

1 [Steve Stefanowicz, civilian, was interviewed on 12 February
2 2004, as follows:]

3 Q. Has anybody informed you as to the nature of your
4 presence here with us this morning?

5 A. No.

6 Q. I'm amazed. Okay, so you were basically told to just
7 show up?

8 A. It's the extension of a 15-6 and I'm not Army, so I'm
9 not familiar with the extent of what a 15-6 is.

10 Q. That's fair. Let me go ahead then and inform you of
11 the nature of this interview. I'm Major General Taguba, the
12 Deputy Commanding General of the Coalition Land Forces Component
13 Command, headquartered at Camp Doha, Kuwait. My Commanding
14 General, Lieutenant General David McKiernan, appointed me as the
15 investigating officer under the provisions of Army Regulation
16 15-6, which gives us the authority to conduct the investigation,
17 and also the direction of General John Abizaid, the Commander of
18 CENTCOM, Central Command. This investigation is to gather all
19 relevant facts and circumstances surrounding the recent
20 allegations of maltreatment of detainees at the Abu Ghurayb,
21 also known as the Baghdad Central Confinement Facility, as well
22 as detainee escapes and accountability lapses as reported to
23 CJTF-7. Now, we were also directed to investigate the training

1 standards, employment, command policies and internal policies
2 concerning the detainees held at Abu Ghurayb Prison. And we're
3 also to assess the command climate and the supervisory presence
4 of the 800th Military Police Brigade Chain of command.

5 I also want to advise you that the course of our
6 interview will be recorded so we can capture the accuracy of the
7 questions and the responses for the record. So, do you have any
8 questions before we continue?

9 A. [Negative response.]

10 Q. Sir, for the record, would you please state your full
11 name, your social security number, your job position and of
12 course your unit of assignment.

13 A. Sure. My name is Steven Anthony Stefanowicz, [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED]. I am the assistant site lead for Khaki, who is employed,
15 as well an interrogator, who is employed by CJTF-7, to support
16 operations, KMI operations throughout theater, specifically, Abu
17 Ghurayb.

18 Q. Thank you. When were you assigned to conduct your
19 present duty assignment?

20 A. I arrived in country, in Iraq, on 5 October 2003, and
21 on 5 October, we arrived at the prison, as well.

1 Q. Prior to that, were you informed of the--I would
2 assume, back in the United States, as to the nature of your duty
3 assignment?

4 A. To the extent of....

5 Q. What you were going to be----

6 A. Yes, I was informed that I was going to be an
7 interrogator, possibly at Abu Ghurayb or other facilities in
8 ccuntry.

9 Q. What was your job position back in the United States
10 prior to being informed that you were coming to Iraq?

11 A. For 6 months, I was off, roughly 6 months, prior to
12 that, I was off. And prior to that, I was mobilized from
13 November '01 until March of '03.

14 Q. Doing what?

15 A. I'm a Navy intelligence specialist. I was working
16 with DIA, Defense Attaché System.

17 Q. But you're no longer associated with the Navy, or are
18 you still on----

19 A. I'm on Inactive Ready Reserve status, so I could come
20 out here on this deployment.

21 Q. Was your background pretty much on Navy intelligence,
22 HUMINT?

1 A. My last, basically 2 years, have been involved on the
2 HUMINT side. And prior to that, between intel analyst, as well
3 as imagery.

4 Q. Now, did you have a previous assignment that's
5 coincidental, even relative to what you're conducting today,
6 like a GTMO or Bagram or anyplace else?

7 A. You mean interrogation assignment?

8 Q. Yes.

9 A. In a military setting, no, but my commercial training,
10 if that's what you're alluding to, has come from what I've done,
11 International Recruitment, similar training from my DIA
12 counterpart, I was a case officer, running sources, do business
13 development is the same thing as dividing and gathering your
14 networks, interviewing your possible staff that you might hire
15 or hire for other companies. It's the same hiring and
16 questioning process that you would through, an interrogation,
17 questioning or screening series.

18 Q. Training, that sort of thing?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did you have any experience whatsoever being directly
21 involved with interrogation of a detainee?

22 A. When I was operational, or provided operations and
23 supervision support out of the USDA [inaudible].

1 Q. So you're out here on the 5th of October, on or about,
2 there about, and you were directly assigned to the Abu Ghurayb
3 confinement facility.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Who was your supervisor at that time, if you recall?

6 A. Within the JDIC Ice operations?

7 Q. Sure.

8 A. The...who was the NCOIC...I can't recall the NCOIC's
9 name. They were part of the--when we were arriving, there was a
10 turnover there. So he was only there for about a week. From
' that point, Chief Graham, John Graham was the secondary OIC, and
12 then Captain Carolyn Wood was the OIC.

13 Q. Now, the JDIC did not exist at that time, or did it
14 exist when you arrived?

15 A. From my understanding, it did exist.

16 Q. All right, to your understanding. Did you receive any
17 in-briefs or set of instructions on the operating environment
18 and what the nature of the, specific nature of your duties would
19 be?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Who gave you that instruction?

22 A. Captain Wood.

1 Q. Captain Wood did? Did that set of instructions
2 include any familiarity at all or refresher training on the
3 Geneva Convention?

4 A. No.

5 Q. No? Did you, since you were in that particular set of
6 experiences previously as a Naval officer in the Reserves, in
7 the context of other training that you conducted prior to your
8 assignment here, did you have any knowledge whatsoever or
9 training, interaction with detainees or through interrogative
10 means or detention include some knowledge or familiarity with
11 the Geneva Convention?

12 A. Yes, I have. In fact, I read up on that on my own, as
13 well as provided the--recently, I've used them again to refresh
14 and provide guidance for a friend of mine.

15 Q. But when you arrived here, there was nothing....

16 A. There was nothing formal in place pertaining to the
17 Geneva Convention, that's correct.

18 Q. But you were informed or at least had knowledge of the
19 contents of the provisions of....

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Did you have any assumption at all or any knowledge
22 that you, being a civilian contractor, also could be held liable

1 for any violations that might be consistent with the Geneva
2 Convention?

3 A. Absolutely. That was one of the first questions prior
4 to my arrival. And once I did arrive in country within our
5 organization, as well as within the military setting what
6 statutes the civilians fall under versus military members, which
7 are punishable by the UCMJ. Civilians are punishable, from my
8 understanding, under the Federal court system.

9 Q. Did you inquire as to what your status would be while
10 you're in a combat operating area, that your status, if you were
11 ever captured by anti-coalition forces, did you inquire into the
12 nature of what your status will be if you were captured or
13 detained?

14 A. From my understanding, since we are contracted, I just
15 assumed, because on my CAC card, it says we're covered under the
16 Geneva Conventions.

17 Q. But nothing beyond that.

18 A. No.

19 Q. So in a case where you may be held or detained or
20 killed or wounded in a combat area, it was never stipulated to
21 you in any clear terms?

22 A. No, not at all.

1 Q. Okay, all right. Let me move forward. You've been
2 there since the 5th of October.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And conducting interrogations or whatever you're being
5 directed to do, I'm not asking you--let me preface this, not
6 asking you the contents of any interrogation, but could you
7 elaborate a little bit on the typical operation of an
8 interrogation? I mean, when do you--is there a plan of sorts
9 that you discuss previously with a translator? Is there a plan
10 of sorts that you discuss with anybody from the MPs that are
' holding the detainee, time, that sort of thing?

12 A. All the interrogators are assigned to teams, Alpha
13 through Charlie, through Echo. We're given--we'll just start
14 with a new case file.

15 Q. Sure.

16 A. Find the assessment, let's see where the detained has
17 derived from, what the circumstances of capture are. As the
18 interrogator, you sit down with your analyst. You go through,
19 find out as much information about the detainee as possible, the
20 capturing unit, check with the magistrate's office, review what
21 they have on file, collect whatever you need from to put in your
22 file to build up the foundation. At that point in time, you
23 schedule with your section chief as to the time of

1 interrogation. In most of the cases I work in, I usually have
2 an analyst there with me, so I brief the analyst prior to going
3 into the interrogation. To what depth and what extent, that
4 will vary with what the interpreter will receive. And also,
5 it's a matter of comfort and level of trust with the
6 interpreter, as well. Some, we use specifically as just--if you
7 want an umbilical cord of the interrogator. Others can become
8 more in depth who are assigned to more of your high value
9 targets who will become more actively involved and read up on
10 reports, etceteras.

11 Q. Basically, do you typically work with the same
12 interpreter, or do you change around based on the nature of----

13 A. Recently, I've worked with the same interpreter due to
14 the significance of the case and the level of his expertise.
15 But prior to that, I had used a reasonable amount of the
16 interpreters.

17 Q. Is there an established or a set schedule, written or
18 otherwise, that says, "These are the detainees I want to
19 interview today?"

20 A. Depending on your case load, you work with your
21 section chief and you're organizing your schedule throughout the
22 time period.

1 Q. Let me be a little bit more specific. The detainees
2 that are held at Tier 1 A, they're held there for a specific
3 purpose that you're familiar with. In your interaction with the
4 MPs that are holding, or at least a company or a unit that is
5 holding that particular detainee, when you have a set schedule,
6 is that schedule articulated to them verbally or is it
7 articulated to them in a written form?

8 A. It's not articulated to them at all.

9 Q. So how does that happen?

10 A. In terms--you do your prep and planning. Depending on
11 the reaction and the information received or not received from
12 the previous interrogation is how you'll schedule and time your
13 next interrogation. In some cases, it could be late at night
14 due to the fact that the detainee is less alert and is apt to
15 get more information because all they want to do is go back to
16 bed.

17 Q. Sure.

18 A. Versus a midday one when they're nice and relaxed and
19 had a good night's sleep. They're more responsive and are able
20 to countermeasure us and etceteras. So, in terms of putting
21 those efforts, they're done within the operations section. I'm
22 not outside with the MPs.

1 Q. And is that an established or a standard operating
2 procedure that's provided and approved by----

3 A. That has been the operating procedure that's been
4 presented to us upon my arrival and I've assumed to be the norm
5 since then.

6 Q. And that was briefed to you by whom?

7 A. It wasn't briefed, that's just what was.

8 Q. What was, so that was your understanding. Was that in
9 a written form or common practice?

10 A. Common practice, nothing written.

11 Q. Nothing written; so that was basically left to your
12 approach or a common approach within----

13 A. As well as the coordination with your section chief.

14 Q. So that was an approved process. So there's no
15 question in your mind that that was the approved process?

16 A. For setting a time period for coordinating
17 interrogations in isolation--or segregation, as it's referred to
18 now?

19 Q. Sure.

20 A. [Affirmative response.]

21 Q. Was there ever a requirement in the unit or the
22 battalion that you belonged to, that you were associated with,
23 which is I believe at that time, the 165th MI Battalion.

1 A. Prior to that, it was the 519th.

2 Q. Was it the 519th MI Detachment?

3 A. Right.

4 Q. Was there a requirement to put an interrogation plan
5 in writing?

6 A. Yes, you have to have a double-sided interrogation
7 plan, what your approach is, whether or not the detainee's
8 information has been researched, whether it needs national
9 agency check and background check etceteras, exploitation, any
10 type of requirements that are outstanding for collection against
11 HCRs, things along that nature. Then you turn it over and you
12 write out an interrogation plan. The one currently being used
13 now is an evolutionist one that was being used previously. So
14 it's been an ongoing living document. That's how they've been
15 documenting the process.

16 Q. Who approved that plan?

17 A. Section chief reviews it. Then it goes to either the
18 NCOIC or the OIC.

19 Q. What governs that interrogation plan?

20 A. The rules of engagement.

21 Q. The rules of engagement. How long has that rules of
22 engagement been published?

23 A. As far as I know, since the time I've arrived.

1 Q. It's been posted?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do you recall that being briefed to you when you first
4 arrived?

5 A. We were given a--everybody, from a Khaki perspective,
6 and any people we bring in on board are given the rules of
7 engagement brief. We have to sign that. Now, we've signed
8 multiple variations since we've arrived, but everybody has had
9 to read them and re-sign them.

10 Q. Does that interrogation plan look anything--I'm sorry,
11 rules of engagement, look something similar to that [while
12 showing document to Mr. Stefanowicz].

13 A. This is the copy that was posted in the ISO.

14 Q. Okay. It was posted in October when you first
15 arrived?

16 A. No, this was posted--I'm not quite sure when they
17 posted it. They've had an 8 1/2 by 11 piece of paper up on a
18 bulletin board. And then recently, I think it was in December,
19 I can't remember the actual time, it was early December, end of
20 February--November, when you go out through the doorway, there's
21 a bunch of pieces of....

22 Q. This particular interrogation rules of engagement was
23 posted, I believe, after Colonel Tom Pappas assumed command of

1 the Forward Operating Base Abu Ghurayb. And this particular
2 interrogation rules of engagement was approved by General
3 Sanchez because of differing and inconsistent practices done
4 during interrogation. Was that explained to you?

5 A. No.

6 Q. So you just took it at face value that this was
7 revised due to other things that had occurred. Have you had any
8 knowledge of interrogators being disciplined for going beyond
9 the bounds of their authority?

10 A. Just recently.

11 Q. Which one was that?

12 A. Just seen members, I'm not sure from where--I was told
13 right when we arrived, there was an incident in the segregation
14 section where a soldier was----

15 Q. Segregation in the hard site?

16 A. Yeah, alpha section. It used to be isolation, but now
17 the new term is "segregation," the hard site. And they came in
18 for their final, I guess, I wasn't sure if it's Article 15 or
19 what the procedure was, and people I had seen when I first
20 arrived were coming back in and reintroducing....

21 Q. Based on those infractions, do you recall the
22 Battalion Commander, Detachment Commander, the Brigade Commander

1 gathering all the interrogators and amplifying any kind of
2 corrective actions to be taken?

3 A. You mean right after this----

4 Q. Right.

5 A. I mean, nothing strikes the mind. We've had recent
6 refreshers on rules of engagement. But citing, "Hey, this, X, Y
7 and Z happened. Do not do this. Do not repeat the behaviors,"
8 and lessons learned from it? No.

9 Q. So you don't recall any of that. Moving a little
10 faster here. You made a statement that was dated the 22d of
11 January of the events on the 20th of December. It was you,
12 Sergeant Eckron, you also mentioned John Israel in there, of
13 remanding or returning a prisoner back to the custody of the
14 MPs. I believe you mentioned Sergeant Cathcart and Staff
15 Sergeant Elliott, if I'm not mistaken. Can you describe for us
16 the events, what was going on?

17 A. After conducting our interrogation that evening, which
18 at that point in time, common practice was, we were afforded the
19 option to interrogate in the upstairs shower facilities or a
20 rear stairwell down in the far left corner of the isolation,
21 Alpha wing. When we had concluded our interrogation, we had
22 handed off the detainee to the MPs who came back to the
23 stairwell to receive the detainee. We proceeded forward. The

1 MP and the detainee were behind us, handcuffed, restrained,
2 walked him back to what we call the hole, which is a complete
3 segregation cell, no walls, there's no wires. The MPs placed
4 the detainee in the room. As we were getting ready to walk up
5 the steps, heard suspicious sounds. They were suspicious. I
6 didn't see anything. We heard something suspicious enough that
7 we confronted the MPs.

8 Q. What kind of sounds? Yelling? Choking?

9 A. Not a yelling, not a choking sound, an "Umph." You
10 know, say if--the only way I can equate it to is if you're--and
11 you're getting in you're getting in a fist fight and somebody
12 hits you in the stomach, and "Umph," and they knock the wind out
13 of you.

14 Q. Now, the MPs would not have weapons on them at any
15 time, a baton or firearms or anything that you observed?

16 A. Batons, no, I've never seen an MP with a baton in that
17 wing at all. The MPs, it was common practice for an MP to carry
18 a weapon. They would have weapons in there in their staging
19 area.

20 Q. Although firearms are not included [inaudible] SOP on
21 allowing firearms in there while they're handling a detainee,
22 but there are other items that could be construed as a weapon.

3 A. Yes.

1 Q. A knife....

2 A. Everybody--my rules are, meaning MI, no knives, no
3 Gerbers, nothing.

4 Q. None of that.

5 A. So we are sanitized. And that's strictly enforced on
6 a regular basis. Everybody's checked. I've gotten to the point
7 I don't even carry a Gerber anymore because it's not worth the
8 problem of taking it on and off throughout the day. So if they
9 were wearing one, you actually couldn't see if they were or not.
10 At the finish, when we had walked, went upstairs and we signed
11 the detainee in the log, from that point, when the MPs were
12 standing around waiting for them to come back up, we confronted
13 them, "What was that all about?" They weren't happy or
14 comfortable with the fact that we questioned them on that. Once
15 that was done, we presented that to them, we went back into the
16 operations area. I spoke directly to Chief John Graham, and
17 then we also----

18 Q. Graham was your ICE there?

19 A. Yes, he was the OIC at the time. Captain Wood was
20 gone. She has been redeployed. Chief Graham was the OIC for
21 the evening, and presented it to him, as well as we went with
22 that to Chief Reeves, who was in operations, and we presented it
23 to both of them.

1 Q. That was a verbal report to them.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do you have any knowledge, whatsoever, of the use of
4 dogs in interrogation or in the detainees' cells?

5 A. In the detainees--for interrogation purposes?

6 Q. Right, to intimidate the detainee or other than for
7 what the purpose is to search?

8 A. I know, just the searching aspect, I have not used
9 them as part of--using dogs to intimidate----

10 Q. Not you, per se, but rumors or anything of that sort,
11 but the use of military working dogs----

12 A. The only thing I've been a part of is walking down and
13 seeing the dogs doing the searches and in that capacity.

14 Q. Did you physically observe that, or did you just have
15 knowledge of it?

16 A. Had knowledge of it and one instance where I did
17 observe, was in one of my written statements, which I indicated
18 when I came down, my detainee was on three sessions of a managed
19 program. So given that, he was then under medical supervision,
20 trying to determine if the doc was in yet for the psychological
21 supervision. It was right around the time when then the
22 psychologist came on board. So we had been monitoring all the
23 different facets, mental, physical well-being. And he had

1 problems with his feet swelling up, so I went down to check on
2 him, check his condition. And at that instance is when they
3 were doing the cell checks, the detainee was not in his cell.
4 The detainee was still in the hole at that point. He was in
5 between the sleep management program in which he was put into
6 his isolation cell, or I should say, in the hole. And from
7 there, the MPs were going to check him, the hole, and that's
8 where I seen the dogs. They were barking at him; they went in
9 and checked his area. The dog continued to bark. And given a
10 normal operating environment, seeing--since he was my detainee,
11 I did go ask the detainee two or three questions pertaining
12 particularly to the operation as to why we were checking the
13 detainee. And from that point, walked out, the MPs, the dog was
14 still working, barking and going through. So I don't know--I've
15 never gone through and seen what they do when they search his
16 cell and what have not. And once that pretty much finished, sit
17 around and watch for a little while longer, and then I went up
18 to my area.

19 Q. Just for clarification, where in that hole then, the
20 detainee was in his cell with the dogs in his cell?

21 A. The only time that the detainee was in the hole with
22 the dog was for about a brief 8 to 10 seconds. The detainee was

1 on the back side of the wall. The dog was being held on a short
2 leash.

3 Q. But then, in other words, you assumed or at least were
4 informed that a search was being conducted?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did you know that when they do a search of a
7 particular cell or particular area that the detainee is not
8 supposed to be in his cell with the dog present?

9 A. That I did not know.

10 Q. Because that could be construed as using a military
11 dog as part of the search, or could be construed as part of the
12 interrogation process.

13 The night there was some shooting incidents in there,
14 riots that you may have known about or have direct or indirect
15 knowledge about, were you asked to at least participate or react
16 to that particular shooting incident that happened on or about
17 the 24th of November?

18 A. I was down there for a brief time, a short time span.
19 The night of the shooting, I wasn't there for the shooting. I
20 was working in the JDIC, the ICE. They called the majority of
21 the interrogators down, with "they," meaning the command, that
22 was Colonel Jordan and Chief Reevus. They requested a large
23 number of interrogators to go down because they just did a

1 shakedown of the Iraqi police and they were suspected of
2 arresting seven, eight Saddam Fedayeen members, and they were
3 doing on-the-spot interrogations in the passageway that leads
4 down toward the segregation section.

5 Q. There is a gate there that separates the rest of the
6 hard site, I believe, with the tier. Was the inspection being
7 done there?

8 A. Yes, from that section all the way up to the--you come
9 in from the Alpha, Bravo section, that tier, from where that
10 gate is up until the Iraqi police, first tier there.

11 Q. So they mobilized all the interrogators. Were you
12 inside Tier 1?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Not at all.

15 A. The only time I went in was, shoot, I don't know if it
16 was the next day or that night, because I wanted to see where
17 the shooting was.

18 Q. Sure.

19 A. That's also a detainee that I had been working on from
20 the time in which he was brought in.

21 Q. The guy who got shot.

22 A. Yes. And actually, I was supposed to go in and
23 interrogate that night with that person.

1 Q. But somebody else interrogated him.

2 A. No, not from my understanding.

3 Q. Comments were made by MPs that there were two civilian
4 interrogators who were inside his cell, that one was a female
5 translator, along with a military working dog detachment. Were
6 you aware of that?

7 A. No, I'm not.

8 Q. Were you ever informed that that existed during that
9 period of time?

10 A. [Negative response.]

11 Q. Were you aware that Colonel Jordan was there at the
12 time, as well?

13 A. For that interrogation? No.

14 Q. Let me go back to locations of interrogations. Where
15 are the authorized sites for interrogations normally conducted?

16 A. As of today?

17 Q. As of then.

18 A. As of then? I believe we had the steel site, which
19 was located right outside Camp Vigilant; the wood site, which is
20 behind the isolation--segregation section. And then three
21 locations within segregation, itself, two showers on the upper
22 floors, and then the stairwell in the back corner of the first
23 floor.

1 Q. Those sites are outside, those are separate and
2 distinct from the cell area, themselves.

3 A. Well, separate in what way? Separate in they're not--
4 --

5 Q. Separate from the immediate location----

6 A. Yeah, separate from the cell, itself, yes.

7 Q. Is it common practice or a practice as far as a matter
8 of expediency to do any kind of interrogation immediately in
9 their cell?

10 A. From my understanding--oh, actually, yeah, that's the
11 other one. It's been common practice to go in and question a
12 detainee in his cell, yes.

13 Q. In his cell.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Typically, who is present in the cell?

16 A. Your interpreter, interrogator, analyst.

17 Q. That's a standard operating procedure in the absence
18 of other guidance? Well, let me rephrase that. Those times
19 when they were being interrogated, the detainees were being
20 interrogated in those sites you just described, I believe the
21 facility at Abu Ghurayb just experienced mortar shelling. And
22 those that I interviewed, was the reason why those sites were

1 being used, utilized for interrogation was both to protect the
2 interrogators, and this is for safety requirements.

3 A. Right.

4 Q. But let me understand then, but is it an approved,
5 established procedure in your experience as an interrogator that
6 interrogations are done in the cells, themselves. There's no
7 prohibition, whatsoever----

8 A. No, it wasn't prohibited. It wasn't in writing
9 saying, "Do not go in there and do that." That was presented
10 from when I arrived as, that's an area in which you could go in
11 and interrogate the detainee.

12 Q. In terms of training though, were you experiencing
13 that or at least folks knew it was common practice of doing an
14 interrogation immediately in the cell?

15 A. We reviewed our plan as to where the detainee would
16 sit or stand. So in terms of other than like personal knowledge
17 of self defense and knowing that my number one protection of the
18 team that goes in with me is the protection of my interpreter,
19 which is always closest to the doorway for safety reasons,
20 followed by the analyst, if you have a supporting analyst there,
21 and then myself, or the interrogator last. In that term, when I
22 have utilized doing an interrogation in the cell, the detainee
23 would sit down and you would be standing, so to make it not a--

1 at least you have a partial advantage if there were something to
2 go awry.

3 Q. Well, it's pretty confining in that particular area.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Are the doors typically closed when the interrogations
6 are being conducted?

7 A. When the segregation section was full and you had say,
8 for an example, four people brought in, you know, suspicious or
9 caught in the act of placing IEDs. They have personnel that had
10 been in segregation that were customarily in the same general
' area. So, you would close the door to try and muffle some of
12 the sounds of the interrogation because once it goes out,
13 everybody talks and there's so much cross-chatter as far as the
14 environment of the interrogation. Because at that point in
15 time, we didn't have a hard site so----

16 Q. Exactly, that's my point.

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. You were pretty much in a common area, regardless of
19 the situation.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And we visited the JDIC, the interrogation room is
22 rather confined there, as well. In other words, contents and
_3 other individuals are viewable on the other side of the tier are

1 pretty much held in strict conference. So I'm rather curious as
2 to why the practice, whether common or not, of doing the
3 interrogation in the site themselves, where exchanges, questions
4 and answers could potentially be heard by the other detainees,
5 in that regard.

6 A. My feeling was, it was a push for operations, keep
7 operations going.

8 Q. But at the same time though, it's also safeguarding
9 information. So I convey that to you because the contents of
10 your interrogation and the contents of the information that you
11 gather are of a sensitive nature. Is that right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Is there a practice today about conducting
14 interrogations in the cell?

15 A. I would say short of going up and asking questions,
16 not for interrogations as previous. Like it's not uncommon for
17 me to go in and visit my detainee. I would report to the
18 detainee. I'd go in and ask common questions. I don't ask
19 tactical or strategic questions. So, once we've been afforded
20 the opportunity to expand our interrogation setting, the
21 sensitive questions are dealt with in that environment, the
22 general familiarities and rapport building are what the focus
23 is, and only the focus.

1 Q. Post-interrogation, you've concluded the interrogation
2 of a particular detainee, and then the additional information is
3 conveyed to the MPs in terms of a sleep management, meal plan or
4 terms of isolation, segregation, that sort of thing. How is
5 that conveyed and to whom is that conveyed to?

6 A. Post-interrogation, you conclude, you go back, you
7 return the detainee to the possession of the MPs. Regardless if
8 things went well or unwell, say, a lot of times the MPs will--
9 you don't discuss the details of the interrogation.

10 Q. Sure.

11 A. What they will ask, you know, "Was he cooperative?
12 Was he not?" "He was all right, so, so," whatever. And
13 pertaining to the meal management, because, at least in my
14 situation, I've been in the visibility of the detainees, I've
15 had to continue to be diligent as to what we do. I brief the
16 MPs as to, "Okay, what's the reaction been when you check on the
17 detainee," as to the common characteristics. "Has he been
18 responsive? Has he been staying awake? What's the response
19 been to, you know, on an approved plan where he gets 20 minutes
20 of sleep." A few hours later, he gets a 50-minute block of
21 sleep. And we want to know how he's responding. Is he staying
22 awake? Is he fighting, resisting? Trying to get feedback and

1 go either way. So that, in terms of debriefing, and that's what
2 we're doing, we want to make sure.

3 Q. In your statement, you mentioned that, you described a
4 sleep management, meal plan, that the instructions are given to
5 the MPs, that this particular detainee would get only 4 hours of
6 sleep over a 24-hour period.

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. You stated that that's provided to them in written
9 form----

10 A. That is provided--yes, that's provided to them in a
11 written format that has to be approved. I write it up, it goes
12 to the OIC . From there, it goes to Colonel Pappas. As long as
13 everything is within the rules of engagement, which he's
14 approved to sign off on, then signed back to me. They do look
15 at the schedule of what the hours are, when it starts, when it
16 finishes and when the detainee will get sleep. We calculate the
17 minutes and make sure it's 240 minutes every 24-hour period of
18 time.

19 Q. Total.

20 A. Total. And as well as, after 72 hours of the sleep
21 management program, or sleep, meal management program, then they
22 get 12 uninterrupted hours of sleep. And then they can resume
23 the program again.

1 Q. One more time. And then it's given back to you, do
2 you give that to the MP guard or do you give that to their
3 supervisor?

4 A. From when I've joined him--when I first started doing
5 it, it was handed to the Alpha/Bravo NCO who was located there.
6 And that's just been a customary practice, is to give it to them
7 and they verbally hand it over when the shift changes.

8 Q. And they execute it.

9 A. Right.

10 Q. The only reason why I say that is because, you give it
11 to a guard, a guard during the day, let's just say for example,
12 is that his understanding may not be conveyed to the next guard
13 relieving him on the shift. And if it's understood that it's 4
14 hours for every 24 hours and not counting for all the minutes to
15 accumulate to 240 minutes, you know, don't you think--curiosity,
16 or do you care whether that's being conducted properly or do you
17 monitor that or do you leave that to the conveyance of the guard
18 that's executing that set of instructions?

19 A. My experience has been when I've given it to the
20 NCOIC, they've reflected that they are the one in charge and
21 that it was their responsibility to hand it over to the next
22 shift, except they do shift briefs. So when that's conveyed to

1 me, and that was the operating procedure from what I understood
2 from a VOCCO, verbal, that's the language that I proceeded----

3 Q. Did they show you any kind of record of all that they
4 are--10 minutes here, 20 minutes there? Did they show that to
5 you?

6 A. Given that it's on the schedule, they have--you know,
7 when I go down and ask, "How's everything going? How's the
8 program going?" They say, "Yup, fine, things are going fine."
9 Some MPs check off the times, making sure they go through and do
10 it. Others, I've never seen a logbook of them monitoring and
11 managing, that sort of thing.

12 Q. Provided it's conveyed to you that you've accomplished
13 the mission. What about isolation and segregation? Two
14 different things, is it isolation and segregation, or just
15 isolation----

16 A. I've been informed that the new word for Alpha wing is
17 "segregation." We don't use "isolation" in our terminology.

18 Q. When were you informed of that, the new terminology?

19 A. The last couple weeks.

20 Q. Just the last couple of weeks? But the distinction
21 wasn't made then, it's just one terminology----

22 A. One terminology for Alpha Wing, Alpha/Bravo Wing;
23 that's isolation.

1 Q. But in terms of isolation though, I'm sure you're
2 involved with providing that type of a recommendation, approve,
3 whatever the case may be, as part of the post-interrogation
4 process. When you gave that sort of instruction, did you
5 stipulate anything of a special treatment, especially in the
6 sense of a negative as a matter of punishment?

7 A. In terms of a punishment in a special treatment, as I
8 clarified in my written statement earlier, my definition of a
9 special treatment was to--I have one particular detainee I've
10 been working for a good reasonable amount of time. The detainee
11 didn't like getting a shower. There was no reason why the
12 detainee couldn't have a shower in a reasonable, timely fashion
13 and made sure he had well grooming standards. The reason was
14 for that was because the way in which the detainee was at the
15 point of capture and significance of the facial hair, the hair,
16 in and of itself on the being, and what that represented as part
17 of the approached plan. So, to neutralize that in the setting
18 of the interrogation was why that was recommended.

19 Q. To isolate him.

20 A. His special treatment was, I had quite often said,
21 "Please make sure his beard is shaved. Please make sure his
22 head is shaved. Please make sure he gets a shower. Please make
23 sure he takes care and brushes his teeth, because he has really

1 bad oral hygiene." When you're close and interrogating in a
2 small room, it's rather pungent. So, that is what my definition
3 of special treatment is and was very well defined.

4 Q. In terms of isolation, have you ever given
5 instructions to the MPs that isolation is required for a
6 specific detainee or any detainee for that matter, to be
7 interrogated?

8 A. You mean, throw him in the hole?

9 Q. Right.

10 A. Only if had that, you know, if it's part of my plan.

11 Q. If it's part of your plan.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Let me ask you this, in your experience as both in the
14 military and civilian. What is your understanding of isolation
15 and for how long would you isolate----

16 A. A detainee, in terms of this environment, through my
17 experience has been according to our rules of engagement, is 30
18 consecutive days. After that, it needs a written statement,
19 memorandum for the record. It needs to go up to General Sanchez
20 asking for an extension for an additional 30 days.

21 Q. Is there any understanding whatsoever of the
22 requirements of checking a detainee every so often within a
23 period of 30 days?

1 A. You mean have I ever left a detainee down there just
2 for 30 days and not check on them?

3 Q. Not you, per se, but the MPs.

4 A. No----

5 Q. Because you're the experience one and all the MPs are
6 going to do is follow your instructions as approved by competent
7 authority. A detainee is placed in the hole, as you call it,
8 for 30 days. Is it common understanding or your assumption that
9 the MP is supposed to check on them every 15 minutes----

10 A. If you're talking about "the hole," the MPs are
11 supposed to--the MPs have informed me verbally that they take
12 the detainee out for regular bathroom breaks. They make sure
13 the detainee is fed, unless it's specifically requested by an
14 interrogator as something, for an approach, that they have the
15 appropriate amenities that go with them in the hole, such as
16 water, food, they are fed. They're not to remove that unless
17 it's part of an approach where they're on bread and water or
18 something along that line. I've never seen--I've seen extreme
19 cases, but I've never encountered that.

20 Q. You've never encountered that at all.

21 A. No.

1 Q. Have you ever given a set of instructions to the MP to
2 put anybody in isolation during the course of your employment
3 here from the 5th of October until now?

4 A. Not without my approval plans, not that I can recall.

5 Q. Since you have access to Tier One A and Tier One B,
6 are you familiar with the guards and their guarding those
7 detainees in those cells? I'm not interested in----

8 A. No, I mean, when I go down there, I say "Hi," and see
9 their faces and things along that level.

10 Q. Could you name some of those guards that were guarding
1 those detainees in those cells?

12 A. Given the nature, I rarely use my name down there, and
13 only probably four of the MPs, I only use their surname.
14 Because of security reasons, I don't want anybody to know my
15 name down there. So, I know Sergeant Cathcart, he's one of the
16 strong tier leaders, Sergeant Joyner, who works the other shift,
17 excellent strong tier leader, Sergeant Elliott, Fredrick, and
18 there's...I can't remember the name of the other one. Then I'm
19 familiar with the faces of other people down there and I can
20 point them out and say, "Yup, I know the guy may have worked
21 this shift," or "I've seen him on this shift."

22 Q. Is it a common practice for you as approved by the
23 chain of command not to reveal your identity?

1 A. It's a common practice to use a pseudo name, if you
2 need to, especially in that environment. At least that's been
3 verbally portrayed to me.

4 Q. Portrayed to you as approved by the chain of command?

5 A. If it's in writing, that I don't know.

6 Q. Did you ever ask?

7 A. No, I have not.

8 Q. Have you used that technique before?

9 A. I only go by my name in Arabic, is Steve, and that's
10 my proper name.

11 Q. Well, you're a pretty imposing individual, large
12 individual, could be construed as very intimidating and you have
13 been named by some of the people as "Steve," and there are other
14 Steves, I believe, that are also interrogators in that regard.
15 Was it to your self protection not to be identified? I think
16 you also wear civilian clothes.

17 A. Yes, I do.

18 Q. It's a common practice?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And you don't think, or you do not know whether that
21 particular practice is approved by your chain of command.

22 A. To use a pseudo name?

23 Q. To use a name, to use your real name.

