

# Lt. col. is first officer charged for Abu Ghraib

## Former interrogation director faces 42-year prison term

By Michelle Tan  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Lt. Col. Steven L. Jordan is accused of being involved in the 2003 abuse of detainees at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, becoming the highest-ranking officer at Abu Ghraib to face criminal charges that could lead to a court-martial.

The former director of the interrogation center at the prison, Jordan has been charged with dereliction of duty, cruelty and maltreatment, interfering with an investigation, and other offenses.

If convicted, Jordan, a researcher at U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command at Fort Belvoir, Va., could be sentenced to up to 42 years in prison, dismissal and total forfeiture of all pay and allowances, said Lt. Col. Shawn

Jirik, a spokeswoman for the Army's Military District of Washington.

Jordan is attached to United States Army Garrison, Fort Myer, Va., for the duration of the legal process, Jirik said.

Jordan faces six charges — 12 specifications in all — for violating the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

The Article 32 for Jordan will take place when his defense counsel is ready, Jirik said. No date had been set as of May 5. Capt. Louis J. Boston, Jordan's defense attorney, declined to comment when contacted May 3 by Army Times.

The charges against Jordan, dating from Sept. 17, 2003, to Aug. 9, 2004, are:

■ **Two counts of willfully disobeying a superior officer.**

Jordan is accused of disobeying orders from Maj. Gen. Antonio M. Taguba and Maj. Gen. George Fay to have no communications with other Army personnel or potential witnesses about the AR 15-6 investigation into allegations of detainee abuse at the prison.

■ **Three counts of dereliction of duty and failure to obey a regulation.**

Jordan is accused of willfully failing to train, supervise and ensure compliance by his soldiers in the requirements of Combined/Joint Task Force-7 interrogation and counter-resistance policy, resulting in the abuse of detainees. He also is charged with failing to obtain per-

### READ THE CHARGES

To read the official charging documents for Lt. Col. Steven L. Jordan, visit [Print Links at ArmyTimes.com](#)

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mission to use certain interrogation and counter-resistance techniques, including the use of military working dogs.

■ **One count of cruelty and maltreatment.**

Jordan is accused of oppressing Iraqi detainees by subjecting them to forced nudity and intimidation by military working dogs.

■ **Two counts of making false official statements.**

Jordan is charged with lying to Taguba, telling the general he "never saw nude detainees, never knew of any dogs being used in interrogations, never supervised anybody guarding and/or doing interrogations in that facility, never remembered ever seeing an actual interrogation go on within the hard site and my duties were that of a liaison officer," according to the charge sheet. Jordan also made a

similar statement, knowing it was false, to Fay, according to the charges.

■ **Two counts of fraud against the U.S.**

Jordan is charged with knowingly inflating the cost of repairs to government-owned vehicles and making those claims.

■ **One count of wrongful interference with an investigation and another of false swearing.**

Jordan is accused of trying to interfere with an investigation into the abuse at Abu Ghraib by offering a person help in getting a job at the U.S. Embassy if that person would give him pertinent evidence in the investigation before the evidence got to investigators.

He also is charged with saying, under oath, that he "never saw any detainees being abused and never saw nude detainees," when he believed that statement wasn't true.

Nearly a dozen enlisted soldiers have been convicted in connection with Abu Ghraib, many contending they were following orders aimed at preparing prisoners for interrogation. The U.S. military has opened at least 400 investigations of prisoner abuse allegations, according to The Associated Press. □

# ACLU: Blame for prison abuse rests in high places

By Kelly Kennedy  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Three groups looking for information relating to the Abu Ghraib investigations say several recent events push the prison abuse blame above lower-enlisted soldiers up the military — and civilian — chain of command.

"There's a lot of stuff that seems to be happening at once now," said Jameel Jaffer, deputy director of the American Civil Liberties Union National Security Program. "Our hope is that public knowledge will lead to the accountability of senior officials."

But the Defense Department maintains that officials have neither sanctioned nor directed abuse of any detainees anywhere.

"When there have been accusations, we have taken them seriously," said Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Mark Ballesteros. "We've investigated them thoroughly, and we've held people accountable."

The ACLU released 9,000 Defense Department documents on its Web site May 2 that it said show the Bush administration was aware of 62 cases of alleged prisoner abuse two weeks before the Abu Ghraib scandal made headlines.

And, Jaffer said, there is "overwhelming evidence" that senior administration officials knew about or ordered the interrogators to behave as they did. "We believe those administrators should be held accountable," he said.

The newly released documents, acquired from the Defense Department through court-ordered



Cardona



Miller

enforcement of the Freedom of Information Act filed by the ACLU, also drew the ire of a lawyer who said he should have already had those documents. Harvey Volzer is defending dog handler Sgt. Santos Cardona, 31, against charges that he used military working dogs to threaten and scare detainees at Abu Ghraib. The documents, Volzer said, prove Santos was following orders.

Volzer said he planned to file a continuance May 8 because he needs time to request and go through the documents before Santos' court-martial, which is scheduled for May 17.

On April 28, Lt. Col. Steven L. Jordan — the highest-ranking officer to be implicated criminally in the Abu Ghraib scandal — was charged with maltreatment of detainees while serving as director of the Joint Interrogation Debriefing Center at Abu Ghraib.

The United Nations' Convention Against Terror committee planned to question U.S. officials in Geneva, Switzerland, on May 5 and 8 about interrogation methods used at Guantanamo Bay, The Associated Press reported. The U.S. signed the convention 22

years ago; the agreement allows the committee to make sure countries are following the rules.

Ballesteros said the committee questioning is a routine review and happens periodically as mandated by the convention.

U.S. officials turned over an 87-page report in January — four years after it was due, The AP reported.

Specifically, the committee will ask why the U.S. established secret prisons, how it conducts interrogations and whether the Bush administration assumes responsibility for alleged torture at Abu Ghraib.

Repeating a statement Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld made in January, Pentagon spokesman Paul Boyce said the Defense Department has conducted 600 investigations about detainee abuse, and that 259 military members have been court-martialed or received Article 15 or nonjudicial punishment.

Rumsfeld made the statement after a two-star general invoked his right not to incriminate himself by testifying in an enlisted soldier's trial, and the same day a colonel accepted immunity to testify during a trial.

"What [the investigations] indicate is that to the extent abusive or improper conduct by military people took place, that it has been investigated in every instance, and where appropriate, it has been punished," Rumsfeld said during a press briefing. "It is not suggested that there have been policies or pro-

cedures that authorized or approved of that."

### Just following orders?

The case began in 2004, when a soldier leaked pictures to the press documenting a naked detainee at Abu Ghraib prison surrounded by dogs. Other pictures showed a female soldier leading a naked detainee on a leash, detainees piled in a pyramid and soldiers grinning and giving a thumbs-up above bleeding detainees.

Since then, a dozen lower-enlisted soldiers have been convicted for prisoner abuse in Iraq, although most said they were following orders. On Jan. 10, Col. Thomas M. Pappas accepted immunity and was ordered to testify as a defense witness in Sgt. Michael J. Smith's prisoner abuse case. Pappas was fined \$8,000 and relieved of his command but faced no criminal charges.

His lawyer, Maj. Jeffery Lippert, said, "Col. Pappas has no desire to speak with other persons, including representatives of the media, regarding Abu Ghraib matters."

The same day, Maj. Gen. Geoffrey D. Miller invoked his constitutional right not to incriminate himself by testifying in dog handler Cardona's case. His lawyer, Maj. Michelle Crawford, said May 5 that Miller had been removed from the witness list, although he had been standing by to appear at dog handler Smith's court martial.

"We have always offered to all parties, defense and government, that if they had new questions for us that we would do as we have

done with the media," Crawford said. "We would look at the questions and then respond accordingly, or if requested, would consider sitting down for an interview with either the government or defense if they told us what they wanted to discuss."

Crawford said Miller sat down with Volzer in March to discuss Cardona's case. Miller has agreed to testify in Cardona's court-martial.

"I wouldn't be calling him if I didn't think he had something to say," Volzer said. "The American people don't want the little people to be punished if they were told to do this. And they were obviously told to do this."

Volzer, who is defending Cardona pro bono, said he expected Miller's testimony to show that Rumsfeld, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez and Gen. John Abizaid, commander of U.S. Central Command, all were aware of and condoned the alleged abuse.

ACLU attorney Jaffer said the documents his organization just released show similar connections.

"We've been frustrated until now that the only people who have been held responsible are relatively low-ranking personnel," he said. "We don't think it's enough to hold low-ranking soldiers accountable while allowing high-ranking officials to escape accountability."

So far, the ACLU has collected 110,000 pages of investigation documents.

"There are a lot of holes in the story the documents tell," he said. □

Army Times reporter Michelle Tan contributed to this story.