



**United States Marine Corps**

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**PRESS RELEASE #17-009**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**COMBAT CENTER OFFICIALS, SBCSD COORDINATE MURDER SUSPECT ARREST**

**MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. –**

Combat Center Naval Criminal Investigative Service assisted San Bernardino County Sherriff's Department with the arrest of Lance Cpl. Rafael Aikens, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, March 30, in connection with a double homicide, which took place off base in Twentynine Palms, Calif., March 24.

After the victims were identified and a witness provided a physical description of the suspect, SBCSD requested NCIS' assistance with gathering additional evidence in support of the investigation. Due to NCIS' diligent coordination with SBCSD, NCIS successfully arrested Aikens from his barracks, located aboard the Combat Center. Aikens is currently being detained at the West Valley Detention Center under a \$2 million bail.

Releasable Information:

Name: Aikens, Rafael A.

Rank: Lance Corporal

Military Occupational Specialty: 0331 - Machine Gunner

Awards: Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Inherent Resolve Campaign Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Letter of Appreciation

Date of Rank: November 1, 2015

Date of Enlistment: December 16, 2014

End of Active Service: December 15, 2018

Unit: 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division

Deployment History: April 6, 2016 to September 23, 2016 Operation Inherent Resolve