

I have been assigned what Task Force (T)
 Viper ^{bet 14 on} on 16 Feb 2012. I been went
 since with CI [redacted] I ha

by [redacted] asked on Friday ^{afternoon} the 18 to
 go to the library to help them ^{I was there about 4 hours}
 the Interceptors were searching the ^{books}
 if there was any thing ^{and} ^{sup}
 Books or ~~the~~ notes inside
 the books. they were showing me the
 books if they found anything i
 was looking ~~at~~ at it if there
 was any messages or phone # i was
 redacting to them and they were
 trying to put the dust etc in history and
 collecting and taking ~~any~~ pictures.
 then the second day on ~~Monday~~
 ~~20 Feb~~ 20 Feb 20 i was for
 the second time in the library
 from 10 in the morning then
 we took lunch Break and
 then i came back i was there

OBAMA: 22 FEB 12
 (b)(6), (b)(7)c

then i came back at 16:30 Feb
19th at this period the war picking
out a books which are very old
or over return or saw books
how war ~~was~~ ~~to~~ radical or
anti western culture or say of
retire against non muslim belief
this books ~~was~~ picked by the ^{old} ^{superior} other
linguist. and i saw one of the
religist book on the first page
and i agree with him. and
when i came back from my
printing is also that they were
getting they ^{old} ^{on} ^{another} ^{at} ^{the} ^{side}
was pulled at the side.

A ^{same} ^{one} ^{at} they AMT Guard
was coming to the library
and ~~to~~ he is been told
not to come in and i
1 11 - - - - - 1 1 1st

OBAMA: 22 FEB 12

anybody because their is a sensitive
airtem that the are collecting.
to close the door.

b) I was using the latrine
when i came back there
was 4 or 5 other ~~guy~~ American
Guard by the door and talking
i had a Burmese pet. When i
got in i told [redacted] and the
~~guy~~ a how was talking with
[redacted]. i interrupted them and
i asked them if they will
burn this book ^{if they dont do it.}
because its ^{the only} ~~the only~~ ^{question} ~~question~~
we see no the will store them
at the storage. then at
[redacted] we finished ~~to~~
[redacted] came in to get
the keys i told him ^{please} when
the more these books be
careful that the ANA not
to be around because the
document are ~~there~~ ~~here~~

REMAINDER: 22 FEB 12

if the see it may pay the
gone come with some assets.
he says that he got it.

then we left and

(b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)c

give him the second Key known
library.

RECORDED: 22 FEB 12



HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES FORCES-AFGHANISTAN
KABUL, AFGHANISTAN
APO AE 09356

USFOR-A JENG

22 February 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: (b)(6), (b)(7)c Statement at 1700 hours on 22 February 2012

(b)(6), (b)(7)c spoke to select delegation members and was told to keep personal data to a minimum.

He was asked when separating the books, what was reason for the separation? The linguist also later identified as (b)(6), (b)(7)c states that, with permission, I was with another linguist. Our job is to translate and give detainees a Koran, prayer mat, and cap. In the library we have lots of religious and scientific books. There was a request to go to the library because detainees were writing information on the books and giving to another and also put notes in Korans. They also put phone numbers in them because they see that Americans are not touching the books. The Americans then asked the interpreters to look at the writing in the books. I am Muslim, thanks to God. No one can play with a Koran, the book of God. Korans were missing parts- that's why we segregated them. They also segregate Hadith, the sayings of prophets because they cannot read and understand. Interpreters segregate Hadith, Koran and scientific books by that morning, and also segregated all those that were torn or had writings.

Question from a member of one of the delegations: The Americans say that they segregated radical books and books with writings in them. But we saw Korans and written on the books also writings, poems, names and lots of religious books with writings. How did you find out books were radical or extremist? (It was unclear how he answered this question. It was not interpreted. Must assume that he indicated something about the other linguist because the next question follows below:)

What did the other linguist say? (b)(6), (b)(7)c responds that he can't say his name; you can ask him. He then goes on to say something to the affect of as far as he knows, there were two types of books, the Hadith and the Koran. The cover on one book said "INFIDEL."

One of the delegation members responds that "Infidel" is mentioned over 100 times in the Koran, however.

(b)(6), (b)(7)c responds that he didn't read the books, just the title. He doesn't know what the decision of the council members would be concerning whether the books were radical. He also stated that he did not know the Americans would burn the books. It is the book of God. I am telling you the truth. I think this was done unintentionally.

A council member (or delegation member) responds: Americans blame you. They say that this was the fault of the linguists.

(b)(6), (b)(7)c responds: I did not know. They said the books were going to a Conex.

Another delegation member asks, "Who were the people commanding the three teams?"

BG Watson clarified that the commander is responsible for everything under his command. The old unit ordered an inspection of the library and segregation of books. It was routine to take containers, no matter what was in them, to the burn pit. That part was routine, young soldiers doing a detail and should have taken the books to a storage area, however, and not treat them as trash. The routine fell apart and there was no communication between the three different teams.

BG Safiullah then said that (b)(6), (b)(7)c was supposed to explain how to handle religious books to the Americans. Someone else mentions that (b)(6), (b)(7)c says the burning of the books was an intentional act.

One of the Deputy Ministers then asked BG Watson if he would burn the Bible?

BG Watson said that he is a man of faith and doesn't want to see the Bible desecrated. He said, "If I handed you a Bible, would you recognize it? Would you know a Bible? If I knew you didn't know it was a Bible and threw it away, I would forgive you. If you knew that it was a Bible and threw it away anyways, I would be mad."

BG Watson says that the group must decide whether this was ignorance or was it malicious?

The delegation members said that they believe this happened purposefully, and that this is based on emotion. They request action to calm down the situation in Afghanistan and the Islamic world.

Someone from one of the delegations suggests that the individuals be submitted to the jurisdiction of the Afghan government to decide their guilt or innocence. We don't have the solution.

BG Watson's final comment: You don't know how much that saddens me that you would think after all we've been through, that they deliberately planned to deface the Koran. And I reject it. This investigation has to find the truth. However, we find the truth and if that is the truth, then we won't hide it. It saddens me that you think this. I will work harder to convince you.

BG Rahimi then spoke and reminded everyone present of the recent French incident with the ANA. The government of Afghanistan did not hand over Afghan soldiers to the French government. We must keep international rules in mind.

(b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)c spoke and said that BG Watson will investigate what happened. He said that he will fix this so it never happens again. He said, "I promise with all my heart that I will fix this. We will find out who is responsible and hold them accountable."

END OF MEETING

25 February 2012

Interview of

(b)(6), (b)(7)c

[BG Watson conducted an interview of Interpreter (b)(6), (b)(7)c]

Interpreter (b)(6), (b)(7)c did testify in substance as follows:

I was there on the first day, the 18th. I was working with another group before I started working with this group. They called and informed me that there was work that needed to be done. They took us to the library. We were there to look at the books to make sure there were no messages inside the books. There were a lot of books in the library. The books were in different languages. We checked the books for notes and messages. There were a lot of books, religious and holy books. If there was anything in the books, we would review it and separate them. If there was nothing in the books, we would put the books back on the shelf. We would also separate the torn, damaged books into a segregated pile. Our job on the first day was to segregate the books. We were placing the books on the floor aside. If there were religious books or holy books we would separate them in a different pile. Yes, they were taking pictures of the books with writings on them. After we finished that work, we were done. I did not go the following day. I departed about 1700 – 1800 hours on the first day.

When we went to the library the second day, we saw the people coming out, and they informed us there was no need for work that day.

On the first day we separated the holy books, religious books from the other books. From day one, we separated the holy books from the other books.

Yes, everyone appeared to have on gloves. The books appeared to be dusty and dirty.

On day three, we arrived around 1000 hours. I set up my spot to continue to review the books for writings and messages by the detainees. If there were writings in the books, I would interpret the message to the soldiers. They would separate the books with writings and the notes found in the books. After coming back from lunch around 1445 hours, someone from my regular office came and got me. When I returned to the library at 1630 hours, I noticed the rest of the books had already been segregated. There were a lot of religious and holy books there, and they were reviewing them. They asked us to translate what the table of contents stated in the religious and holy books. They were segregating the books. They were asking where the books were printed. We told them that they were printed in Pakistan. The holy books would be placed with all the other holy books.

Everyone was working in groups on the third day. They would give me the book, and I would give them the information from the writings in the book. There was a group of Soldiers talking outside about what they were going to do with all the books. I was outside because I had gone to the restroom. I asked my chief what we were doing with the books that were segregated. He informed me the books with writings would be reviewed. I informed him these were holy books, and you cannot throw them away or burn them. They informed me they would not do that and

Interview of (b)(6), (b)(7)c
25 February 2012

they would only be storing the books. I heard an individual in the group of Soldiers say they were going to throw the books away while another was saying they were going to burn them. This is why I asked my POC [point of contact] what was going to happen with the books.

There were large and small books. Some of the groups were stacked like this [the witness demonstrates a visual example]. I would say approximately 200 books total.

The first day there were five people doing the search, there were two translators, including myself and three Soldiers. The third day there was about seven or eight people, including three translators conducting the search. On day three, I worked until approximately 1900 – 1915 hours, but I am not sure of the exact time.

I did not hear exactly what the group was saying they were going to do with the books, but I felt it was my responsibility to tell them there were holy books included in that group. I thought the group of soldiers standing outside was going to be the same group of people to move the books; this is why I told them about the holy books. I informed them these books should not be disrespected in any way.

My chief and the NCOIC [noncommissioned officer in charge], S2 [staff intelligence] were both leaving when I prepared to depart the library. The NCOIC, S2 was in the group of people outside. I am not sure if there were any officers present in the group outside because I do not understand your rank structure. They were not members of any team that I had worked with in the past.

We were looking for information and working CI [counterintelligence], so I told them to close the door so people would not see what we were doing. I do not know if it is policy in the DFIP [Detention Facility in Parwan] to speak very quietly.

When they wanted to know what the book was about, I would look in the beginning of the book, at the table of contents. One of the books shows you how to prepare for prayer and how to conduct prayer. It also talked about the non-believers. We were only reading for the content of the book. One of the translators, (b)(6), (b)(7)c with us on day one knew more about the books than I did. When we were separating the books, I could tell he was knowledgeable about the books.

There was a bigger segregated pile when I arrived on the third day, then when I departed on the first day.

On the first day, my team and I departed the library at the same time. Our POC locked the door to the library and gave the key to one of the other teams. When I arrived back at the library around 1630 hours, the first translator was there and departed shortly after I arrived. We locked up the library and departed about 1900 to 1930 hours.

I cannot read Arabic, but I can understand if it is Arabic or not because we are all Muslim. When we opened the book we were only looking at the content. Yes, I told the team that this was the holy book. I only read the content of one book for the group. They asked what was

Interview of (b)(6), (b)(7)c

25 February 2012

inside the book; I told them I had not read it so I do not know the content of the book. I never told the team which books needed to be segregated because I don't know much about the books. I could not make that judgment call.

When we go on missions, they do not inform us of where we are going or what we will be doing until we get to where we are going. When we arrived at the library, that's when they told us we were looking for notes or information on or in the book. I do not know the specifics of what they were looking for.

[End of Interview.]

6 March 2012, 2331 hours

Interview of
[redacted]
(b)(6), (b)(7)c
(Mission Essential Personnel)

[At 2332 hours, BG Watson administered the oath to [redacted] (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)c]

[redacted] (b)(6), (b)(7)c

, first being duly sworn, did testify in substance as follows:

I was in the library on the first day of the search in the afternoon but only for about four hours; I was not at the library in the morning. I was not at the library at all on the second day of the search. On the third day, I was in the library in the morning for about three hours; we went to lunch and after we came back, I was there for about 45 minutes until about 1445 hours, and then I went to a briefing. I returned to the library at about 1630 hours, and we were there until almost 1900 hours.

On the first day of the search, I do not recall religious materials or Qurans being placed on the floor of the library. The first day and the third day in the morning, I was checking the books, Qurans, and religious books that were on the shelves. I was sitting at that table, and whatever materials the other service members found, they were putting on my table where I was working, and I was checking them. Any notes that were found, we were putting in one of those paper bags. To search the shelves, we were starting on the top shelves and going to the bottom. If we didn't find anything, we placed the books back on the shelves. On the third day, when I came back at 1630 hours, I saw that there were a lot of books, to include religious books and Qurans being piled. Some of the religious books that they were pulling, in their opinion, were not good for the place; they were putting on the floor. There was a difference in the way they were treating the Qurans from the first day to the third day.

I was in the library with [redacted] (b)(6), (b)(7)c sometimes. I didn't hear anything about [redacted] (b)(6), (b)(7)c saying how to handle the religious books. If he was saying it to our boss in there, I don't know because the library desk that I was working at was at the beginning of the library. There were another two service members checking books on my right. At the other end of the library, where there is mostly Qurans, is the place that [redacted] (b)(6), (b)(7)c was working with [redacted] (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)c and [redacted] (b)(6), (b)(7)c. As soon as you come into the library, on the left in front of you, there are religious books and Qurans; they were checked on the first day [inaudible]. And the second day, when I wasn't there [VTC cuts out] there were books that weren't religious books, they were just information and those types of books, [redacted] (b)(6), (b)(7)c the first day was checking those books.

On the third day, on the 20th, on the shelf, the one that was left from previous days, we were just about to start them when I left for the briefing. The shelf that had the most Qurans was all the way at the end. When I came back, almost of the books were pulled from the shelf and they were checking all the Qurans.

6 March 201

I never saw (b)(6), (b)(7)c become emotional or upset about the handling of religious books because most of the time I was there, everyone was busy. I think I would have definitely noticed if he had been physically emotional or upset.

At the end of the third day, when we were placing the books and the Qurans right next to the door, we both were cleaning the place that they were putting the Qurans so they would not get mixed up with the other books.

When I used the restroom and came back, there were 5 to 6 Soldiers next to the library entrance, and they were talking. I could only identify (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)c, but I didn't see the other Soldiers' faces much. What I heard, they were saying: "what are we going to do with the books?" And I heard "burning" and I don't know who said that; I don't know their names. When I look at their faces, I know, but I don't know their names. The young (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)c that works with (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)c I cannot say for sure if he was with them or not. I believe that (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)c was one of the Soldiers talking. It was a matter of a second, what I heard before I went into the library. If I knew what they were talking, I would have looked at them more, but I don't know who was saying they were burning. I don't work with them; I work outside with Force Protection. Only two days with (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)c I was assigned on 16 February, so I don't know them by name.

When one was asking, "What are we gonna do with these books?" And the other person said, "Burning" that was I got from that conversation. The people involved in the conversation were not all involved in the library search. That group, those people, was not part of searching the books. Only (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)c and (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)c were people from the library that were part of that conversation.

I'm sure that (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)c knew the books there were Qurans because he was in and out of that library, and on the third day, I mentioned to (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)c that there were Qurans and religious books in there that we put separate so that when he put them into storage to be careful because there are Afghan National Army out there, make sure that they see you handling the Qurans well because if they see you mishandling them, there's going to be a problem. (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)c said, "I got it, (b)(6), (b)(7)c I got it." It was not a one-on-one conversation. The whole team that was searching was there with (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)c at that time I mentioned it to (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)c. When we were leaving the library and (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)c was closing the door and (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)c was giving him the key, that's when I mentioned that.

The first day and the morning of the third day, (b)(6), (b)(7)c was checking the books on the shelf right in the middle of the library; they are mostly religious and teaching books. On the third day, when I came back from the briefing, I saw at the end of the library (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)c, (b)(6), (b)(7)c and like 5 feet away from them, (b)(6), (b)(7)c. In that part, there were all just Qurans. From all the books that was pulling with (b)(6), (b)(7)c vision that he said was not good to be in the detention facility, the only one book which is a religious book, when they open it up on the first page, which is the table of contents, it says from what page to what page, the benefit of praying, the benefit of charity, the benefit of fasting, and had the word non-believer or infidel. When I mention what it says, there is another male and female checking books, and they set it aside at

Interview of (b)(6), (b)(7)c
6 March 201

the table that they were working on. With the exception of that one book, the rest of the books that were segregated for content were done so at the advice of (b)(6), (b)(7)c because he knew those books; he had knowledge of those books. I don't have knowledge of those books, and I cannot judge a book just by looking at the back of the book. I just translate what the content of the books says. The interpretation of the contents of the books did not come from me and even the old Qurans that were pulled off, I have no idea why not all of those books were pulled off because a lot of the books were over written and in bad condition. I was asking (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)c why all those Qurans were pulled over, and he said that if they needed more Qurans, they had more in storage.

One of the books was a kind of religious book, it's called [Afghan title] and I said why are they pulling these books. He said they were radical books printed in Pakistan and it was Wahabi and they were teaching Wahabism. I cannot answer why he called any of the other books radical because I did not see.

I was only been working with the team from the 16 to 18 when (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)c told me that we were going to the library. I don't know for how long (b)(6), (b)(7)c had been with the team, but he had been with them long enough. You know, we are working in the same department, and in the same environment, but I cannot tell you if (b)(6), (b)(7)c and (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)c are good friends because I was only with them for two days.

There was an incident when one of the agents dropped a book on the ground, and I corrected the agent. When the agent was trying to get the dust off, he was throwing it on the floor, and I picked it up and told him that it was a Quran and told him not to throw it on the floor. After I told him that, he said, "Thank you for telling me" and he did not do that again. He was respectful.

The team definitely knew that there were Qurans and religious books in the piles. The Qurans were all the way on the end. The other books had been pulled earlier in the morning and the Qurans were all the way at the end of the shelf. They know a few times that it was a Quran book. (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)c was in and out a couple of times from the library and one time he left the door open, and one of the local nationals got in and asked about (b)(6), (b)(7)c. So I asked (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)c if he could close the door and I feared that because everyone was touching the Quran and a local national saw it, it would raise a question.

I had nothing in my mind that they were going to burn it. They know the sensitivity of the religion and the holy book in that country. As a linguist, whatever my POC says, I'm sure he's going to do it. I had nothing in my mind that they were going to burn it, and I was sure that they were going to bring them to storage. When they purchased all the books and Qurans, we were working next door to the library and there were a lot of books and they were placing them in connexes. So I had in my mind that they would put the books in storage. I knew that they were going to be in storage.

Interview of (b)(6), (b)(7)c

6 March 201

I was calling to (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)c kind of loud because it was loud in the library, and I said what are they gonna do with the books and Qurans, are they going to burn it, he said “Shhh” and put his finger up, “They’re going to hear you,” and he told me, “No, (b)(6), (b)(7)c They are going to be placed in storage.” (b)(6), (b)(7)c was next to him too, and he said they were going to be in storage too.

I went with (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)c to smoke and he told me to relax, that the books were going to go to storage.

(b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)c was saying to me that things I mentioned have happened now. I asked him what happened and he said that they burned the Qurans.

When you asked me if I was there on Friday in the afternoon, I’m thinking it was in the afternoon; I believe 95% that I was there in the afternoon.

The conversation I overheard about burning the books happened between 1700 to 1800 hours.

I am of Muslim background, but I am not religious. But I believe that you should not disrespect any holy book or burn it. As a linguist, I am not an advisor, but if they were just asking where to put the books somewhere, but I had in mind that these books were going to storage.

[Interview terminated at 0032 hours, 7 March 2012.]