



Riverside County District Attorney

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **JURY DECIDES MAN SHOULD BE PUT TO DEATH FOR THE 2008 MURDERS OF U.S. MARINE CORPS SERGEANT AND HIS WIFE IN THEIR HOME**

RIVERSIDE – Today, Aug. 21, 2014, a Riverside County Superior Court jury decided that a Fallbrook man should be put to death for the 2008 murders of a United States Marine Corps sergeant and his wife in their home near Murrieta.

On Aug. 5, 2014, the same jury found Kesaun Kedron Sykes, DOB: 4-27-87, guilty of two counts of first-degree murder and also found true the special circumstances of murder during the commission of a robbery, during the commission of a burglary, rape by instrument, and multiple murders. Those same jurors then heard testimony during the penalty phase of the trial and found that the former Marine should face the death penalty for the murders.

Jurors deliberated Sykes' fate for about half a day before reaching their decision late Thursday morning and the verdict was read just after 2 p.m.

Judge Christian Thierbach is scheduled to certify and render Sykes' sentence on Nov. 7, 2014, in Dept. 43 at the Hall of Justice in Riverside.

Sykes is the fourth man to be tried for the October 2008 murders of United States Marine Corps Sgt. Jan Pietrzak, 24, and his wife, Quiana Jenkins-Pietrzak, 26, who were found murdered in their home in the unincorporated area of Winchester/French Valley, near Murrieta.

In June 2013, two separate juries found Kevin Cox, DOB: 1-16-88; Emrys John, DOB: 12-27-89; and Tyrone Miller, DOB: 12-13-87, guilty of two counts of first-degree murder and also found true the special circumstances of murder during the commission of a robbery, during the commission of a burglary and multiple murders. John and Miller had one jury and Cox had a separate jury. Those same jurors decided during the penalty phase of the trial that John and Miller should be put to death and that Cox should receive life in prison without the possibility of parole. All three were sentenced last year by Thierbach, who oversaw Sykes' trial.

Pietrzak and Jenkins-Pietrzak were found bound and both had been shot in the head. Cox, John, and Miller all worked with Sgt. Pietrzak at one time as Marines while stationed at Camp Pendleton. Cox, John, Miller and Sykes went to the Pietrzak home to rob the victims and then forced their way inside. Pietrzak was physically assaulted and his wife was sexually assaulted before both were murdered.

The case, SWF026784, was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Daniel DeLimon.