



Photo by Andrew Fuller

DEPUTIES PULL Liz Fuller of Walnut Creek, standing, and Helen Zink of Pleasant Hill off Navy tracks at the Concord Naval Weapons Station on Thursday.

Navy ends probe of Willson case

County residents stage protest at weapons station

CONCORD — The Navy has finished investigating how protester Brian Willson was run over at the Concord Naval Weapons Station and is expected to turn over its report to Congress next week.

The secretary of the Navy and chief of naval operations currently are reviewing the report, according to John Lally, attorney for the House Armed Services Subcommittee.

Lally said Thursday the committee could hold a hearing on the Sept. 1 incident as early as the end of next week.

Reps. Ron Dellums, D-Berkeley, and Barbara Boxer, D-San Rafael, both members of the subcommittee, asked for a review of the Navy and Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department investigations of the incident. Willson, 46, lost both lower legs and sustained a skull fracture.

Also Thursday, the Mt. Diablo Peace Center in Walnut Creek organized a protest at the weapons station involving about 30 Contra Costa County residents.

They sat on the tracks holding

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— *Liz Fuller,
Walnut Creek*

signs that read: "I Live in Contra Costa, and Support Peace in Central America."

Liz Fuller, 26, of Walnut Creek said press accounts often leave the impression that all the protesters are outsiders. The group wanted to show that Contra Costans also oppose U.S. policy in Central America.

"I've never been arrested before," said Fuller, a secretary and college student who is engaged to

the Peace Center's director.

"I'm not a radical element or anything. I'm a regular citizen of Walnut Creek. I work in Walnut Creek. I just felt it was time to protest, for my fellow Contra Costans."

Fuller was one of seven people who remained on the tracks to block a weapons train. Sheriff's deputies pulled them away, but did not arrest them.

The other protesters were: Andy Baltzo, 67, of Pleasant Hill, the founder of the peace center; Chuck Goodmacher, 28, of Walnut Creek, the center's current director; Helen Zink, 43, of Pleasant Hill; Carol Armstrong, 50, of Pleasant Hill; Ron Serviss, 43, of Berkeley; and Joe Oakes, 53, of Los Altos. Oakes attached himself to the tracks by wrapping a plastic band around his wrist and nailing it to a railroad tie.