

# Mendocino County Sheriff's Office

## Press Release

**(Title of Crime/Incident) 664/187 PC [Attempted Murder], 459 PC [Burglary], Fugitive from Justice warrant from State of Montana**

**Report Number:** 2016-1658

**Coroner Number:**

**Crime/Incident:** 664/187 PC [Attempted Murder], 459 PC [Burglary], Fugitive from Justice warrant from State of Montana

**Location:** 22000 Block of North Highway 1, Fort Bragg California

**When: Date:** 01-16-2016 **Time:** 1:03 AM

### Victim Info :

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Street Address</b>	<b>City, State</b>
<b>Victim #1:</b>	White Female Adult	33		Fort Bragg, Ca

### Suspect Info:

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Street Address</b>	<b>City, State</b>
<b>Suspect #1:</b>	Nicholas Adam Merrell	28	Transient	Missoula, Montana

**Written by:** Sergeant Andrew Porter

**Synopsis:** On January 16th, at 1:04 AM, Deputies assigned to the Sheriff's Fort Bragg Office were dispatched to a residence in the 22000 block of North Highway 1, in Fort Bragg, for a reported burglary and assault that had just occurred.

Upon arrival, Deputies quickly learned that a white male suspect, with long dark hair, wearing a red t-shirt, and armed with several knives, had entered a residence and assaulted the 33 year old female resident.

Deputies located the victim lying on the floor of a neighbor's house, where she had fled to after being assaulted. The victim was suffering from multiple puncture wounds to her upper torso. The victim advised the deputies that she was asleep in the upstairs portion of her residence, when she heard someone enter the house and walk into her residence. The suspect climbed stairs to the victim's bedroom, where she turned on a light and observed the suspect who was armed with a large kitchen style knife in each hand.

The 33 year old female victim, although attacked, stabbed multiple times, and physically assaulted, was able fight off the attacker, and flee the house to a neighbors. The suspect gave chase until the neighbor opened his door and confronted the suspect, shielding the victim from further assault. The suspect then fled west through the brush. The victim was given first aid and she was transported to a medical facility where she remains in stable condition.

Deputies, assisted by officers from the Fort Bragg Police Department remained vigilant and continued to search the area for the suspect. Approximately 45 minutes after the initial call for service, the suspect was located by Mendocino County Sheriff's Deputies hiding in the brush north of the residence where the assault took place. The suspect was arrested without incident and weapons and other evidence of the assault were discovered.

Detectives from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Unit responded to continue the investigation. The investigation is still ongoing and the suspect has been booked in the Mendocino County jail for charges of attempted murder, burglary, and for a Fugitive from Justice warrant from the state of Montana.

Anyone with information regarding the suspects activities or about this incident is asked to contact the Sheriff's Office tip line at 234-2100.

**Approved By:** Lieutenant Shannon Barney

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