

Times-Herald

Ex-CHP officer acquitted of molestation charges

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Saturday, August 14, 2004 - FAIRFIELD After deliberating for less than three hours on Friday, a jury in Fairfield acquitted former California Highway Patrol officer Brent Kyle Adams of child molestation and exhibiting lewd material to a minor.

Adams, 38, who was a CHP motorcycle officer until his arrest in January 2002, appeared elated by the verdicts. He could be seen sobbing and hugged his young daughter, wife and son and his attorney, Kellin Cooper.

Judge William C. Harrison, instead of reading more than 20 verdicts, declared that the jury had found Adams not guilty on all counts.

Adams was accused of having unlawful sexual intercourse and engaging in oral copulation with the woman beginning when she was 13.

Cooper argued that the accuser, who now is 21, married and in the Army, made the whole thing up. In his closing argument, Cooper told jurors that the alleged victim was unable to accurately describe a pertinent feature of his anatomy even to the investigators. The defense attorney added that while Adams acknowledged that he owned adult films, there was no corroboration to the woman's claim that they sat down and viewed them together.

Cooper characterized the accuser as "obviously troubled," noting that nowhere in her diary were references to sexual activity with Adams. The attorney pointed out that rather than run and flee like a guilty man, Adams turned himself in to police.

Deputy District Attorney Terry Ray said the woman had no motive to lie. Rather than going to the police, she told her best friend and then a church counselor. She didn't want to break up the family. But Children's Protective Services was notified and an investigation was launched when she told her story to a school counselor.

Ray attributed the woman's failure to adequately describe Adam's anatomy to the probability that she had had no other experiences with sex before the defendant and, therefore, nothing to compare it to. The woman claimed that she and Adams had more than 100 sexual encounters.