

M2+C

NEWS RELEASE AND Q & A's
PUC DEATHS
December 17, 2002

"ON DECEMBER 10TH, A DETAINEE DIED AT THE BAGRAM DETENTION FACILITY. THIS DEATH FOLLOWS A PREVIOUS DEATH AT THE FACILITY ON DECEMBER 3.

AUTOPSIES HAVE BEEN PERFORMED ON BOTH INDIVIDUALS BY COALITION MEDICAL TEAMS THAT INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM JORDAN, KOREA AND THE U.S. THE AUTOPSY FINDINGS ON THE DETAINEE THAT DIED ON DECEMBER 3, FOUND THE CAUSE OF DEATH TO BE A PULMONARY EMBOLISM. THE AUTOPSY FINDINGS FOR THE DETAINEE THAT DIED ON DECEMBER 10, FOUND THE CAUSE OF DEATH TO BE A HEART ATTACK.

AN INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN INITIATED BY THE ARMY'S CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION TO DETERMINE IF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THEIR DETENTION WAS RELATED OR CONTRIBUTED TO THEIR DEATHS. THE FINDINGS OF THE INVESTIGATION WILL BE RELEASED ONCE THE INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETE."

Questions and Answers in Response To Query only:

Q1. Do you suspect foul play? Were there indications that they had been beaten?

A1. The circumstances of the deaths will be determined by the investigation. Because it is an ongoing investigation, we cannot comment on specifics.

Q2. How did the 2 PUCs die?

A2. The findings of the investigation are not yet complete.

Q3. What commonalties did the two persons under custody share?

A3. Both were being held in isolation at the Bagram Detention Facility at the time of their deaths.

Q4. Were the PUCs under any medical care?

A4. Both persons under custody had a medical exam upon in-processing and were determined to be in fair health, approximately five to seven days before the deaths.

Q5. What led to the investigation into the deaths?

A5. While the cases may very well be unrelated, it is important to ensure both incidents are fully investigated.

Q6. What similarities were found during the second autopsy?

Q6. Specific details of the investigation will not be released until the investigation is complete.

Q7. What were the names/nationalities of the PUCs?

A7. It has been our policy from the beginning of OEF to not reveal names, identities or nationalities of those we interview and detain.

Q8. Have the families been notified of the deaths?

A8. The International Committee of the Red Cross has been notified of the deaths. ICRC is handling the notification process.