

4 March 2012, 0735 hours

Interview of

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

[At 0736 hours, BG Watson advised (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c of his UCMJ, Article 31 rights for possible violations of UCMJ Article 92, dereliction of duty. At 0738 hours, (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c waived his right to counsel and agreed to make a statement.]

[At 0739 hours, BG Watson administered the oath to (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c.]

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

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

I am (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c I am assigned to the 535th Military Police battalion; I work in the HHC [Headquarters and Headquarters Company] as the daytime Battle Captain for the Detention Facility in Parwan and am assigned to the S3 [staff operations] shop. I have worked in that position since 18 September 2011. As we prepared for deployment, I knew I would be filling this position. We arrived in Afghanistan on 30 October 2011.

(b)(1) 1.4(a)

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During shift change, (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c is not usually present; he is normally in his office in the DFIP [Detention Facility in Parwan] ops area. He monitors the shift change of the guard force but not the Battle Captain turnover. I am usually present during the guard force changeover; they cover the daily events, current count, and pertinent facts for the guard force or any other section. During the guard force changeover, there was no discussion about activities in the library. The IRF [Immediate Reaction Force] (b)(1) 1.4(a)

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the IRF will come into our changeover. The nighttime IRF was already on shift on 20 February, and I was not told of any tasking to remove books from the library. The IRF NCOIC [noncommissioned officer in charge] has been (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c on the day shift.

I know both (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c was not present at shift change on the night of 20 February. He does not normally attend the shift change unless he has something to put out.

On 20 February, I was not aware that a search was being conducted in the library, or during the days prior. There was no indication or formal notification to the Battle Captain that there was an on-going search in the library; I did not know that there was a plan to search the library at all during that timeframe. It was not unusual, in my mind, for the battle captain not to be notified of a search of the library. There are searches that take place in the cells, but those are common place; those are done on a daily basis. They're rather routine; every day they do searches. As far as searching the library, I don't have anything to do with the library, at all. This is the first time

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a search of the library has happened, so I'm not sure if it's usual to not notify the Battle Captain. I found out that a search was going on the next morning when I got the battle handover from (b)(3), (b)(7)c (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c

I was not aware of any tasking given to the IRF on 20 February. Taskings to the IRF usually do come through me, as the Battle Captain, or to my Battle NCO, [Master Sergeant] (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c To my recollection, no-one cleared through us to use the IRF that night to clear out the library. If the Battle NCO had known, he would have told me, unless the tasking was an emergency, which this was not.

Prior to this incident, I had not been inside the library nor had I heard what kind of reading materials were inside the library. I had not heard anything about the librarian or that the books might be being used by the detainees to communicate.

Between 1915-1930 hours, I learned that (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c wasn't feeling well and might need to be relieved. I saw (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c wasn't feeling well, and I ran across (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c in the chow hall and told him that (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c wasn't feeling too well. (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c said he would go down and replace him. That night, I left around 2010 hrs, so I was not present when the changeover between (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c and (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c happened. When I left at 2010 hrs, I didn't know any search had happened in the library and did not know the IRF had been tasked to remove books from the library or that books might be going to the burn pit. I did not know that the books might be being used as a communication system between the detainees.

The next day, when I heard about the library books being burned, I asked who had been contacted because I knew this was going to be a big emergency; that it was going to be a big deal. But I was not aware of anything that had been going on in the library previously.

[Interview terminated at 0807 hours.]