

Another Sailor Found Guilty of Lesbianism

Long Beach

An administrative hearing board ruled unanimously yesterday that sailor Wendi Williams had engaged in homosexual activity on board the missile test ship Norton Sound and recommended that she be discharged from the Navy.

Prosecution witnesses testified that Williams, 25, of New York had a lesbian affair with Alicia Harris, 28, of Chicago, who last Monday was recommended for a discharge on the same grounds by another board.

Williams, one of eight women sailors accused of shipboard homosexual conduct, denied the charges, telling the three-member panel she was guilty of nothing more than stupidity.

"I would like for this board, if they choose to discharge me, to discharge me for stupidity, not misconduct," she said.

"My work in the Navy has been real good and I would have been real dumb — the dumbest nigger in the Navy — if I had let these things happen, to commit these acts in a room with 60 people where everyone could see."

But the hearing board decided

after two hours of deliberation that she should be given a general discharge under honorable conditions because of misconduct.

"The preponderance of the evidence," the board said, "is that Firemen Recruit Wendi Williams did, while on active duty on the USS Norton Sound, engage in one or more homosexual acts."

Williams showed no emotion as the verdict was read, but seconds later stood up and walked out of the crowded hearing room.

Earlier she insisted that she had told the truth when she denied having a sexual relationship with either Harris or Tangela Gaskins, one of two defendants so far cleared of the charges.

She said witnesses, who claimed to have discovered her sexually involved with Gaskins and Harris, were not telling the truth.

If the witnesses had looked more closely, she said, they would have seen that she and her friends were merely "horsing around."