

26 February 2012

Interview of

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

[BG Watson advised (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c of his UCMJ, Article 31 rights for possible violations of UCMJ Art 92, failure to follow order or regulation and dereliction of duty, Article 134. COL Taradash waived his right to counsel and agreed to make a statement.]

[This transcription is provided through notes taken by (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.]

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

U.S. Army, first being duly sworn, did testify in substance as follows:

As you know, we were in the middle of a RIP (relief in place), so there was lots of information flowing back and forth. On top of that, we had a CODEL (Congressional delegation), COMISAF (Commander, U.S. Forces-Afghanistan) visit, and the TOA (transfer of authority) itself; it was a very condensed and turbulent part of the RIP. The only information I received about the event was when TIG (Theater Intelligence Group) CI (counter intelligence) came in and had a brief on the calendar (a read-off) for BG Petrarca, and he asked me to sit in on it. TIG CI brought in a briefing about a number of functions they perform. (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c briefed that because of an issue with (b)(6), (b)(7)c they were going to sweep the library. Nothing was discussed like it was an operations briefing. He just said that “We’re going to sweep to look for evidence of (b)(6), (b)(7)c communicating with prisoners.”

This was briefed on the 16th or 17th. It was just briefed as “We are going to sweep . . .” with no specific date. There was nothing to indicate it was a CONOP (concept of operations) briefing looking for a decision. I had no impression that there was an on-going operation. I had to make a decision whether to renew (b)(6), (b)(7)c contract in a few weeks, so that was on my mind. I looked at it as an ongoing update and a piece of information given.

Yes, I would characterize this as on-going or routine.

BG Petrarca was present at the briefing; it was about an hour briefing of 15 – 20 slides. He had no immediate reaction to it. I believe there was some banter about what a sweep was. After the incident, we’ve had a number of communications about it. After the event, he seemed surprised; he did not believe it was any kind of ongoing operation with anyone’s approval. Something like this would normally be COIN (counterinsurgency)-led and under the auspices of the brigade.

I can share that previous to this briefing , BG Petrarca was concerned about the relationship with TIG CI and control of TIG CI in the facility. They are an enabler, but they don’t belong to us. BG Petrarca didn’t seem like he was concerned with it. He had the perception that he had put boundaries and control measures in place. I think he was trusting those control measures. That they were still being done by his staff. I didn’t understand those control measures. The brief wasn’t a CONOP. (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c was not there.

We had a 10-day overlap; we got here on the 10th. Pre-TOA and during RIP, no, I did not get a sense on the 535th MP BN. Post-TOA, not in the leadership per say, but in the procedures and policies in the DFIP (Detention Facility in Parwan). The DFIP SOP (standard operating procedure) delegated responsibility to the 535 guard force leadership, but not all over the DFIP area. There are control measures and SOPs to help 535 define their mission and responsibilities, but until they are in place, I have some tingly sense. We are already implementing some changes.

My opinion is that BG Petrarca did not know this was an operation going on. He believed the sweep of the library was to look for evidence, and that was it.

My gut instinct tells me there were good-intentioned people trying to support efforts and not communicating well, and the operation was not briefed to the level it should have been. With the authority they thought they had, they executed at their level thinking they had those authorities.

[End of interview.]