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Bernard Hibbitts, Publisher & Editor-in-Chief

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**Sunday, December 24, 2006**

**US soldier who disputed Iraq war legality released early from military prison**

Natalie Hrubos at 10:31 AM ET



[JURIST] Former US Army Sergeant **Ricky Clousing** [advocacy website; JURIST [news archive](#)], a paratrooper and interpreter who disputed the legality of the war in Iraq, was released Saturday from a military prison where he was serving a three-month sentence after **pleading guilty** [JURIST report] to going absent without leave for 14 months. Clousing was released 15 days early for good conduct and is headed home to Washington state.

In October, a **court-martial** [JURIST report] in Fort Bragg, NC, sentenced Clousing to 11 months' confinement, with all but three months suspended, under a plea agreement that allowed him to **avoid a finding of desertion** [JURIST report]. Clousing abandoned his post at **Fort Bragg** [official website] after reporting abuses committed by fellow soldiers during his five-month stint in Iraq. Clousing refused to request **conscientious objector status** [Selective Service backgrounder] to receive a discharge because he said he does not believe all wars are wrong. After 14 months AWOL, Clousing **turned himself in** [JURIST report] at Fort Lewis, WA. AP has [more](#).

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**CONTACT**

**Paper Chase** welcomes comments, tips and URLs from readers. E-mail us at [JURIST@law.pitt.edu](mailto:JURIST@law.pitt.edu)

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