



IRAQ INVESTIGATIONS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charges Referred to General Court-Martial for Marine Officer in Haditha Investigation

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (Oct. 19, 2007) - Lieutenant General James Mattis, Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Central Command today referred charges against Lt. Col. Jeffrey R. Chessani to a general court-martial based on his alleged actions and inactions following an incident in Haditha, Iraq on Nov. 19, 2005 in which Iraqi civilians were killed.

The charges referred against Lt. Col. Chessani are dereliction of duty and violation of a lawful order for failing to accurately report and investigate the incident.

Lt. Gen. Mattis made his decision after consideration of information developed from investigations by Marine, Army and Naval Criminal Investigative Service investigators, as well as evidence produced during an Article 32 investigation hearing.

The charges are accusations against the individual and the accused is presumed innocent. The Marine Corps is committed to a fair proceeding in compliance with the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

The convening date for the court-martial will be announced when it is established.

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