

## Saddam Hussein: A prisoner nicknamed 'Vic'

*by UPI*

BAGHDAD - Saddam Hussein spent his last days in a small cell where he was allowed to plant a garden in the yard outside, military officials said. CNN was able to film the cell, a windowless room with beige walls and a gray floor. The furniture includes a concrete sleeping platform and a combination sink and toilet. The report aired Thursday. U.S. Marine Major Gen. Doug Stone described the day of Saddam's execution, Dec. 30, 2006. Stone said Saddam was told when he woke up that he was going to be hanged. "He bathed himself here in a very modest manner. It was winter, so it was cold," Stone said. "As he went out, he said goodbye to the guards and then got into the vehicles and proceeded to the execution." The guards had nicknamed Saddam "Vic" from the initials posted next to his cell door and standing for Very Important Criminal. When he was told what the letters stood for, he said, "Okay, that's what I want to be called."

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