

Army, Navy Drop Last of POW Cases

Washington

The Army and Navy have dismissed the last of the remaining misconduct charges against former prisoners of war in Vietnam, the Pentagon said yesterday.

Four enlisted men were cleared for the second time of accusations of mutiny and aiding the enemy. They are Army Staff Sergeants James Daly Jr., of Brooklyn, N.Y., and John A. Young of Grayslake, Ill.; Marine Staff Sergeant Alfonso Riate of Santa Rosa, Calif.; and Marine Private Frederick L. Elbert of Brentwood, N.Y.

They were among eight Army and Marine enlisted men originally charged with misconduct by Air Force Colonel Theodore Guy, commander of a POW camp in North Vietnam. One of the eight committed suicide. Charges against the remaining seven were dismissed July 3.

New life was put into the accusations a few weeks later, however, by another former POW, Air Force Major Edward W. Leonard Jr., who refiled the charges under a provision of military law allowing any serviceman to bring formal charges against any other military man.

Secretary of the Army Howard H. Callaway said the investigation of the two sergeants was more extensive this time. Callaway said 65 witnesses suggested by Leonard were interviewed.

Leonard had attempted to bring charges against all seven men, but three had already left the military by the time the accusations reached the Pentagon.

Two high-ranking officers, a Navy captain and a Marine lieutenant colonel, also were accused of misconduct during their years in North Vietnamese prison camps. Secretary of the Navy John Warner, who interviewed many former prisoners himself, dropped those charges last week, though he formally censured both men for "failing to meet the standards expected of officers."

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