



IRAQ INVESTIGATIONS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (Dec. 31, 2007) - Lieutenant General Samuel Helland, Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Central Command Friday referred charges against SSgt. Frank Wuterich to a general court-martial based on his alleged involvement in an incident in Haditha, Iraq on Nov. 19, 2005 in which Iraqi civilians were killed.

The charges referred against SSgt Wuterich are voluntary manslaughter, aggravated assault, reckless endangerment, dereliction of duty and obstruction of justice.

Lt. Gen. Helland dismissed the charges of unpremeditated murder, soliciting another to commit an offense and false official statement.

Lt. Gen. Helland 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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