



## **Jose V. Rivera**

Staff Position: Correctional Officer

Location: USP Atwater

Last Watch: June 20, 2008

On Friday, June 20, 2008, at approximately 3:20 p.m., two inmates at USP Atwater took the life of Correctional Officer Jose Rivera. Officer Rivera was on the second tier of a housing unit attempting to place the two inmates – Joseph Cabrera Sablan and James Leon Guerrero – back into their cell. The inmates turned and began assaulting Officer Rivera., who tried to evade the assault by running to the ground floor. When Officer Rivera tripped, the two inmates caught him and resumed their attack using a homemade knife.

Responding staff successfully restrained both inmates and performed life-saving measures. Officer Rivera was immediately transported to the nearest local hospital, where unfortunately, he died shortly thereafter.

Officer Rivera was 22 years old. He was a four-year veteran of the Navy, and completed two tours of active military duty in Iraq. He began his career with the Bureau as a Correctional Officer on August 5, 2007, and less than one year later was killed in the line of duty.

On August 14, 2008, inmates Sablan and Guerrero were indicted for the murder of Officer Jose Rivera. On February 25, 2009, the Attorney General authorized the United States to seek the death penalty.