



IRAQ INVESTIGATIONS



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Additional Charges Preferred Against Marine in Haditha Case

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (Aug 30, 2007) – Two additional charges of dereliction of duty were preferred against Lt. Col Jeffrey R. Chessani today for his alleged failure to investigate and report the deaths of Iraqi civilians following an improvised explosive device attack on Marine convoy in Haditha, Iraq on Nov. 19, 2005.

Chessani was charged with violation of a lawful order and dereliction of duty on Dec. 21, 2006 for his involvement in the incident.

The Article 32 investigation hearing for Chessani was held from May 30 to June 11, 2007 here. At Chessani's request, the Article 32 investigation was re-opened for one day on Aug. 8, 2007. The investigating officer was Col. Christopher Conlin.

Conlin recommended that the additional charges be preferred.

Lt. Gen. Mattis is the Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Central Command, and the Consolidated Disposition Authority for the cases related to this incident. He will make the decision about how to dispose of this case after a thorough review of the Article 32 Investigating Officer's report and after receiving an independent and informed recommendation from his senior legal advisor.

Lt. Gen. Mattis is not bound by the Investigating Officer's recommendation, and is free to dispose of the case based on his thorough review of the investigation and all available evidence. His options for disposing of the case range from dismissal of all charges to referring the case to general courts-martial.

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