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SGT ADAM HOLCOMB TRIAL BEGAN TODAY AT FORT BRAGG

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – The court-martial of Sgt. Adam Holcomb, a Soldier assigned to 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division from Fort Wainwright, Alaska, began today, July 24, 1 p.m. at the Fort Bragg courthouse.

The case is docketed through July 27 and is in connection with the death of Pvt. Danny Chen in Afghanistan Oct. 3, 2011.

A total of 10 panel members were chosen during the selection process: six enlisted and four officer personnel.

Opening statements began at 4:33 p.m. with Capt. Blake Doughty from the prosecution followed by Capt. Dennis Hernon at 4:39 p.m. from the defense.

Military Judge Maj. Bret Batdorff informed the prosecution to call the first witness, Mrs. Su Zhen Chen. The prosecution asked Mrs. Chen what type of son Danny was, when he joined the Army and how often they communicated.

At 5:21 p.m., the defense examined Mrs. Chen with similar questions. Mrs. Chen said she believes her son's death was not a suicide. Mrs. Chen said she also hopes the Army lawyers can help her find the truth.

The military judge dismissed Mrs. Chen at 6:05 p.m., and the panel members at 6:07 p.m. Court adjourned at 6:10 p.m. and will resume tomorrow, July 25 at 8:30 p.m.

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(Editor's note: Media interested in attending day two of the U.S. v. Holcomb trial need to meet at Stryker Golf Course at 7:30 a.m. We will depart at 7:45 a.m., as court proceedings begin at 8:30 a.m.)