

# ***Jurors decided Hill negligent, not criminal***

**By David Landis**  
*Times staff writer*

Jurors who acquitted Sheriff's Capt. Willie Hill on charges of tampering with evidence said he may have been negligent in ordering a powder he thought to be drugs destroyed. But, as one said, "just because he didn't do his duty, it wasn't a crime."

And Hill declared, "We beat the devil" after the 205th District Court jury returned a not guilty verdict Thursday morning after 3½ hours of deliberation.

Later, Chief Sheriff's Deputy Clay Collier ordered that Hill, 53, be restored to duty after eight weeks of suspension with pay since his indictment.

"What took so long," said juror Cristobal

•Please see Hill, 6A