The 15th day of the Minneapolis Armory occupation ended before dawn Tuesday when 40 police officers secretly entered the building and rousted 14 squatters sleeping on cots and hammocks.

Two women were arrested, one allegedly for assaulting a security guard, but otherwise police and protesters reported no violence and no injuries, which had been officials' main concern.

All but one of the 14 squatters, who oppose Hennepin County's plans to build a jail on the site, left peacefully after being surprised by an emergency response unit team in camouflage uniforms that entered through the roof.

Officers complained of extremely unsanitary conditions inside the building and said squatters had used corners for toilets. A group of officers on the ground floor was taken aback by bucket of excrement thrown down a stairwell by protesters on the second floor.

"It was very ripe," said Deputy Police Chief Dave Dobrotka, who supervised the 40-officer operation. "I nearly tossed my cookies."

Police arrested Leigh Welper, 27, of Minneapolis, after she allegedly refused to leave the building. "I'm an activist," Welper said. "I occupied the building. To me, that means they had to carry me out."

She was released but arrested again several hours later outside the Armory in a scuffle precipitated by another woman's confrontation with two guards who wrestled her off a flagpole base and to the ground. The guards were hired by the county to secure the building after the protesters were removed.

Margaret Hastings, 41, Minneapolis, an activist for the homeless, was charged with assault, although she said she merely resisted when a guard pushed her. Welper and Hastings, who said they will protest the construction of a jail anywhere, received bruises and swollen wrists during their tussles.

Construction workers boarded up doors and windows yesterday and tore down flags and banners, including one that announced "Free Rooms."

Hennepin County District Judge Steven Lange said he will sign an order this week that makes anyone who enters the building or interferes with workers there liable for civil contempt or criminal trespass charges.

But most of the protesters, about half men and half women, said they were undeterred. Hastings, who is organizing a protest there Saturday, said, "All it takes is a willing heart."

The squatters broke into the vacant armory May 4 as a protest against homelessness. Until yesterday, police had left the squatters alone, and the squatters had avoided actions that would attract police.

Staff writer Steve Brandt contributed to this report.