

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According to Senator Levin, an unpublished annex to the Taguba report stated that "sleep management, sensory deprivation, isolation longer than 30 days and dogs" were described as a "permissible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 Lynnndie 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)