Summaries of JIS Investigations Regarding the Deaths or Mistreatment of Enemy Prisoners of War – May 13, 2004

To date, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service has initiated six separate investigations and one preliminary inquiry regarding the death or alleged mistreatment of enemy prisoners of war (EPWs). The case titles and control numbers are as follows:

1. [Redacted]

Victim: Hatab, Naeem Sadum/CIV
CCN: 06JUN03-MEBJ-0233-7HMA/T
2. Victim: Mohamed, Farhad/CIV (DECEASED)
CCN: 10APR04-MEBJ-0129-7HNA

3. Victim: Jamadi, Manadel/CIV (DECEASED)
CCN: 30NOV03-MEBJ-0529-7HNA/C
4. Title: I/NAS Whidbey Island WA/ Alleged Assault of Iraqi Prisoners of War
CCN: 06OCT03-NWWH-0193-7GNA/C

Status: Closed.

Background: In October, 2003, Naval Hospital Oak Harbor, Washington, received information concerning the possible abuse of one or more EPWs by a Corpsman while he was deployed in support of Marine Corps units in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. NCIS interviewed all nine Corpsmen who deployed from the hospital to Iraq, including the one against whom the allegations were made. One Corpsman said that [REDacted] claimed to have “roughed up some EPWs while in Iraq”. NCIS interviewed [REDacted] however, [REDacted] said he never abused or assaulted any EPWs. [REDacted] did admit pushing one EPW’s face in the dirt and tripping other difficult EPWs to put them on the ground while assisting USMC members conducting “pat down” searches of Iraqis taken into custody. NCIS confirmed that [REDacted] is not linked to other investigations into the abuse of Iraqi EPWs. A prosecutive review of the investigation was conducted and it was found to have no prosecutive/disciplinary merit.

5. Title: I/First FSSG, Camp Pendleton, Ca/Alleged Execution Of Iraqi Prisoners Of War
CCN: 13JUN03-SDPE-0125-7XMA/C

Status: Closed.

Background: On June 13, 2003 the NCIS Field Office at Camp Pendleton received a report from a member of Combat Services Support Company, 1st FSSG, that while attending a party the previous night, a member of his unit, [REDacted] USMC, told several other unit members that he had been ordered by his former [REDacted] to execute three Iraqi EPWs during April 2003. According to [REDacted] while his unit was conducting combat operations near an abandoned Iraqi pharmaceutical factory south of Baghdad, his [REDacted] gave him the order and threatened to kill him if he didn’t carry out the executions. [REDacted] claims he killed the three Iraqi EPWs and disposed of the bodies in an eight-foot deep hole. Upon receipt of this report NCIS interviewed those Marines present at the party and confirmed that [REDacted] had indeed provided this same of account of events. [REDacted] was interviewed and provided an explanation concerning his previous claim that he executed three Iraqi EPWs. [REDacted] claimed that he was intoxicated and fabricated the entire story. [REDacted] was provided a polygraph examination and was determined to be truthful.

6. Title: I/2nd BN 5th MARREG 1st MARDIV/Alleged Execution Of Iraqi Prisoners Of War
CCN: 09JUL03-MWPE-0149-7XMA/C
Summaries of NCIS Investigations Regarding the Death or Mistreatment of Enemy Prisoners of War – May 13, 2004

Status: Closed.

Background: On July 09, 2003 the NCIS Field Office at Camp Pendleton, California, was notified that USMC, 2nd BN 5th MARREG, 1st MARDIV, was being treated at the Naval Medical Center San Diego, when he was overheard bragging about stabbing dead and wounded Iraqi EPWs. NCIS interviewed Naval Medical Center personnel who reported that had told several members of the staff that he was meritoriously promoted to Sgt, wounded in Iraq, awarded a Purple Heart, honored by his hometown with a ceremony and parade, and treated to dinner by his Congressman. After reporting late for a medical appointment claimed he was delayed because he assaulted the previous night while he was assisting the San Diego Police Department. The command indicated he was not awarded a Purple Heart medal, that his wound was self-inflicted, and that command had no record of his being assaulted or assisting the local police. Additional inquiries surfaced no record of a hometown ceremony parade or meritorious promotion to Sgt.

To date, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service has initiated six separate investigations and one preliminary inquiry regarding the death or alleged mistreatment of enemy prisoners of war (EPWs). The case titles and control numbers are as follows:

7. TITLE: V/EL GASHAME, HEMDAN HABY HESHTAN/CIV (DESEASED)
   CCN: 31MAR03-MEBJ-0087-7XMA/C

Status: Closed.

Background: On March 31, 2003, NCIS Special Agents supporting USMC units in Iraq were notified that a member of the 2nd Regiment Combat Team (2ndRCT) 2ndMEB, shot and killed El Gashame who was being detained within the 2ndRCT EPW Collection Point near Nasiriyah, Iraq. Command members were interviewed and reported that El Gashame, a suspected Fedayeen member, was captured on March 28, 2003, and detained in the EPW Collection Point for interrogation. On March 29, 2003, El Gashame was interrogated and following this session he was placed back into his assigned detention room. USMC, was tasked to guard two adjoining detention rooms, one being the room that housed El Gashame. According to command members El Gashame reportedly attacked and during the struggle for weapon, El Gashame was shot and killed. NCIS processed the death scene and photographed the area to include El Gashame’s body. Unit personnel reported an earlier unsuccessful attempt to take weapon was made by a separate EPW and El Gashame observed this episode. was interviewed and confirmed that El Gashame unexpectedly came toward him, hands extended in a manner to grab his rifle and after a verbal warning shot El Gashame. The Commanding Officer determined acted in self-defense therefore no disciplinary action was pursued.
From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2004 2:30 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Updated Detainee Case Spreadsheet 16Jun04

16Jun04 JAD
spreadsheet USMC A.

Pls review and make sure these jive with our numbers. Note the one case
Command is investigating under the category "other". Not sure if we were
ever notified on that one.

> Subject: Updated Detainee Case Spreadsheet 16Jun04
>
> Gentlemen & Maam,
>
> Attached is updated USMC Alleged Detainee Abuse Case Spreadsheet as of 16
> Jun 04.
>
> Substantive change - 2 new cases are in preliminary stages of
> investigation. They are neither substantiated nor unsubstantiated yet and
> under "Other" on page 8, cases 1 & 2 (blue font).
>
> We will share this report outside USMC (including DODIG & Navy IG) NLT
> noon tomorrow, adding any new developments from the new cases.
>
> V/R, USMC
>
> <<16Jun04 JAD Spreadsheet USMC Alleged Detainee Abuse Cases.doc>>