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# 'Friendly fire' video: 'I'm going to be sick'

The Associated Press

LONDON — A leaked cockpit video posted on a newspaper website Tuesday captures a dramatic exchange between U.S. pilots who choked up when they learned that a British soldier had been killed in a "friendly fire" incident in Iraq.

"I'm going to be sick," one pilot says on the video, taken during an attack in 2003. He later adds, "We're in jail, dude."

Despite British requests, the Pentagon had said the video was classified, which meant it could not be presented during an inquest in the death of Lance Cpl. Matty Hull. The British soldier died when at least one U.S. jet fired on his convoy.

After excerpts of the video were posted by *The Sun*, a London newspaper, and that

footage was widely broadcast, U.S. officials agreed to release it for the inquest.

The cockpit video begins with two pilots identifying a target and checking there are no coalition troops in the area. Ground control says, "That is an affirm. You are well clear of friendlies," the *Sun* transcript says. Tempers flare between the pilots. One says it looks like the targets are carrying orange rockets. Coalition troops often use bright orange markers to identify them as friendly forces.

At least one of the U.S. A-10 jets opened fire on Hull's tank, which was part of a convoy engaged in combat outside Basra on March 28, 2003. Four soldiers were wounded, including the convoy leader.

Gunfire is heard. Later the pilots learn that friendly forces are in the area and that

one person is dead and another wounded.

A public version of the U.S. investigation report was given to the British Defense Ministry in 2003, said Lt. Col. Teresa Connor, a spokeswoman at U.S. Central Command headquarters in Tampa.

Tuesday, after the leak of the tape, Connor said Central Command has authorized Britain to display the video to the coroner and relatives. Hull's widow, Susan, welcomed its release, calling it "vital evidence (that) must be shown" at the inquest.

The U.S. military has no plan to release the names of the pilots, Connor said.

Neither pilot was disciplined in the U.S. military's own investigation. It concluded the pilots "followed the procedures and processes for engaging targets," Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said Tuesday.



File photo by Bruce Adams, AP

**Hull:** Killed when a U.S. jet fired on his convoy in 2003.