



FAIRBANKS POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

Date: January 8, 2008

Time: 0201 hours

Incident Title: Burglary I/Theft II

Case Number: 08-459

On Tuesday, 01-08-2008, at approximately 0201 hours, the Fairbanks Police Department responded to 250 3rd Street (Frontier Outfitters) for a reported audible alarm. Investigation revealed that a male subject had gained access in the building by cutting a half moon circle out of one of two garage doors on the north side of the building.

An FPD Officer observed the cut in the garage door along with fresh shoe tracks leading up to it. A subject, later identified as William Michael JOHNSON, dob:12/19/1964, was observed to be crawling out of the cut portion of the garage door. He was given verbal commands to exit the business at which time he retreated further into the store. A backpack containing numerous handguns was retrieved at the garage entry where the cut was made.

Because the business contained numerous weapons, an unknown number of suspects inside, and one suspect was failing to obey officer commands, the FPD Tactical Team and K-9 Team was activated to respond. Due to the unknown threat inside, the adjacent 3rd Street, Steese Expressway, College Road, and Old Steese Highway were shut down and blocked, with assistance from Fairbanks Airport Police, North Pole Police, UAF Police, and Alaska State Trooper's Special Emergency Response Team.

Investigation revealed that JOHNSON had taken several backpacks from inside Frontier Outfitters, broke open glass cases, and stole numerous guns. JOHNSON attempted to flee the store upon police arrival, but found himself trapped in the Gavora Mall hallway. The FPD and SERT Teams were able to take JOHNSON into custody without incident where he was transported back to FPD for interview. On scene, investigators located a second backpack full of firearms, apparently gathered by JOHNSON prior to his apprehension. The building was searched to include the adjoining Sentry Hardware store; no other suspects were located.

JOHNSON was booked at FCC on counts of Burglary I, Theft II, Concealment of Merchandise, and Misconduct Involving Weapons IV. All weapons were recovered at the scene, many of which were damaged due to being drug through the store.

App: 

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