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Minneapolis police officer resigns from National Guard after conviction in sex case

A Minnesota Army National Guard captain has resigned but retains his commission after being convicted for sexually assaulting a female private.

Kent Warnberg was transferred to the Individual Ready Reserve. He could still lose his commission and be discharged from the military after the U.S. Army Reserve Group reviews an investigation into the assault and conviction, a Guard official said.

Warnberg, 38, also is a Minneapolis police officer. The department has recommended that he be fired. As a veteran, Warnberg is entitled to a hearing and is appealing the recommendation for dismissal. He has been suspended without pay.

Circuit Court Judge James Rice in Monroe County, Wis., sentenced Warnberg on May 3 to six months in jail after his conviction of fourth-degree sexual assault, a misdemeanor. He was acquitted of two felony counts of second-degree sexual assault and false imprisonment.

When Rice sentenced Warnberg, the judge said Warnberg didn't deserve to retain his police job. He allowed Warnberg to remain free on $1,000 bail while appealing the conviction.

The assault occurred July 23, 1992, at Fort McCoy, Wis., after a party which marked the end of annual Guard training. Warnberg took the woman off base without her permission. She was under the impression that Warnberg was going to return her to her barracks, a prosecutor said.

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