

DRAFT TEMPLATE



NEWS RELEASE

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Master Sergeant Sentenced to Life for Murder of Four Iraqi Detainees

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany (April 16, 2009) -- Master Sgt. John E. Hatley, formerly assigned to the 1st Bn., 18th Inf. Regt., was dishonorably discharged and sentenced to confinement for life with the possibility of parole for his role in the premeditated murder of four detainees in March/April 2007, while deployed near Baghdad, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The sentence also included a reduction to the rank of private (E1) and forfeiture of all pay and allowances

On Wednesday, despite his plea of not guilty, a panel of his peers found Hatley guilty of premeditated murder and conspiracy to commit premeditated murder. The panel found Hatley not guilty of obstruction of justice and an unrelated premeditated murder.

The panel delivered their sentence after five hours of deliberation, which concluded the court-martial proceedings held at Rose Barracks in Vilseck, Germany.

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