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November 14, 2007

General Samuel T. Helland
Commanding General
One Marine Expeditionary Force
Box 555300
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055

Dear General Helland:

It has been brought to my attention that, having assumed command at Camp Pendleton, you are now Convening Authority in the case of Sgt. Lawrence Hutchins, USMC. As you know, Sgt. Hutchins, who was convicted for the murder of an Iraqi arising out of combat operations and received a 15-year sentence on August 3, is a resident of my district.

For the past several months, I have been in communication with your predecessor, General James Mattis, regarding my recommendation of clemency in Sgt. Hutchins' case. On November 2, I sent my most recent letter to General Mattis stating the reasons for my recommendation along with supporting documentation. While it is my hope that you have already received that letter and had an opportunity to review it, I have enclosed a second copy for you.

As I also assume you are aware, General Mattis had granted my request for a meeting to discuss the case and the grounds for clemency. Accordingly, I respectfully ask that you please let me know at your convenience when you will be available to meet to discuss my recommendation for clemency and the reasons for it.

In the meantime, I wish to congratulate you on being appointed to your new position, and I look forward to meeting with you in the near future.

Respectfully,



William D. Delahunt

Enc: November 2, 2007 letter to General Mattis
Cc: Lt. Col. Joseph Smith