

Ex-commander settle charges

by UPI

BOSTON -- U.S. naval officials say charges against an allegedly abusive former commander of the historic USS Constitution have been resolved, but will not be made public. Cmdr. Thomas C. Graves, 43, of Marblehead, Mass., was relieved of duty in May after several crew members complained he assaulted a petty officer and asked a crew member to lie about it, The Boston Globe reported Monday. At a public naval hearing last month, Graves' lawyer described him as a disciplined officer who inherited an incompetent crew. The USS Constitution, also known as Old Ironsides, has a crew of 55 active duty sailors and is used for public relations and ceremonial events. Last week, Graves' was given the opportunity to resolve the charges privately during another hearing at the Surface Warfare Officers School Command in Newport, R.I., where Graves was assigned after leaving the USS Constitution, the Globe reported. Naval officials said they were forbidden from disclosing the outcome of the case and neither Graves nor his attorney were available for comment.

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