

AmoLatino.com

I am between the ages of and

seeking a

AmoLatino.com Feedback - Ads by Google



TUESDAY, AUGUST 09, 2005

Who's In Charge Of Military? The Privates Or The Generals?

by Michael in New York on [8/09/2005 03:42:00 PM](#)

Each individual soldier is responsible for their own actions. "I was just following orders" ended as a reasonable excuse sometime around the Nuremberg trials. But the soldiers in Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay are surely getting a raw deal anyway. Some clearly reveled in abusive treatment. But story after story is making clear that many of them were following orders, asking repeatedly for guidelines on what was acceptable and what was safe, many got the run-around from superiors who wanted the prisoners roughed up but didn't want to get their hands dirty, etc. Here's the latest roundup from the NYT:

In the first interview granted by any of the accused soldiers, a former guard charged with maiming and assault said that **he and other reservist military policemen were specifically instructed at Bagram how to deliver the type of blows that killed the two detainees, and that the strikes were commonly used** when prisoners resisted being hooded or shackled.

"I just don't understand how, if we were given training to do this, you can say that we were wrong and should have known better," said the soldier, Pvt. Willie V. Brand, 26, of Cincinnati, a father of four who volunteered for tours in Afghanistan and Kosovo....

In recommending the dismissal of an involuntary manslaughter charge that Army prosecutors initially sought against Private Brand, the investigating officer who oversaw his pretrial inquiry, Col. Stephen B. Pence, wrote that there was "no evidence that the accused knew or should have known" that the knee strikes could mortally injure a detainee, or that the blows "would be anything other than temporarily disabling...."

In interviews, other former interrogators said **she and the staff sergeant who was her deputy had for months been seeking clarification from their superiors** about the interrogation methods they could use.

"They asked many, many times," said one former Bagram interrogator who agreed to speak only on condition of anonymity because of the continuing investigation. "The lack of guidance was a source of frustration for them. My own feeling is that it was never given because nobody wanted to put themselves on the line."

I don't mean to summarily excuse the actions of any soldiers. But isn't it increasingly clear how higher-ups have let them dangle for practices the people in charge knew about, encouraged but can now use plausible denial to keep themselves out of prison?



JOHN'S PHOTOS



TRY OUT SUCTION TIRES

SHARE YOUR INVENTION AT [INVENTNOW.ORG](#). ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE. KEEP THINKING.

»Invent Now

invent now Ad

HOT OFF THE WIRE

Matthew Yglesias

Blogging as a Vocation - Alyssa Rosenberg on being a writer: My experience has been, as Daniel Strauss says, that people become artists, or in the case of journalists, artisans (I ... *3 minutes ago*)

Ben Smith

Regrets, sort of - Gibbs says Obama regrets his Gates comments, sort of, and blames he press: "I think he would regret if realized how much of an o *6 minutes ago*

Daily Kos

Specter, Sestak to Visit Netroots Nation - I am thrilled to announce that on Friday, August 14, Sen. Arlen Specter and Rep. Joseph Sestak will be joining us at Netroots Nation 2009 for a Pennsylv... *13 minutes ago*

HuffPost Politics

Mike Elk: GE Moves Green Jobs To China - In the last decade, GE has closed over fifteen factories in Ohio and downsized numerous others. Since 1980, employment in GE Lighting has dropped by 68 percent. *22 minutes ago*

Firedoglake

FDL Action: Public Option Whip Count - Day 30 - We've updated the whip count with a whole new round of folks from Mike Stark's interviews on the Hill. Sadly, many of our new additions fall into the cat... *31 minutes ago*

Show All

AMERICABLOG TV



Judge order San Diego to get rid of the seals



Massive brawl in South Korean parliament



Mormons may have secretly baptized



Medieval helpdesk with English subtitles




The Taco Bell dog has died



In honor of Senator DeMint

Next 6

I collect with  vodpod

[see all 326 videos >](#)

[Visit our AMERICAblog TV site.](#)

GAY POLITICS



Visit our new gay politics section, [AMERICAblog Gay](#).

FEEDS

-  [Blog RSS](#)
-  [1,487 readers](#)
- BY FEEDBURNER
-  [AMERICAblog TV RSS](#)
-  [Twitter RSS](#)
- [Twitter Feed](#)
-  [Mobile Version](#)
-  [Google](#)

Get the blog by email:

[Subscribe me!](#)

AMOLATINO.COM
BROWSE
 THOUSANDS
 OF EXCLUSIVE
 PHOTO SETS



FREE PREVIEW

AmoLatino.com
Ads by Google

Top Ad

[Advertise in this spot.](#)

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Ezra Klein
 Kirsten Gillibrand and the Power of Primaries
17 minutes ago

The Treatment
 Paul Krugman Gets It (Shocking, I Know)
1 hour ago

Wonk Room
 The WonkLine: July 24, 2009
1 hour ago

Managed Care

SEARCH

AMERICAblog
 Web

Search

SEND US TIPS & COMMENTS

americablog@starpower.net

BLOG ARCHIVE

Blog Archive

SITES WE LIKE

- [Air America Radio](#)
- [Alan Colmes' blog](#)
- [Ari Melber \(The Nation\)](#)
- [Ben Smith](#)
- [BicycleMark's blog & podcast](#)
- [Bilerico](#)
- [BradBlog](#)
- [Bring It On](#)
- [Carrie Fisher](#)
- [Crooks and Liars](#)
- [DailyKos](#)
- [Dan Savage's "Slog"](#)
- [Daou Report](#)
- [Democratic Underground](#)
- [Eschaton](#)
- [Ezra Klein](#)
- [Fire Dog Lake](#)
- [FiveThirtyEight.com](#)
- [Freeway Blogger](#)
- [The Gavel \(Speaker Pelosi's blog\)](#)
- [Good As You](#)
- [Glenn Greenwald](#)
- [Holy Bullies and Headless Monsters](#)
- [Huffington Post](#)
- [Hullabaloo \(Digby\)](#)
- [Jack and Jill Politics](#)
- [Jed Report](#)
- [Jesus' General](#)
- [Kenneth in the 212](#)
- [Margaret and Helen](#)
- [Matthew Gross](#)
- [Media Matters](#)
- [Mike Signorile's "The Gist"](#)
- [Mudflats](#)
- [MyDD](#)
- [Open Left](#)
- [Plum Line](#)
- [Political Punch \(Jake Tapper\)](#)
- [Political Wire](#)
- [Politics 1](#)
- [Pop Surfing](#)
- [Progressive Blog Digest](#)
- [Queers United](#)
- [RawStory](#)
- [Rex Wockner](#)
- [Rude Pundit](#)
- [Smirking Chimp](#)
- [Talk Left](#)
- [Tapped](#)
- [Taylor Marsh](#)
- [Think Progress](#)
- [TowleRoad](#)
- [VetVoice.com](#)
- [Washington Note](#)
- [WayneBesen.com](#)
- [Wonkette](#)
- [Worth Repeating](#)



NEWS LINKS

- [US](#)
- [Washington Post](#)

PLEASE SUPPORT AMERICABLOG

One-time donation

\$

Donate

Recurring monthly donation

\$

Donate

Donations are not tax-deductible.

LABELS

Select a label

LAST 100 VISITORS

Recent Visitors

[Click to Get FEEDJIT](#)

ABOUT AMERICABLOG

Why AMERICAblog?

Because a great nation deserves the truth.

What issues do you cover?

US politics overall with a particular focus on the Obama Administration, the radical right, and civil rights.

Who are you?

John Aravosis
 Editor
 Washington, DC

Joe Sudbay
 Deputy Editor
 Washington, DC

Chris Ryan
 Associate Editor
 Paris, France

Robert Arena
 Contributing Editor
 Baltimore, Maryland

Jacki Schechner
 Contributing Editor
 Washington, DC

