

STATEMENT

Place : NCIS Resident Agency Whidbey Island, WA
Date : October 3, 2003

I, [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 allegation of the mistreatment of EPWs (Prisoners of War) in Iraq. [redacted]

For purposes of identification, I am a [redacted] male, born on [redacted] in [redacted]. I am currently assigned to the Naval Hospital Oak Harbor Mental Health Department at NAS Whidbey Island, WA. I currently reside at [redacted].

On January 29th, 2003, around 1600 hours, nine of us at the Naval Hospital were told that we were all being deployed on that Friday, January 31st to Iraq. We all flew together down to California to Camp Pendleton for about three weeks. At Pendleton, we received medical training everyday, received our gear and were assigned to the First Marine Division. From California, we left for Kuwait. We spent one night in Kuwait, and then left for our separate Battalions. I was with [redacted] with the 5th Marines, and assigned to the Second Platoon, Bravo Company. [redacted] was assigned to Charlie Company. My friend, [redacted] was with the Fourth Marines, Weapons Company. [redacted] was stationed over in Iraq the longest of all of us, and I feel ^{he} saw more casualties and fatalities than me. [redacted]

The first few weeks in Iraq, it seemed like we were going in circles, basically just patrolling neighborhoods and small villages. My role was as a medic to the Marines, to assist them if they became sick or injured. I was also to provide medical services to Iraqi civilians and Iraqi military prisoners of war. While in Iraq, we were instructed that we were to treat our Marines first, then Iraqi civilians, then Iraqi military. We were told not to exhaust our resources on the Iraqis. Several Marines told me that if provided medical services to any Iraqi military personnel, that they would kill me. (However, later there was a wounded Iraqi POW who needed his dressings changed. The Marines actually called my attention to him to make sure he received treatment). It wasn't until about April 10th that there were a lot of Marine and civilian casualties. I did not witness any Marine fatalities but did see civilian fatalities. The Marines did not accept us very well because we were not stationed with the Marines prior to going to Iraq. They viewed us as fat, nasty Navy corpsmen. I felt very much alone out there, and was not the only one of us who felt that way. There were a few Marines who were more accepting of us, but for the most part, they did not like us. I'd say that pretty much all of us would try to be accepted by the Marines. I heard from my wife, who is a friend of [redacted] wife, that the Marines that [redacted] was stationed with hated him. They apparently tried to fuck with him a lot, but I don't know what the circumstances of that were. We were all in a tough situation, having been given such short notice to deploy, and barely had enough time to say goodbye to our families. I know that in theater, I did not have any access to email, but I believe that [redacted] had access to email, primarily the last three months he was over there. I came back from Iraq on June 4th. [redacted] came back just a few weeks ago in September. When I came back, I sent him one email just to let him know that I would take care of his family etc. While in theatre, I never saw [redacted]. I did not see him until he returned to Oak Harbor in September. [redacted]

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Continuation of voluntary sworn statement of

on October 8, 2003

When [redacted] came back, he and I talked about how shitty it was over there. We talked about how shitty we were treated by the Marines. I noticed a change in [redacted] [redacted] seemed more bitter and more disgruntled. [redacted] seemed more agitated, almost shell shocked. I know that our senses were so heightened and it took some time for me to adjust to life back here. [redacted] sarcastic humor became more serious and bitter. [redacted] also appeared to have lost a lot of weight. I did not observe any other physical changes in [redacted] wife. [redacted] told me that he has had night terrors since he's been back and stays up until 4:00 am and sleeps all day.

AND EXCHANGED WAR STORIES.

I pray to God that [redacted] was kidding about this, but he did tell me that he roughed up some Iraqi military EPWs. For example, he said that the EPWs would be cuffed and laying on the ground, and the Marines would be telling them to put their heads down. [redacted] forced their heads down in the dirt, which was a cultural insult to them. [redacted] said that he had to set the EPWs straight if they were talking or moving when they weren't supposed to. The first way to set the EPWs straight is to yell at them, then resort to more physical means if required. The physical force was usually at the discretion of the individual Marine or corpsmen. Since [redacted] came back, and after he was back for about one week, [redacted] mentioned that an Iraqi EPW was doing something he wasn't supposed to be doing. I don't know if he was told many times to stop, but [redacted] said that he picked up an empty tan, five gallon plastic water jug and started hitting an EPW with it. I don't know where he hit the EPW on the EPW's body. I think this EPW was the same one that [redacted] said he knocked over in the HUMV.

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on the 800

[redacted] while stateside, was outgoing, energetic, had a sarcastic humor, and would talk to anybody. He was really laid back, and never exhibited a temper. I met [redacted] briefly in North Carolina back in 2002. We both realized that we were being transferred to Oak Harbor, WA. When I first met him, I thought he was a 'putz.' But when we were out here, we became good friends, and hung out everyday/every night before deploying to Iraq. [redacted] wife and my wife became very close friends, and while we were deployed each babysat the other's children, and they spent a lot of time together. They essentially took care of each other.

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.

Signature: [redacted]

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

NCIS, RA, WHIDBEY WA.

Witnessed: [redacted]

LE 136,

OCMD (10 U.S.C. 936) AND 5 U.S.C. 303