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**Manning, Bradley E.
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HHC, U.S. Army Garrison,
Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall
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Gates Calls Air Strike Video 'Painful to Watch'

By John J. Kruzel
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 12, 2010 – Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said recently published footage of a U.S. Apache helicopter killing 12 people in Iraq, including two Reuters news agency personnel, was "painful to watch," and that the attack has been thoroughly investigated.

The 17-minute video from a July 12, 2007, air strike shows U.S. military personnel gunning down a group perceived to be armed militants and opening fire on a subsequent rescue attempt. The footage was made available last week by WikiLeaks, a whistle-blowing Web site that publishes anonymous submissions and leaked documents.

"We've investigated it very thoroughly. And it's unfortunate -- it's clearly not helpful," Gates said yesterday on ABC News' "This Week." "But by the same token, I think it should not have any lasting consequences."

Asked if the release of the video would damage the image of the United States in the world, Gates said he didn't think so.

"They're in a combat situation. The video doesn't show the broader picture of the firing that was going on at American troops," he said. "It's obviously a hard thing to see. It's painful to see, especially when you learn, after the fact, what was going on."

A defense official interviewed for the story said "a perfect storm" of circumstances contributed to the missteps. The official said a longer version of the video, also available online, shows the fuller context of the air strike, including evidence of nearby gunfire.

"You talked about the fog of war -- these people were operating in split-second situations," Gates said.

The findings of the U.S. military investigation are available on the U.S. Central Command Web site in the Freedom of Information Act Reading Room section.

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Edward Snowden, charged with espionage by U.S., has requested asylum in Ecuador, its Foreign Ministry said via Twitter.

WikiLeaks Fast Facts

By CNN Library
updated 7:51 PM EDT, Tue June 11, 2013

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Part of complete coverage on
WikiLeaks

WikiLeaks 101

updated 12:38 PM EST, Thu November 10, 2011



From "Climategate" to leaked diplomatic cables, CNN takes an inside look at the WikiLeaks organization.

Timeline: Assange's extradition battle

updated 10:07 AM EDT, Thu August 16, 2012



From the issuing of an arrest warrant, to a decision on Assange's asylum, see how the story has developed.

Key WikiLeaks figures as trial begins

HIDE CAPTION

<< < 1 2 3 4 5 > >>

(CNN) — Here's a look at what you need to know about WikiLeaks and the trial of U.S. Army Pfc. Bradley Manning.

Facts:

WikiLeaks is an organization that facilitates the anonymous leaking of secret information through its website.

It was founded in 2006 by Julian Assange, activist, computer programmer and hacker.

Timeline:

December 2007 - WikiLeaks posts the U.S. Army manual for soldiers dealing with prisoners at Camp Delta, Guantanamo Bay.

March 2008 - WikiLeaks posts internal documents from the Church of Scientology.

September 2008 - WikiLeaks posts emails from Sarah Palin's Yahoo e-mail account.

November 2008 - WikiLeaks posts a list of names and addresses of people it claims belong to the far-right British National Party.

November 2009 - WikiLeaks posts about 500,000 pager messages sent in New York City on the day of the September 11, 2001 attacks. Most are from ordinary people.

April 5, 2010 - A classified military video is posted by WikiLeaks. It shows a U.S. Apache helicopter firing on and killing two journalists

Bright future for leaking?

updated 3:49 PM EDT, Sat June 30, 2012



Julian Assange is waiting to hear if Ecuador will grant him asylum. He's dangling from a cliff, for sure. Hanging by a pinky next to him — WikiLeaks.

How Assange changed

updated 12:25 PM EDT, Mon October 29, 2012



Holed up in Ecuador's Embassy in London, Julian Assange talks at length about his life and motivations.

Assange and Ecuador need each other

updated 10:27 AM EDT, Fri August 17, 2012



Ecuador's President Rafael Correa and Assange have mutual interests and support the idea that the U.S. is a power that has to be checked.

Famous embassy escape precedents

updated 8:20 PM EDT, Sun August 19, 2012



Assange's move is dramatic, but he's not the first person to seek an escape route through a diplomatic mission. Here are some key precedents.

Who is Julian Assange?

updated 5:31 AM EDT, Wed May 30, 2012

Assange is a self-appointed champion of free speech and the founder of a web operation

and a number of Iraqi civilians in 2007. The military claimed that the helicopter crew believed the targets were armed insurgents, not civilians.

May 2010 - The U.S. military detains Pfc. Bradley Manning for allegedly leaking U.S. combat video, including the U.S. helicopter gunship attack posted on WikiLeaks, and classified State Department records. Manning was turned in by Adrian Lamo, a former hacker, who Manning confided in about leaking the classified records.

July 6, 2010 - The U.S. military announces it has charged Manning with violating army regulations by transferring classified information to a personal computer and adding unauthorized software to a classified computer system and of violating federal laws of governing the handling of classified information.

July 25, 2010 - WikiLeaks posts more than 90,000 classified documents relating to the Afghanistan war in what has been called the biggest leak since the Pentagon Papers during the Vietnam War. The documents are divided into more than 100 categories and touch on everything from the hunt for Osama bin Laden to Afghan civilian deaths resulting from U.S. military actions.

October 22, 2010 - WikiLeaks publishes nearly 400,000 classified military documents from the Iraq war, providing a new picture of how many Iraqi civilians have been killed, the role that Iran has played in supporting Iraqi militants and many accounts of abuse by Iraq's army and police.

November 28, 2010 - WikiLeaks begins publishing approximately 250,000 leaked State Department cables dating back to 1966. The site says the documents will be released "in stages over the next few months."

November 28, 2010 - The WikiLeaks website suffers an attack designed to make it unavailable to users. A Twitter user who calls himself Jester claims responsibility for the attack.

November 30, 2010 - WikiLeaks comes under another electronic attack designed to make it unavailable to users, according to a Twitter post from WikiLeaks.

December 1, 2010 - Amazon removes WikiLeaks from its servers.

April 24, 2011 - Nearly 800 classified U.S. military documents obtained by WikiLeaks reveal details about the alleged terrorist activities of al Qaeda operatives captured and housed at the U.S. Navy's detention facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

September 2, 2011 - WikiLeaks releases its archive of more than 250,000 unredacted U.S. diplomatic cables.

October 24, 2011 - WikiLeaks announces that it is temporarily halting publication to "aggressively fundraise." Assange states that a financial blockade by Bank of America, VISA, MasterCard, PayPal and Western Union has cut off 95% of WikiLeaks' revenue.

December 16, 2011 - Bradley Manning's Article 32 hearing, the military equivalent of a grand jury hearing that will determine whether enough evidence exists to merit a court-martial, begins. Manning's attorney asks Lt. Col. Paul Almanza, the investigating officer, to recuse himself. Among the objections is that Almanza had a conflict of interest with his civilian job with the Justice Department, which is investigating WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange.

December 18, 2011 - Army investigator Special Agent David Shaver testifies that a search of military computers used by Pfc. Bradley Manning in Iraq revealed that he had downloaded the same secret documents and videos that were released online by WikiLeaks. In addition he mentioned finding on Manning's computer videos that also were leaked, with one showing a U.S. Apache helicopter attack that killed two Reuters journalists in Baghdad in 2007.



that has greatly antagonized the U.S. government.

Who is Bradley Manning?



An in-depth look at the young soldier suspected of leaking U.S. military intelligence published by WikiLeaks.

WikiLeaks releasing 2.4M Syria e-mails

updated 9:02 PM EDT, Thu July 5, 2012



WikiLeaks said it has begun publishing some 2.4 million e-mails from Syrian politicians, government ministries and companies dating back to 2008.

Assange launches talk show

updated 8:39 PM EDT, Tue April 17, 2012



Julian Assange is expected to host a talk show, "The World Tomorrow," on a state-funded Russian television network.

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February 23, 2012 - Bradley Manning is formally charged with aiding the enemy, wrongfully causing intelligence to be published on the Internet, transmitting national defense information, and theft of public property or records.

February 28, 2012 - WikiLeaks begins releasing what it says are five million e-mails from the private intelligence company Stratfor, starting with a company "glossary" that features unflattering descriptions of U.S. government agencies. The authenticity of the documents could not be independently confirmed.

April 24, 2012 - Manning appears in court before judge Col. Denise Lind to push for all charges against him to be dropped. His lawyers filed two motions the previous week - one pushes for all charges against Manning to be dismissed. If that fails, the second pushes for some charges to be dropped.

April 25, 2012 - Col. Lind denies both motions to dismiss charges against Manning.

June 19, 2012 - Facing extradition to Sweden on sexual assault charges, WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange requests political asylum at the Ecuadorian embassy in London.

July 5, 2012 - WikiLeaks begins publishing more than 2.4 million e-mails from Syrian politicians, government ministries and companies dating back to 2006.

February 28, 2013 - Pfc. Bradley Manning pleads guilty to some of the 22 charges against him, but not the most serious charge of aiding the enemy, which carries a life sentence.

June 3, 2013 - Pfc. Bradley Manning's court-martial begins.



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For everyone who is looking for new favorites.



Video Shows U.S. Killing of Reuters Employees

By ELISABETH BUMILLER
Published: April 5, 2010

WASHINGTON — The Web site WikiLeaks.org released a graphic video on Monday showing an American helicopter shooting and killing a Reuters photographer and driver in a July 2007 attack in Baghdad.



An image from the video of a 2007 helicopter attack in Baghdad, released by WikiLeaks.org. Subtitles of pilot conversations and explanatory comments were added.

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Video (wikileaks.org) Warning: Explicit Material

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The Lede Blog: Wikileaks Defends Release of Video Showing Killing of Journalists in Iraq (April 6, 2010)

At War Blog: Group Releases Classified Video of 2007 Baghdad Attack (April 5, 2010)

A senior American military official confirmed that the video was authentic.

Reuters had long pressed for the release of the video, which consists of 38 minutes of black-and-white aerial video and conversations between pilots in two Apache helicopters as they open fire on people on a street in Baghdad. The attack killed 12, among them the Reuters photographer, Namir Noor-Eldeen, 22, and the driver, Saeed Chmagh, 40.

Reuters employees were allowed to view the video on an off-the-record basis two weeks after the killings, but they were not allowed to obtain a copy of it. The news organization said its Freedom of Information Act requests were not approved.

At a news conference at the National Press Club, WikiLeaks said it had acquired the video from whistle-blowers in the military and viewed it after breaking the encryption code. WikiLeaks released the full 38-minute video as well as a 17-minute edited version.

David Schlesinger, the editor in chief of Reuters news, said in a statement that the video was "graphic evidence of the dangers involved in war journalism and the tragedies that can result."

On the day of the attack, United States military officials said that the helicopters had been called in to help American troops who had been exposed to small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades in a raid. "There is no question that coalition forces were clearly engaged in combat operations against a hostile force," Lt. Col. Scott Bleichwehl, a spokesman for the multinational forces in Baghdad, said then.

But the video does not show hostile action. Instead, it begins with a group of people milling around on a street, among them, according to WikiLeaks, Mr. Noor-Eldeen and Mr. Chmagh. The pilots believe them to be insurgents, and mistake Mr. Noor-Eldeen's camera for a weapon. They aim and fire at the group, then revel in their kills.

"Look at those dead bastards," one pilot says. "Nice," the other responds.

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A wounded man can be seen crawling and the pilots impatiently hope that he will try to fire at them so that under the rules of engagement they can shoot him again. "All you gotta do is pick up a weapon," one pilot says.

A short time later a van arrives to pick up the wounded and the pilots open fire on it, wounding two children inside. "Well, it's their fault for bringing their kids into a battle," one pilot says.

At another point, an American armored vehicle arrives and appears to roll over one of the dead. "I think they just drove over a body," one of the pilots says, chuckling a little.

Reuters said at the time that the two men had been working on a report about weightlifting when they heard about a military raid in the neighborhood, and decided to drive there to check it out.

"There had been reports of clashes between U.S. forces and insurgents in the area but there was no fighting on the streets in which Namir was moving about with a group of men," Reuters wrote in 2008. "It is believed two or three of these men may have been carrying weapons, although witnesses said none were assuming a hostile posture at the time."

The American military in Baghdad investigated the episode and concluded that the forces involved had no reason to know that there were Reuters employees in the group. No disciplinary action was taken.

Late Monday, the United States Central Command, which oversees the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, released the redacted report on the case, which provided some more detail.

The report showed pictures of what it said were machine guns and grenades found near the bodies of those killed. It also stated that the Reuters employees "made no effort to visibly display their status as press or media representatives and their familiar behavior with, and close proximity to, the armed insurgents and their furtive attempts to photograph the coalition ground forces made them appear as hostile combatants to the Apaches that engaged them."

Mr. Schlesinger of Reuters also said in his statement: "The deaths of Namir Noor-Eldeen and Saeed Chmagh three years ago were tragic and emblematic of the extreme dangers that exist in covering war zones. We continue to work for journalist safety and call on all involved parties to recognize the important work that journalists do and the extreme danger that photographers and video journalists face in particular."

Brian Stelter contributed reporting from New York.

A version of this article appeared in print on April 6, 2010, on page A13 of the New York edition.

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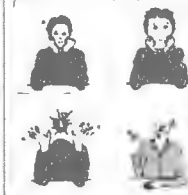
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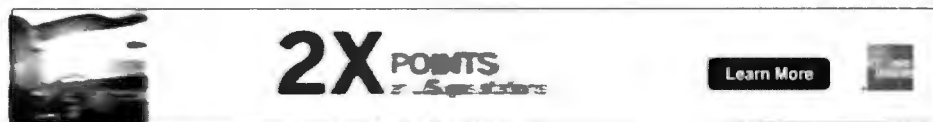
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WikiLeaks posts video of 'US military killings' in Iraq



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WikiLeaks posts Iraq killings video

WikiLeaks has posted a video on its website which it claims shows the killing of civilians by the US military in Baghdad in 2007.

The website's organisers say they were given the footage, which they say comes from cameras on US Apache helicopters.

They say they decrypted it, but would not reveal who gave it to them.

The WikiLeaks site campaigns for freedom of information and posts leaked documents online. So far there has been no official Pentagon response.

However, Reuters and the Associated Press have quoted unnamed US military officials as confirming the video was genuine.

High-quality video

The video, released on Monday, is of high quality and appears to be authentic, the BBC's Adam Brookes in Washington says.

It is accompanied by a recording of the pilots' radio transmissions and those of US troops on the ground.

The video shows a street in Baghdad and a group of about eight people, whom the helicopter pilots identify as armed insurgents.

The transmissions says of one of the individuals: "He's got an RPG [rocket-propelled grenade]. I'm going to fire."



WikiLeaks posted the 39-minute long video on its website

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After a voice on the transmission urges the pilot to "light 'em all up", the individuals on the street are shot by the gunship's cannon.

A few minutes later a van drives to the scene, and its occupants appear to start picking up a wounded person.

It, too, is fired upon. Altogether, around 12 people die.

'Hostile force'

The transmission continues: "Looks like we've got some slight movement from the van that was engaged. Looks like a kid."

US soldiers on the ground establish there are two child casualties and agree to take them to a hospital, according to the transmission.

"Well it's their fault for bringing their kids into a battle," says a voice.

Two journalists working for Reuters were killed on the day the incident took place in July 2007.

A spokeswoman for the news agency said they were not sure if the individuals in the footage included those two Reuters journalists.

WikiLeaks has published a statement from Reuters news editor-in-chief David Schlesinger saying that the video was "graphic evidence of the dangers involved in war journalism and the tragedies that can result".

At the time, the US military said the helicopters were engaged in combat operations against a hostile force.

WikiLeaks said the video demonstrated that civilians had died in the incident, and that the US military's rules of engagement were flawed.

The website's organisers complained recently of coming under surveillance by the US government, and of harassment by other governments, ostensibly for their role in posting leaked documents on sensitive subjects.

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