

IS DOD “LOSING” VIDEOS OF ITS SPECIAL OPS MISSIONS?

I want to look at two data points about the Wikileaks video.

First, note what General Barry McCaffrey has to say about the mission depicted in the Wikileaks video (around 1:25):

Well, it's not clear to me it was a mistake, Contessa, I mean if there were armed people on the ground, the fact that they appeared relaxed is good. It means you caught them by surprise. **That apparently was a Special Operations mission.** Everything about their raids is classified. [my emphasis]

McCaffrey's a pretty (ahem) straight shooter. And he seems to suggest here that there was nothing out of the ordinary about this mission—for a Special Ops mission.

Which is why I find it so interesting that DOD now says it can't find its own copy of the video.

The U.S. military said Tuesday it can't find **its copy** of a video that shows two employees of the Reuters news agency being killed by Army helicopters in 2007, after a leaked version circulated the Internet and renewed questions about the attack.

Capt. Jack Henzlik, a spokesman for U.S. Central Command, said that **forces in Iraq** have not been able to **locate the video within its files.**

"We're attempting to retrieve the video at this time," Henzlik said.

Now, when I first read this, I grumbled, "ah jeebus, I'm going to have to start another catalog of missing evidence again." But I'm not sure that's what this says. Henzlik seems to suggest that CentCom did have a video in its files, but "forces in Iraq" can't find it anymore.

But if this is a JSOC mission, would you be looking in USSOCOM, and not CentCom?

And is this so sensitive because this is precisely how Special Ops are supposed to behave?