

Maverick VFW post put on suspension

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SANTA CRUZ — The national VFW has suspended local Post 5888 for 60 days for its defiant stand against U.S. intervention in Central America and for making that stand known to Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

A national VFW spokesman in Kansas City, Mo., said the suspension would allow time for an investigation of Post 5888's activities. Following that investigation, the charter could be revoked, suspended another 90 days, or fully reinstated.

Local Post Cmdr. Richard Anderson said he feels the local post will be exonerated from charges it has violated VFW regulations.

Last spring, the local post voted to support a resolution calling for non-intervention by the U.S. in Central American affairs and offered the resolution for approval at the summer convention of state VFW posts.

It was laughed down.

The national organization has always gone the other way, voting solid support

for President Reagan's actions in Central America.

In December, the local post by majority vote agreed that one of its members would take a letter to Nicaraguan President Ortega telling him that at least one VFW post in the U.S. believes that Reagan's policies were making the situation worse in Nicaragua.

Anderson and other members say they are not expressing support for Ortega's Sandinista government, but only opposing existing U.S. activities.

However, the persistence of Post 5888 in support of its resolution, and the hand-delivery of it to Ortega, has angered other VFW posts.

Spokesmen for state and national headquarters say they are receiving a lot of calls demanding the Santa Cruz post be punished.

Anderson said the stand is getting new volunteers for Post 5888 and that the local veterans are proud of the resolution and the stand they are making.