



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County
832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95354
Mailing address: POB 442, Modesto, CA 95353
Telephone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 525-5545

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney

Carol Shipley
Assistant District Attorney
Chief Deputy District

Attorneys

Jerry Begen

Alan Cassidy

Dave Harris

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*****JOINT PRESS RELEASE*****

For Immediate Release

Date: June 9, 2010

Re: Long-term joint Organized Crime/Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDEF) investigation targeting the Nuestra Familia prison gang/Nortenos

For More Information Contact: Carol Shipley, Assistant District Attorney, (209) 525-5550

The Central Valley Gang Impact Task Force (CVGIT), comprised of law enforcement officers from the FBI, Modesto Police Department, Ceres Police Department, Turlock Police Department, the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department, Probation Department and the District Attorney's Office, State Parole, and the California Highway Patrol conducted a joint operation today targeting members of the Norteno criminal street gang. This phase of the investigation focused on disrupting a Norteno regiment operating under the direct control of members of the Nuestra Familia prison gang.

Following a 7-month investigation into criminal activity of the gang (to include drug sales, robbery, home invasion and murder) search warrants for 10 locations were obtained. Approximately 150 law enforcement officers from the above agencies, including MPD, CPD and FBI SWAT teams, the Sheriff's STING team, conducted coordinated residence entries and searches throughout the morning and early afternoon in Modesto and Ceres.

A total of 19 individuals were arrested today on charges including methamphetamine sales and distribution, criminal street gang charges, weapons charges and parole violations.

Contraband seized during the warrants includes:

- 8 guns (including a MAC 10 and a sawed-off shotgun) and ammunition
- methamphetamine, scales and packaging material
- two marijuana grows

-two police scanners

Prior to today's operation, an additional 17 people had been arrested and 10 guns and one pound of methamphetamine seized.

The success of this operation is a testament to the professionalism and dedication of the officers involved and the outstanding working relationship between our local law enforcement agencies and our partnerships with state and federal law enforcement.