

Thursday, December 07, 2006

Torture Inc. America's Brutal Prisons

Abu Ghraib - Just a Hop, Skip, and a Very Short Flight From Home.

If you want to understand how it is that "ordinary men," (and women too, of course), can do the horrible things that were done in the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq

"you need only look into a mirror" (as "V" would put it) into what has, for so very long, been done in prisons right here at home, in the United States.

(see video link below)

This documentary series on torture (by British journalists) turns, in this episode, to the prison system in the U.S. to show us how frighteningly similar the homegrown "techniques" of brutality, cruelty, sadism, sexual humiliation, and methodical dehumanization are to what we have come to accept as commonplace in the "rights free zones" run by the U.S. government abroad.



The difference, if any, is merely a matter of degree.


It should come as no surprise that the military police unit at Abu Ghraib was a reserve unit, primarily comprised of people who are prison guards here at home when not wearing (and desecrating) the uniform of soldiers in the U.S. Army.

As a former combat arms soldier, I prefer to think of these inhuman Nazis as wanna-be soldiers - civilian prison guard rent-a-cops playing at being soldiers, mere charlatans who are not my brothers or sisters in arms, who have no understanding of honor, professionalism, the laws of war, or the sacred oath a soldier takes to uphold and defend the Constitution.

I like to think that way to protect myself from the ugly thought that the Army I was a part of, my Army, is becoming like the Nazi bastards and the brutal Imperial Japanese Army troops that two Grandfathers in our family fought against - one at the Battle of the Bulge, and the other at Iwo Jima (a *man* who lied about his age to join the Marines on December 10, 1941 to fight for his country and for freedom).

This is not what they fought for. *This* is what they fought against. *This* is a disgrace and insult to their honor as well as the honor of all who came before them, starting at Concord Bridge. What you will see in this video of what our prison system has become is not consistent with our Founding Declaration that "all men are created equal, and endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Stewart Rhodes

Posted by Stewart Rhodes at 11:13 AM 

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