

(b)(6)

**USTRANSCOM CS**

**From:** Schwartz, Norton Gen USTRANSCOM CC  
**Sent:** Friday, February 17, 2006 7:15 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) POLAD USTRANSCOM CC  
**Cc:** Selva, Paul Brig Gen USTRANSCOM J3; Dail, Robert LTG USTRANSCOM DC; Cooper, Anthony CAPT USTRANSCOM PA; (b)(6) USTRANSCOM J3; (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Guantanamo Gets Worse  
**Attachments:** clip\_image002.gif; clip\_image003.gif



clip\_image002.gif (28 KB) clip\_image003.gif (1 KB)

Got it, (b)(6) Thank you. ns.

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b)(6) POLAD USTRANSCOM CC  
**Sent:** Friday, February 17, 2006 7:04 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Norton Gen USTRANSCOM CC  
**Cc:** Selva, Paul Brig Gen USTRANSCOM J3; Dail, Robert LTG USTRANSCOM DC; Cooper, Anthony CAPT USTRANSCOM PA; (b)(6) USTRANSCOM J3; (b)(6) USTRANSCOM J3  
**Subject:** Guantanamo Gets Worse

Sir:  
We may need to definitely think about checking with Southcom to see if we can hold off on return flights for 45 days or so until things die down. Otherwise we are likely to have hero's welcomes awaiting the detainees when they arrive, and we will have problems getting overflight and landing clearance for the flights anyway. It would probably be preferable if we could deliver these detainees in something smaller and more discreet than a T tail.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Rapid-Response [mailto:Rapid-Response@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 17, 2006 6:45 AM  
**Subject:** Rapid Response 02-17

Hot Issues

US Getting Creamed on Human Rights: Coverage of UN Rapporteurs' report on Guantanamo, plus lingering interest in Abu Ghraib photos, adds up to the US taking a big hit on the issues of human rights and respect for the rule of law.

The UN Gitmo Report is a lead story worldwide. Coverage juxtaposes calls by UNSYG Annan, human rights representatives, and EU officials to close the base with statements by Secretary Rumsfeld, State Legal Advisor Bellinger and White House Spokesman Scott McClellan rejecting the criticism. Al-Jazeera Washington correspondent Muhammad al-Alami said, "Washington has lost a lot of its credibility and its moral authority in the field of human rights."

In Europe, criticism continues to be harsh. Hungarian press notes that good intentions are not enough: the US cannot deprive people of their rights "in the name of some future democracy." Spanish press editorializes that "the US continues to try to come up with a shameful re-definition of the concept of torture. It's unthinkable that anti-Americanism in and outside of the Arab world will diminish." The Independent quotes a British high court judge on Guantanamo: "America's idea of what is torture is not the same as ours and does not appear to coincide with that of most civilised nations."

Message:

ü We profoundly disagree with the report for its selective inclusion of only those factual assertions needed to support the Rapporteurs' initial conclusions, avoiding facts that would undermine those conclusions.

ü With respect to detainees, the United States government complies with its Constitution, its laws and its treaty obligations.

ü The law of armed conflict applies to the conflict with Al Qaida and related detainee operations, and governs operations at Guantanamo.

ü Although members of Al Qaida and their supporters are engaged in armed conflict against us, they do not represent any state or government, nor do they adhere to the rules of war.

ü "I can tell you categorically that any maltreatment of any detainees by US forces or coalition forces is totally unacceptable. Our orders have and will continue to be that we will treat everyone in our charge humanely and with respect." (General Pace, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff)

ü Where there have been cases of unlawful treatment of detainees, the US has vigorously investigated, prosecuted and punished those responsible.

How We're Playing

Online blogs and discussion boards about GITMO:

\* America has lost its prestige: Every year the world waits for the annual US State Department report on human rights. Today, it is America that awaits the world's opinion of its human rights policy. From Gitmo, to Abu Ghraib, to secret prisons in Europe, the world accuses America of not respecting human rights. (Yemen)

o Amazing! Why is everyone a terrorist or liar except the US?! The US preaches on democracy like a whore preaches on abstinence. (Lebanon)

o Terrorist: Those retarded terrorists deserve to die and not just be imprisoned. They are the dumpster of humanity. (Arab)

o Which is better, the American or Arab Government Jails? If the American

Government releases them, then how do you think they will be treated in the Arab countries? (Arab)

o There is thus a contemptuous and contemptible arrogance: the US is above ordinary laws and bodies such as the UN and considers it hardly worth a response. Blind and deaf. (UK)

o The US cannot have it both ways. If they want to be the world's moral police they must adhere to the highest standards. (Spain)

o If the UN doesn't close down Guantanamo Bay after these latest release of abuse pictures it will lose all its credibility. America can no longer boast any form of human rights record. (Australia)

o I can already guess what the American readers will say, "Big deal, Saddam would have done much worse." (Europe)

o Democracy told by Bush and Blair are just the sugar coating. After all, it is now sure that US and UK troops on foreign lands are the same as Saddam or Robert Mugabe's troops. (South Africa)