

STATEMENT

Place : ALASAO, IRAQ
Date : April 2006

I, Stephen Beville TATUM, make the following free and voluntary statement to Michael Wright whom I know to be a Representative of the United States Naval Criminal Investigative Service. I make this statement of my own free will and without any threats made to me or promises extended. I fully understand that this statement is given concerning my knowledge of the shooting of Iraqi Civillians on 19NOV06.

For identification purposes, I am a white male standing 6'2 and weighing 190 lbs. I have brown hair and blue eyes. I am a US citizen and hold Secret security clearance while deployed while in Iraq. My current address is 2612 Woodhollow Trail, Edmond, OK 73003, HP: 405-715-0245. I am currently a Lance Corporal in the United States Marine Corps assigned to the 1st Marine Division, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, Kilo Company, 3rd Platoon, 1st squad.

I wish to correct the statement that I gave to NCIS Special Agent Matthew Marshall on 19MAR06 after I reflected on the events. The part that was incorrect was when I stated that I had no positive identification (PID) of targets. While in the house which I identified as House #2, I did identify some targets as children before I fired my weapon killing them. My reason for this is that House #1 was declared hostile. While in house #1 I was told that someone ran to house #2 making it hostile. Before I entered house #2 LCPL MENDOSA, had fired shots into house #2 again reinforcing in my mind that the house was hostile. While in house #2 SSGT WUTERICH fired shots into a room. This again made me think the house was hostile. I went to assist SSGT WUTERICH and saw that children were in the room kneeling down. I don't remember the exact number but only that it was a lot. My training told me that they were hostile due to SSGT WUTERICH firing at them and the other events I mentioned leading up to this. I am trained to shoot two shots to the chest and two shots to the head and I followed my training. I regret that innocent children were killed that day but I also know I did what I had to do. I am sorry that I did not include this in my first statement but I am glad that I have now gave all information that I know.

This statement, consisting of this page and 0 other page(s) was typed for me by Michael J. Wright as we discussed its contents. I have read and understand the above statement. I have been given the opportunity to make any changes or corrections I desire to make and have placed my initials over the changes or corrections. This statement is the truth to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 03 day of April in the year 2006 at

Witnessed: [Handwritten Signature]
Representative, Naval Criminal Investigative Service
AUTH. DERIVED FROM ARTICLE 136,
UCMJ (10 U.S.C. 936) AND 5 U.S.C. 303

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