INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

January 12, 2023
13.2

TO: Commanding Officer, Gang and Narcotics Division

FROM: Commanding Officer, Special Operations Division

SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL INVESTIGATION, CF No. 21-001144

SUMMARY

Captain III Lillian Carranza, Serial No. 26994, Gang and Narcotics Division (GND), raised the following issues/concerns during adjudication and requested a supplemental investigation. This correspondence was completed to address the investigative issues.

Detective II Ross Nemeroff, Serial No. 31679, Special Operations Division (SOD), conducted the criminal investigation for CF No. 21-001144, and Sergeant II John Jizmejian, Serial No. 33615, SOD, conducted the administrative investigation. Nemeroff provided responses to the issues raised in the Request for Supplemental Investigation that pertained to the criminal portion of the investigation and Jizmejian provided responses to the concerns that pertained to the administrative portion of the investigation. Jizmejian formatted the document and presented it for review.

<u>Issue No. 1</u>
Investigation Page Nos. 4-5, indicate several websites that Walden visited which advertised the sale of threaded barrels for weapons.

- Please indicate the dates that each of these websites were visited. If visited on multiple occasions, please include also. The search results should also be an addenda item.

RESPONSE

December 21, 2020 8:08:15 AM
www.sarcoinc.com/1911-45-threaded-5-barrel/

February 2, 2021 6:10:48 AM
www.pealtier.com/products/aluminum-barrel-end-thread-protector-for-ruger-1022-1022-muzzle-brake-12x28-58x24-750-adapter-combo-223-308-compensator

February 2, 2021 6:10:48 AM
www.facebook.com/tr/?id=406640317076297&ev=PageView&dl=https://www.pealtier.com/products/aluminum-barrel-end-thread-protector-for-ruger-1022-1022-muzzle-brake-12x28-58x24-750-adapter-combo-223-308-compensator

February 3, 2021 6:20:22 AM
www.pealtier.com/products/aluminum-barrel-end-thread-protector-for-ruger-1022-1022-muzzle-brake-12x28-58x24-750-adapter-combo-223-308-compensator

February 3, 2021 6:20:23 AM
t.paypal.com/ts?pgrp=muse:third-party:analytics-xo::JS7ADHMWV292A-1&page=muse:third-party:analytics-xo::JS7ADHMWV292A-1:::&tsrce=tagmanagernodeweb&comp=tagmanagernodeweb&sub_component=analytics&s=ci&item=2ff7ee45-e21a-4b4e-bac1-e39f81025e71&fltp=analytics&mrid=JS7ADHMWV292A&code=CHECKOUT_BUTTON&partner_name=CHECKOUT_BUTTON

February 24, 2021 8:58:45 AM
store.kimberamerica.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/small_image/295x295/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/4/0/4000005_45_threadedbarrel_alt.jpg

February 24, 2021 8:58:45 AM
store.kimberamerica.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/small_image/295x295/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/4/0/4000006_9mmthreadedbarrel.jpg

February 24, 2021 9:07:06 AM
store.kimberamerica.com/45-acp-stainless-steel-threaded-barrel

February 24, 2021 9:07:31 AM
store.kimberamerica.com/45-acp-stainless-steel-threaded-barrel

March 10, 2021, 05:56:56 AM
store.kimberamerica.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/small_image/295x295/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/4/0/4000005_45_threadedbarrel_alt.jpg

March 10, 2021, 05:56:56 AM
store.kimberamerica.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/small_image/295x295/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/4/0/4000006_9mmthreadedbarrel.jpg

March 10, 2021, 05:58:10 AM
store.kimberamerica.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/thumbnail/50x50/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/4/0/4000005_45_threadedbarrel_alt.jpg

March 11, 2021, 06:46:32 AM
op1.0ps.us/70-70-ffffff/opplanet-trybe-defense-glock-22-31-9mm-threaded-conversion-pistol-barrel-1-2-x-28-416r-stainless-steel-black-nitride-tpbconvg22-31-bn-main.jpg

March 11, 2021, 06:46:32 AM
op1.0ps.us/70-70-ffffff/opplanet-trybe-defense-match-grade-non-threaded-pistol-barrel-glock-19-19x-black-nitride-pbg19-bn-main.jpg

March 11, 2021, 06:46:37 AM
op1.0ps.us/70-70-ffffff/opplanet-trybe-defense-glock-23-32-9mm-threaded-conversion-pistol-barrel-1-2-x-28-416r-stainless-steel-black-nitride-tpbconvg23-32-bn-main.jpg

March 11, 2021, 06:46:38 AM
op1.0ps.us/70-70-ffffff/opplanet-trybe-defense-grade-threaded-pistol-barrel-1-2-x-28-thread-glock-34-black-nitride-tpbg34-bn-main-1.jpg

March 15, 2021, 07:15:36 AM
op1.0ps.us/70-70-ffffff/opplanet-trybe-defense-7-5-in-thin-profile-ar-pistol-barrel-9mm-1-2x28-threads-nitride-black-barpist759mm-main.jpg

March 15, 2021, 07:16:10 AM
op2.0ps.us/70-70-ffffff/opplanet-trybe-defense-grade-threaded-pistol-barrel-sig-sauer-p320-1-2-x-28-thread-black-nitride-tpbsig320-bn-main-2.jpg

March 15, 2021, 07:16:10 AM
op1.0ps.us/70-70-ffffff/opplanet-trybe-defense-grade-threaded-pistol-barrel-1-2-x-28-thread-glock-34-black-nitride-tpbg34-bn-main-1.jpg

April 28, 2021 2:33:23 PM
www.brownells.com/items/1911-threaded-barrel.aspx

April 28, 2021 2:33:52 PM
www.brownells.com/handgun-parts/barrel-parts/barrels/1911-45-acp-suppressor-ready-threaded-barrels-prod77975.aspx

Note: The results of the audit by Information Technology Bureau of Walden's internet search history on Department computers was placed on a compact disc (CD) by Nemeroff (Addendum 9).

- Was Walden asked specifically about visiting each of these websites? If so, what was his response to each?

RESPONSE

Walden was not asked specifically about visiting each of these websites. The CO, SOD, made a determination that a re-interview of Walden will not be conducted due to ongoing criminal proceedings.

- Was Walden able to provide a DR number, booking number, or case that required the searches?

RESPONSE

The CO, SOD, made a determination that a re-interview of Walden will not be conducted due to ongoing criminal proceedings.

Issue No. 2

Investigation Page No. 5, lines 7-9, indicated that "Walden overwhelmingly searched an inner thread size of ½ - 28 converting to an outer thread size of 5/8 - 24. The ½ - 28 size would apply to many of the weapons registered to Walden."

- The wording "overwhelmingly" may appear biased. Please give an actual numerical amount for each of the searched items or consider "predominately."

RESPONSE

The word "overwhelmingly" was originally used to account for 26 Uniform Resource Locaters (URL) containing the thread size data of 1/2 - 28 5/8 -24. Senior Systems Analyst David Nuno, Serial No. N6213, Customer Support and IT Security Section, ITD, advised the IO that when date and time stamps of URLs are separated by mere seconds, this would be considered "advertisements rendering automatically." Further explained, if an internet user searched a website and an ad popped up on the screen, without the internet user interacting with the keyboard or mouse, this would automatically generate a new URL similar to the original. URLs separated by minutes could be considered "user actions," meaning with the internet user interacting with the keyboard or mouse.

- Please indicate the dates that each of these items were searched. If visited on multiple occasions, please include also. The search results should also be included as an addenda item.

RESPONSE

In February 2021, Walden searched for thread size data of ½ - 28 5/8 - 24 on five occasions.

February 3, 2021 6:06:31 AM
l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https://www.yhothe.com/products/car-oil-fuel-filter-for-4003-wix---1-2-28-5-8-24

February 3, 2021 6:21:27 AM
www.facebook.com/tr/?id=406640317076297&ev=ViewContent&dl=https://www.pealtier.com/products/new-fuel-filter-suit-for-napa-4003-wix-24003-58-24-12-or-12-28-12-turbo-air-filter-threaded-end-cap

February 24, 2021 8:44:10 AM
www.rallyset.com/products/clearance-price-32.99-last-day-for-napa-4003-wix-24003---1-2-28-5-8-24-fuel-filter-aluminum-solvent-trap

February 24, 2021 8:44:33 AM
www.facebook.com/tr/?id=2397049842031 23&ev=PageView&dl=https://www.rallyset.com/products/clearance-price-32.99-last-day-for-napa-4003-wix-24003---1-2-28-5-8-24-fuel-filter-aluminum-solvent-trap

February 24, 2021 8:46:42
www.facebook.com/tr/?id=2397049842031 23&ev=SubscribedButtonClick&dl=https://www.rallyset.com/checkouts/1575441d37bba5f5002fcf507245e94c?step=shipping_method&rl=https://www.rallyset.com/products/clearance-price-32.99-last-day-for-napa-4003-wix-24003---1-2-28-5-8-24-fuel-filter-aluminum-solvent-trap

In March 2021, Walden searched for thread size data of ½-28 5/8-24 on five occasions.

March 16, 2021 7:10:01 AM
www.napa4003solventtraps.com/products/aluminum-12-10-6-extension-spiral-12-20-12-28-58-24-m141-m141l-car-fuel-filter-car-solvent-trap-for-napa-4003-wix-24003

March 16, 2021 7:21:39 AM
l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https://www.bupuff.com/products/buy-1-get-1-free-%F0%9F%94%A5last-day-%F0%9F%94%A5-for-napa-4003-wix-24003-1-2-28-5-8-24-fuel-filter-aluminum-solvent-trap

March 16, 2021 9:06:29 AM
l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https://www.riorrkids.com/products/clearance-price-car-oil-fuel-filter-for-4003-wix-12-28-58-24

March 16, 2021 9:10:08 AM
l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https://www.kikogift.com/products/buy-1-get-1-free-%F0%9F%94%A5last-day-%F0%9F%94%A5-for-napa-4003-wix-24003-1-2-28-5-8-24-fuel-filter-aluminum-solvent-trap

March 29, 2021 6:01:42 AM
www.qoopuff.com/products/for-napa-4003-wix-24003-1-2-28-5-8-24-fuel-filter-aluminum-solventtrap?fbclid=IwAR3VdO9dlGEUfev6TDp1zfroqyHUDeBNfltzQCkg91TehivOPb7AFZbPN0g

- The statement that the "thread size would apply to many of the weapons registered to Walden" is vague and non-specific. Please clarify what is meant by "apply to" and indicate specifically which weapons registered to Walden that these parts would actually "apply to." There are only a few of the firearms that have threads on the barrel. Therefore, "apply to many of the weapons" would require modification to the firearms which there is no indication that Walden did.

RESPONSE

Refer to page 3, lines 39-41. The ATF Technical Bulletin on thread size of silencers and weapons that they are compatible with.

Refer to page 4, lines 11-14 for information regarding Walden's registered firearms. Walden visited websites that advertised the sale of threaded barrels for weapons that matched several of the handguns that are registered to him, a rifle that is registered to him, and threaded barrels for weapons that are not registered to him.

The specific weapons that the threaded barrel would apply to are indicated on page 4, lines 26-43 and page 5, lines 1-4.

An example of the process of installing a silencer on a handgun is as follows;

1. Determine what handgun you would like to apply a silencer to.
2. In this example, a Glock 34, 9mm.
3. Purchase a threaded barrel that would replace the unthreaded barrel of the Glock 34.
4. Take apart the Glock 34 to the extent authorized for routine cleaning, lubrication, and minor repairs (Field Strip).
5. Remove the unthreaded barrel and replace it with the threaded barrel.
6. Purchase a "solvent trap" "in-line filter" silencer that is compatible with the thread size and diameter to the Glock 34 barrel.
7. Screw the female end of the silencer on the male end of the threaded barrel.

Note: Nemeroff reviewed information for this supplemental investigation regarding Walden's registered firearms and discovered additional firearms registered to Walden than indicated in the original report (page 4, lines 11-14). Nemeroff discovered 41 handguns, one shotgun, and 12 rifles registered to Walden (Addenda 10-11).

- Indicate if any of these "fuel-filters" researched would fit either of the two older model Toyota Celica vehicles owned by Walden.

RESPONSE

On June 17, 2022, Jizmejian met with Acting General Automotive Supervisor Gregory Field, Serial No. N1304, Motor Transport Division. Field reviewed the websites Walden visited that advertised the sale of "fuel filters" as indicated on page 5, lines 11-43 and page 6, lines 1-7 of the original report. Field advised that Napa was a retailer for auto parts and WIX was a company that produced auto filters. However, the dimensions indicated on the websites visited by Walden were not consistent with any fuel filter for a vehicle.

Issue No. 3.

The allegation, as framed is vague. Depending on the date range the queries were made as indicated in the audit, the allegation should be re-framed to conform to proof as such:

ALLEGATION 1. The Department alleges that between xxxxx dates, Detective Walden, attempted to obtain a firearm silencer in violation of California State law.

RESPONSE

After further review, a determination was made to provide a date for the alleged misconduct. Please see the heading "ADDITIONAL" of this Intradepartmental Correspondence for the rationale of this determination. Therefore, ALLEGATION 1 was re-framed as such:

ALLEGATION 1. The Department alleges that on March 17, 2021, Detective Walden, while off duty, attempted to obtain a firearm silencer in violation of California State law.

Note: Walden's duty status at the time of the alleged misconduct was obtained via the Deployment Planning System (Addendum 12).

Issue No. 4.

Investigation Page No. 8, lines 33-37, indicated that Walden ordered a fuel filter for the 1985 Celica which never arrived. Walden stated he did not recall when he ordered the item. Walden should be re-interviewed to address the following questions if not already asked.

- Was Walden asked to check his bank and or credit card statements to look for the charge? If so, what was his response?

RESPONSE

The CO, SOD, made a determination that a re-interview of Walden will not be conducted.

- Was he [Walden] asked what form of payment he used to buy the (intercepted) item and how much he paid for the filter he never received?

RESPONSE

The CO, SOD, made a determination that a re-interview of Walden will not be conducted.

- Was he [Walden] asked if he attempted to call about or locate the missing package? Did he take any action to cancel the transaction for a product not received like contact his credit card company and report it was not received?

RESPONSE

The CO, SOD, made a determination that a re-interview of Walden will not be conducted.

- What were the dates that the searches occurred in relation to the date the item was intercepted by Customs and Border Patrol.

RESPONSE

The "solvent trap" and "in-line" filter searches spanned from January 13, 2021 through March 29, 2021. The package was intercepted on April 22, 2021.

- Was there a date indicated on the mailing label of the original package identified in Addendum A.

RESPONSE

There was no date indicated on the mailing label of the original package.

- The package was intercepted on April 22, 2021. Did the intercepted item match any of the items that Walden queried in the audit? If so, which item(s)?

RESPONSE

The intercepted item referenced contained the following characters on the shipping label: 螺旋1/2-28單芯汽車燃油濾清器. A search of those characters on the internet website "Google Translate," interpreted this as "Spiral ½ - 28 single-core automobile fuel filter (6-inch ½"– 28-black spiral P0171289910). This "fuel filter" measurement was a common search noted in the audit.

- Was there any attempt by the IO to contact the vendor and ascertain the date of the order?

RESPONSE

The phone number on the package, 86135540123 was not a working number. The country code for China is 86. The area code for Hanyang, Wuhan is 7212, thus the phone number on the label is incorrect.

The address, 206 Hao, Hanyang, Wuhan, Hubei, China, does not exist on a google map web search. The China Post (the official postal service of China) did not produce any results on sender information.

- Was there a search warrant served on Walden's personal computer or cloud to determine research conducted or items ordered?

RESPONSE

No search warrant was conducted on Walden's personal computer as the Department audit produced extraordinary results related to this case.

- Was the item intercepted photographed at all angles? Did it have indentations?

RESPONSE

The item was photographed at multiple angles by Photographer 3 Karen Coogle, Serial No.V8680, Forensic Sciences Division. She took 17 photos of the packaging as well as the items contained within the package.

This item was inspected on March 15, 2022, by Lieutenant II Eric Bixler, Serial No. 33309, GND.

- Did the item contain instructions?

RESPONSE

No.

- Did the item intercepted fit a 1985 Celica?

RESPONSE

Field reviewed the photographs taken by Coogle of the item (Addendum 8) and concluded that the item was not a fuel filter for a vehicle and that it would not fit on a 1985 Celica.

ADDITIONAL

Nemeroff conducted an additional review of Walden's internet searches in response to the Request for Supplemental Investigation. The review resulted in the discovery of a website link of PayPal.com that succeeded internet searches for either threaded barrel or fuel filter. On June 2, 2021, Nemeroff obtained a search warrant for Walden's PayPal account records. A search of the records revealed that on March 17, 2021, at 0828 hours, a transaction was completed for $45.96 for the purchase of a "NAPA 4003 WIX 24003-1/2-28 5/8-24 FUEL FILTER ALUMUNUM SOLVENT TRAP / 1 / 2-28-XH-." On July 12, 2022, Nemeroff provided the additional information to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, Justice System Integrity Division (JSID), for filing consideration (Addendum 13).

On November 14, 2022, Nemeroff obtained a Probable Cause Arrest Warrant for Walden and a search warrant of his residence. On November 15, 2022, SOD personnel arrested and booked Walden for 33410 Penal Code (PC), Possession of a Silencer, Booking No. 6502060. SOD personnel conducted a search of Walden's home which resulted in no additional evidentiary material for this investigation. On November 16, 2022, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, JSID, filed one felony count of Attempted Possession of a Silencer, in violation of PC Sections 664 and 33410.

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTES

1. Some of the of the URLs referenced in this document have been abbreviated to preserve the continuity of this investigation. A complete list of the URLs is contained within Addendum 9.

2. Jizmejian placed a copy of the results of the search warrant conducted by Nemeroff of Walden's PayPal account records and the photographs of the item by Coogle onto Addendum 9.

ADDENDA

9.	CD.
10A-R.	Email dated April 22, 2021, from California Department of Justice for Walden's registered firearms.
11A-B.	List of Walden's registered firearms prepared by Nemeroff.
12.	Daily Worksheet Portrait, dated March 17, 2021, with Walden's work hours.
13.	Follow-Up Investigation dated July 12, 2022.

SUBMITTED BY:

JOHN JIZMEJIAN, Sergeant
Special Operations Division

APPROVED:

JAMIE BENNETT, Lieutenant
Officer in Charge
Special Operations Division

OMAR BAZULTO, Captain
Commanding Officer
Special Operations Division