

# Accuser in Army Sex Case Will Testify

## *Retired Sergeant Major Had Declined to Appear Against McKinney*

By Dana Priest  
Washington Post Staff Writer

The retired sergeant major whose allegations against Sergeant Major of the Army Gene C. McKinney prompted a sexual misconduct investigation against him has agreed to testify in his preliminary hearing after initially declining.

Brenda C. Hoster, who was McKinney's public affairs specialist before she retired, will voluntarily testify next Friday, said her attorney, Susan Barnes. The Army was preparing to recall her to active duty to compel her testimony and had ordered her to give a deposition in the meantime.

Hoster changed her mind, Barnes said, because Army prosecutors agreed to object at the hearing to any attempt by McKinney's

defense attorneys to raise questions about Hoster's past sexual practices.

From the first days of the preliminary hearing, which has been going on for four weeks, Barnes expressed concern that Army attorneys were not protecting alleged victims from answering probing, personal questions that Barnes believes are barred by the law as inappropriate.

"It's the whole issue of abusing witnesses, of sending the message to victims that your alleged sex life is on display," Barnes said, "... even though it is not related to the misconduct that's on trial."

As in civilian court, the military justice system also has so-called rape shield laws that prevent defense attorneys from prying into the sexual lives of alleged victims unless they are clearly relevant to

the accusations. "We wanted a reasonable effort to be made to enforce that rule," Barnes said. "We're satisfied she's going to get the protection she deserves."

Prosecutors did not object earlier when one of McKinney's other accusers was asked whether her husband was the father of her child and whether she had considered having an abortion.

Hoster alleges that McKinney propositioned her and grabbed her and kissed her in a hotel room during a business trip. She is one of four service women to accuse McKinney of making sexual advances. He has denied all the charges.

The preliminary hearing is being held to determine whether there is enough evidence to take McKinney to a court-martial.

# Clinton Names Gen. Shelton to Lead Military

Reuter

Ending a search made more difficult by the turmoil over sex in the military, President Clinton yesterday selected Army Gen. H. Hugh Shelton to be chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Shelton, a tough Green Beret paratrooper who led U.S. forces in Haiti, would be the third Army man in a row to fill a job that usually rotates among the Army, Navy and Air Force.

In announcing he had decided to name the 55-year-old Special Forces commander to be the top U.S. military officer, Clinton said Shelton brought "unique perspective" to the

job because of his expertise in unconventional warfare.

"Over more than three decades of service to our nation, he has distinguished himself as a decorated soldier, an innovative thinker, a superb commander. From Vietnam to Desert Storm, he has proven his skill and courage in combat," Clinton said at a White House Rose Garden ceremony.

Shelton's selection to succeed Army Gen. John Shalikashvili when his term as chairman expires at the end of September came five weeks after Air Force Gen. Joseph W. Ralston, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs, withdrew from the running.

Ralston—Defense Secretary William S. Cohen's first choice for the post—asked that he not be considered after an adulterous affair in his background came to light. The disclosure followed the forced resignation of Air Force Lt. Kelly Flinn, the first woman B-52 pilot, who otherwise would have faced court-martial on charges arising from her affair with a married man.

Shelton, a native of Tarboro, N.C., is not a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Instead, he holds a degree in textile engineering from North Carolina State University and a master's degree from Auburn University in Alabama.

# Albright Names Solarz Special Envoy on Cambodia Crisis

Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright yesterday named former representative Stephen J. Solarz (D-N.Y.) as a special envoy to seek a solution to the political crisis in Cambodia that would be acceptable to the Clinton administration.

Cambodia's new ruler, Hun Sen, has declared the crisis over, accepting Foreign Minister Ung Huot—a former ally of First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh, whom Hun Sen ousted in a coup July 4—as his coalition partner.

Many countries have signaled willingness to tolerate that outcome if it means

an end to the violence that has plagued Cambodia, but the United States has not. Washington's position is that Ranariddh was freely elected and remains the country's first prime minister, pending elections scheduled for next year.

"The Cambodian foreign minister, I suppose in collusion with Hun Sen, just summarily declared himself to be the first prime minister," Nicholas Burns of the State Department said yesterday.

Solarz's assignment is to visit Beijing, Tokyo, Jakarta, Bangkok and then Phnom Penh, where he is to meet Hun

Sen, looking for a formula that would comply with international law and U.N. agreements and ensure that the 1998 election will be held, the State Department said.

He is to report his findings to Albright in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where late this month she is to attend the annual meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN. Cambodia was to have been admitted to ASEAN at that meeting, but the invitation was suspended after the coup.

—Thomas W. Lippman