



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Man arrested with weapons from Riverside gun store robbery

Riverside, CA – Riverside Police, in conjunction with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), arrested another suspect Thursday evening in relation to the January 28 armed robbery of a Riverside gun store. About one third of the stolen weapons have now been recovered. Investigation continues.



Damian Jovonnie Evans

On Monday, January 28, 2008, at approximately 6:15 p.m., employees reported that four armed men robbed the Centerfire Firearms store in the 3500-block of Central Avenue in Riverside. Approximately 50 handguns were stolen at that time.

Three suspects directly linked to the robbery were arrested January 30-31.

Continuing their work, investigators developed information that an individual was in possession of guns he was seeking to sell. About 6 p.m., Thursday, February 7, Riverside Police, members of the multi-agency Police and Corrections Team (PACT) and ATF agents apprehended the suspect in the 800-block of Haven Avenue in Ontario, CA. The suspect, Damian Jovonnie EVANS, 24, of Moreno Valley, was in possession of handguns stolen from in the Centerfire robbery. Subsequent consent searches at two residences, in Fontana and in Riverside's Mission Grove neighborhood, resulted in the recovery of more stolen handguns.

"Our investigators are using every resource resolving this serious and violent crime, and this will result in more arrests," said Riverside Chief of Police Russ Leach.

"This joint investigation leading to the recovery of stolen firearms, and the arrest of those responsible for the theft, is an outstanding example of ATF's ongoing, collaborative efforts to reduce violent crime", said ATF Special Agent in Charge John A. Torres. "We want residents of all ages to feel confident that their safety is one of ATF's highest priorities in our continued efforts to reduce firearms-related violent crime."

Anyone with information regarding this investigation is urged to call Riverside Police Detectives Mike Medici at (951) 353-7104 or James Brandt at (951) 353-7137.