



*****NEWS RELEASE*****

Arrests Made in Multi-Agency Operation Targeting Armed Robbery and Vehicle Theft Suspects

In the past two months, a series of armed robberies and carjackings have occurred in the cities of Porterville and Visalia. Through meticulous investigative work and strong partnership between both police departments, they were able to identify the suspects responsible for these crimes.

This morning, a joint operation between the Visalia and Porterville Police Departments resulted in the execution of search warrants at five different locations, leading to the arrest of all individuals involved in the crime spree. Below is a timeline of events.

Timeline of Events

January 26, 2025 – The California Highway Patrol (CHP) responded to 3100 block of Florence Avenue regarding the theft of a silver Kia Optima.

January 28, 2025 (12:42 a.m.) – Lindsay Officers responded to a report of an attempted armed robbery at AM/PM- 951 W Hermosa St., Lindsay. Upon arrival it was determined that multiple subjects arrived in a stolen Kia Optima and attempted to rob an unhoused person in the parking lot prior to entering the store to commit an armed robbery. The store clerk, however, saw the suspects on camera and hid inside the business. The suspects then re-entered the stolen Kia and fled the area southbound on SR65 toward Porterville.

January 28, 2025 (1:05 a.m.) – The Porterville Police Department responded to an armed robbery at the Sunrise Handy Market, 415 West Poplar Avenue. Three armed suspects entered the business after arriving in the stolen Kia Optima and stole alcohol and several hundred dollars in cash while holding clerks at gunpoint.

February 8, 2025 (3:16 a.m.) – Visalia Police officers responded to an armed robbery at the 7/11 – 1201 South Mooney Boulevard. Two suspects armed with a handgun and a short-barreled rifle entered the business and demanded money from the clerk. The suspects fled with over a hundred dollars in cash.

February 8, 2025 (3:41 p.m.) – Visalia Police officers responded to a carjacking that had just occurred at Arco – 419 West Caldwell Avenue. Two suspects armed with handguns approached the victim and told him to get out of the car. The suspects got into the victim's car, a white Ford Fusion, and fled the scene.

February 9, 2025 (4:41 p.m.) - Lindsay Officers responded to a report of an armed robbery at Day & Nite Liquor- 858 E Tulare Rd, Lindsay. Upon arrival it was determined that multiple suspects entered the business and stole currency and liquor while holding the clerk at gunpoint. The suspects arrived in a white Ford Fusion that had been recently carjacked from the City of Visalia. The suspects then fled the scene in that same vehicle.

February 11, 2025 (9:12 p.m.) – The Porterville Police Department responded to an armed robbery at Family Store, 391 West Belleview Avenue. The store clerk reported that two suspects armed with a handgun and a short-barreled rifle entered the business and demanded money from the clerk. The suspects fled with several hundred dollars in cash and tobacco products in a white Ford Fusion which was previously carjacked in Visalia.

February 11, 2025 (9:18 p.m.) – Just six minutes later, Porterville Police officers responded to a second armed robbery at Joe’s Westside Market, 22388 Avenue 152. Two suspects armed with a handgun and a short-barreled rifle entered the business and demanded money from the clerk. The suspects fled with several hundred dollars in cash, tobacco products, and alcohol.

Suspect Identifications and Arrests

18-Year-Old Isaiah Gonzales – Porterville PD Detectives arrested Gonzales on February 1, 2025, after executing a search warrant at his residence in the 600 block of South Sowell, Visalia. During the search, detectives seized evidence related to the robberies. Gonzales was booked for robbery and the District Attorney has since filed charges.

15-Year-Old Juvenile – A Dinuba-based Norteno gang member, identified as one of the armed gunmen from surveillance footage, was already in custody at the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) on an unrelated warrant. On February 8, 2025, Porterville PD Detectives executed a search warrant at his residence in the 500 block of East Kamm Avenue, Dinuba, and seized evidence related to the robberies. He was booked for robbery and the District Attorney has since filed charges.

Suspect Identifications and Arrests in Multi-Agency Search Warrants

14-Year- Old Juvenile – A Visalia-based Norteno gang member, Identified as an armed suspect in multiple robberies. Arrested today in the 4300 block of West La Vida Avenue, Visalia. **Charges:** PC 211, PC 215(A), PC 182(A)(1), PC 186.22(A)

19-Year-Old Frankie Vallejo – A Visalia-based Norteno gang member, identified as the getaway driver in multiple robberies. Arrested today in the 3200 block of West Walnut Avenue, Visalia. **Charges:** PC 211 (4 counts), PC 182(A)(1), PC 186.22(A), PC 29610(A), PC 25400(A)(1), PC 29800(A)(1), PC 25850(C)(3), PC 33215, PC 3605(A), PC 148(A)(1), PC 135, HS 11370.1(A), PC 496(A)

17-Year-Old Juvenile – A Goshen-based Norteno gang member, identified as a suspect in multiple robberies. Arrested today in the 30600 block of Ivy Road in Goshen. **Charges:** Porterville PD Ramey Warrant for PC 211, PC 29610(A), PC 186.22(A)(1), and PC 25850(C)(3).

17-Year-Old Juvenile- A Visalia-based Norteno gang member, identified as a robbery suspect. Arrested today in the 3200 block of West Walnut Avenue in Visalia. **Charges:** PC 211, PC 215

19-Year-Old Sebastian Luna- A Visalia-based Norteno gang member, identified as a robbery suspect. Arrested today in the 3200 block of West Walnut Avenue. **Charges:** PC 33215, PC 3605(A), PC 148(A)(1), PC 135, HS 11370.1(A), PC 182, PC 496(A) (Porterville PD cases)

This successful operation between the Visalia Police Department, the Porterville Police Department, and the Lindsay Police Department, is a testament to the power of teamwork in ensuring the safety and security of our communities. It shows how the collaboration between law enforcement agencies can result in quick and effective action, bringing justice to those affected, and ensuring that those responsible for these crimes are held accountable. All agencies request that if anyone has information regarding these investigations to please call their local agency. Information can be provided anonymously.