

N333MELS

1 THE COURT: Thank you, please come forward.

2 CAPTAIN KRAUS: Good morning, your Honor. I have
3 prepared a statement today I would like to read to the Court.

4 My name is Captain Joshua Kraus. I am a military
5 intelligence officer who has worked with both the 173rd
6 Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and the 207th Military
7 Intelligence Brigade. As a military intelligence officer, my
8 duties include providing leaders with relevant, timely, and
9 accurate information regarding enemy actions, capabilities, and
10 how to deter them.

11 I was directly in charge of the preparation of
12 classified and unclassified intelligence to prepare Ethan's
13 platoon to deploy to the military base. I provided an overview
14 of the terrain, weather, enemy, and travel considerations that
15 they were to consider. I outlined presumed modes of
16 transportation that the platoon might take once they arrived in
17 country. I went over scenarios in which enemy units, terrorist
18 organizations, or civilians might directly attack the military
19 base. I went into classified space in which I outlined
20 specific actors and organizations that might have been
21 operating within 8 to 16 hours of the platoon's position. I
22 provided the squad leaders and above with unclassified products
23 to review during their flight.

24 Now, due to Ethan's actions, I will always have to
25 think twice in regards to how I brief and whom I share very

N333MELS

1 sensitive information with.

2 I was asked to review some of the material Ethan had
3 shared with his group, and was completely shocked to see the
4 information I relayed to Ethan's platoon being shrouded in
5 those messages. The information that I delivered to protect
6 Ethan and his platoon was shared with our sworn enemies.

7 My professional observation, your Honor, is that the
8 sentence that you will hand down will set a precedent in many
9 ways. Our allies and enemies are very aware of this case. Our
10 allies will take notice of the sentence and will weigh if they
11 should continue to share the most critical and sensitive
12 secrets with the United States of America. The United States
13 must and will continue to lead from the front.

14 Ethan Melzer knowingly violated his oath of enlistment
15 to the United States Army, Department of Defense, and most
16 importantly, to the men and women to his left and right who
17 were serving alongside with him in Italy. That violation of
18 trust amongst the ranks is egregious, and will unfortunately
19 have lasting impacts.

20 Instead of standing ready to engage and destroy the
21 enemies of the United States in close combat, Ethan Melzer
22 invited enemies of the United States into our sensitive spaces.
23 He wanted to orchestrate a violent jihadist attack against his
24 team, his squad, and his platoon.

25 Building cohesive teams is central to the Army

N333MELS

1 culture. That is why the Army instills that we have team
2 leaders to lead small teams, squad leaders, platoon leaders,
3 and company commanders. Ethan had the trust of his team, and
4 now has caused his entire platoon to question the trust they
5 give to their comrades to the left and right for the rest of
6 their lives.

7 An effective grasp of any mission requires training
8 personnel. Commanders must not underestimate the importance of
9 providing training. Now due to Ethan's actions, every
10 commander and leader that this case has affected will think
11 twice about the people they are sending out on a deployment.
12 Ethan created a psychological cancer that attacks the very
13 fiber of who we are as U.S. service members.

14 We do not care who you sleep with, who you worship,
15 where you call home, or who you voted for. It is our duty to
16 uphold the Constitution of the United States and accomplish the
17 mission at hand. When Ethan was entrusted with critical and
18 sensitive information intended to keep U.S. service members
19 free from harm, he took that information and relayed it to our
20 very worst enemies in order have them killed.

21 I want to provide context and my point of view, your
22 Honor, to the damage Ethan has done. I provided sensitive
23 information on how I would attack this base if I were the
24 enemy. That is part of my job as an intelligence professional,
25 to describe in detail possible vulnerabilities of the military

N333MELS

1 base. I relayed the threats and described in detail my
2 assessment. This assessment was on a need-to-know basis. This
3 information now can never be retrieved. This information now
4 can be passed to any amount of people and/or organizations and
5 can still be used to harm U.S. service members and partner
6 nation forces.

7 The Department of Defense cannot just pick up and move
8 a base again, due to Status of Forces agreements and diplomatic
9 agreements. I say that to underscore that once this case is
10 over, the threat caused by this conduct will continue to
11 threaten U.S. service members, wherever they may be.

12 Your Honor, Ethan should receive 45 years in prison
13 because the information that he shared will never be able to be
14 recovered, and can still harm servicemen and women now and long
15 into the future. Thank you.

16 THE COURT: Thank you.

17 MR. HELLMAN: Your Honor, the second and last victim
18 impact statement will be delivered by Captain Jacob Ferris.

19 THE COURT: Thank you. Please come forward.

20 CAPTAIN FERRIS: Your Honor, I'd like to thank you for
21 allowing me to speak in your courtroom today.

22 My name is Captain Jacob Ferris. And while I am now
23 transitions to the civilian sector to pursue my MBA, I've also
24 served in the U.S. Army for the last 11 years. I've held a
25 wide range of jobs, all the way from an enlisted private to