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Reference No:

S41

INTERVIEW WITH (Full name, rank, service number).

Section 41

POSTED UNIT:

Civilian Consultant

INTERVIEW DATE: 25 May 04

INTERVIEW METHOD: Phone/Personal/e-mail

INABILITY TO INTERVIEW (reason):

Contact: Phone: S41

E-mail:

Address:

During recent ADF operations in connection with Iraq, have you ever visited the Baghdad Central Confinement Facility (also known as the Abu Ghraib Prison) or any other PW, detention or prison facility in Iraq?

No did not visit Abu Ghraib at all. Visited Camp Cropper on two occasions as part of his duties with the ISG.

If yes, when and for what purpose did you visit the facility? (be as specific as possible)

Camp Cropper

1<sup>st</sup> visit - 30 Dec 03 to interview a former senior Iraqi government official.

2<sup>nd</sup> visit - 10 Jan 04 to conduct a familiarisation inspection of Camp Cropper (Secure Interrogation Centre for High Value Detainees at BIAP). He was a senior adviser with the ISG and had been and was continuing to be involved with the reorganisation of Camp Cropper so he visited Camp Cropper to see how the prison was run.

Have you ever visited the Cell Block IA or IB in Abu Ghraib prison or surrounding areas that were used for interrogation or for the preparation of prisoners or detainees for interrogation?

No.

If yes, when and for what purpose did you visit the facility? (be as specific as possible)

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Not Applicable

Did you ever witness or participate in the interrogation or interview of prisoners or detainees or have any dealings with such persons? If so, what did you do/observe? (be as specific as possible)

Yes. - interview a former senior Iraqi government official in his first visit to Camp Cropper and to conduct a familiarisation inspection of Camp Cropper.

In respect of Abu Ghraib Prison or any other PW, detention or prison facility in Iraq, have you at any time witnessed or observed the inhumane or otherwise inappropriate or unusual treatment of prisoners or detainees?

No, did not see any himself personally.

While not limiting the scope of the foregoing question, have you observed any actions in respect of prisoners or detainees of the type that have recently been reported or alleged in the media (eg, being naked, asked to perform sexual or otherwise humiliating acts, being assaulted or otherwise physically or sexually abused?) or any other treatment you would consider to be inappropriate or not IAW the Geneva Conventions regarding the treatment of PWs/detainees?

No

Please Note: The member stated that though Camp Cropper was actually guarded and operated by the military, the prisoners there were ISG prisoners and were interrogated by ISG personnel. The interrogations were conducted by persons who did not wear uniforms. His major complaints related to the actual cell size, actual exercise time and solitary confinement issues. He reported these concerns to the officer in charge but nothing occurred he believed.

He was told by a fellow UK colleague in the ISG that there was abuse of prisoners in Camp Cropper. He was not able to state whether his colleague had witnessed anything or was just repeating comments which he had heard. The member said that his colleague had stated that prisoners were mistreated in a routine called "purgatory." It was routine that prisoners were bagged when they arrived at the camp and wore a hood for about 24 hours. He said that they were administered food privation as well disorientate them. He said that he was told that some

were probably beaten but not everyone who came in. For example the Iraqi whom he interviewed did not made any complaint regarding any abusive treatment. The member said that his UK colleague had stated that he had heard that prisoners were beaten.

The member stated that when he returned to Australia, he reported the fact that he believed that prisoners were being abused to Myra Rowling and GPCAPT [SAI] in late Mar 04 and later made the same comments at a round table discussion at ONA at which DGONA was in attendance as well as other branch heads.

Interviewed by (Full name, rank, service number):

Roy Hedley Abbott, LTCOL, 184207.

Date: