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Bail Is Denied In Copter Case

BALTIMORE, May 10 (UPI)

—A federal judge refused today to order bail for a young Army private accused of commandeering a helicopter Feb. 17 at Ft. Meade, Md., then crash-landing the craft on the White House lawn in a flurry of shotgun fire.

U.S. District Judge Joseph H. Young, denying the plea for freedom by Pfc. Robert K. Preston, ruled a "member of the military has no constitutional rights under the eighth amendment" concerning pretrial detention.

An Army mechanic who washed out of pilot school, Preston, 20, has been held in the Ft. Meade stockade pending court-martial on charges of stealing the helicopter, damaging the craft and aggravated assault.

Capt. Peter Dresler of the judge-advocate general's office said Preston was confined because of the seriousness of the charges and admitted suicidal tendencies prior to the Feb. 17 incident.