



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MILITARY CONTRACTOR CHARGED WITH ASSAULTING MAN ON U.S. MILITARY BASE IN IRAQ

Snowflake Man will be returned to Arizona by US Marshals

PHOENIX -- A federal grand jury in Phoenix, Ariz. returned a two count indictment on Wednesday against Aaron Langston, 30, of Snowflake, Ariz., for Assault with a Deadly Weapon and Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury.

The indictment alleges that on February 15, 2007, at Al Asad Airbase, Iraq, the defendant assaulted Gaddam Narayana with a knife causing serious bodily injury. While employed as a military contractor by Kellogg Brown and Root, a subsidiary of Halliburton, defendant stabbed Gaddam Narayana, an Indian National, in the throat, cutting Narayana's internal jugular vein. The defendant was initially charged by complaint on these two charges on Friday, February 23, 2007. The defendant had his initial appearance via telephone from Iraq, on February 26, 2007. During his initial appearance, Magistrate Judge David Duncan found probable cause to believe defendant committed the offenses in the complaint, and ordered that the defendant be temporarily detained. Judge Duncan also ordered that the defendant be removed from Iraq and returned to the District of Arizona to face the charges against him. The U. S. Marshal Service will return the defendant to the United States.

A conviction for Assault with a Deadly Weapon and Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. In determining an actual sentence, the district court judge will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. The prosecution is being handled by Raynette Logan, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-07-210-PHX
RELEASE NUMBER: 2007-060(Langston)

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