



IRAQ INVESTIGATIONS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charges Re-Referred to General Court-Martial for Marine in Hamdania Investigation

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (Feb. 13, 2007) – Lt. Gen. James Mattis, Commanding General, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Central Command made the following decision Monday regarding a Marine accused of involvement in incidents near Hamdania, Iraq in April, 2006:

Corporal Trent D. Thomas

Related to the April 26, 2006 death of Hashim Ibrahim Awad:

Re-referred to general court-martial, non-capital, on the charges of premeditated murder, conspiracy, housebreaking, larceny, kidnapping and making a false official statement.

Related to the April 10, 2006 assault on Khalid Hamad Daham:

Referred to general court-martial, non-capital, on the charge of assault.

“Non-capital” means that the death penalty will not be sought.

Upon the request of defense counsel during a sentencing hearing held Feb. 8, a military judge withdrew the guilty pleas of Thomas for his involvement in the death of Awad and assault of Daham.

During court-martial proceedings held Jan 18, Thomas previously pled guilty to murder, conspiracy, larceny, housebreaking, kidnapping and false official statement in connection with the death of Awad. Thomas also pled guilty to assault for an unrelated incident in April 2006 near Hamdania, Iraq.

The charges and specifications are accusations against the individual and the accused is presumed innocent. The Marine Corps is absolutely committed to holding fair and impartial proceedings in full compliance with the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Additional information on military justice can be found at <http://sja.hqmc.usmc.mil/JAM/MJFACTSHTS.htm>

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