

United States Marine Corps

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

Camp Pendleton Media Center
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Media Advisory #07- 034

July 20, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

General Court-Martial Scheduled in Hamdania Investigation

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (July 20, 2007) – Court-martial proceedings for Sgt. Lawrence Hutchins will be held Tuesday, July 24 at 8 a.m. here.

Hutchins is charged with murder and other offenses for his alleged involvement in the death of an Iraqi civilian on April 26, 2006.

Charges were referred to general court-martial Nov. 10, 2006.

The military judge for the proceeding is Lt. Col. Jeffrey Meeks.

It is anticipated the proceedings will last two weeks and will be broadcast into the Camp Pendleton Media Center.

Seating in the courtroom for media and the public will be limited. A pool may be established for the media.

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 and general courts-martial proceedings can be found at <http://sja.hqmc.usmc.mil/JAM/MJFACTSHTS.htm>

More information on the charges, specifications and legal proceedings can be found at www.usmc.mil/lapa/iraq-investigations.htm.

Media Credentialing:

Media interested in covering the proceedings, and have not already registered with the Camp Pendleton Media Center, may register their credentials by e-mail to mcb.media.center.fct@usmc.mil. In the e-mail please provide:

- Name
- E-mail address
- Office and cellular phone numbers
- Name of your news organization
- Supervisor's name and contact information.
- Freelance reporters must provide a letter of intent from a publication, along with the same contact information listed above.

Failure to register your credentials may slow the check-in process and possibly result in denial of access until we can verify your credentials.

Check-in Procedures:

Media check-in will be conducted in the parking lot immediately inside Camp Pendleton's main gate Tuesday between 6 a.m and 7 a.m. Use the right lane when entering the gate to access the parking lot. Ensure you have your media credentials, driver license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance.

Mandatory ground rules/coordination brief will start promptly at 7:25 a.m.

Media Accommodations:

The Media Center may provide viewing of the proceedings through closed circuit television. There is ample seating, desks and internet access.

Courtroom seating will be extremely limited.

There are very limited food concessions available. We recommend bringing your own food.

Communications:

There is a pay phone center immediately outside the Media Center. There is ample seating and desks in the Media Center, all desks are equipped with electrical and internet connections. Cellular phone connectivity is not always reliable, so plan accordingly.

Terrain surrounding the media center does not allow for microwave transmissions. Satellite is the best means of transmission. Satellite trucks and production trailers will be permitted to remain at the media center overnight.

Ground Rules:

Ground rules have been established to facilitate a professional working environment, as well as provide for security, decorum, and minimize the impact on daily operations aboard Camp Pendleton. You will be required to sign a ground rules agreement to obtain access. Violation of the ground rules will be cause for denial of access to the proceedings. In general, they are:

1. Media representatives are required to obtain a vehicle placard from a Media Center representative, located inside the Camp Pendleton main gate, before proceeding to the media center.
2. Use only the designated route between the main gate and the media center.
3. Media badges must be worn at all times.
4. Media escorts are required outside designated areas.
5. No audio or visual recording of the proceedings are permitted.
6. Laptop computers are permitted inside the media center as long as any audio or visual recording capability is disabled or turned off during the proceedings.
7. No cellular phone use is permitted inside the media center during courtroom sessions.
8. No still or video cameras, or recording devices are allowed in the Media Center except for a press conference or other established events.
9. No "man on the street" interviews. All interviews must be coordinated with public affairs officers at the Media Center.

To help us maintain a professional working environment, please remember the following:

1. Supplies will not be provided.
2. You are responsible for your own equipment. Equipment will not be stored in the media center.
3. Keep your area clean.

4. No smoking in the building.
5. Please keep drinks in covered containers.

*****Please DO NOT contact the Camp Pendleton Media Office regarding this advisory. Rather, please contact the Camp Pendleton Media Center at 760-725-4484 or 760-725-4485.**