

US soldier accused in Wikileaks case due in court

March 15 2012, By JESSICA GRESKO , Associated Press



Army Pfc. Bradley Manning, center, is escorted by a security detail into a courthouse in Fort Meade, Md., Thursday, March 15, 2012. Manning, a US Army private accused of leaking classified material to the anti-secrecy website Wikileaks could soon learn when his trial will start. (AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

(AP) -- A U.S. Army private accused of leaking classified material to the anti-secrecy website Wikileaks could soon learn when his trial will start.

Pfc. Bradley Manning was scheduled to appear in a military [courtroom](#) at Fort Meade, near Baltimore, on Thursday and Friday. During his most recent hearing in late February, no trial date was set, though the timing was discussed. A military judge is expected to set a firmer schedule this week.

Military [prosecutors](#) say Manning, a 24-year-old Oklahoma native, downloaded and transferred to Wikileaks nearly half a million sensitive [battlefield](#) reports. That included hundreds of thousands of diplomatic cables and a video of a deadly 2007 Army helicopter attack that WikiLeaks shared with the world and dubbed "Collateral Murder." Defense lawyers say Manning was a troubled soldier who shouldn't have had access to classified material and that the leaked material did little or no harm to [national security](#).

During Manning's last hearing, which lasted less than an hour, Manning declined to enter a plea to the 22 counts he faces, including aiding the enemy, which could result in life imprisonment. He also put off choosing whether to be tried by a military jury or judge alone. Manning could make those decisions Thursday or Friday, but could also wait until slightly before trial to choose a judge or jury and could enter a plea at the start of his trial.

©2012 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: US soldier accused in Wikileaks case due in court (2012, March 15) retrieved 20 March 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-03-soldier-accused-wikileaks-case-due.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.
