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TSB Deputy Sheriff Morsi catalogues the graffiti evidence taken out of "Splat's" bedroom, including cans of spray paint, permanent markers, slap tags with his crew (2FK) written on them, piece books and a DVD glorifying the gangster lifestyle. *Photos by Jimmy Stroup*

## Videotaping Taggers Getting Unwanted Attention

By JIMMY STROUP

(July 17, 2008) Transit Services Bureau (TSB) deputies have been catching taggers left and right lately, in part thanks to the taggers themselves.

In a thirst for notoriety, some taggers now videotape themselves in the act of committing criminal acts. The latest stunt for graffiti "artists" is to record themselves tagging public property and then posting the recording on sites such as YouTube.com. ([Click here](#) to see tagger video.)

Sgt. Augie Pando said the posted videos are only the latest way taggers and want-to-be gangsters are promoting the gang lifestyle.

"They create these bootleg videos that literally teach young kids how to live like a gangster, what you have to do to fit it," he said. "This is the message [some kids] pay attention to. These are their role models."

Such a DVD was removed from "Splat's" home – along with tagging gear. "Splat," a 17-year-old suspect who was served a warrant, July 16, by TSB deputies,



TSB Deputy Sean Sullins points out a "Splat" tag on the sidewalk in front of his suspect's house.

was charged with tagging Metro property and causing damages nearing \$25,000.

Deputies also found "Splat" tagged his neighborhood, as well as crew tags from the tagging gang "Splat" is supposedly a member of: 2FK.

Deputy Sean Sullins investigated the crime with his partner Kyle Ynclan after the suspect's moniker was found tagged on the Bixby sound wall, which runs along the Blue Line near where it crosses the 405 (San Diego) freeway.

"[The wall is] made of a special material that helps control the sound and when taggers tag it up, it degrades the quality of the wall . . . sound is reflected and not absorbed," Sullins said. "This wall cost \$2 million to put up and now a piece of it will have to be replaced. That's not going to be cheap to fix."

### **Media followed "Splat" arrest**

A Fox News Channel reporter and cameraman accompanied deputies to "Splat's" warrant service, hoping to gather footage to help them cover an original angle of the tagger story that an ABC World News story covered in late May.

In the May story, ABC News reported on the arrest of "Buket," also a tagger arrested by TSB deputies for destruction of Metro property. "Buket" was an especially juicy target for the TSB because he had brazenly taped himself tagging a Metro bus in broad daylight and posted the event.

He also gained some notoriety for tagging a freeway overpass – all on tape. That video was viewed more than 150,000 times.

Deputies said that while Internet postings are helpful in investigating the crimes, they're most useful as visual evidence that is difficult to dispute – especially because taggers are posting it themselves.

To see the ABC report detailing "Buket" and his tete-a-tete with Los Angeles law enforcement, watch the video below. About halfway through, you can see "Buket" deface a Metro bus while people walk by.