



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

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Woodlake Man Arrested for Building Assault Weapons with 3-D Printer, Including Machine Guns & Silencers

The Tulare County Agencies Regional Gun Violence Enforcement Task Force (TARGET) began an investigation on 43-year-old Thomas Antonowicz Jr after receiving information that Antonowicz was believed to be using a 3-D printer to build AR-15 auto sears and privately manufacturing firearms. After an extensive investigation, TARGET obtained a search warrant.

On August 10, 2023, the TARGET Task Force led a multi-agency operation that included the Visalia Police Department's Narcotics Unit and the Bureau of Firearms Fresno Regional Office, along with the Tulare County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team.

The agencies served a search warrant at Antonowicz's home in the city of Woodlake. Several weapons were seized at the home, including:

- 59 AR-15 Drop-In Auto Sears (3-D printed)
- 4 Silencers
- 3 Assault Weapon Pistols
- 3 Privately Manufactured and Unserialized Handguns
- 2 Assault Weapon Rifles
- 7 Privately Manufactured AR-15 Lower Receivers
- 6 Privately Manufactured Unserialized and Unfinished AR-15 Frames
- 15 Unfinished Handgun Frames
- 7 Handgun Slide/Barrel Kits
- 9 AR-15 Upper Receivers
- 2 Drum Mags
- 3-D Printer with numerous rolls of filament
- 7 laptops
- 1 pound of cannabis



Thomas Antonowicz was arrested today for possession and the manufacturing of machine guns, possession of unregistered assault weapons, manufacturing assault weapons, possession of silencers, manufacturing of unsafe handguns, and manufacturing of unserialized handguns. He was booked into the Tulare County Pre-Trial Detention Facility.

This case will be submitted to the Tulare County District Attorney's Office for review and consideration of criminal prosecution.

If anyone has information regarding the illegal possession or manufacturing of firearms, please contact the TARGET Task Force Tip line at (559) 713-4738.

