

Abu Ghraib trial ends in split verdict

by UPI

FORT MEADE, Md. - A court-martial in Maryland acquitted U.S. Army Lt. Col. Steven Jordan of abuses at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, but convicted him of disobeying an order. The order from a superior required him not to discuss a 2004 investigation of allegations of abuse at the prison, The Washington Post reported. Under court-martial rules, a conviction required the votes of at least seven members of the 10-officer jury — nine colonels and a brigadier general. Jordan's acquittal means no officer will serve prison time in connection with the abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib, the Post said. But Jordan, 51, could face up to five years in prison and ejection from the Army on the conviction of disobeying the order. Prosecutors said Jordan e-mailed soldiers asking questions about the abuse before passing their contact information to investigators. Infamous photographs of naked prisoners and prisoners threatened by dogs surfaced in early 2004, setting off a major investigation. The defense had argued that Jordan was not in charge of interrogations. Jordan was acquitted of those charges connected to the abuse, dereliction of duty, including cruelty and mistreatment, and a second count of disobeying orders, the Post said. The jury now must deliberate on Jordan's punishment.

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