

3 March 2012, 1431 hrs

Interview of

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

[At 1432 hrs, BG Watson advised (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c of his UCMJ, Art 31 rights for possible violations of UCMJ Art 92, dereliction of duty. At 1434 hrs, (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c waived his right to counsel and agreed to make a statement.]

[At 1436 hrs, BG Watson administered the oath to (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c]

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

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

I am (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c I am assigned to 535th Military Police Battalion. I work in the S3 (Staff Operations), training shop right now. When the incident occurred, I was a member of the IRF (Immediate Reaction Force) team, but have since been moved into the training section. The IRF team was some of the sailors from Task Force Trident as well as the 535 MPs; there are

(b)(1)1.4a,

on the team comprising a day and a night shift,

(b)(1)1.4a

shift. I was a member of the IRF squad since November of 20011 before the incident occurred. I arrived in Afghanistan on 30 October 2011.

I came into work at approximately 1800 on 20 Feb, and at approximately 1900, we were asked to help remove some books from the library. It is just another tasking that the IRF team assists with, it was not out of the ordinary for us to assist with such a detail. It seemed as though it was a last minute tasking where they needed assistance. We get tasked out to wake people up, clear snow from pathways, and different tasks like that. At first, (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c came into the office to ask if we were busy later that night to help move some book. We told him we had to check with our (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c to clarify the tasking. He approached (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c who then spoke to (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c who I believe works for S2 (Staff Intelligence), and asked if we could help remove the books. We spoke to them both right outside our office later that night when we went outside to smoke, and were told the books were contraband that needed to be loaded into the back of the truck that contained messages from detainees or places carved out in the pages to hide weapons or other types of contraband. There was no discussion as to whether or not the books were religious materials. They didn't say really how we should particularly handle them, just that they would need our help around 2100 hrs to load them into the truck. They didn't say where the books would be taken after we loaded them onto the truck. They did not say they were being taken to the burn pit, or a storage area, or that we should keep them hidden from the ANA (Afghan National Army), or what we should tell the ANA if we did run into them while we were moving the books. We were directed to move any books that were stacked in piles on the floor and told if they were not on the floor, they did not need to be removed. We initially tried to carry them out of the library, but there were so many, someone went and got some trash bins that were on rollers; we put the books in the bins to make it a faster process. The ANA were watching us remove the books, but they didn't say anything to us; they were talking and whispering to each other, but they didn't say anything to us. They didn't seem upset about anything and it didn't seem to us that we should be cautious about anything. They usually watch

us when we are doing things, so them watching us at this particular time didn't seem unusual. They watched us from a distance and didn't confront us or speak to us at all. There were about four ANA watching us through the doorway and when I moved the books out to the truck, there were three more that had joined them and watched us load the books onto the truck. They just watched us the whole time and didn't call any other ANA personnel over or talk to us.

(b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c is also on the IRF team, he was the NCO (Noncommissioned Officer) in charge that night. (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c was not on duty when (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c asked for assistance. (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c did help move the books that night. There were seven IRF team members helping that night to include (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c all. The rest of the team had the night off that night.

Our office is approximately 30-40 feet from the library. We were not aware that a search of the library was conducted in the days prior to our moving the books. I had not been in the library and did not know what kind of books were in the library. There was no indication made to me that the books might be religious. I don't read or speak the language or know what a Quran looks like. At no point were we told that the books were religious in nature or needed to be handled in a special manner. That was not brought up until after the detail was over. Initially, I had no idea where the books were going, but if I had to guess, I would have thought they were going to the supply warehouse. We had no idea where they were going until after the fact. No one told us they were religious books. No one told that the books going to storage, no one told us that the books were going to the burn pit, no one told us not to let the ANA see the books. There were no activities by the ANA that would have made me think that they were upset.

Prior to our deployment, we did receive about a 45-60 minute power point presentation on Afghan cultural issues, but I don't remember it explaining how to recognize a Quran. I probably still wouldn't be able to pick out a Quran if you showed me books.

Myself, (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c were inside the library moving the books. The remainder of the detail were outside moving books or out at the truck loading the books. I believe that (b)(6), (b)(3), (b)(7)c was out by the truck.

Interview terminated at 1500 hours.