



United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

Jeffrey A. Taylor
United States Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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ARMED SERVICES DEPENDENT ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH SECOND DEGREE MURDER OF ARMY SERGEANT JUWAN JOHNSON IN HOHENECKEN, GERMANY

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The 31-year-old spouse of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, Rico Rodrigus Williams, was arrested today in Chesapeake, Virginia, on charges returned in a federal indictment in connection with the death of Army Sergeant Juwan Johnson in Hohenecken, Germany, in 2005, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor, Acting Assistant Attorney General Rita M. Glavin, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice, and Brigadier General Dana Simmons, Commander of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations announced.

The four-count indictment, which was returned on February 3, 2009, and unsealed today, charges Williams, a dependent of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, 18 U.S.C. Section 3267 (2), with one count of Second Degree Murder and three counts of Tampering with a Witness. The defendant was arraigned before U.S. Magistrate Judge Bradford Stillman in the Eastern District of Virginia (Norfolk), who scheduled a removal/detention hearing for February 11, 2009. If convicted of the charges, the defendant faces up to life imprisonment.

The indictment alleges that on or about July 3, 2005, the defendant, Rico Rodrigus Williams, a former Air Force Senior Airman, and others committed second degree murder in the death of 25-year-old Juwan Johnson. Specifically, the indictment alleges that the defendant and others killed Sergeant Johnson by striking him with their fists and kicking him with their feet. The indictment further alleges that Williams intimidated, attempted to intimidate, and made threats to others with the intent to hinder communication to law enforcement.

In announcing the indictment and arrest of Rico Williams, U.S. Attorney Taylor, Acting Assistant Attorney General Glavin, and Brigadier General Simmons praised the efforts of Special Agent Wilbur Thompson, Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Special Agent Daniel Altman, the lead investigators in the case, Special Agent Nick Inge, the arresting officer, members of the Chesapeake Police Department SWAT and Vice & Narcotics teams, who assisted in the arrest, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Debra Long-Doyle and Department of Justice Domestic Security Section Trial Attorney Christine Duey, the prosecutors in the case.

An Indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of criminal laws and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.

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