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## **Military Finds No Systemic Abuse**

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WASHINGTON — A military self-examination of allegations that medical personnel mistreated prisoners found a few instances of abuse but no widespread problems, the Army's surgeon general said yesterday.

Lt. Gen. Kevin Kiley's findings were based on surveys and interviews with roughly 1,000 medical personnel who were associated with the care of detainees in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. He said his survey did not include detainees, the Red Cross or other organizations.

Of the medical personnel surveyed, 32 said they witnessed abuse of prisoners. All but six said they reported the abuse to criminal investigators or their chain of command; the others said the problem was dealt with "on the spot."

Fewer than a dozen of the incidents involved possible mistreatment allegedly committed by other medical personnel, Kiley told reporters at the Pentagon after briefing some members of Congress on his findings. These included medics dropping a stretcher-bound prisoner from too great a height, delaying the administration of pain medication and slapping a violent prisoner, he said.

"The majority of medical personnel did not observe abuse," Kiley said. "We found no evidence of systemic problems in detainee medical care."

He said he could not verify allegations in the British journal *Lancet* that doctors or medics falsified death certificates to cover up homicides, hid evidence of beatings and revived a prisoner so he could be tortured further.

Kiley said he found problems in medical record-keeping and some vague policies, but said that those were being corrected and that detainee medical care has generally been good.

More than 100 prisoners have died while in U.S. custody, according to the military.

Jumana Musa, an advocacy director with Amnesty International, said the limited scope of the assessment prevents any real understanding of "the linkages between the policies approved by senior officials and the practices of interrogators."

"As with past investigations, this myopic examination of the involvement of medical personnel is narrowly drawn to exclude investigation of the broader systemic violations," Musa said in a statement.