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TOP STORY

## Ex-youth director at Fort Leonard Wood sentenced to 30 years for child sexual abuse

Erin Martise, KOMU 8 Digital Producer

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SPRINGFIELD - A former soldier in the Army National Guard was sentenced in federal court Friday for sexually abusing four children over several years while he was director of the youth ministry at the Fort Leonard Wood U.S. Army Base.

Waynesville man David J. McKay, 43, was sentenced to 30 years in federal prison without parole. The court also sentenced McKay to spend the rest of his life on supervised release following incarceration.

On April 29, 2021, McKay pleaded guilty to one count of transporting a minor to engage in criminal sexual activity and four counts of sexually abusing a minor.

McKay, at the time an Army National Guard First Sergeant, was the youth ministry director for the Religious Services Office at Fort Leonard Wood. McKay is not currently serving as a member of the National Guard, according to a news release.

McKay admitted that he sexually abused four victims, ranging in age from 11 to 17 years old, on dozens of occasions from 2010 to 2017.

The sexual abuse occurred at Fort Leonard Wood and various other locations within Pulaski County, the release said. The victims also reported being abused during the youth group's ski trips to Colorado and on camping trips at Fort Leonard Wood.

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I am a current senior at the University of Missouri Columbia studying Photojournalism and Social Media. I am working as a Digital Producer with KOMU 8 this semester as a part of my Social Media class curriculum and experience.