

CNN: MILITARY INVESTIGATING WHY BRIG COMMANDER PUT BRADLEY MANNING ON SUICIDE WATCH [UPDATE: OR MAYBE NOT]

✘ CNN elaborates on something MSNBC reported last night. Not only did Quantico Brig Commander James Averhart improperly put Bradley Manning on suicide watch for two days last week, but the military is now investigating why he did so.

The U.S. military is investigating why the commander of the military jail put Pfc. Bradley Manning, suspected of leaking documents to WikiLeaks, on suicide watch for a few days last week, according to Pentagon spokesman Col. David Lapan.

[snip]

An investigation has been launched into whether Brig Commander James Averhart had the authority to place Manning on suicide watch, which is usually ordered by the medical staff.

Now, as MSNBC explained last night, the suicide watch came because Manning allegedly disobeyed the order of two guards, so it's not entirely clear what CNN means by "why."

But this is a really welcome development. I hope the investigation is as transparent as the reports to MSNBC and CNN have been in the last day.

Update: Now CNN has retracted this story, with

the following notice.

The CNN Wire has killed the story slugged US-WikiLeaks-Manning-1 that moved at 2:47 p.m. due to new information. The military spokesman identified in the story says there is no investigation into the decision to put Bradley Manning on suicide watch.

I've put a screen cap of the original story up top.