

Pentagon says soldiers were beaten While captive, three were struck with rifle butts, kicked, punched

WASHINGTON (AP) — The three U.S. Army soldiers released from Serbian captivity had been beaten with rifle butts, kicked and punched by the men who captured them near the Macedonian border, a Pentagon official said Thursday.

"Although there were also periods of harsh treatment during interrogation in the several days following their capture ... we believe the bulk of their injuries were sustained in the early moments of the captivity," Pentagon spokesperson Kenneth Bacon said, releasing the first details of their capture.

Bacon also said the Army has concluded "beyond a shadow of a doubt" that the three soldiers were in the Macedonian side of the border when they were captured, not on the Yugoslav side as the Yugoslav authorities claimed. He said their captors were armed and wore the uniforms of the Yugoslav army.

"They were taken by a substantially larger force," Bacon said. "I don't know how much larger, but

they felt that they didn't have an alternative but to stop. And in fact, as they tried to get out, they ran into an obstacle which I believe was a ditch, which also made it difficult for them to get away."

The three, who met with Presi-

Huntsville, Texas.

When examined by doctors after their release on Sunday, Ramirez was found to have a stitched-up wound on the top of his head and two fractured ribs, as well as swelling of his lower right leg. His injuries have begun to heal and no surgery is planned.

Stone was found to have a broken nose, plus bruises and abrasions on his face. Doctors said Gonzales "turned out fine" in initial checkups.

Bacon said the Army's investigation found that one of the three Americans was manning a .50-caliber machine gun on their Humvee scout vehicle at the time they were captured, and together the three also had one M-16 rifle and two unspecified sidearms.

The machine gun apparently had ammunition but was not in position to fire, Bacon said.

"It was not ready to go because typically when you drive around you don't have the thing ready to fire," he said.

"We believe the bulk of their injuries were sustained in the early moments of the captivity."

— Kenneth Bacon
Pentagon spokesperson

dent Clinton in Germany on Wednesday, are Staff Sgt. Christopher J. Stone, 25, of Smiths Creek, Mich.; Staff Sgt. Andrew A. Ramirez, 24, of Los Angeles, and Spc. Steven M. Gonzales, 21, of

Jefferson family reunion welcomes slave descendants

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — Guess who's coming to dinner at the Thomas Jefferson family reunion this year?

For the first time, descendants of Jefferson's slave Sally Hemings will attend the annual gathering, which has been held at Monticello for the past 86 years. But a battle looms over whether the Hemingses will be fully accepted as Jefferson's kin.

The reunion will be the first one held since DNA test results last fall found that the author of the Declaration of Independence may have fathered at least one of Hemings' children.

Because of those findings, a white, sixth-generation scion of Jefferson plans to challenge his cousins to formally admit the Hemings descendants into their family organization, the Monticello Association, during their pri-

vate meeting May 16.

"I don't see what the big deal is unless the big deal is racism," said Lucian K. Truscott IV, a best-selling author and member of the Monticello Association. "They take my word that I'm a descendant and they don't take their word, despite the oral histories and DNA tests that back their claim. That's racist on its face."

"Yes, it looks racist, but it's a genealogical question," Monticello Association President Robert Gillespie countered. "We've got historical records. We need to go over some gaps in their genealogy."

"We're not ready to say yes, but we're definitely not saying no," said Gillespie, a lawyer from Richmond.

Last fall, Truscott urged Hemings descendants to crash the reunion.

Commission cites measures to stop infant abduction

WASHINGTON (AP) — With 13 newborns abducted from hospitals in the last few years, an oversight commission is suggesting ways to prevent future snatchings, including ending birth announcements in newspapers.

Better ID badges and color photos of newborns would also help, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations says in a special alert being sent this week to nearly 1,500 hospitals nationwide.

"Any time we're able to spot a trend or a pattern, we want to alert the health care community so we can prevent tragedies," said Janet McIntyre, a commission spokeswoman. "Something like an infant abduction is always a high profile case."

The commission began issuing these special alerts in February 1998, and has sent only a few. It bases its recommendations on investigations hospitals are required to conduct after something goes wrong.

The American Hospital Association welcomed the recommendations.

"When these things happen you try to figure out what happened and try to prevent this from happening again. You have to find a way to learn," said spokesman Rick Wade. "That's the way it's supposed to work."

In reviewing eight recent abductions, the commission found that all of them involved female abductors in hospitals with unmonitored access to elevators or stairwells near the postpartum or nursery areas. They all occurred in midsize or large hospitals.

The commission recommended:

- Educating the staff on how to spot potential abductors and what to do if there is a snatching.
- Increasing parent education about abduction risks.
- Attaching bands to baby, mother, father or significant other immediately after birth.
- Footprinting babies, taking color photos and recording babies' physical exams within two hours of birth.
- Requiring staff to wear up-to-date and conspicuous ID badges with color photos.

The number of abductions has dropped in recent years. There were 104 from 1983 through early this year — an average of 15 per year — with 98 babies found and six still missing, according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. There were 13 abductions total in 1996, 1997 and 1998.

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1.03	J	SI2	\$3670 ⁰⁰
1.00	E	SI2	\$4950 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert
.94	F	SI2	\$3600 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert
.92	E	SI2	\$3500 ⁰⁰
.89	F	SI2	\$3100 ⁰⁰
.76	G	SI2	\$2700 ⁰⁰
.70	E	SI1	\$2650 ⁰⁰
.70	E	SI2	\$2490 ⁰⁰
.34	G	VVS1	\$850 ⁰⁰
.33	H	VVS2	\$790 ⁰⁰
.31	H	VVS2	\$790 ⁰⁰

Marquise Cut

Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
1.21	K	SI3	\$4150 ⁰⁰
.94	K	SI1	\$2915 ⁰⁰
.49	F	SI1	\$1736 ⁰⁰
.49	J	SI2	\$1155 ⁰⁰

Emerald Cut

Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
1.53	I	SI1	\$7175 ⁰⁰
1.12	H	VS1	\$4900 ⁰⁰
.71	F	SI2	\$2200 ⁰⁰

Pear Shape

Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
.92	K	VS2	\$2550 ⁰⁰
.82	G	VS2	\$2500 ⁰⁰
.79	K	SI1	\$1850 ⁰⁰
.72	D	SI3	\$2200 ⁰⁰

Oval

Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
1.25	H	SI2	\$4900 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert
.66	K	VVS2	\$1439 ⁰⁰
.54	H	SI2	\$1050 ⁰⁰
.32	H	SI1	\$ 550 ⁰⁰

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Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
1.48	F	SI2	\$7900 ⁰⁰
1.08	F	VS2	\$6200 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert
1.01	I	VS2	\$3500 ⁰⁰
.73	F	SI1/VS2	\$2875 ⁰⁰
.72	E	VS2	\$3700 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert
.52	G	VS1	\$1638 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert
.51	H	SI2	\$1050 ⁰⁰
.49	J	VS2	\$1075 ⁰⁰



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