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Deputies Recover Handguns in Follow-Up of Metro Vehicle Theft

By NED RACINE

(Feb. 16, 2007) Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau detectives, following up on the theft of a Metro sedan recovered two handguns and a bounty of Los Angeles Police Department equipment, Feb. 13, that had been stolen from the automobile.

Serving a search warrant just before 8 a.m., detectives arrested Gilbert Torrez, 39, as a suspect in the theft of the Chevrolet Lumina, which was stolen from the Los Angeles International Airport bus layover area on Nov. 10.

Detectives served the search warrant at a residence in the 5700 block of West 74th Street in Los Angeles and found the suspect in a camper trailer behind a single family residence.



Sheriff's detectives recovered this evidence during a search of the residence of a suspect in the theft of a Metro vehicle. Photo courtesy of Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau

According to Sheriff's Sgt. Augie Pando, when detectives discovered Torrez he was armed with a loaded .9-millimeter pistol on his right hip. Detectives reported Torrez also carried a loaded .45-caliber pistol in his left front pants pocket.

Detectives identified the .45-caliber pistol as the handgun stolen during the theft of the Metro sedan being used by a Los Angeles International Airport police officer. The Metro vehicle was recovered in November.

Pando reported that multiple pieces of evidence recovered from the camper trailer linked the suspect to numerous vehicle and commercial burglaries. LAX detectives identified some of the items located in the camper trailer as the personal and department equipment of the LAX police officer who was driving the Metro vehicle. The investigation continues.

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