



**THE JOINT STAFF**  
WASHINGTON, DC

7 May 2014

Reply Zip Code:  
20318-0300

Mr. Myron Belkind  
President  
The National Press Club  
529 14th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20045

Dear Mr. Belkind:

Thank you for your letter to the Secretary of Defense citing allegations of detainee maltreatment by U.S. Special Forces at Radio Paighame Milli in Afghanistan. I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Secretary.

The findings of an investigation directed by the Commander, International Security Assistance Force/U.S. Forces – Afghanistan, dispute the allegations. The investigation determined that U.S. Special Operations Forces supported Afghan Special Security Forces (ASSF) in conducting a successful mission to locate and seize suspected Taliban weapons in the Bini Sherafghan (also referred to as Radio Paighame Milli) radio station. The ASSF entered the radio station and seized weapons, which included a rocket propelled grenade launcher, grenades, AK-47 rifles and magazines. Three Afghans were detained for further questioning after they produced fraudulent documents alleging authority to have the weapons. U.S. medical personnel responded to a request from the ASSF to provide assistance to the detainees. There were no complaints or other indications of maltreatment. At the end of the mission, there was no indication or complaint of damage or inoperable equipment at the radio station.

Based on the findings of the investigation, I am confident that our forces did not maltreat detainees or destroy radio station property as alleged. We continue to work closely with our Afghan partners on improving their ability to protect themselves and administer a government that is accountable to the people of Afghanistan. In addition, we continue to fully support U.S. Government efforts to build a freer and more professional media in Afghanistan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frederick S. Rudesheim".

FREDERICK S. RUDESHEIM

Major General, USA  
Vice Director, Joint Staff