



NEWS RELEASE

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MAN SENTENCED IN FATAL HIT AND RUN

A man who pleaded guilty last month in connection with a fatal hit and run that killed an airman from Buckley Air Force Base earlier this year has been sentenced in the case.

William Pettapiece (dob: 10-07-81) was driving eastbound on Alameda Avenue last April when he struck the rear end of a motorcycle also travelling eastbound. As a result of the impact, the victim was thrown from the motorcycle. The victim, 23-year-old Michael Snyder, did not survive.

Pettapiece was sentenced today to 12 years in prison for *vehicular homicide* (F3) and *leaving the scene of an accident resulting in death* (F3) following an emotional hearing in which the victim's family and a fellow airman from the Air Force addressed the court. Pettapiece also made a statement apologizing for what he had done.

The case was prosecuted by Denver Deputy DA Johanna Coats and Chief Deputy DA Victoria Sharp, who had asked the court to consider 12 to 15 years in prison as an appropriate sentence in the case. Pettapiece could have faced up to 24 years if he had been given the maximum on each count consecutively.