

Mr. Cambone was speaking at a Senate hearing to investigate the torture scandal at Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad, and to determine whether the seven low-ranking guards facing courts martial for physical and sexual abuse of prisoners were following orders.

Revealing the interrogation methods allowed in Iraq, the Senate Armed Services Committee released a single page titled "Interrogation Rules of Engagement", listing two categories of measures.

The first showed basic techniques approved for all detainees, while the second involved tougher measures that required approval by Lieutenant-General Ricardo Sanchez, commander of U.S. forces in Iraq. Among the items on the second list were stress positions for up to 45 minutes, sleep deprivation for up to 72 hours and use of muzzled dogs.

Mr. Cambone said the Bush Administration's policy has been to apply the Geneva Convention to the interrogation and other treatment of detainees in Iraq, but several senators expressed doubts about whether some of the listed techniques conformed with international limits.

Major-General Antonio Taguba, who wrote a damning army report on abuse at Abu Ghraib, told the committee he found no evidence "of a policy or a direct order given to these soldiers to conduct what they did".

However, he said the scandal was a result of "failure of leadership . . . lack of discipline, no training whatsoever and no supervision", and he criticised a command decision to put the jail under the control of a military intelligence unit.

Critics have argued that Mr. Rumsfeld's decision to suspend Geneva Convention safeguards for prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, and the transfer to Iraq of interrogation techniques used there, helped create the conditions for the Abu Ghraib scandal, even if no order was issued to use torture.

"The despicable actions described in General Taguba's report not only reek of abuse, they reek of an organised effort and methodical preparation for interrogation," Democrat Senator Carl Levin said.

According to Senator Levin, an unpublished annex to the Taguba report stated that "sleep management, sensory deprivation, isolation longer than 30 days and dogs" were described as a "permissible technique for use in the Iraqi theatre" on condition that the commanding general gave approval "prior to employment".

Mr. Cambone said the techniques had been approved by U.S. commanders in Iraq, not by the Pentagon.

However, he confirmed that Mr. Rumsfeld had last year approved a new set of techniques, but insisted on being asked for permission each time this "stress matrix" was used.

General Taguba stood by his inquiry's finding that military police jailers should not have been involved in conditioning Iraqi detainees for interrogation, even as Mr. Cambone disputed that conclusion.

Mr. Cambone said that the military policy and military intelligence needed to work closely to gain as much intelligence as possible from the prisoners.

Mr. Cambone also said that General Taguba misinterpreted the November order, which he said only put the intelligence unit in charge of the prison facility, not of the military guards.

While General Taguba depicted the abuses at the prison as the acts of a few soldiers under a fragmented and inept command, he also said that "they were probably influenced by others, if not necessarily directed specifically by others".

His report called for an inquiry into the culpability of intelligence officers, which is still under way.

The unusual public sparring between a two-star army general and one of Mr. Rumsfeld's most trusted aides cast a spotlight on the confusing conditions at the prison last year when the worst abuses occurred, as well as the sensitive issue of whether the Pentagon's thirst for better intelligence to combat Iraqi insurgents contributed to the climate there.

I WAS FORCED TO ABUSE INMATES, SAYS U.S. SOLDIER

An American soldier photographed mocking naked Iraqi prisoners has claimed she was told to pose for the pictures by senior officers.

Pte Lynndie England, 21, faces a court martial over the pictures of abuse in the Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad which included her holding a dog lead tied to the neck of a naked Iraqi inmate.

She was also shown laughing with a cigarette in her mouth while pointing at the genitals of naked prisoners.

However, Pte England claimed in an interview with the American television network CBS, the first broadcaster to show the abuse pictures, that she was forced to take part in the humiliation of prisoners.

"I was instructed by persons in higher rank to stand there, hold this leash," she said. "And they took a picture and that's all I know."

She also admitted that prisoners had suffered worse abuse, but refused to elaborate on the advice of her lawyer.

Pte England, who is being held in custody at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, said she had been told that the abuse was helping to stop attacks on American soldiers by Iraqi insurgents.

Pte England's lawyer, Giorigo Ra'Shadd, claimed that some of the abuse at the prison was orchestrated by CIA agents. "The spooks took over the jail," he said. "Everything about that command was wacky."

Military officials have admitted that intelligence agents did interview inmates at the prison, and a military intelligence officer was put in charge of Abu Ghraib last November.

However, Maj Gen Antonio Taguba, whose report into the abuse was leaked last week, told the U.S. Senate yesterday that he had found no evidence of senior officers or intelligence officers ordering the abuse.

Pte England, who is four months pregnant, has been charged with mistreating prisoners together with six other soldiers from the 372nd Military Police Company. She faces up to 15 years in prison if found guilty.

No date has been set for her hearing, but Specialist Jeremy Sivits, 24, will face a court martial in Baghdad next week.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. STUPAK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SUPPORT LAW ENFORCEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here tonight in the well in personal support of our law enforcement officers, all of them all across the United States. Along with our military

members serving so bravely in harm's way overseas, our law enforcement officers deserve high recognition and a special place in our hearts for their service in the name of security and safety.

With this being National Police Week and Saturday, May 15, being National Peace Officer's Memorial Day, I think it is important for us to pause to recognize the noble duty performed by our peace officers. I recognize the special difficulties that come with being both a crime fighter and a keeper of public safety. I cannot imagine the hazards faced by these brave men and women every day. Not only do law enforcement officers fight crime, they work tirelessly, night and day, to prevent crime from happening in the first place.

According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, 145 law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty in 2003. On average, more than 58,066 law enforcement officers are assaulted each year, resulting in some 16,494 serious injuries. We have all witnessed frightening scenes and events where no one else would want to go, but the first people who respond to these incidents and accidents are the police. To me that encapsulates the honorable service of our Nation's police officers. They go places that most folks want to avoid.

In fact, just today an alert in the Rayburn House Office Building notified us of a suspicious substance that was found. I admired the officers of the Capitol Police who were there to cordon off a corridor during this alert. I thank God that the alert proved negative, but the mission and duties of all law enforcement officers were brought into sharp relief, and at that moment I was thankful for the protection of us in this body of the Capitol Police.

Fighting crime is not an easy job, and I am certainly not a police officer, but I think I am safe in that assertion. It is a scary job with a lot of danger, but the brave men and women of law enforcement take up the banner of justice and safety for us all. We should be very proud of that.

Mr. Speaker, a tremendous amount of our homeland security falls on the shoulders of local police officers. Our police are the ones who investigate and apprehend suspects who would unleash terror in our homeland. They are the ones we look to for protection and safety against the tragedy of crime and disaster.

Mr. Speaker, any investment that we make in public safety is a winning proposition. There is a great need to support law enforcement not only through our words but through our actions.

Coming from a rural area, I know all too well the challenges faced by people who do not live in or near major cities. There is a unique set of circumstances that confront our rural law enforcement officers every day. That is why I am pleased to join my friend, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. CARSON)

by cosponsoring H.R. 4276, the Rural Safety Law Enforcement Improvement Act. This is good legislation that not only goes a long way to making rural communities safer, but helps to heal some of the damage caused by drug abuse. Rural areas suffer from the same problems that urban and suburban areas do, but the rural areas must make do with fewer resources.

Mr. Speaker, I am fully committed to honoring and providing for our law enforcement officers from all regions of our Nation. I am hopeful that we all remember them not just during National Police Week but year around. They provide immeasurable service to us and I hope that we remember them when it really counts.

To all law enforcement officers, I thank you and may God continue to bless you and your families.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHOCOLA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ALEXANDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ALEXANDER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MATHESON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CONYERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, we should have no more talk about resignations. We should not talk about Donald Rumsfeld resigning his office. We should not let him resign his office. He ought to be fired. He ought to be fired, and George Tenet ought to be fired. I do not know that there has ever been two Cabinet Secretaries in the history of this Nation that have given their President more bad information,

more bad intelligence, more bad advice than Don Rumsfeld and George Tenet. And while the President is at it, he ought to clean house at the Pentagon. He ought to get rid of Paul Wolfowitz and Doug Feith, all of the architects of this failed policy in Iraq.

It is astonishing to me that the President is so loyal to people who have given him such bad advice. If you look back on the failures in Iraq, and I speak as one who voted in favor of the military authority that the President sought a year and a half ago, I voted "yes" because I believed we had to disarm Saddam Hussein of weapons of mass destruction. I am now convinced that I was misled, that the Congress was misled, that the people of this country were misled.

And you look back on the failures of intelligence and planning and advice from George Tenet and Don Rumsfeld and the list is very long. The weapons of mass destruction have not been found. The intelligence was bad coming from George Tenet, and the intelligence was hyped by Don Rumsfeld and the other civilian leadership of the Pentagon. Don Rumsfeld tried to do this war on the cheap. We did not send enough troops over there. General Shinseki said we needed several hundred thousand troops. He was virtually run out of the Army for saying so. He was right. We have got 135,000 troops in Iraq today, and we have not secured the country. The country is not secure. Clearly more security is needed. We tried to do this on the cheap without enough troops, without enough armor.

The troops left their armor at home, and our soldiers have been sitting ducks killed by roadside bombs that armored personnel carriers and tanks would not have to worry about but unprotected Humvees, which is what our troops have been given, do have to worry about.

There was no plan to deal with the looting. There was no plan to deal with the violent insurgency that has come up. We were told by Don Rumsfeld we would be greeted as liberators. Instead, we have become occupiers. Donald Rumsfeld believed Ahmed Chalabi and the other leaders of the Iraqi National Congress. Chalabi, one of the great four-flushers of all time. You ask me what a four-flusher is. I am not sure. It is a phrase my grandfather used to use. I think it has something to do with having four cards to a flush and that you cannot trust a guy who is a four-flusher. Well, that is Ahmed Chalabi. He is a spinner. He has not given us good advice. But our leadership believed him in the Pentagon and we have paid a heck of a price because of it. We have no notion of how long we are going to stay or any notion of how much we must pay.

And now the prison abuse scandal has come. Clearly, the privates and the sergeants were completely wrong in the steps they took and they need to be punished, but I do not think the accountability stops with them. It goes

up the chain of command. Because the training was inadequate; the supervision was inadequate. There has been no accountability in the chain of command at this point. Secretary Rumsfeld did not listen to the International Red Cross who apparently started complaining about this a year ago. He did not listen to the Secretary of State who began complaining to the Pentagon and to Mr. Rumsfeld several months ago. The Secretary of Defense did not read the report that he ordered. And he did not even tell the President. He did not even tell the President.

We do not need to stay the course in Iraq, Mr. Speaker. We need to change the course in Iraq. We are not winning. We want to create a stable and peaceful Iraq with a representative self-government, hopefully a democracy. There can be no reconstruction without security. There can be no transfer of authority and government without security. There can be no elections without security. There can be no democracy without security. And there is no security in Iraq today. We cannot stay the course. We must change the course.

We have three choices. We can pull out, declare victory, or say it does not matter and pull out; and I think that would be a great mistake. We cannot leave Iraq worse than we found it. We did get rid of a murderous tyrant, and I am glad we did, but we cannot leave Iraq in shambles. We can stay the course, but we are not winning. We won the military victory, but we are not winning the peace. Or we can mobilize more troops, international troops from NATO and Arab nations preferably, our troops if necessary, in order to stabilize that country and achieve our goals.

REACTION TO CYPRUS REFERENDUM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, last month the Greek Cypriot majority on the island nation of Cyprus overwhelmingly rejected a U.N. plan that forced them to put too much faith in the government of Turkey. Mr. Speaker, let us be clear. The Greek Cypriot people did not reject reunification of Cyprus. They rejected a proposal by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, a proposal they determined was not in the best interests of their nation as it prepared to join the European Union.

After the Annan plan was defeated, Cypriot President Papadopoulos said, "I should emphasize that the Greek Cypriots have not rejected the solution of the Cyprus problem. They are not turning their backs on their Turkish Cypriot compatriots." President Papadopoulos once again called upon Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to work together for a united Cyprus. Both the United Nations and the Bush administration must realize that the