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Soldier faces criminal charges

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BAGHDAD – Criminal charges under the Uniform Code of Military Justice were preferred yesterday against Pfc. Bradley E. Manning, 22, of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, at Contingency Operating Station Hammer, Iraq.

Two charges consisting of 12 specifications were preferred. The first charge, under Article 92 of the UCMJ, is for violating a lawful Army regulation by transferring classified data onto his personal computer and adding unauthorized software to a classified computer system.

The second charge includes eight specifications under Article 134 of the UCMJ, incorporating violations of the United States Criminal Code. Those eight specifications consist of the following:

- One specification of violating United States Code Title 18, Section 793, for communicating, transmitting and delivering national defense information to an unauthorized source;

- Three specifications of violating United States Code Title 18, Section 1030(a)(1), for disclosing classified information concerning the national defense with reason to believe that the information could cause injury to the United States; and
- Four specifications of violating United States Code Title 18, Section 1030(a)(2), for exceeding authorized computer access to obtain classified information from a United States department or agency.

All of the above charges relate to incidents which occurred between November 2009 and May 2010. The criminal investigation remains open. Preferral of charges represents an accusation only; Pfc. Manning is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The case will be processed in accordance with normal procedures.

The command will appoint an officer to preside over an Article 32 investigation, which is similar to a civilian grand jury hearing. The investigating officer will make findings and recommendations that the chain of command considers in determining whether to refer the case to trial by court-martial.