

UNCLASSIFIED

DRAFT

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INFORMATION PAPER

Subject: PHOTOGRAPHING AND FILMING EPWS

LM64

1. Purpose. To provide information on Geneva Convention provisions and SecDef press guidance regarding photography and filming of EPWs.

2. Key Points.

- Article 13 of the Geneva Convention provides that "prisoners of war must at all times be protected, particularly against acts of violence or intimidation and against insults and public curiosity."
- Article 13 does not per se prohibit photographing EPWs. It does prohibit photography and video imagery that degrades or humiliates an EPW, such as the practices of North Vietnam during the Vietnam conflict and Iraq during the 1991 Gulf War in parading EPWs before the news media.
- DoD press guidance (Tab A) to embedded media units prohibits:
 - "photographs or other visual media showing an enemy prisoner of war or detainee's recognizable face, nametag or other identifying feature or item" (Tab A, ¶4.G.18); and
 - "still or video imagery of custody operations or interviews with persons under custody" (Tab A, ¶4.G.19).
- In addition to the provisions of GC Art. 13, a principal USG concern underlying the prohibition of photography and filming is the security of the EPW and the protection of the EPW's family. If Iraqi authorities become aware that specific individuals are captured, it could pose a risk to the safety and security of the EPW's family.

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FOIApress Annotation