

STATEMENT

Place : NCISRA WHIDBEY ISLAND, WA
Date : October 8, 2003

I, [REDACTED] USN, [REDACTED] make the following free and voluntary statement to Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] whom I know to be a Representative of the United States Naval Criminal Investigative Service. I make this statement of my own free will and without any threats made to me or promises extended. I fully understand that this statement is given concerning my knowledge of the alleged assault of Iraqi Enemy Prisoners of War (EPW) [REDACTED]

At this time, I, [REDACTED], desire to make the following voluntary statement. This statement is made with an understanding of my rights as set forth in the Suspect's Acknowledgement and Waiver of Rights form of 08OCT03. It is made with no threats or promises having been extended to me [REDACTED]

For purposes of identification, I am a [REDACTED] male, [REDACTED] years old born on [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. I am currently assigned to Naval Hospital Oak Harbor. I have been at Whidbey since AUG02. I currently reside at [REDACTED]

On January 31, 2003 I was deployed with eight other Navy Corpsman from the Naval Hospital Oak Harbor to go to Iraq. We were given about 36 hours notice before we deployed. We met other (Corpsman) augmentees in Camp Pendleton, CA for about three weeks of training to prepare for the pending war with Iraq. On 21FEB03 we flew to Kuwait and were broken up into different units. I was assigned to the Combined Anti-Armor Team, 1st Marine Division, 1st Battalion, Weapons Company. Of the original nine deployed Corpsman, I was physically located near [REDACTED] (Bravo Company). During the war, I only saw [REDACTED] one time. However, after President BUSH stated the war was over we saw one another about two or three times a week. [REDACTED] is now separated from the Navy and he and his wife live in North Carolina. My mission in Iraq was to keep as many men at as many arms as possible. In the process I treated Marines and Iraqi civilians and military. None of my Marines were shot or injured while I was deployed to Iraq. I remember treating one Iraqi citizen for a torn toenail. He tripped because he was trying to get away from Marines. I also treated an Iraqi citizen who was shot [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] cannot say I was well received by the Marines with which I was assigned. I believe they think of us as lazy Corpsman who do not do a thing. My standard answer was if I did not have anything to do, it meant they were all healthy and able to fight. I asked to be moved to another vehicle (Humvee). I did not get along with [REDACTED] and we had words a time or two. The ironic part is that I actually outranked [REDACTED], but he always ordered me around. I was more content with the second vehicle I was assigned. [REDACTED] and I got along pretty well. I volunteered to help the Marines with Enemy Prisoners of War (EPW) and post security. I believe I was better accepted after I volunteered for this mission. I would pat down EPWs to ensure they did not have any weapons or dangerous items on their person. The majority of the people we came across and actually took as EPWs were looters. Sometimes I had to force EPWs on the ground by tripping them. At times I would use a stick to tap the part of the body I wanted moved due to the language barrier. I used the stick as an intermediary device. It was used as a tool to show noncompliant Iraqis a stepped up level [REDACTED]

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Continuation of voluntary sworn statement of

[REDACTED] USN, [REDACTED]

on October 8, 2003

[REDACTED] of force. I never abused any EPWs with the stick or any other object. An order from the Battalion Commander (BC) was passed to cease and desist the use of sticks. I stopped using the stick in around June when the order came down from the BC. I remember on one occasion I forced one EPW's face in the dirt to keep him from moving. I later read that Iraqis only put their face on the ground when they pray and it is a huge insult to their culture [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I cannot recall any other occasions when I may have hurt an EPW. I returned back to United States of America on 13SEP03. I stayed the longest of the nine who were deployed. I admit I am bitter that I had to stay so long. The reason my unit had to stay so long is because [REDACTED] had to wait for relief help from Foreign Armies (Polish, Hungarians, Bulgarians, Ecuadorian [REDACTED])

[REDACTED] This statement, consisting of this page and 1 other page(s) was typed for me by [REDACTED] as we discussed its contents. I have read and understand the above statement. I have been given the opportunity to make any changes or corrections I desire to make and have placed my initials over the changes or corrections. This statement is the truth to the best of my knowledge and belief [REDACTED]

Signature [REDACTED]

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 08 day of October in the year 2003 at

NCIS Whidbey Island, VA

Witnessed [REDACTED]

Representative, Naval Criminal Investigative Service
AUTH: DERIVED FROM ARTICLE 136,
UCMJ (10 U.S.C. 936) AND 5 U.S.C. 303

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