

They have had an investigation. It was suggested that the higher ups were responsible for this; interrogation tactics and procedures were not clear, and that is why all this happened.

I would just ask our colleagues to remember that when the evidence came out during the prosecution of those individuals, the conviction of them, and their being sentenced to jail, I point out it was never suggested that was part of an interrogation technique. These people were not being interrogated. Most of them were not even members of al-Qaida. A lot of them are street thugs that had been arrested for normal criminal behavior. They didn't have any intelligence to give us about the enemy we were facing over there. So all this that has been suggested, that we are completely out of control and somehow the Department of Justice memorandums about what is the maximum ability of a U.S. office to conduct investigation, somehow that affected that.

Remember Mr. Sivitz, a private, I believe, or a corporal or sergeant, who pled guilty and was convicted and sentenced to jail? He said our leaders didn't know what we were doing. If they had known what we were doing, it would have been hell to pay.

Do you remember the incident of the African-American colonel who had a sterling career who, in a fire fight, pulled out a gun and fired a bullet near the head of an individual he had captured to frighten him to get information he thought might help him save his troops? They cashiered him out of the Army.

We had case after case of people being disciplined. Over 200 have been. So this myth has been created that people didn't know what was going on and were not properly instructed.

We had hearings. I am on Judiciary, and I am on Armed Services in the Senate. We have House Judiciary and Armed Services and we have Senate Intelligence and we have Senate and House Intelligence. We have had over 26 hearings on this issue, more than any other.

We ought to spend some time trying to figure out how to win this war rather than going back and suggesting to the whole world, by hearing after hearing, after report after report after commission, that we are out of control, mistreating prisoners, when it is not so. Our soldiers are consistently abiding by the Geneva Conventions as they have been instructed, and they do their duty every day. The Field Manual applies to men and women in the military, and they know that. That has been reaffirmed to them with clarity, that that controls the treatment of the prisoners in Iraq.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. SESSIONS. My 5 minutes is up? Mr. President, I will conclude—I may like to talk about this later on—with a letter from a sergeant from the Arkansas National Guard who was in Iraq

from April 2004 to March of 2005. He said:

My job was that of fire-team leader, responsible for three soldiers. We patrolled the streets of Baghdad daily [not a safe place to be] conducted raids, manned checkpoints, and cleared houses and other buildings. During our stay we detained dozens of Iraqis.

So I was somewhat astounded at Capt. Ian Fishback's letter. . . .

He said he saw beatings, broken bones and other improper treatment of prisoners. That is inconsistent with my observations—of mine. I will offer this for the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. SESSIONS. I will quote one paragraph.

We never experienced the confusion that Capt. Fishback and his soldiers evidently experienced. Our directives were clear and our approach to treating detainees was consistent: I never saw a U.S. soldier physically mistreat an Iraqi. I saw professional treatment of detainees from top to bottom, and I was proud to be a part of this great combat team.

That is what is going on. That is the reality, in my view, of what is going on in Iraq. We have subjected ourselves and our soldiers to great risk because we demanded restraint on their part, and for the most part they have given us that.

There have been problems. We know that. But we are not allowing them to continue. We are stopping them and prosecuting people if they have violated the law, as they should be prosecuted. So I am concerned that what we do today sends a message to the world that Members of this body and members of the leadership of the U.S. Government believe that our military is out of control and that we need some sort of commission to get them in control.

That is not accurate in my view. We don't need another commission. We have had at least six, eight or nine major reports, and we have had, of course, over 20 hearings in the House and Senate. I have been a part of more of them than I would have wished.

I honestly and truly believe we need to watch our rhetoric and not demean the fine men and women who are serving us because we sent them there in harm's way, and they are serving us with fidelity to duty and the highest degree of professionalism, giving their lives to help the Iraqi people to have a better life. That is our goal. That is what we need to keep at. I hope we will remember that as we debate these subjects.

I yield the floor.

#### EXHIBIT 1

I am a sergeant in the Arkansas Army National Guard, and I was in Iraq from April 2004 to March 2005. My job was that of fire-team leader, responsible for three soldiers. We patrolled the streets of Baghdad daily, conducted raids, manned checkpoints, and cleared houses and other buildings. During our stay in Iraq, we detained dozens of Iraqis.

So I was somewhat astounded at Capt. Ian Fishback's letter to Sen. John McCain (R-

Ariz.) about what he saw and observed in Iraq concerning beatings, broken bones and other improper treatment of prisoners [opened, Sept. 28]. His experience and observations are inconsistent with mine.

Our unit was attached to the 1st Cavalry Division. We worked with active-duty soldiers, and when I moved to a forward operating base known as Headhunter, I worked every day with the 1st Cavalry, which I found to be a professional organization.

We never experienced the confusion that Capt. Fishback and his soldiers evidently experienced. Our directives were clear and our approach to treating detainees was consistent: I never saw a U.S. soldier physically mistreat an Iraqi. I saw professional treatment of detainees from the top to the bottom, and I was proud to be part of this great combat team.

I do not challenge Capt. Fishback or his observations. But I saw U.S. soldiers, both active-duty and National Guard, conduct themselves professionally on a daily basis.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I just made a presentation on my amendment No. 2432. I ask unanimous consent to add cosponsors—Senators STEVENS, ROBERTS, SESSIONS, ENSIGN, GRAHAM, THUNE, and KYL.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, we have had a very good and productive morning on the Defense authorization bill, a continuation by the Senate of that important legislation.

Matters relating to the bill are concluded. I will now await the directions of the majority leader as to the concluding of today's proceedings before the Senate.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent there now be a period of morning business with

Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The majority whip is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to proceed for up to 5 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION OF FORT CAMPBELL, KY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the men and women who make up the 101st Airborne Division based at Fort Campbell, KY. In the war on terror, these soldiers frequently form the front lines. I offer them the thanks and prayers of a grateful nation as they are in the process of deploying to Iraq once again.

The 101st has seen action in Iraq before. They led the initial wave of forces sent to liberate that country in March 2003. About 19,000 soldiers in all from the 101st helped bring freedom to the Iraqi people and destroy Saddam Hussein's illegitimate regime.

After the fall of Hussein, the soldiers of the 101st operated around the city of Mosul in northern Iraq—I had a chance to visit them there in 2003—keeping innocent Iraqis safe and tracking down terrorists. Stationed in Iraq for about a year, they undertook some of the most hazardous duties yet in the war on terror. Tragically, 73 soldiers from Fort Campbell have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty to date, including four soldiers killed near Baghdad earlier this very week.

My heart goes out to the families of these brave heroes. I believe the best way we can respect their memories is to finish their mission in Iraq with honor. I have tried to do my utmost in this Senate to see that our Armed Forces get everything they need to fulfill that mission, and I will continue to do so, as I know my other colleagues will as well.

The 101st Airborne Division, also known as "The Screaming Eagles," is one of the most respected divisions in our armed services and frequently gets the first call when crisis strikes. They specialize in the rapid deployment of soldiers into combat from helicopters.

The division was founded in 1942 and parachuted into Normandy on D-Day during World War II. Later, many of its members saw action at the Battle of the Bulge. The 101st continued to serve many critical missions in Vietnam and the first gulf war. They are the best America has to offer, and I might also add, the HBO series "Band of Brothers" from a few years ago was about the 101st Airborne in World War II. It took that storied unit from the beaches of Normandy through to the end of the war.

The 101st Airborne began redeploying to Iraq in September, and by the end of this month, about 20,000 of its soldiers will be back in Iraq.

They will be gone for at least a year. For many soldiers, this will be their third deployment since September 11, 2001: The 101st was also deployed to Afghanistan soon after the attack of September 11.

MG Thomas R. Turner, who commands the 101st Airborne, expressed the confidence and clarity of vision that all soldiers of the 101st share when he spoke at a color casing ceremony recently to signal the official departure of his soldiers to Iraq.

Referring to the 101st Airborne's mission, he said:

Our end state is clear: An Iraq at peace with its neighbors, and an ally in the War on Terror, with a representative government that respects the human rights of all Iraqis.

Just as in wars before, our country fights not for land or treasure but for freedom. In previous centuries, America has fought to secure liberty, end slavery, and stamp out fascism. Our cause today is equally just. We fight to defeat the terrorists who would rule by fear. And we are fighting to spread freedom, because freedom is the antidote to the terrorists' fear.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the soldiers of the 101st Airborne for their extraordinary service. Kentucky thanks them as well. We all pray for their safe return.

I yield the floor.

#### CYPRUS

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the extremely unfortunate decision by the highest levels of the State Department to meet with Mehmet Ali Talat, the self-declared president of the so-called "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus." For more than 30 years, it has been a tenet of U.S. foreign policy not to extend de jure or de facto recognition to this self-declared government, which exists only because of the forcible occupation of the northern one-third of Cyprus by more than 43,000 Turkish troops.

Cyprus was divided by a Turkish invasion in 1974. With the exception of Turkey, all nations recognize that this invasion was illegal and have refused to recognize the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus," a rump state that proclaims itself the government of the occupied area. Far from honoring the invasion, the world recognizes only the Republic of Cyprus as the legitimate sovereign government for the entire island.

Both international law and U.S. statutory law support the free government of Cyprus. Several U.N. Security Council resolutions implore nations neither to recognize nor support the self-declared government in the occupied area. Likewise, the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act establishes the U.S. policy of supporting a free government in Cyprus, demanding the withdrawal of all Turkish forces from Cyprus, and seeking the reunification of the island's communities.

I rise today because I fear the State Department is now embarked on a different course, a course that may irreparably damage the prospects for a peaceful reunification of Cyprus. On Friday, October 28, 2005, the U.S. Secretary of State met with Mr. Mehmet Ali Talat. I have heard the State Department spokesperson try to justify this meeting by saying that the Secretary would only be meeting with Mr. Talat in his capacity as a leader of the Turkish-Cypriot community, and their session would not signal a change in U.S. policy toward Cyprus.

These explanations are disappointing. In all likelihood, meeting Mr. Talat in the State Department's Harry S. Truman Building will be used by Turkey and the rump state as evidence that the United States is moving toward independent elevation of this self-declared government and the permanent dismemberment of Cyprus.

Following the defeat of an U.N.-sponsored plan in 2004, the Republic of Cyprus has undertaken numerous initiatives designed to bring the two communities together. Since April 2003, when the movement restrictions through the cease-fire line were partially lifted, there have been more than 8 million crossings from both Greek and Turkish Cypriots. During the 4 million visits by Greek-Cypriots to the occupied area, approximately \$100 million were spent to the benefit of Turkish Cypriots. Cyprus is contributing concretely to the economic uplifting of the Turkish Cypriot community—more than \$43 million in social insurance, more than \$9 million in medical care, and more than \$343 million in free electricity during the last couple of years.

According to Turkish Cypriot reports, one of the main reasons for the Turkish Cypriot economic growth is the opportunity that was provided to more than 10,000 Turkish Cypriots to work in the government-controlled areas after the lifting of the restrictions. These skilled workers, who continue to live in the occupied areas, earn approximately \$180 million every year. The Republic of Cyprus has also unilaterally removed land mines in the cease-fire zone. More than 63,000 people in the occupied area have been issued Republic of Cyprus birth certificates, more than 57,000 have been issued Republic of Cyprus identity cards, and more than 32,000 have been issued Republic of Cyprus passports.

Unfortunately, Turkey and its rump state have been working in the opposite direction. In Turkey's negotiation for EU accession, Turkey committed to extending its customs union to Cyprus, but then unilaterally backtracked on its commitment, stating that it does not even recognize the Republic of Cyprus. Turkey and the "TRNC" have pressed for the opening for direct airline flights and direct trade into the occupied area, both of which violate the Republic of Cyprus' sovereign power to designate ports of entry. Last month, the Prime Minister of Turkey