

To: Gary Bald
CC: FRANKIE BATTLE, [REDACTED] M Chris. Briese, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] T HARRINGTON
Subject: BOC E-Mail, Priority, Jan. 24, 2004, [REDACTED]
Allegations regarding Abu Ghurayb Prison

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[REDACTED] y: Attached is an e-mail from Fly Team SA [REDACTED] our Team Leader for HVD [REDACTED] interviews at Abu Ghurayb prison. Abu G is a Saddam-era prison being utilized by the Coalition to house detainees. It is over-crowded and my recent force protection memorandum spoke of the dangers there. Nonetheless, our access to detainees at the prison is a central part of our mission and very important to our ability to get the job done. Therefore, the allegations contained in the attached e-mail, if true, or even if not true but heavily publicized, could make life difficult for us.

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I met yesterday on another subject with AUSAs Dana Biehl and Bruce Pagel. Pagel advised he was aware of the allegations of abuse at the prison. He said that it is his understanding that Gen. Sanchez is fully aware of the matter.

I told AUSA Pagel that the FBI will not enter into an investigation of the alleged abuse, that it would be outside the scope of our mission, and that I believed CID should handle, it without our assistance. I will maintain this position unless instructed otherwise by FBIHQ. First, the matter truly is outside our mission and would squander resources. Second, we need to maintain good will and relations with those operating the prison. Our involvement in the investigation of the alleged abuse might harm our liaison.

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-----Original Message-----

Date: 01/22/2004 09:25 am -0500 (Thursday)
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: ABU GHURAYB

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01/21/2004, Captain [REDACTED] Magistrate Cell, OIC, DNVT: [REDACTED] verbally advised SA [REDACTED] that the recent allegations of prisoner mistreatment at Abu Ghurayb prison are founded. Capt. [REDACTED] stated that there is video taped evidence of the mistreatment, which includes beating and rape. Captain [REDACTED] has observed the evidence. One videotape is unaccounted for, and was reportedly being offered for sale to CNN (no specific information provided regarding the individual involved, yet he alluded to the possibility of civilian contractor involvement).

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In a follow-up telephone conversation between Capt. [REDACTED] and SA [REDACTED] Capt. [REDACTED] advised that the incident is being actively investigated by the Criminal Investigative Division, who currently possesses all of the evidence, with the exception of the missing tape. The investigation is being led by Chief [REDACTED] CW2, SAIC. SA [REDACTED] asked whether or not this incident has been briefed to the highest levels of the U.S. components of the Coalition Provisional Authority. Capt. [REDACTED] indicated that CID briefed General Sanchez who, in turn, gave a press briefing approximately four days ago in an effort to beat CNN to the story. Capt. [REDACTED] believed that General Sanchez was advised of the situation, in general, but perhaps not of all of the facts surrounding this investigation. As recipients are aware, the release of this videotape to the public would be devastating to the coalition mission.

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Capt. [REDACTED] advised the FBI for information purposes, in case the CID investigation leads to a federal nexus. He wanted the FBI to be aware of this investigation if and when CID approaches the FBI.

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