

Bridget Kendall: General, we've got a whole spate of e-mails and questions to you on that a little later on and Haider we won't forget your point. But I just want to put to General Kimmitt another e-mail we had which is about the whole public relations side to this incident - the wedding party - which you've had to deal with on a daily basis at the press conferences.

And we've had several e-mails from people who've taken exception to the statement you made "bad people have parties too". This is Ameer in Dubai: How can you defend your statement like "bad people have parties too", it seems to have gone down very badly?"

General Kimmitt: Well again the comment was very simple and what it meant was that there were some people that may have been entertaining a group of smugglers, it may have been a large celebration of the foreign fighters before they moved on.

Nobody's disputing the fact that there may have been a celebration of some kind going on at one or two o'clock in the morning. And very simply meant that there could have been two things going on - there could have been a foreign fighters safe house preparing for their missions as they went to terrorise the people of Iraq and there might have been some entertainment to go along with that as well.

That is not inconsistent and that's one of the things we're going to look at. But to suggest that somehow we had a wedding party going on there, it is not borne out by the facts on the ground.

Bridget Kendall: Thank you. And General Kimmitt we had a caller just a minute ago who wanted to talk about Abu Ghraib and the prison abuse scandals there. Let me put to you this e-mail that we've had from Iran from July in Shiraz: I always thought that the US army had discipline and respect, however, the recent scandal in Baghdad's prison showed the lack of such discipline and any kind of respect for human rights. Do you think the US army can recover?

General Kimmitt: Well first of all I think you're absolutely right and we've said numerous times what we saw in those photos was abhorable , was wrong, was absolutely inconsistent with what we stand for as an army.

They're absolutely right. Those are not the values of the US army. What you saw in those photos was wrong. And we've taken swift action against those responsible, for those people that you see inside those photos, for the actions that they committed. There is no excuse for that.

We conducted a thorough investigation - seven people are facing courts martial charges, one has already been through the court martial and a number of supervisors have had administrative actions taken against them as well.

So I'm not going to try to defend what I saw and what you saw in those photos. It was wrong and it was important for the US army to conduct those investigations and admit that those actions happened