

Wells Found Guilty on All Counts in CommSta Murders

Friday, 25 April 2014

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A federal jury in Alaska has convicted James Wells of murder in the shooting deaths of two of his co-workers at Coast Guard communications station Kodiak.

The jury returned its verdict afternoon Friday in the case of the 62-year-old Wells. He was charged with killing Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class James Hopkins and retired Chief Petty Officer Richard Belisle in April 2012.

Prosecutors had alleged Wells was unhappy that he had become increasingly irrelevant on the job through the advancement of the victims.

The jury convicted Wells of six felony charges: two counts each of first-degree murder, murder of a U.S. officer and use of a firearm in a violent crime.

Federal prosecutors said earlier they would not seek the death penalty.