

**Response from an ABC spokesperson:**

**Why didn't you interview and quote another US crew member to corroborate Josh's account?**

The story was based on credible information from interviews with multiple confidential sources in Australia and the US. "Josh", a US Marine Corps helicopter crew chief, was prepared to be quoted and to have his photo published, although because of safety concerns he didn't want his name to be published. The ABC spent two months checking his detailed account, which he stands by. Other sources asked to be protected, for legitimate reasons.

**Why didn't you speak to November platoon before publishing?**

The ABC asked the Department of Defence to respond to the story, and included its response.

**Why didn't you interview Heston Russell once he outed himself as commander of November platoon?**

Heston Russell wasn't identified in the story. The ABC didn't report on this allegation again until a year later, when the Department of Defence rejected an ABC freedom of information request into November platoon on the grounds that there was an active investigation.

**Do you now think you had enough evidence to publish the Oct 2020 story, based on only the account of one unnamed person present during the alleged execution of a prisoner by November platoon?**

Yes. The story accurately reported credible and highly significant allegations based on information from interviews with multiple confidential sources in Australia and the US. While "Josh" asked that his name not be published because of safety concerns, he isn't anonymous, his photo was published in the story. The ABC spent two months checking his detailed account, which he stands by.

Mark Willacy has been reporting on alleged war crimes for 2 ½ years and has spoken to more than 150 people who served with the special forces in Afghanistan, including operators, signals intelligence operators, combat medics, intelligence officers, other support staff and ranking officers. Many of these people have suffered because of the actions of their comrades. They have shown great courage in talking about what they witnessed.