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California Guard ready for verdict



LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hundreds of National Guard troops reported to staging areas Monday, and civil rights leaders pleaded for restraint as a federal jury deliberated the case of four policemen accused of beating Rodney King. Jurors reached no verdict by the end of the day.

Shielded from the public's jitters and the police build-up, the 12 jurors resumed their talks after meeting Easter Sunday afternoon. Monday afternoon they headed back to the hotel where they were being sequestered. They were to resume deliberations Tuesday.

Scores of TV trucks, satellite dishes at the ready, surrounded the downtown courthouse.

Across town, guardsmen banged their rifle butts on the bed of a troop truck in a display of spirit at California National Guard headquarters in Inglewood.

About 600 guardsmen reported to area armories by Monday morning and the Los Angeles Police Department put 200 extra officers on the streets at all times in the event that the verdict in the case would trigger violence.

However, operations will be routine until the jury reaches a verdict, both agencies said.

'Unless there is a call for more, they are going to be here going through some drills, training, probably double-checking their equipment," said guard Capt. Lisa Corrivaia.

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno approved up to \$1 million in federal funds for police overtime following the verdict, Gov. Pete Wilson's office announced Monday.

Deadly rioting broke out last spring after Sgt. Stacey Koon, Officers Laurence Powell and Theodore Briseno and former Officer Timothy Wind were acquitted of most charges in a state trial.

In this federal trial, the four white officers are charged with violating the black motorist's civil rights during a beating after a highway chase on March 3, 1991.

Powell, accused of making the most blows against King, said at the courthouse Monday that throughout the trial he kept asking himself if he and the other officers did everything necessary for their

"I think we did and I think we will be acquitted," he said. "But that 1 percent that might not be is real worrisome.

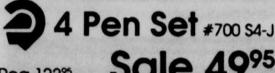
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