

Hearings held for Navy SEALs in detainee abuse case

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Norfolk, Va. - Two Navy SEALs accused of lying to cover up the alleged abuse of a terrorist by a third SEAL had their final hearings at Naval Station Norfolk today before their trials open at Camp Victory in Iraq in a few weeks.

Jonathan Keefe and Julio Huertas are accused of lying about the alleged abuse against the detainee by Matthew McCabe, whose own trial will be held in Norfolk.

Several charges against Keefe and Huertas were dropped, and each will be tried on one and two charges respectively.

It was also revealed at the hearings that helmet cam video of the capture and detention of the alleged terrorist exists. The judge denied allowing the full video into evidence, but said the two sides could argue over entering specific parts of the video into evidence when the trials start in Iraq.

Keefe's attorney Gregg McCormack told NewsChannel 3 he feels pretty good about his case.

"It's been a very interesting ride. What happens in Iraq. I'm going into an uncertain situation. The jury pool is coming from over there and we still don't have a listing of who our jurors are going to be at this point. So I feel good, I feel we have a very strong case and the government has a very weak case."

The trials for Keefe and Huertas will begin on April 19th and 22nd. McCabe's trial will begin later next month at Naval Station Norfolk.