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PRESS RELEASE

Home of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)

Contact:

Charges against 3rd Brigade Soldiers referred for general court-martial

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky., October 18, 2006 – The commander of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) referred charges against four 3rd Brigade Combat Team Soldiers to trial by general court martial.

Maj. Gen. Thomas R. Turner made the decision after reviewing the Article 32 report of investigation and receiving recommendations from the investigating officer, the appointing authority who directed the investigation and his staff Judge advocate.

The four cases were all referred as non-capital. A non-capital referral means the death penalty is not a possible punishment. However, a life sentence without parole remains possible for all four Soldiers.

Staff Sgt. Raymond Girouard is charged with premeditated murder, attempted premeditated murder, conspiracy to commit premeditated murder, communicating a threat, conspiracy to obstruct justice, obstruction of justice, larceny and violating a lawful general order.

Spc. William Hunsaker is charged with premeditated murder, attempted premeditated murder, conspiracy to commit premeditated murder, communicating a threat, conspiracy to obstruct justice and obstruction of justice.

Spc. Juston Graber is charged with premeditated murder, attempted premeditated murder, conspiracy to commit premeditated murder and false official statement.

Pfc. Corey Clagett is charged with premeditated murder, attempted premeditated murder, conspiracy to commit premeditated murder, communicating a threat, conspiracy to obstruct justice, obstruction of justice and disrespect towards a non-commissioned officer.

Under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, the charges against the Soldiers are merely accusations and each Soldier is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. If convicted, each Soldier potentially faces confinement for life without the possibility of parole and a dishonorable discharge.

The specifications all relate to incidents that allegedly occurred May 9, 2006, in Thar Thar, Iraq.

A date has not yet been set for the court-martial. The next step in the process will be a pretrial session for the purpose of conducting an arraignment. At the arraignment, the Soldiers will be called upon to enter pleas as to each of the charges but may also defer the entry of pleas. The court-martial will be held at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Additional Photos