was interviewed on 12 February 2004, as
follows:

Q. Have you been informed of the nature of our interview
today?

A. I would like you to explain to me exactly. We did
some investigation back in Abu Ghraib, and I would like to—if
you could elaborate on that a little bit more.

Q. I would be very happy to do that for you before we
start. I just wanted to preface that by saying, if you have any
knowledge, whatsoever. I am Major General Taguba. I’m the
Deputy Commanding General of the Coalition Land Forces Component
Command that is headquartered at Camp Doha, Kuwait. My
commanding officer, Lieutenant General David E. McKiernan, the
Commanding General of the Coalition Forces Land Component
Command has appointed me as the investigating officer under the
provisions of Army Regulation 15-6. That was under the
direction of General John Abizaid, the Commander of Central
Command. Our investigation is to gather all relevant facts and
circumstances surrounding recent allegations of maltreatment of
detainees at the Abu Ghraib prison, also known as the Baghdad
Central Confinement Facility, as well as the detainee escapes
and accountability lapses as reported through CJTF-7. And my
inquiry will further investigate training, standards,
employment, command policies and internal policies concerning
the detainees held at the Abu Ghraib Prison. And finally, our
inquiry is to assess the command climate and the supervisory
presence of the 800th Military Police Brigade and chain of
command. I also want to advise you that our interview is being
recorded so we can capture the accurate questions and responses
that you will provide. Do you have any questions about the
scope?

A. No, sir.

Q. For the record, please, would you please state your
full name:

A. My name is [redacted].

Q. And your social security number?

A. [redacted].

Q. The nature of your employment?

A. I am a linguist. I was hired by SOS, Titan firm, for
the Army.

Q. So you’re principally an interpreter?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you do any interrogations at all?

A. Not myself.

Q. Not by yourself?

A. No.
Q. But since you're an interpreter, are you interpreting for the interrogator and translating for the detainee?

A. Absolutely.

Q. Good. How long have you been doing this now?

A. Since October 14th until now.

Q. Until now. Who are you, since you're a civilian contractor hired by Titan, who is your chain of— who do you report to?

A. As far as civilian matters or military matters?

Q. Military matters.

A. Well, we have Sergeant—in the beginning, it used to be Sergeant... then... to be honest with you, I forgot the name because we kept shifting from team to team. But my immediate guy who was in charge was [redacted].

Q. He was a civilian or military?

A. He was a military—he was taking care of our businesses for the linguists.

Q. Who is your immediate military supervisor? Do you have one?

A. Well, usually it's my interrogator, [redacted] And [redacted] has another guy to report to. Because we're working on a special project, and he has to let him know about my situation, and from there, through his report, he has to tell other people.
Q. But did you understand that there's a military commander above the things that you're doing?
A. Yes.
Q. I understand you work with civilians.
A. No, I know. I forgot his name, Major [redacted].
Q. Major [redacted] was?
A. Major [redacted] at that time, it was Major [redacted].
Q. When did you arrive at Abu Ghraib?
A. October 14th, I believe, either the 14th or the 15th.
Q. Did you do any other interpreting, translation job before then?
A. No, sir.
Q. So you were assigned to Abu Ghraib?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Were you hired back in the United States or were you hired here?
A. No, back in the United States.
Q. At that point in time, were you advised of the nature of your job?
A. They told us it could be in the field, could be anywhere if I took the job, regardless of what the situation was.
Q. When you arrived at Abu Ghraib, did anyone explain to you the nature of your job?

A. Yes, indeed, Chief [redacted] and they give us like a little seminar of what's going on, what's going to happen, what's the limitations, what you're supposed to do, what not to do. If you see anything wrong, you're to report it immediately, and things like that.

Q. So you received a briefing and a seminar.

A. They did give us a briefing, yes, sir.

Q. How long was that training?

A. That's a good question, an hour, give and take. To be honest with you, I don't recall, but I think it was a lengthy one, because they went through all the procedures.

Q. Did they give you, beyond that, the conditions and the personnel that are being held at Abu Ghraib prison, did they give you additional instructions or information with regards to the nature of the operating environment?

A. Yes, and no. The reason, for example, they told us what our limitations is. We have to be with an interrogator and we have to have an analyst and things like that. We cannot—we have to stay with the detainee. If we see anything wrong, we have to report it and things like that. And they told us, "If you don't like the environment, you just could stop and walk
away and you could report immediately any abuse incident," and
things like that.

Q. What were some of those limitations that you talked
about? What were you authorized to do in your job performance
and your role as a——

A. My job is just a translator, no more, no less.

Q. No more, no less?

A. That's it.

Q. Okay, all right. Do you have any knowledge,
whatsoever, of the Geneva Convention?

A. Yes.

Q. Was it ever instructed to you, or were you given some
sort of a piece of paper that basically said, "Anything that we
do here or not do here is governed by the Geneva Convention"?

A. Yes, indeed, they mentioned that.

Q. Who mentioned that to you?

A. To be honest with you, I don't recall, but I remember
the detainees' rights and things like, human rights and things
like that. They do mention it, but exactly, I don't recall, to
be honest with you.

Q. But they did not give you any written references, Army
regulations or field manuals or SOPs to read?
A. I believe they gave us some paper to read, and we had
to sign it at the time. But the details, I don’t recall, to be
honest with you, but I signed two papers, I believe I signed.

Q. Do you recall what you signed?

A. Some of the procedures, the limitations for the—if
you see anything wrong, you have to report it, anything unusual,
you have to report it and things like that. But to be honest
with you, Geneva Convention, I might have read it. I might have
signed it, but I don’t recall too much.

Q. Do you know what the Geneva Convention is?

A. You know, how to—if somebody has a prisoner of the
war, you have to treat them nicely, because it’s a mutual
situation. We could be detainees on the other side, so there is
rules and regulations, like that effect his personal rights and
things, you know. There’s limitations for everything.

Q. Did they explain to you how your employees would
protect you should you be detained by Iraqi or anti-coalition
forces?

A. That’s a good question, I don’t think so.

Q. They never explained that to you.

A. No.

Q. That you could be detained at any time by other people
that were anti-coalition forces?
A. That's a good question. I can't answer that, sir. I don't recall.

Q. You don't recall that being explained to you?

A. I don't recall. They might, but I don't recall. If they mentioned it, I might--it's a great question.

Q. Did they explain to you if you get hurt or if you die here or you're captured---

A. They gave us a file. They said, give it to the immediate people just in case something happens to you, they have the record. They have things, the next of kin and things like that.

Q. Let me move forward now with the context of your duty as a translator purely for doing the interrogation period. And I'm not looking for anything specific or the contents of the interrogation, specific contents of the interrogation. Could you describe for me what typically happens, generally, in the conduct of an interrogation?

A. Okay, what would happen is usually the interrogator goes to the MPs and says, "I want this prisoner," and they would say, "Where do you want him to be?" If there's empty booths, they will guide the detainee to that location. And then what happens is the interrogator will set up the tables, the table and the chairs according to the way he wants it to see fit.
I've seen some of the interrogators, they tell me to stay behind the detainee. Some of the guys tell me to sit next to him. Some of the guys tell me to "Sit next to me facing the detainee." And then they want to ask a question, then I have to translate back and forth, from Arabic to English, from English to Arabic.

Q. So it's never the same.
A. Never the same.
Q. It could be, where we're sitting today, you're to my left.
A. Right.
Q. And the detainee could be to the right, and the interrogator could be in the middle.
A. Or sometimes what they do is they put the detainee in the corner with a chair, and I will be sitting next to the interrogator.
Q. Okay.
A. Some of the interrogators, they have their own preference. They will say, "We want you to be--" they put the detainee halfway in the middle. I'd be behind him and they--facing him--because some of the detainees, they like to see the interpreter because he speaks the same language, they always go like this [turning his head to the side].
Q. So it's not always the same.

A. No.

Q. I got it. Prior to the interrogation being conducted, is there a plan?

A. Yes, lately, they put a lot of emphasis on it. The interrogator will say, "Okay, this is my game plan." Sometimes he will say, "I'm going to ask him 12 questions, and don't listen to him. Just translate my questions to him and don't listen to what he's going to say." Or sometimes they will say, "Okay, this is the game plan. We're going to ask easy questions and we want---"

Q. So like a rehearsal?

A. A rehearsal, absolutely.

Q. Is that in writing or is that given to you verbally?

A. Oh, verbally. But he has----

Q. You said "lately," now, you said, "lately," there's been more emphasis on the interrogation plan.

A. No, as a matter of fact, this goes back to September, the beginning of September.

Q. And you arrived here in October.

A. In October, yeah. I would say end of November or last part of November, they put a lot of emphasis on that.

Q. You said this was typically done verbally.
A. Verbally, yes, sir.
Q. Did you see anything in writing signed by somebody?
A. Usually, the interrogator will have the info, usually.
Because that's done by the interrogator, will brief us, we have
an analyst, and then we'll walk into the booth.
Q. Please describe for me at the conclusion of the
interrogation what happens next?
A. What happens, after back and forth session of
questions and answers, questions and answers, me and my
colleague, which is the interrogator and analyst, will sit and
he will try to absorb what happened in the room. And there will
be questions and answers. And he will say, "Did I miss
anything, as for as---"
Q. Is this in the presence of the detainee?
A. No, after we send the detainee, we go back to the ice
room---
Q. Okay, let me back up. At the end of the session,
let's just say we just ended now and---
A. Okay, I see what you're saying. In that case, what
happens is, one of the--usually the analysts are military.
What happens is they stay with the detainee and we'll go tell
the MPs that we're done and they will come and guard it. This
is--we are in the hard cell, in the ISO. But if we are in the
outside, what will happen is the analyst, which is the military
guy, personnel, he will guard the detainee—obviously he has the
handcuffs on. He will put them back on his hands. He will take
them where—if it's a walking distance to his camp or they might
put him in a HMMWV and take him back to—

Q. To somewhere else.
A. Yes, sir.

Q. But let's just focus for a moment, those detainees
that are placed in the hard site, at the conclusion of the
interrogation, do you accompany the detainee back—

A. Absolutely not.

Q. No?
A. I cannot continue with it.

Q. Okay. And of course, you’ve never done that.
A. No, no, sir.

Q. So, those detainees then are given back to the MPs....
A. The MPs and the MPs will—

Q. Take them back.
A. Okay, what we do also, for example, if we're in the
building, usually the analysts will go and tell the MP, because
sometimes the analyst would be a civilian. The interrogator
will stay with the detainee. I will be next to the interrogator
just in case, if he wants something, he wants to say something,
and I also will tell the MPs. It's walking distance from the
second floor to the first floor, and they will come and guide
the detainee back to his cell.

Q. Do you know at that time when the detainees are given
back to the MPs, whether there are additional instructions given
by the analyst to the MP?
A. To be honest with you, I don't interfere with that.
Q. But you're not aware of any instruction?
A. No, sir. Usually, the interrogator will go back to
the MPs if they have anything that needs to be discussed.

That's their job.

Q. So the detainees are given back to the MPs and they're
placed back in their cell. And then you said that now you and
the analyst will then review the process....

A. And the interrogator.

Q. The interrogator, I'm sorry, will review the process
and to, they will ask, "Did I miss something?"
A. As far as, for example, when he speaks Arabic, he
might mention a few things that I wasn't able to elaborate on in
detail. I might say, "You know what, also, I think this is what
he meant."

Q. Okay.
A. Give him some example.
Q. An after action review.
A. Yeah.
Q. But not in any kind of depth, type of a post-interrogation review is the analyst asking you for your thoughts in terms of what to do next.
A. No, no. It's a matter of conversation that the detainee was talking about just in case, you know, because a lot of times in the Iraqi accent, there is a lot of things that he mentions, so you have to be aware of that. Since I'm an Iraqi, I know what they want to say, so I will try to help them as much as I can as far as what he's saying.
Q. Did you have any knowledge, whatsoever, to rumors or direct knowledge of escapes or shootings or detainee mistreatment in the Abu Ghraib facility?
A. I heard about the escapee cases, but indirectly, but we didn't hear it from the military, that aspect. We heard there was an escapee. And the shooting, it happened, was a quirk, we didn't know about it. That night, we were supposed to go on an interrogation with the same guy that started shooting. It could've been me or it could've been the interrogator. But we knew about it like later on. And that day, I worked from almost 10 o'clock at night all the way to the next day until-- what was it, like 2 o'clock, 2 in the afternoon.
Q. So interrogations typically happened at any given hour?

A. Right, absolutely. We have a schedule. They have a schedule. But in my case, because the shooting happened that night, they didn’t know what was going on. You know, they need a linguist. So I stayed interrogating a lot of people because they didn’t know who got the gun, what’s going on. So I volunteered and I stuck there until the next day until almost 3 o’clock, and then I went home.

Q. How many linguists or translators are working at Abu Ghraib?

A. That’s a good question. As far as on my team, with the MI, I would say about 16 or 15, because we have the screening people that work in the screening. And we have the interrogation team, I would say a minimum of 12.

Q. Do you work with the same interrogator all the time?

A. Lately, I work with the same interrogator because we have a special case. But previously, I was with a team and that team, maybe there’s three or four interrogators, and I switch my time with them. As soon as this guy’s done, the next guy is ready, I go with the next guy.

Q. So it’s not—you’re just based on the need.

A. On the need, yes, sir.
Q. So you knew about the shooting that happened. What do you know about that?

A. I would say like with the next----

Q. Do you know what month it was?

A. That's a good question. I think it was December.

Q. December?

A. I think.

Q. And you were there when that shooting----

A. No, we went and ate chow and----

Q. You were in the facility.

A. In the facility, yeah, and then...I forgot his name, he's transferred now. He came and he said there was a shooting, and he took a [inaudible] he's trying to [inaudible] and things. Because [inaudible] and we didn't know what was happening and everybody was alert. And he came and told us...Colonel

Q. Colonel

A. Yes, he came and told us the shooting happened and this is what's going on. And he did elaborate in detail as far as what's going on. He was very concerned. And like after that, they came and tell us, "We want some help with the linguists." So that's how we got stuck until the next day.

Q. Okay, let me fast forward now. Do you recall on the 20th of December, you were accompanying Mr. and
Sergeant [redacted] to the hard site whereby a prisoner was being returned back to custody to the MPs and being accompanied by Sergeant [redacted] or a Sergeant [redacted]. Do you recall that date?

A. I met with [redacted], but I don’t recall the details, honestly, because I go back and forth so many times, I didn’t pay attention, I didn’t concentrate on the situation, so it’s hard to tell.

Q. Let me be a bit more clear on that. That particular day was given as a date where a prisoner was given back to the MPs where Sergeant [redacted] and also Sergeant [redacted] where supposedly noises were heard when prisoners were being put back in their cells, whether a prisoner was being—a detainee, I’m sorry, was either falling down or was being struck by something. Do you recall that?

A. No, sir, I honestly do not.

Q. Have you heard any comments from any of the MPs or any of the interrogators or analysts regarding any rumors or direct information in regards to detainee abuses?

A. Honestly, no.

Q. You don’t recall any of that at all?

A. No, because what happens is a lot of times I walk behind them. And when they talk together, I don’t want to
interfere. Because once my job is done, I’m so tired, because
when I translate, I want to be fair for both parties. I don’t
want to compromise anybody’s situation. I’m so tired from
talking. Usually the session goes an hour, an hour and a half
just constantly talking back and forth from both sides. And
sometimes, you know, it’s a peace of mind for me to keep quiet,
just walk to my place.

Q. Is there a rule in the unit that you belong to now, at
the conclusion of the interrogation regarding whether it’s the
same interrogator or a different interrogator, is there a rule
that states not to discuss the contents of that interrogation
with other translators——

A. Yeah, absolutely, absolutely, especially in my case
with Steve. I have to be quiet. Even, I can’t tell you
anything unless if you want to go ahead and ask, that’s up to
you.

Q. I’m not asking for the specific details——

A. Exactly, but in my case, I usually keep quiet. He
tells me to keep quiet, but he knows I’m quiet. I don’t like to
elaborate on my cases.

Q. Did they give you a security clearance at the time you
were hired?

A. My case is pending, sir.
Q. So your case is pending.
A. Yes.

Q. You don't have a security clearance at this time.
A. No, sir. I wish I could have one, sir. At least I'd know I have a job for the whole year.

Q. Were you given an interim clearance?
A. To be honest with you, at that time, I didn't know what the procedures were, but I knew that I was accepted, I'd be able to go to Iraq.

Q. Do you know that you were supposed to have a clearance?
A. I'm looking forward to it. I'm trying to do my best to have a clearance, but that's all up to them.

Q. If you don't mind me asking you, Mr. [redacted], are you an American citizen?
A. Absolutely.

Q. And how long did you live in the United States?
A. Since 1981, sir.

Q. So you've been there forever.
A. Absolutely, that's my country now.

Q. Since you were governed by the interrogation rules of engagement, you're familiar with that. Did you know that to be in writing, or was this just given to you?
A. I can’t recall that, sir.

Q. You can’t recall? Let me show you something here that states what the interrogation rules of engagements are. Are you familiar with that?

A. Yeah, as a matter of fact, they did one time, they gave us this, we went over it, yeah.

Q. So you’re familiar with that?

A. Yes, because the reason I’m saying this, one of the sergeants, she went in details, she went an extra effort with her interrogators. And we were sitting in the meeting just to know what’s going on. And she went over the issues, explained to everybody what’s going on, yes, indeed.

Q. So there was a lot of explanation----

A. Yes, yes, this goes back, I think, to December, mid-December, I think. Don’t quote me on the dates, I could be wrong.

Q. You mentioned meetings. How often do you have these meetings?

A. Meetings?

Q. General meetings, everybody there.

A. When a lot of information happens, but as far as meetings, usually, if something needs to be elaborated on, for
example, in that case, she gathered us, I think she spent about, I think 2 hours, about 2 hours, yeah.

Q. About 2 hours.

A. Yeah, it was a nightshift, I think. And she said, "The reason I want you to be here for the linguists..." because part of that wasn't our concern, it was just to know what's going on.

Q. Let me go back again just to clarify something. Up until the time that you were hired, on or about the middle of October, again, you did not receive any training or instructions as to the nature of the job you were going to perform here in theater?

A. Well, they told us it was going to be like an interrogation thing. Chief [REDACTED] took us for a tour. He showed us the booths----

Q. When you arrived.

A. When we arrived, yes, absolutely, the first day. Then he said, "It's going to be like a trial for 2 weeks just to see, you know, who could accept this. He said, maybe some people, it's against their religion. Some people, maybe they don't accept the situation. And which was true, after 2 weeks, things happened. I stayed with the interrogation team, and some other
guys, they went to screening. Some of the guys went to MPs, and
things like that.

Q. So it kind of divided.
A. Divided, yes.

Q. Before you arrived, there was nothing—
A. Absolutely not, absolutely not.

Q. And then at the time you were shown or given
familiarization, I should say, and other instructions on the
conduct of your specific job, were there other instructions
given or any changes to the procedures given to you or at least
instructed to you with your other coworkers?
A. Could you elaborate on "changes"?
Q. Yes, let me just be specific on that. At the time of
the shooting, at the time of allegations of detainee abuse,
which I'm sure people were made aware of, were there any changes
made to the procedures from when you were conducting the
procedure; that you were now executing?
A. I'm sure changes happened, but as far as visually, I
didn't see changes. But as far as, we can't walk with the
detainee too far. We have to have the military escort the
detainee all the way back. I'm sure changes happened, but I
didn't see any changes as far as——
Q. During the course of your involvement with interrogation operations and then when the detainee was given back to the MPs, did you see any physical action that would lead you to question whether they were right or wrong? What I'm saying is, when they're handling detainees, besides handcuffing, besides leading the detainee back to his cell and besides having the bag placed back on his head, did you see anything out of the ordinary——

A. Well, one time, like I mentioned in the—previous with the criminal investigation, I saw that they were searching their cells. They got all their stuff out. I think after the incident of the shooting, they were searching their cells and there was a dog present in the hallway.

Q. Were you there at the time?

A. Yeah, one time, I couldn't do anything. I just backed up because I couldn't do anything when they were searching the cells.

Q. So you were in the cell?

A. Not in the cell, no, in the hallway.

Q. You were in the hallway.

A. In the hallway, but I saw the dog present and stuff on the ground. They were searching the cells and they wanted to make sure there was no weapon or anything.
Q. Was the detainee in the cell or outside the cell, that you can recall?

A. That's a good question, because I saw the stuff on the ground. I saw the dog. I didn't go inside the hallway, because I was on this side, and the hallway was this way and the dog was in the hallway to your right, and the cells are to the left and the right. You could see the cells.

Q. Which part of the hard site was that? Was that on Tier One A?

A. I think it's in the A, which is where the politicians and the----

Q. The security detainees.

A. Right, the Iraqi section, the other section.

Q. So you had been in the hard site?

A. Yes, I have.

Q. Did you notice anything peculiar like detainees without their clothes on?

A. That I didn't see. That I didn't see, and I hate to see people naked. Until now, I don't take a shower as a naked person. I have to go by myself.

Q. Did any interrogation ever happen in the cell, itself?
A. In the cell, itself? No, because the cells are so tiny. You can’t conduct interrogations in the cell. There is no way.

Q. Very confined.

A. Yes. Because maybe sometimes, the first session would be, for example, they would say, “Ask him this, ask him that.” Because a lot of times when I’m done with my session, the MPs would say, “Could you come down and see what he wants, what he needs, because we can’t understand his language?” And I would go and ask him what he wants. Like a couple incidents happened, one of the guys, he was sick and he wasn’t feeling good, and he wanted a doctor. And I had to translate that, “This is how he feels. Maybe he has a stomach pain or back pain,” or things like that.

Q. Was it common, was it just you they were asking for, or were there other translators—-

A. It happened that moment I was there. They might ask me because I’m done with my session and I’m about to walk and they say, “Could you please come here for a second? Just ask him what he wants.” And then I’d say, “I’d be glad to.” And I would ask him what he wants and he would say, “I’m not feeling good,” things like that. Maybe the next interrogator or the next linguist, he might be 2 hours later. They might—if he
wants something from him, the MPs, he would ask them the same
thing.

Q. The night or the day, I should say, where you were
there observing a dog doing the searching in the cell and things
on the ground, was that because you were called to assist as an
interpreter?

A. Oh, no, no. I think we had a session, we wanted to do
an interrogation and we didn’t do it because the situation
didn’t happen because of the search incident and stuff.

Q. Why were you there to begin with?

A. What happened is, we were the nightshift. We have to
do interrogation on the nightshift. We were—like 24 hours.

And my nightshift was—I think, starts from 10:30 all the way to
7 o’clock. So as we were about to go to interrogation, then
when we saw the scene, it didn’t help. We declined to go
forward. We just——

Q. So you were there to take custody—or actually, not
take custody, but you were there to accompany the detainee to an
interrogation site, but because a search was happening at that
time, you could not conduct your interrogation. Is that what
you meant to say?

A. No, sorry, let me say this. Because usually in the
nighttime because of the mortars they hit us with it, we used to
do some of the interrogation in the building, itself, in the
ISO.

Q. What's an ISO?

A. Isolation section, they call it isolation.

Q. In the hard site?

A. In the hard site, itself, in the building, itself
because of the cells. There was the stairs, kind of like a
room, we used to sit there and do the interrogations because we
don't want to take the detainee outside, so we used to go there
[inaudible] and take him back to his cell, which is nearby.

Q. Which is a separate area away from the cell.

A. Right, right, it is separate. Then before you go to
that section, there's a door, you have to pass that door, then
the cells would be to your left and to your right. They're
subdivided according to the numbers. And we were in the
hallway, then we saw the dogs. We saw the things, and the
element didn't help. So we didn't go forward. We just stopped.

Q. But you didn't see the detainee, himself?

A. No, no, sir, absolutely not.

Q. But was that the detainee you were supposed to
interview or interrogate that night?
A. Yeah, because we were supposed go to do the
interrogation. Then when we saw the dog, we just—they were
searching, so....

Q. They were searching the cell of the detainee that you
were going to interrogate that night.

A. That's a good question, it could be him, it could be
anybody because they were searching all the cells. So I don't
know what they were planning on.

Q. Oh, I see. But typically, back to the interrogation
plan, are you then made aware or informed which detainee that is
going to be interviewed? Or do they just bring in a detainee
and say, "Okay, now we're going to do the interview."

A. Usually, they tell us there is—we're going to do
interrogation, could be for me the first time, or could be for
me, for example, the case that we're working on, it's been like
a month and a half. But previously, it could be anybody. So I
didn't know exactly who we were going to--they might say he's a
General. They might say he's this. They might say he's a bomb
maker. They give us a head start.

Q. Okay, but they don't tell you the ISN number of that
detainee.

A. The number, no, that has nothing to do with me.
Q. They just say, "We want to interrogate somebody that
has something to do with——"
A. Right, for example, they would say, this is--maybe
he's [inaudible]. Maybe he has a relation with Al Qaeda. "This
is what the game plan is. This is what we're looking for, his
friends and things like that." But as far as his number, they
might tell me the first name and they might tell me some of the
background so I will be mentally prepared what kind of person
I'm going to see. But as far as his prisoner number, no.
Q. Let me go back to the interrogation plan. After you
conduct an interrogation, the detainee is given back to the MPs
so he can be returned to the cell, you mentioned.
A. Yes.
Q. And then, you and the interrogator will then discuss--
you do an after action review, basically, whether the questions
were answered to the satisfaction of the interrogator or whether
something else was missing. Is that typically what happens?
A. Usually, for example, I would say—he would say, "This
is what he meant, right?" I'd say, "Yeah, this is what he
meant." If there is another answer to the same question, I
might tell them. If not, that's what it is.
Q. So you try to recall----
A. Exactly, I try to recall what he said and things like that, if I missed anything, just to be just for both sides.

Q. How confident are you with the procedures now that you have been in that operating environment now since your arrival at Abu Ghraib?

A. Right now, it's very decent. I'm confident now because everybody knows what they're supposed to do. Once we're done, they let the MPs know that we're done, they will come and escort the detainee back to his cell, and that's what it is.

Q. Have you worked with Mr. __________ before?

A. Yes, as a matter of fact, from October...couple times, then the last case, basically, I'm all the way with him until now with him——

Q. Because you're working on a special project.

A. Yeah, I'm on that special project.

Q. How many other interrogators, roughly, did you work with?

A. I would easy, five or six.

Q. Did you know who Colonel Tom Pappas was?

A. Yes.

Q. How often did you see him?

A. Very often.

Q. Very often?
A. Yeah.

Q. Indirectly?

A. Indirectly.

Q. You mentioned Colonel Did you see him directly all the time?

A. I seen him. He greeted me the first time when I went to Abu Ghraib, he gave me a pep talk. And every now and then, he used to come. He used to eat chow with us and all that. I'd see him more often. He used to walk a lot in the hall facility.

Q. To check?

A. To check, absolutely.

Q. Did you know any medical facilities that were exclusively for the detainees when they get sick? You mentioned people said, "I don't feel good," and they'd call you into the site and asked you to interpret what is wrong with them.

A. Yeah, what happened is, something urgent, or "This is what I think," they might call the doctor. There is a doctor standby. But also, I used to do in the morning, I used to go spend an hour and half, about an hour and a half in the open camp translating for the doctor. There was certain days I am supposed to go in the morning with our doctors, because it's an open camp. There is tents. There is a lot of Iraqi detainees. They used to stand in a row. Everybody comes in and I will
explain to the doctor what is going on with this guy. This guy will tell me----

Q. His condition, his----

A. Yeah, and the doctor will give the recommendation.

"This is what I'm going to give him, this is what happening,"

the dosages and all that.

Q. Is it a military doctor?

A. Yes, it was a military doctor, yes.

Q. Was it an Army doctor?

A. It was an Army doctor. Lately, we have, I think, Air Force doctors, sir.

Q. Okay, again, have you now been advised about the contents of the Geneva Convention at all? Since you mentioned you were not originally aware of that, and upon your arrival, your supervisor had not mentioned that to you, was that----

A. To be honest with you, I want to be fair to all the parties. They might have mentioned it, but I don't recall it. They may not have mentioned it because it didn't register in my mind. They might, but you know, the situation is so stressful. I might forgot about it. I apologize for that.

Q. Well, the only reason why I bring that up is because you said it's reciprocal. If you were in their position, the detainee's position, you would want to be treated----
A. Right, it's only common sense. Not only that, but back in the States, you listen to news and the Geneva Convention, and besides, I study the law from this country, so I know what the Geneva Convention is.

Q. Speaking of that, what is your civilian employment before you were hired as a translator?

A. My background is accounting. I have a degree in electronics. I work for Icon Office Solutions for almost 12 years. I'm a field technician, a senior tech. I service Ricoh, Canon, Hewlett Packard product and Sharp product.

Q. Typically automation---

A. Automation, office, yeah, networking, printers and things like that.

Q. Okay, all right, is there anything else you want to add, Mr. Israel?

A. No, sir, but I'd be glad to—if you guys need me in the future, I'd be glad to serve. And I'm happy to serve the United States Army. It's a pleasure for me because they opened the door. The United States gave me a home, so they made me feel at home. That wasn't my original home, and I'm dedicated to serve the United States in my full capacity.

Q. I'm glad you mentioned that, Mr. [redacted] because I'm a naturalized citizen myself, so I understand how you feel.
Okay, well, let me remind you please to not discuss
the contents of our interview here or the scope of our
investigation with your coworkers or anybody that is
unauthorized. I also want to advise you, please, that you will
be subject to recall for a re-interview and we will advise you
and your supervisors of when that’s to occur. Up until that
time, please safeguard the information.

A. Absolutely.

Q. Do you have any----

A. Could I ask a couple of questions?

Q. Sure.

A. Is that going to affect my clearance situation?

Q. You’re not being suspected of anything. What we’re
trying to do, as I mentioned to you, we’re trying to gather
facts and relevant information to the allegation of
mistreatment, any of this information where we could ascertain,
in other words, once we go through and evaluate the information
of whether we have the relevant information and the facts
associated with that. So for now, sir, you are not being
suspected of anything. We just want to gain your knowledge of
conditions and information associated with Abu Ghraib.

A. My pleasure to help you, sir.
[Mr. Israel departed the interview area. The interview terminated at 1114, 12 February 2004.]