

By Associated Press

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- **Sgt Frank Wuterich faced detainment of no more than three months after pleading guilty to lesser charges**
- **Accused of telling team to 'shoot first, ask questions later' in Haditha in 2005**
- **U.S. team killed unarmed women, children and man in wheelchair in house**

It was the massacre which left 24 unarmed Iraqis dead and cast fresh shame on the American military, already reeling from Abu-Ghraib.

But a military judge yesterday ruled that the final U.S. soldier to face charges over the notorious assault on Haditha will not be jailed.

Instead, Staff Sergeant Frank Wuterich, who led the attack, faces no more than three months in confinement after admitting the least serious of three charges – negligent dereliction of duty.

He had initially been implicated in 19 of the deaths. Among the victims were seven children and a 76-year-old man in a wheelchair.

[To see video, click here and scroll to bottom of page.](#)



Three months confinement: Staff Sgt Frank Wuterich arrives at Camp Pendleton. He has escaped a jail sentence for the Haditha massacre





U.S. Marines in Iraq, 2003. Photo by AP/Wide World





His father was the victim of the attack in November 2001. The Haditha massacre (left) and Omer Chasib who lost



...bedroom



~~The man is the U.S. Marine who shot his wife, Maria, and her two children in the Haditha massacre in Iraq in 2007. The woman and children were killed.~~



© AP The aftermath of the shooting in Haditha. A total of 24 people were killed, including



Two of the vehicles from which U.S. Marines fired at a civilian car in Haditha, Iraq, in 2007. The car was later found to contain a woman and children.