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Wednesday, September 1, 2004



U.S. Army Pfc. Lynndie England (left) walks with her mother, Terrie England, outside of the XVIII Airborne Corps Judge Advocate Building Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2004, at Fort Bragg, N.C. England was appearing for an Article 32 hearing on charges of abusing Iraqi detainees and possession of sexually explicit phi tos not involving detainees.

WORLD NEW

THE BATTALION

England prisoner abuse pretrial hearing ends, more charges recommended

By Allen G. Breed Associated Press Writer

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Prosecutors ended a military court hearing Tuesday for a soldier shown in infamous photos of naked Iraqi prisoners by requesting an additional charge of "maltreatment and cruelty" against Pfc. Lynndie England.

The hearing to determine whether England should face a full courtmartial adjourned without testimony from any of the high-level wit- catch-all to encompass all the individual acts England is accused nesses sought by the defense, including Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

Investigating officer Col. Denise Arn said she would recommend within a week whether England should face a court-martial.

During closing arguments at Fort Bragg, Capt. Crystal Jennings, a military prosecutor, read from the 21-year-old Army reservist's own statements that she stepped on prisoners' toes and posed for and took photos of naked detainees piled in human pyramids and being forced ommend charges during closing arguments. But he said the defer to simulate homosexual acts.

"She was having fun," Jennings said. "There was no indication that she was there for any military purpose."

The defense has said England and other members of the Maryland-based 372nd Military Police Company abused prisoners under orders from military intelligence agents to "soften up" prison-

Civilian defense attorney Rick Hernandez said outside court that with all the recent reports about problems in military prisons, "obviously Pfc. England was not acting alone.

But Jennings said there was no evidence England ever was given an order to mistreat prisoners. In fact, Jennings said, England repeatedly violated orders to stay out of the part of the prison where the

"If she was given an order, it was an unlawful order" that England was obliged to disobey, Jennings said. "She was not an MP. She was a (personnel) clerk ... who was not recruited into some secret mission. She was there to have some fun."

ing a naked Iraqi prisoner by a leash, smiling and pointing at a hooded detainee's genitals and posing behind a pyramid of nude Iraqis.

with the child of another soldier charged in the scandal, has attend all but a few hours of the hearing, stepping out briefly on the open day to visit her obstetrician.

Military officials have recommended charging her with 13 cou of abusing detainees and six counts stemming from possession sexually explicit photos not involving detainees. If convicted, could get up to 38 years in prison.

Jennings also told Arn she should recommend an additional of maltreatment and cruelty against England. The charge serves and would carry an additional penalty of up to one year in prison In a brief defense summation, Capt. Jonathan Crisp, Engli

military attorney, objected to the additional charge and noted that count accusing England of photographing abuse involves a pic another soldier has admitted taking.

After the hearing, Crisp said it was unusual for prosecutors to was expecting it.

The Article 32 hearing is the rough equivalent of a civilian gr jury, except England was allowed to be present and to call and cro examine witnesses. Arn heard from 27 witnesses over five days testimony in early August and two days this week

England's lawyers had sought to call more than 160 witness ranging from military interrogators up to Cheney and Rumsfeld. Tuesday, that list had been reduced to just six names, including Br Gen. Janis Karpinski, who was in charge of Abu Ghraib when t

But Arn rejected those requests, saying Karpinski's testim would not be relevant. She also refused a defense request to hear fr several Iraqi prisoners after the prosecution argued that it would quire soldiers in armed convoys to transport these witnesses thro

Arn will make her report to Col. Richard Hooker, commander the 18th Airborne Corp's Dragon Brigade. Hooker will then rec mend to Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, Fort Bragg's commander, who

One soldier has already pleaded guilty in the abuse scan and is serving a year in prison. Another is set to enter a gui The Fort Ashby, W.Va., native, reportedly eight months pregnant plea in October.



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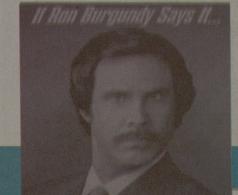


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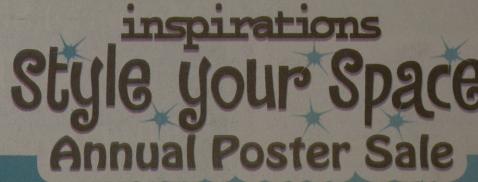
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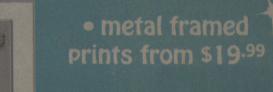
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