

## **Multi-National Division – North**

Public Affairs Office, COB Speicher, Iraq  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **MND-N Soldier charged in death of contractor**

**Multi-National Division – North PAO**

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, TIKRIT, Iraq** – A Multi-National Division - North Soldier was charged Sept. 21 in the shooting death of a civilian contractor.

Lucas Vinson died Sept. 13 after allegedly being shot by Spc. Beyshee O. Velez at COB Speicher, Iraq.

Velez, 31, of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii is charged with two specifications of murder under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Article 118, three specifications of assault under the UCMJ, Article 128 and one specification of fleeing apprehension under the UCMJ, Article 95.

These charges are accusations of wrongdoing. Velez is presumed innocent unless and until he is proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of any alleged offense.

Although the government charged two different counts of murder, Velez may only be convicted of one of the two murder specifications. An investigating officer will review all evidence, and make recommendations on the disposition of the charges.

Murder carries a maximum sentence of a Dishonorable Discharge and life confinement. Assault with a deadly weapon carries a maximum sentence of Dishonorable Discharge and eight years confinement. Fleeing apprehension carries a maximum sentence of a Bad Conduct Discharge and one year confinement.

Velez is assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. Velez is currently in pre-trial confinement in Hawaii pending the outcome of the proceedings.

An investigation into the incident is ongoing.

-30-

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION – NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE AT: MNDNPAO@25ID.ARMY.MIL OR DSN 318-849-0089