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World and Nation

AIDS-carrying soldier will face court-martial for sexual assault

SIERRA VISTA, Ariz. (AP) — A 27-year-old soldier Friday becomes the first member of the military to stand court-martial because of sexual activity with other soldiers while he knowingly carried the AIDS virus.

Attorneys are scheduled to argue motions in the court-martial of Pfc. Adrian Morris Jr., a clerk-typist at Fort Huachuca, about 75 miles southeast of Tucson.

The court-martial was to start Thursday morning, but Wednesday afternoon the judge advocate general's office announced it had been postponed at the request of defense attorneys, spokesman Lorena Edlen said.

Morris, of Caseyville, Ill., is accused of assaulting two female soldiers and one male soldier by having sex without using a condom and without telling them that he had tested positive for the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

He faces up to 17 years in prison,

loss of pay, demotion and a dishonorable discharge if convicted of all seven counts — three of aggravated assault, one of sodomy and three of bringing discredit to the military.

As of Wednesday, Army lawyers defending Morris had not informed the prosecution of the formal motions they intend to present to the presiding military judge, Col. Raymond Cole of Fort Riley, Kan., said post spokesman Maj. David Georgi.

But the motions are expected to include requests for dismissal, change of venue because of publicity and a continuance.

Capt. John W. Caldwell of Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, who has taken over as Morris' principal defense attorney from civilian Edward Rheinheimer, said Wednesday he was not talking to members of the news media.

Georgi said defense motions normally are provided to the prosecution five days before the start of a court-martial, under Army court-martial procedure, if not required under court-martial rules.

At the equivalent of a preliminary hearing that began April 20, Rheinheimer argued Morris never was told that as a carrier of the AIDS virus he could face court-martial for having unprotected sex.

Whatcott argued Morris had been counseled his actions as a carrier of the AIDS virus could have legal ramifications.

One of the soldiers with whom Morris allegedly had sexual relations is his fiancée, Spec. 4 Patricia Pruitt, 21, of Atlanta, who testified during the trial that she wanted to marry Morris and bear his child. She said she was impregnated by him last October.

Morris also is accused of having sex twice with a married female private who testified in a closed session during the April hearing, but who will testify publicly during the court-martial, Georgi said.

The other alleged liaison involved Pfc. Anthony Baldwin, 19, of Pittsburgh.

ducted the investigation, had recommended Morris face only two counts of aggravated assault counts, one simple assault and one count of domy.

But the garrison commander, William Harnagel, ordered court-martial on the charges.

Morris, who joined the Army July 1985 and has been stationed at Fort Huachuca since April 1986, continued doing clerical work as an administrative specialist, Georgi said.

Meanwhile, at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, another soldier faces a possible court-martial for allegedly not telling his sexual partners he carried the AIDS virus.

An administrative review is under way, following a hearing last month to determine whether Sgt. Rick W. Sargeant, 27, of Brooklyn, will be court-martialed on charges of sodomy, aggravated assault, adultery and reckless endangerment, post spokesman said.

Senate loses chance to halt plan to protect oil tankers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate refused Thursday to end a Republican filibuster blocking the Democratic-controlled chamber from considering a resolution that seeks a delay in President Reagan's Persian Gulf security plans.

The 57-42 tally was three votes short of the 60 required to invoke cloture, the parliamentary device used to end the unlimited debate.

But Democrats said they would try again, both to win a cloture vote and to seek a compromise that Republicans can support.

"We're going to continue to try to work something out," said Sen. James Sasser, D-Tenn., chief sponsor of the non-binding resolution, which asks that Reagan's plan be held "in abeyance."

Reagan plans to put U.S. flags and captains aboard 11 Kuwaiti oil tankers and have Navy warships escort the vessels through the war-torn Persian Gulf. That has raised fears that the United States may be drawn into the Iran-Iraq war because Kuwait has aided Iraq.

The U.S. plan is expected to begin in mid-July, although no formal date has yet been announced. Sasser admitted his effort may be too late.

"I don't know that we can do anything substantive to stop the policy now," Sasser said after the cloture vote. "If the president is determined to go ahead, as he is, I don't know that we have too many options."

The vote came hours after an Iranian gunboat attacked a U.S.-operated supertanker in the gulf near Kuwait. "I think the most recent attack is a serious warning, a serious attack that shows the kind of threat we are sailing into," Sasser said.

The Senate vote also came a day after the Democratic-controlled House split generally along party lines as it voted 222-184 to require a 90-day delay in Reagan's plan. But the vote attached the request to a measure that has yet to pass the Senate, so it won't yet take effect.

At the White House, spokesman Marlin Fitzwater strongly criticized House members who voted for the delay.

"This unfortunate vote represents the kind of sideline diplomacy that hurts U.S. foreign policy," Fitzwater asserted. "The House wants a continued free flow of oil, they want to end the war, they want peace and stability, they want the cooperation of our friends and allies, but they don't want to take responsibility."

House OKs \$9.5 billion for NASA, forwards bill for Senate approval

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House approved a \$9.5 billion program for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on Thursday after refusing to trim the bill down to the level envisioned in the fiscal 1988 budget.

The bill, approved 372 to 34 and sent to the Senate, authorizes the space agency's programs for next year, including work toward the resumption of space shuttle flights and the construction of a permanent manned space station. In Congress' two-step spending process, final outlays must be approved later in an appropriations bill.

The largest part of the bill, \$4 billion,

would be for space flight and related tasks, just slightly less than the amount requested by the Reagan administration. The \$3.7 billion for research and development would be \$74 million more than the administration asked.

The House, by voice vote, dropped language in the bill which was designed to limit military uses of the program. By a 268-135 vote, the House stripped from the bill a provision designed to make sure the civilian agency's top leadership did not become dominated by military-trained personnel.

Rep. Bruce Morrison, D-Ct., offered an amendment to reduce the bill by \$150 million to bring it within

the guidelines of the fiscal 1988 budget approved by Congress last month. However, space agency supporters argued that cuts could be made later if necessary and the amendment was defeated 257-148.

Rep. Robert Roe, D-N.J., chairman of the House space subcommittee, said Congress should not cut bills "just because it's the thing to do to cut something."

Rep. Robert Walker, R-Pa., who often leads fights against bills that are over budget but is on Roe's subcommittee, said the House need not follow the budget because "those priorities are wrong. This amendment is wrong."

LTV Steel Co. files for OK of labor pact

CLEVELAND (AP) — LTV Steel Co. on Wednesday filed an application in federal bankruptcy court for approval of a labor agreement.

The agreement would restore much of the supplemental pension benefits that current employees and retirees have lost.

The application was made in the bankruptcy court of the Southern District of New York, company spokesman Mark Tomasz said.

The benefits involved were lost as a result of pension plan terminations by the federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp.

LTV Steel on June 25 reached a tentative agreement with the United Steelworkers of America that is subject to ratification by the employees the pact will represent.

The result of the vote is expected by early August.

The new agreement includes provisions to resolve problems related to the pensions and health care of 23,000 active and laid-off workers and 50,000 retirees, the company said.

Court authorization would permit supplemental payments to retirees to begin immediately following union ratification of the agreement, Tomasz said.

Those payments would be 50 percent of what they would have been before the bankruptcy court filing occurred and would be retroactive to Feb. 1, 1987.

The agreement also provides for continuation of a health benefit program for retirees, depending on payments by retirees into the plan. Its terms were not disclosed.

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