

Seattle Draft & Military Counseling Center

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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ARMY OPENS INVESTIGATION INTO "ABUSES OF POWER" DISCLOSED BY IRAQ WAR
VETERAN AND ARMY INTERROGATOR, SGT RICKY CLOUSING

Fort Bragg, NC – August 28th 2006 – The United States Army has opened two parallel investigations into the "the abuse of power which goes without accountability" disclosed by Iraq War Veteran, Sgt. Ricky Clousing, who recently returned himself to military control after speaking publicly about his time in Iraq as an Army Interrogator.

John Sifton, Senior Researcher at Human Rights Watch and author of the report: *Leadership Failure - Firsthand Accounts of Torture of Iraqi Detainees by the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division* states:

"The abuse of power in Iraq is not isolated or spontaneous but rather part of a larger pattern of abuse that senior military officials are condoning rather than condemning. Whenever abuses of power by the military in Iraq surface the military has done its best to paint the soldiers as a few bad apples. In fact, the soldiers are victims themselves of poor policies and leadership that guarantees these sorts of things will happen." Although the Human Rights Watch report references incidents between September 2003 and April 2004 it is evidence of the systemic rather than sporadic nature of these events.

Sergeant Ricky Clousing, turned himself over to US military custody on Friday, August 11th after speaking at a press conference in Seattle, WA . The Sergeant, who was attached to a tactical infantry unit as an interrogator in Iraq , spoke publicly about what he called "the daily devastation of occupation in Iraq " which led to his decision to leave his unit after completion of his tour in Iraq .

Sgt. Clousing is currently assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg and is still waiting for the Army to determine how his case will be handled. Sgt. Clousing, a 24 year old Washington native joined ranks with a number of Iraq veterans who have decided that they can no longer remain silent about the abuses they witnessed in Iraq.

"We are pleased that both the 82nd Airborne Command and the Army's Criminal Investigation Division have begun investigations. The incidents in Iraq described by Sergeant Clousing are serious breaches and merit close scrutiny. Also meriting investigation is their part in a larger pattern" says Attorney David W. Miner, a former Army Judge Advocate.

Co-counsel Larry Hildes states that "We are confident that a thorough investigation will verify the truth of Sgt. Clousing's statements. He is cooperating fully with these investigations and we trust that the Army will act in similar good faith."

Sergeant Ricky Clousing is available for limited, one on one interviews as are his attorneys, David W. Miner and Larry Hildes. More information is available at www.sdmcc.org/rickyclousing including pictures and diary entries of Sgt. Clousing's from Iraq.