



IRAQ INVESTIGATIONS



United States Marine Corps
Camp Pendleton Media Center
Bldg 22181
Marine Corps Base
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055

For more information:
Phone: 760-725-4484/4485

Internet: <http://www.usmc.mil/lapa/iraq-investigations.htm>

Press Release #07-017

Aug. 10, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Marine Released From the Brig in Hamdania Investigation

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (Aug. 10, 2007) – Private Robert B. Pennington was released from Naval Consolidated Brig Miramar today following a clemency decision by Lt. Gen. James Mattis.

Lt. Gen. Mattis made his decision following a meeting with Pennington today.

On Feb 18, 2007, Pennington was sentenced by a military judge to 14 years confinement, reduction in rank to Pvt./E-1 and a dishonorable discharge for his involvement in the death of an Iraqi man in Hamdania, Iraq in April, 2006. The sentence to confinement was reduced by a pre-trial agreement to 8 years.

The military justice system allows convening authorities to reduce sentences as a matter of clemency. Convening authorities are not authorized to increase sentences.

Lt. Gen. Mattis reduced his confinement following his review of the findings and sentences in all the cases, and based on considerations of the fair treatment of the seven Marines and Sailor involved in the Hamdania incident. At the time of the incident, Pennington was a 21 year old Lance Corporal who was neither a squad leader nor a fire team leader, and he did not fire his weapon. In considering his clemency actions, Lt. Gen. Mattis balanced a number of factors related to those involved, including their ages, military experience, their relative rank and position of authority, and their level of involvement in the incident as it was determined by the military courts-martial process.

-30-

[RETURN TO MAIN PAGE](#)