

From DOD spokeswoman Cynthia Smith:

The Department has always taken allegations of abuse seriously.

We have conducted more than a dozen investigations and reviews of our detention operations, including specifically the interrogation of Al Qhatani the alleged 20th hijacker.

The investigations concluded the interrogation methods used at GTMO, including the special interrogation techniques used with Qhatani in 2002, were lawful.

However, subsequent to those reviews, the Department adopted new and more restrictive policies and improved oversight procedures for interrogation and detention operations.

Some of the aggressive questioning techniques used on Al Qhatani, although permissible at the time, are no longer allowed in the updated Army field manual.

The Department is right now focused on the way forward and working to protect the safety and security of the American people while also ensuring the proper treatment of detainees.