

March 4 is deadline for Navy train crew interview

A Navy investigator has set a March 4 deadline to interview the crew of the train that ran over Brian Willson.

Capt. Joseph Miceli wants to interview the crew before making a recommendation on whether they should be disciplined.

Miceli interviewed about 20 Concord Naval Weapons Station employees two weeks ago. But he did not interview the train crew, whose attorneys and union representative said they were too traumatized to talk to him. All three are still out of work and under treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder.

Navy spokesman Lt. Ken Ross said Miceli is willing to meet with the train crew until March 4. At that time, with or without interviewing them, he will make his recommendations regarding discipline to Rear Adm. R.H. Ailes, who will make the final decisions.

The train crew's attorney, William

Kolin, could not be reached for comment Thursday. James Wright, president of their union, said he was not aware of the March 4 deadline and declined to comment further.

Capt. Stanley Pryzby, who headed an investigation into the Willson incident that was presented to Congress last November, recommended suspensions without pay for security manager John Banta, who gave the OK to move the train, conductor Ralph Dawson and engineer David Humiston. Pryzby recommended a letter of discipline to brakeman Ralph Mayfield.

He also recommended commendations for the Navy firefighters who first came to Willson's aid after he was run over.

Weapons station spokesman Dan Tikalsky said Miceli interviewed people recommended for discipline as well as those recommended for awards.

Sunday, February 21, 1988

12A—Contra Costa Times

IN BRIEF

Arms station crash still baffles police

CONCORD — Police are still trying to figure out the cause of a Feb. 2 fatal hit-and-run collision at the Naval Weapons Station after tests found no trace of drugs or alcohol in the driver's blood.

Police are now looking into whether Stephen Longley's medical condition caused him to crash. Longley, 23, is a diabetic.

Concord police Sgt. Steve Krull said police will probably talk to the District Attorney's Office next week to decide whether charges will be filed against Longley, a Pittsburg resident. Longley was arrested on suspicion of felony hit-and-run driving and manslaughter after hitting and killing Franklin D. Gunderman.

Longley remains in stable condition at John Muir Medical Center where he was taken the day of the crash. After hitting Gunderman, Longley drove his Mercury Topaz the wrong way on Highway 4 before veering into a center divider and plunging 150 feet off an embankment onto the Naval Weapons Station.

Longley told police he has no recollection of the crash.

Blood samples taken from Longley at the hospital also showed his blood sugar level was within normal ranges, Krull said.

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A—Contra Costa Times

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WALNUT CREEK — Retired Cmdr. Oliver Everette, former executive officer of the Concord Naval Weapons Station, will describe protest demonstrations at the base for the Lamorinda Republican Assembly Tuesday in Walnut Creek.

Everette will show a videotape of demonstrators and their supporters and describe the political and military aspects of attempts to block weapons entering the station.

The event will be at Michael's Restaurant, Walnut Creek. For reservations, call Don Baxter at 283-2729.