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**Jury acquits ex-officer of sexual abuse charge**

*By Jess Sullivan*

FAIRFIELD -- Why would she lie? That question loomed large during closing arguments by Deputy District Attorney Terry Ray as she tried to convince a jury that a fired California Highway Patrol officer was guilty of heinous acts of child sexual abuse.

Jurors likely will never know the accuser's motives. After four hours of deliberation, they rejected her claims - acquitting Brent K. Adams of two dozen felony charges Friday afternoon.

Adams was a 13-year veteran CHP officer, married with three children and living in Vacaville when the accusations of a three-and-a-half year sexual relationship were made against him and led to his arrest in January 2002.

The woman claimed the relationship began when she was 13. Adams allegedly seduced her at his Sussex Circle home. The accusations cost him his job. He was fired from the CHP and faced a two-and-a-half year legal battle that included pleading no contest last year to one count of committing lewd acts on a child and to four counts of unlawful sexual intercourse. That plea deal was canceled after Adams refused to discuss the accusations with a psychiatrist.

When Judge William C. Harrison announced the jury's verdicts, Adams burst into tears. His lawyer, Kellin Cooper, also cried and hugged Adams while Adams' wife, son and youngest daughter cried and hugged each other a few feet away in the courtroom gallery.

The accuser, now 21, married two months ago, enlisted in the Army and is soon to be deployed to Iraq. She was not in the courtroom when the verdicts were announced.

Jurors, looking as solemn as they had throughout the two-week trial, quickly filed past Adams and left the courthouse. They had spent days listening to intimate, sordid and lurid claims of sexual activity raised by the accuser and detailed descriptions of Adams' anatomy raised by Cooper trying to prove the accuser's detailed descriptions were lies.

"She flat-out lied when she made up this story," Cooper told jurors during his closing argument earlier in the day.

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