

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Gazette has redacted the names of people accused, as they have been neither charged nor convicted of crimes.

December 18, 2007

To: Mr. Randy Waddle, Assistant Inspector General, Ft Carson, Colorado  
CC: LTC John Shawkins, Inspector General, Ft Carson, Colorado  
Major General Mark Graham, Commanding Officer, Ft Carson, Colorado  
Major Haytham Faraj, USMC, Camp Pendleton, California  
Lt General Stanley Greene, US Army Inspector General

Subject: Formal Notification of War Atrocities and Crimes Committed by  
Personnel, B Company, 2-12, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry  
Division in Iraq

Dear Mr. Waddle

My name is John Needham, I am a member of Bravo Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry division, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, (B Co, 2-12 INF, 2 BCT, 2 ID). I deployed with my unit to Iraq from October 2006 until October 2007 when I was medically evacuated for physical and mental injuries that I suffered during my deployment. The purpose of my letter is to report what I believe to be war crimes and violation of the laws of armed conflict that I personally witnessed while deployed in Iraq.

Upon arriving in Iraq in October of 2006 my unit was assigned to the ¼ Cavalry unit at Camp Prosperity. In March of 2007 I was sent back to my unit, B Company 2-12 at Camp Falcon. It was at Camp Falcon that I observed and was forced to participate in ugly and inhumane acts against the Iraqi citizens in our area of responsibilities. Below I list some of the incidents that took place.

In March of 2007, I witnessed [REDACTED] shoot and wound an Iraqi national without cause of provocation. The Staff Sergeant said that he suspected the Iraqi be a "trigger" man. We had not been attacked and we found no evidence on the man to support the suspicion. As the Iraqi lay bleeding on the ground, PVT Smith requested to administer first aid to the Iraqi. [REDACTED] said no and "let him bleed out." When [REDACTED] walked away, Pvt Smith and PVT Mullins went to the Iraqi, dragged him to an alley, and applied first aid. They then drove him to the cache for further treatment.

In June of 2007 [REDACTED] caused an Iraqi male to be stopped, questioned, detained, and killed. We had no evidence that the Iraqi was an insurgent or terrorist. In any event when we stopped he did not pose a threat. Although I did not personally witness the killing, I did observe [REDACTED] dismembering the body and parading of it while it was tied to the hood of a Humvee around the Muhalla neighborhood while

the interpreter blared out warnings in Arabic over the loud speaker. I have a photo that shows [REDACTED] removing the victim's brains.

On another occasion an Iraqi male was stopped by a team led by [REDACTED] as he walked down an alleyway. The Iraqi was detained and questioned then with his hands tied behind his back, [REDACTED] skinned his face.

[REDACTED] shot a young Iraqi teenager who was about 16 years old. The shooting was unprovoked and the Iraqi posed no threat to the unit. He was merely riding his bicycle past an ambush site. When I arrived on the scene I observed [REDACTED] along with [REDACTED] dismember the boy's body.

In August of 2007, I responded to radio call from [REDACTED] reporting that he had just shot an Iraqi who was trying to enter through a hole that the platoon had blown in a wall to allow them observation of the area during a security patrol. When I arrived, I saw a one armed man who was still alive lying on a barricade. The man was about 30 years old. He had an old Ruger pistol hanging from his thumb. It was obvious to me that the pistol was placed there because of the way it hung from his thumb. The Iraqi was still alive when I arrived. I saw [REDACTED] shoot him twice in the back with hollow point bullets. The Iraqi was still moving. I was asking why they shot him again when I heard [REDACTED] say "he's moving, he's still alive." [REDACTED] then moved to the Iraqi and shot him in the back of the head. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were visibly excited about the kill. I saw them pull the Iraqi's brains out as they placed him in the body bag. CPT Kirsey must have learned something about this incident because he was very upset and admonished the NCOs involved.

I have seen and heard [REDACTED] brag about killing dogs. He kept a running count. At last count I remember he was boasting of having killed 80 dogs.

On many occasions I observed [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] beat and abuse Iraqi teenagers, some as young as 14, without cause. They would walk into a house near areas where they suspected we had received sniper fire, then detain and beat the kids.

I have photos that support my allegations. I also have numerous other photos on a laptop PC that the unit illegally seized from me. I have requested its return but they have refused.

My experiences have taken a terrible toll on me. I suffer from PTSD and depression. I had no way to stop the ugly actions of my unit. When I refused to participate they began to abuse and harass me. I am still in treatment at the Balboa Naval hospital. I respectfully request that you investigate these matters, that you protect my safety by reassigning me to a different unit that is not located at Fort Carson, that you

return my PC or, at least, seize it to protect the evidence on it, and that you issue a military protective order to prohibit the offending members of my unit from harassing, retaliating, or contacting me.

I have some photographs and some supporting documentation to these allegations.

Respectfully,

PFC John Needham  
US Army