravated assault, one for striking a detainee in the head with enough force to render him unconscious and the other for striking a detainee in the chest almost rendering him unconscious.
- Commander, CJTF7 initiated the criminal investigation immediately upon becoming aware of the allegations when a soldier provided authorities a copy

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of a CD with digital photos and video showing physical and sexual abuse of detainees.

- Commander, CJTF-7 ordered a separate administrative investigation under AR 15-6 investigation into systemic issues such as command policies and internal procedures relating to detention operations, which is ongoing at this time.
- The Army IG is also leading a team that is conducting an assessment of the doctrine and training associated with detention operations.

**Answer:**

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Prepared by (b)(6)

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