

# U.S. Tortured and Killed Innocent People for the Specific Purpose of Producing False Propaganda

By [Washington's Blog](#)

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## Techniques Specially Designed to Produced F-A-L-S-E Confessions

*It has long been known by interrogation experts that torture creates false confessions. For example:*

*The C.I.A.'s 1963 interrogation manual [stated](#):*

*Intense pain is quite likely to produce **false confessions**, concocted as a means of escaping from distress. A time-consuming delay results, while investigation is conducted and the admissions are proven untrue. During this respite the interrogatee can pull himself together. He may even use the time to think up new, more complex 'admissions' that take still longer to disprove.*

- Neuroscientists have [found](#) that torture physically and chemically interferes with the prisoner's ability to tell the truth
- An Army psychologist – Major Paul Burney, Army's Behavior Science Consulting Team psychologist – [said](#) (page 78 & 83):

was stressed to me time and time again that psychological investigations have proven that harsh interrogations do not work. At best it will get you information that a prisoner thinks you want to hear to make the interrogation stop, but that information is **strongly likely to be false**.

- The national security adviser to then-Vice President George H.W. Bush (Donald P. Gregg) [wrote](#):

During wartime service with the CIA in Vietnam from 1970 to 1972, I was in charge of intelligence operations in the 10 provinces surrounding Saigon. One of my tasks was to prevent rocket attacks on Saigon's port. Keeping Saigon safe required human intelligence, most often from captured prisoners. I had a running debate about how North Vietnamese prisoners should be treated with the South Vietnamese colonel who conducted interrogations. This colonel routinely tortured prisoners, producing a flood of information, **much of it totally false**.

Senator John McCain [explains](#), based upon his own years of torture:

I know from personal experience that the abuse of prisoners sometimes produces good intelligence but often produces bad intelligence because under torture a person will say anything he thinks his captors want to hear — true or false — if he believes it will relieve his suffering. **Often, information provided to stop the torture is deliberately misleading.**

- And a former CIA analyst [notes](#):

During the Inquisition there were many confessed witches, and many others were named by those tortured as other witches.

The above is true [for all torture](#).

But the specific *type* of torture used by the U.S. last decade is even worse ... it was a systematic program of torture specially designed in order to *intentionally create **false confessions***.

Indeed, [the entire purpose behind the U.S. torture program](#) was to obtain **false** confessions.

And the torture techniques used were in fact [COMMUNIST techniques specifically designed to produce false confessions](#).

Senator Levin, in commenting on a Senate Armed Services Committee report on torture in 2009, [dropped the following bombshell](#):

With last week's release of the Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) opinions, it is now widely known that Bush administration officials distorted Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape "SERE" training - a legitimate program used by the military to train our troops to resist abusive enemy interrogations - by authorizing abusive techniques from SERE for use in detainee interrogations. Those decisions conveyed the message that abusive treatment was appropriate for detainees in U.S. custody. They were also an affront to the values articulated by General Petraeus.

In SERE training, U.S. troops are briefly exposed, in a highly controlled setting, to abusive interrogation techniques used by enemies that refuse to follow the Geneva Conventions. The techniques are based on tactics used by Chinese Communists against American soldiers during the Korean War for the purpose of eliciting false confessions for propaganda purposes. Techniques used in SERE training include stripping trainees of their clothing, placing them in stress positions, putting hoods over their heads, subjecting them to face and body slaps, depriving them of sleep, throwing them up against a wall, confining them in a small box, treating them like animals, subjecting them to loud music and flashing lights, and exposing them to extreme temperatures. Until recently, the Navy SERE school also used waterboarding. The purpose of the SERE program is to provide U.S. troops who might be captured a taste of the treatment they might face so that they might have a better chance of surviving captivity and resisting abusive and coercive interrogations.

Senator Levin then documents that SERE techniques were deployed as part of an official policy on detainees, and that SERE instructors helped to implement the interrogation programs. He noted:

The senior Army SERE psychologist warned in 2002 against using SERE training techniques during interrogations in an email to personnel at Guantanamo Bay, because:

[T]he use of physical pressures brings with it a large number of potential negative side effects... When individuals are gradually exposed to increasing levels of discomfort, it is more common for them to resist harder... If individuals are put under enough discomfort, i.e. pain, they will eventually do whatever it takes to stop the pain. This will increase the amount of information they tell the interrogator, but it does not mean the information is accurate. In fact, it usually decreases the reliability of the information because the person will say whatever he believes will stop the pain... Bottom line: the likelihood that the use of physical pressures will increase the delivery of accurate information from a detainee is very low. The likelihood that the use of physical pressures will increase the level of resistance in a detainee is very high... (p. 53).

McClatchy [filled in](#) some of the details:

Former senior U.S. intelligence official familiar with the interrogation issue said that Cheney and former Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld demanded that the interrogators find evidence of al Qaida-Iraq collaboration...

For most of 2002 and into 2003, Cheney and Rumsfeld, especially, were also demanding proof of the links between al Qaida and Iraq that (former Iraqi exile leader Ahmed) Chalabi and others had told them were there."

It was during this period that CIA interrogators waterboarded two alleged top al Qaida detainees repeatedly — Abu Zubaydah at least 83 times in August 2002 and Khalid Sheik Muhammed 183 times in March 2003 — according to a newly released Justice Department document...

When people kept coming up empty, they were told by Cheney's and Rumsfeld's people to push harder," he continued."Cheney's and Rumsfeld's people were told repeatedly, by CIA . . . and by others, that there wasn't any reliable intelligence that pointed to operational ties between bin Laden and Saddam . . .

A former U.S. Army psychiatrist, Maj. Charles Burney, told Army investigators in 2006 that interrogators at the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, detention facility were under "pressure" to produce evidence of ties between al Qaida and Iraq.

"While we were there a large part of the time we were focused on trying to establish a link between al Qaida and Iraq and we were not successful in establishing a link between al Qaida and Iraq," Burney told staff of the Army Inspector General. "The more frustrated people got in not being able to establish that link . . . there was more and more pressure to resort to measures that might produce more immediate results."

"I think it's obvious that the administration was scrambling then to try to find a connection, a link (between al Qaida and Iraq)," [Senator] Levin said in a conference call with reporters. "They made out links where they didn't exist."

Levin recalled Cheney's assertions that a senior Iraqi intelligence officer had met Mohammad Atta, the leader of the 9/11 hijackers, in the Czech Republic capital of Prague just months before the attacks on the World Trade Center

and the Pentagon.

The FBI and CIA found that no such meeting occurred.

In other words, top Bush administration officials not only knowingly lied about a non-existent connection between Al Qaida and Iraq, but they pushed and insisted that interrogators use special torture methods aimed at extracting *false confessions* to attempt to create such a false linkage.

The Washington Post [reported](#) the same year:

Despite what you've seen on TV, torture is really only good at one thing: eliciting **false confessions**. Indeed, Bush-era torture techniques, we now know, were cold-bloodedly modeled after methods used by **Chinese Communists** to extract confessions from captured U.S. servicemen that they could then use for propaganda during the Korean War.

So as shocking as the latest revelation in a new Senate Armed Services Committee report may be, it actually makes sense — in a nauseating way. The White House started pushing the use of torture not when faced with a “ticking time bomb” scenario from terrorists, but when **officials in 2002 were desperately casting about for ways to tie Iraq to the 9/11 attacks** — in order to strengthen their public case for invading a country that had nothing to do with 9/11 at all.

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Gordon Trowbridge writes for the Detroit News: “Senior Bush administration officials pushed for the use of abusive interrogations of terrorism detainees in part to seek evidence to justify the invasion of Iraq, according to newly declassified information discovered in a congressional probe.

Indeed, one of the two senior instructors from the Air Force team which taught U.S. servicemen how to resist torture by foreign governments when used to extract false confessions has blown the whistle on the true purpose behind the U.S. torture program.

As Truthout [reported](#):

Jessen's notes were provided to Truthout by retired Air Force Capt. Michael Kearns, a “master” SERE instructor and [decorated](#) veteran who has previously held high-ranking positions within the Air Force Headquarters Staff and Department of Defense (DoD).

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Kearns was one of only two officers within DoD qualified to teach all three SERE-related courses within SSTP on a worldwide basis, according to a copy of a 1989 letter written Aldrich, who [nominated him](#) officer of the year.

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The Jessen notes clearly state the totality of what was being reverse-engineered - not just ‘enhanced interrogation techniques,’ but an entire program of exploitation of prisoners using torture as a central pillar,” he said. “What I think is important to note, as an ex-SERE Resistance to Interrogation

instructor, is the focus of Jessen's instruction. It is **exploitation, not specifically interrogation. And this is not a picayune issue, because if one were to 'reverse-engineer' a course on resistance to exploitation then what one would get is a plan to exploit prisoners, not interrogate them.** The CIA/DoD torture program appears to have the same goals as the terrorist organizations or enemy governments for which SV-91 and other SERE courses were created to defend against: the full exploitation of the prisoner in his intelligence, **propaganda**, or other needs held by the detaining power, such as the recruitment of informers and double agents. Those aspects of the US detainee program have not generally been discussed as part of the torture story in the American press."

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Jessen wrote that cooperation is the "end goal" of the detainer, who wants the detainee "to see that [the detainer] has 'total' control of you because you are completely dependent on him, and thus you must comply with his wishes. **Therefore, it is absolutely inevitable that you must cooperate with him in some way (propaganda, special favors, confession, etc.).**"

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Kearns said, based on what he has read in declassified government documents and news reports about the role SERE played in the Bush administration's torture program, Jessen clearly **"reverse-engineered" his lesson plan and used resistance methods to abuse "war on terror" detainees.**

In a subsequent report, Truthout [notes](#):

[Air Force Col. Steven Kleinman](#), a career military intelligence officer recognized as one of the DOD's most effective interrogators as well a former SERE instructor and director of intelligence for JPRA's teaching academy, said he immediately knew the true value of the PREAL manual if employed as part of an interrogation program.

"This is the **guidebook to getting false confessions, a system drawn specifically from the communist interrogation model that was used to generate propaganda rather than intelligence,**" Kleinman said in an interview. "If your goal is to obtain useful and reliable information this is not the source book you should be using."

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"In SERE courses, we emphatically presented this interrogation paradigm as one that was employed exclusively by nations that were in flagrant violation of the Geneva Conventions and international treaties against torture," Kleinman said. "We proudly assured the students that we - the United States - would never resort to such despicable methods."

(Interrogators also forced detainees to take drugs ... which [further impaired their ability](#) to tell the truth.)

And false confessions **were**, in fact, extracted.

For example:

- A humanitarian aid worker said: [torture only stopped when I pretended I was in](#)

## [Al Qaeda](#)

- Under torture, Libyan Ibn al-Sheikh al-Libi [falsely claimed there was a link between Saddam Hussein, al-Qaida and WMD](#)
- President Bush mentioned Abu Zubaydah as a success story, where torture saved lives. Zubaydah was suspected of being a high-ranking al-Qaida leader. Bush administration officials claimed Zubaydah told them that al-Qaida had links with Saddam Hussein. He also claimed there was a plot to attack Washington with a “dirty bomb”. [Both claims are now recognized to be false, even by the CIA, which also admits he was never a member of al-Qaida.](#)
- One of the Main Sources for the 9/11 Commission Report was [Tortured Until He Agreed to Sign a Confession that He Was \*\*NOT EVEN ALLOWED TO READ\*\*](#)
- The so-called 9/11 mastermind said: [“During ... my interrogation I gave a lot of false information in order to satisfy what I believed the interrogators wished to hear”](#) (the self-confessed 9/11 “mastermind” [falsely confessed to crimes he didn't commit](#))

And the 9/11 Commission Report was largely based on a *third-hand* account of what tortured detainees said, with [two of the three parties in the communication being government employees](#). And the government went to great lengths to [obstruct justice and hide unflattering facts](#) from the Commission.

According to [NBC News](#):

- Much of the 9/11 Commission Report was based upon the testimony of people who were tortured
- At least four of the people whose interrogation figured in the 9/11 Commission Report have claimed that they told interrogators information as a way to stop being “tortured.”
- The 9/11 Commission itself *doubted the accuracy of the torture confessions*, and yet kept their doubts to themselves

Details [here](#).

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