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San Diego News

Hearing Today For SDPD Officer Accused Of Raping Prostiutute

Daniel Dana Faces 17 Years In Prison For Presidio Park Rape While On Duty

POSTED: 4:40 am PDT June 14, 2011 UPDATED: 7:00 am PDT June 14, 2011



SAN DIEGO -- A preliminary hearing is scheduled Tuesday for a former San Diego police officer accused of raping a prostitute in Presidio Park while on duty after threatening to take the woman to jail if she didn't have sex with him.

Daniel Dana, 26, who joined the San Diego police academy in July 2007, either quit or was fired almost immediately following his May 11 arrest. He is free on \$300,000 bail.

Dana, who lives in Escondido, could get more than 17 years in prison if convicted of rape under the color of authority, oral copulation under the color of authority, false imprisonment and assault by an officer, according to Deputy District Attorney Annette Irving.



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A 34-year-old prostitute who Dana befriended told police she agreed to meet him about 3 a.m. May 11 in Presidio Park, where the officer allegedly forced her to have sex with him by threatening to arrest her if she refused.

During a bail review hearing last month, defense attorney William Wolfe said the circumstances of the meeting with the prostitute were "suspect" and that no force was involved.

But Irving said that since the officer's arrest, other women have called the San

Diego Police Department and the District Attorney's Office about their contacts with Dana.

According to Wolfe, the other women who have called authorities about Dana were not reporting crimes, threats and anything close to what Dana is charged with in the rape case.

Wolfe said Dana served four years in the Marine Corps and earned several medals. The defendant joined SDPD after being honorably discharged from the military in 2007.

Following Tuesday's preliminary hearing, a judge will decide if enough evidence was presented for Dana to stand trial.

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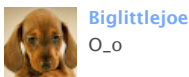
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As The SDPD Turns.

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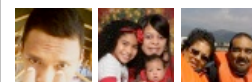
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