

## The Case Against Rumsfeld:

# HARD FACTS TIMELINE





#### October 11, 2002

Guantanamo officials "request that additional techniques beyond those in the field manual be approved for use."

#### December 2, 2002

Rumsfeld prescribes new interrogation policy for Guantanamo, authorizing "stress positions," hooding, 20-hour interrogations, removal of clothing, exploiting phobias to induce stress (e.g., fear of dogs), prolonged isolation, sensory deprivation, and forced grooming. These techniques soon spread to Afghanistan and later to Iraq.

#### December 2002

FBI officials complain to Defense Department of abuses at Guantanamo. Afghan detainees killed during interrogation in U.S. custody at Bagram Air Force Base, Afghanistan.

#### December 26, 2002

Washington Post reports regular, systemic abuses at Bagram, including "stress and duress" techniques during interrogation.

#### January 2003

Judge Advocates repeatedly object to aggressive interrogation techniques at Guantanamo but "Pentagon officials 'didn't think this was a big deal, so they just ignored the JAGs."

December 2003

U.S. Army report

committed against

detainees in Iraq

details abuses

#### **January 15, 2003**

Rumsfeld rescinds blanket approval of some techniques but indicates techniques may continue based on his individual case approval.

Rumsfeld designates "Working Group" to assess legal, policy and operational issues for detainee interrogation in the "war on terrorism."

**January 24, 2003** 

### September 2003

Lt. Gen. Sanchez authorizes 29 interrogation techniques for use in Iraq, including the use of dogs, stress positions, sensory deprivation, loud music and light control, based on Rumsfeld's April 16 techniques and suggestions from captain of military unit formerly in Afghanistan.

#### August 31 -September 9, 2003

Guantanamo commander brings policies to Abu Ghraib; uses techniques as "baseline" for recommending new, harsher interrogation techniques at Abu Ghraib.

#### July/August 2003 -June 2004

Iraqi citizens Arkan Mohammed Ali Al-Hasnawi, Dahi Mohammed Sabbar, Sherzad Kamal Khalid

August 2003

Rumsfeld sends Guantanamo com-

mander to Iraq to "qitmo-ize" Iraqi

detention facilities, promoting wide-

scale deployment of more aggres-

sive interrogation methods in Irag.

Al-Barwari and Ali H. detained and abused at various U.S. detention facilities in Iraq, including Abu Ghraib.

#### October 12, 2003

Iraqi interrogation techniques modified but still authorize officers to "control" the lighting, heat, food, shelter, and clothing given to detainees and permit the use of dogs in interrogations with prior authorization.

Pending investigative reports on

detainee and interrogation oper-

ations (promised for delivery in

summer 2004) still incomplete.

No U.S. official above the rank

of Major has been prosecuted.

April 16, 2003 Interrogation

policy still in effect.

Rumsfeld still not held

accountable.

August 24, 2004

March 2005



#### October – December 2003

Torture and serious abuses of detainees take place at Abu Ghraib.

#### **November 12, 2003**

Human Rights First writes Rumsfeld as well as Afghan field commander requesting status of investigations into the deaths of detainees in U.S. custody in Afghanistan in 2002.

by task force of military Special Operations and CIA officers, known as Task Force 121.

#### **January 13, 2004**

Joseph Darby gives Army criminal investigators CD containing the Abu Ghraib photographs depicting detainee torture and abuses. Rumsfeld informed.

Rumsfeld-appointed panel reports Rumsfeld interrogation policy led to confusion in the field as to what techniques were authorized; also reports that civilian Defense Department leaders failed in their interrogation and detention duties.

I July 2003

#### May 2004

Abuse of detainees continues in Irag.

#### April 28, 2004

**VENT OR PUNISH THEM.** 

60 Minutes II airs segment showing Abu Ghraib photos.

## **February 26, 2004**

Maj. Gen. Taguba completes investigation; reports of "systematic" and "sadistic, blatant and wanton criminal abuses" at Abu Ghraib.

#### February 24, 2004

Red Cross issues confidential report to Coalition Provisional Authority documenting widespread abuse and command failures to take corrective action.

#### s, known as being

Afghanistan Commander forwards list of techniques being used in Afghanistan, including some inconsistent with Army Field Manual, to inform Rumsfeld's Working Group, including the use of dogs to induce fear, the use of stress positions, and sensory deprivation.

#### April 4, 2003

Working Group issues final report; recommends 35 interrogation techniques to Rumsfeld, including techniques from Afghanistan inconsistent with Army Field Manual.

Captain of unit responsible for killing two detainees in Afghanistan proposes interrogation techniques for Abu Ghraib, including stress positions, removal of clothing, lengthy isolation, sensory and sleep deprivation and use of dogs. Lt. Gen. Sanchez approves techniques.

#### June 2003 - June 2004

**UNDER LAW: THE COMMANDER** 

IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CRIMES

DIRECTLY ORDERED, AS WELL

AS FOR CRIMES COMMITTED BY

OFFICERS WHEN THE COM-

MANDER KNEW OR SHOULD

HAVE KNOWN THEY WERE

GOING ON BUT FAILED TO PRE-

Afghan citizens Mehboob Ahmad, Said Nabi Siddiqi, Mohammed Karim Shirullah and Haji Abdul Rahman detained and abused at U.S.-held Kandahar and Bagram facilities.

#### May 30, 2003

FBI reasserts its objections to Guantanamo interrogation techniques to Guantanamo commander.

#### May 2003

Red Cross reports 200 cases of alleged detainee abuse in U.S. custody in Iraq to U.S. Central Command.

#### **April 16, 2003**

Rumsfeld approves 24 of the recommended techniques for use at Guantanamo, including dietary and environmental manipulation, sleep adjustment, false flag and isolation.