



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
3000 MARINE CORPS PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-3000

IN REPLY REFER TO
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OLAC-2
6 Jun 16

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dingell:

Thank you for your letter of April 4, 2016, to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, concerning Private Raheel Siddiqui, a Marine Recruit who died while undergoing recruit training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina. I am responding on General Neller's behalf.

I appreciate your interest in this matter and please know the Siddiqui family has our heartfelt condolences on the loss of their loved one. Currently, there are two ongoing investigations into the circumstances surrounding Private Siddiqui's death.

First, a command Line of Duty investigation is being conducted. Such an investigation is required when service members suffer injury, illness or death while serving on active duty. The command will provide the family with the findings of the Line of Duty investigation once the investigation is complete.

Second, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) is conducting an investigation. The NCIS investigation is expected to continue for some time, and is not releasable until closed in accordance with NCIS procedures. Upon the conclusion of the NCIS investigation, Private Siddiqui's family may request a copy of the investigation report through the NCIS Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Department.

The appropriate form to complete the request for NCIS documents may be found on their website at www.NCIS.Navy.mil. Once the request form is completed, the family may forward it to the NCIS Headquarters (Code 00LJF), 27130 Telegraph Road, Quantico, Virginia 22134-2253. They may also submit the form by facsimile to (571) 305-9867, or by electronic mail to NCISFOIA@navy.mil. The Siddiqui family may also contact the NCIS FOIA department directly at (571) 305-9092.

On March 31, 2016, the Commanding Officer, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion was relieved of command due to a loss of trust and confidence in his ability to serve in the position. This action was based on the results of an Inspector General of the Marine Corps investigation that substantiated misconduct by the Battalion Commander unrelated to the training of recruits or the death of Private Siddiqui.

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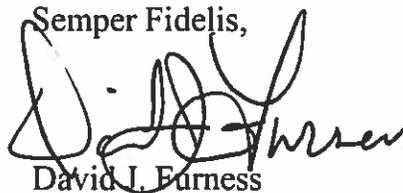
On June 6, 2016, the Commanding General, Training and Education Command relieved the Commanding Officer of the Recruit Training Regiment due to a loss of trust and confidence in his ability to serve in that position. This action was based on facts made known to the Commanding General, Training and Education Command relating to instances where policies and procedures were not followed.

Regarding your concern that hazing may have played a role in Private Siddiqui's death, it would be premature to comment given that the investigations are still pending. I can assure you that any indication of hazing will be carefully investigated.

I appreciate you taking the time to share your concerns in this matter. The Marine Corps remains highly committed to ensuring that all who seek the title "Marine" are provided with leaders and instructors who represent our core values of honor, courage and commitment. As an institution, we hold all Marines, especially commanders, to a high set of standards.

If I may be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Furness", written over a circular stamp or seal.

David J. Furness

Brigadier General, U.S. Marine Corps
Legislative Assistant to the Commandant