



REGIONAL FUGITIVE TASK FORCES

CATCH OF THE WEEK

Week of May 3rd, 2004

Taking the Worst of the Worst off the Streets

Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force

On February 11, 2004, Ulises Contreras-Ortiz was charged with Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine in U.S. District Court, Washington, DC. At the time, he was also being investigated by ATF for selling pistols and shotguns to the Mara-Salvatrucha (MS-13) street gang. He was targeted by ATF in a large scale, sweep on February 12th, but eluded capture. Investigators believed Contreras-Ortiz had fled to the Dominican Republic. The Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force (CARFTF) was contacted for assistance in locating Contreras-Ortiz.

CARFTF investigators developed information that Contreras-Ortiz was still in the area and conducted surveillance of an associate address in Fairfax County on Saturday, May 8th. During the surveillance, approximately eight males approached a surveillance vehicle displaying gang hand signals. Several of the gang members jumped up and down on the car. A USMS and ATF agent responded with lights and sirens and chased the group into the woods. While looking for the group, the investigators heard at least one pistol and two shotguns being "racked" around them. They retreated to their cars and were assisted by Fairfax County Police Department gang unit detectives. The following day, CARFTF members located and arrested Contreras-Ortiz at an apartment complex in Fairfax County, Virginia as he was attempting to escape out of a bedroom window.



Ulises Contreras-Ortiz

**Wanted for Conspiracy to
Distribute Cocaine and
Illegal Sale of Firearms to
MS-13 Gang Members**

Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force

Patrick Tremmel Lucas was wanted for conspiracy to commit robbery, robbery, conspiracy to deal narcotics, dealing narcotics, possession of narcotics, and aiding & abetting. The charges stemmed from a drug deal he coordinated in June 2003 in which four Gary, Indiana men robbed two Lafayette, Indiana men, murdering one of them. On April 23, 2004, Lucas assaulted a police officer and escaped when Lafayette Police officers attempted to arrest him. On April 26, 2004, the Lafayette Police Department requested the assistance of the Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force (GLRFTF) to locate Lucas, who now had additional charges of resisting arrest, escape, and theft. Task force investigators, with assistance from the U.S. Marshals Electronic Surveillance Unit, were able to develop possible locations for Lucas, in Gary, Indiana, as well as, information on a stolen vehicle that Lucas was suspected to be driving.

After 8 hours of surveillance, investigators spotted a man matching the description of Lucas driving a vehicle and attempted to conduct a traffic stop. The suspect immediately fled at a high rate of speed, exceeding 100 mph. After a brief pursuit, the suspect lost control of the vehicle, crashed, and then proceeded to flee on foot. Investigators located him hiding under the porch, and arrested him. Stemming from the arrest, Lucas has several other charges pending, including auto theft, resisting law enforcement, possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana, criminal recklessness with a vehicle, and criminal mischief.



**Patrick Tremmel
Lucas**

Wanted for numerous robbery and narcotics charges, as well as, aiding and abetting.

Los Angeles Regional Fugitive Task Force

On May 2, 2004, members of the Los Angeles Regional Task Force, Merced Police Department, California Department of Justice Bureau of Narcotics, California Bureau of Investigation, and BICE, with assistance of the U.S. Marshals Electronic Surveillance Unit, arrested Cuitlahuac Tahua Rivera, who was wanted for the April 15, 2004 shooting death of Officer Stephan Gray, a seven year veteran of the Merced California Police Department.

Rivera had been contacted during a car stop. As Officer Gray began searching Rivera, a California parolee, he fled from the officer who, in turn, gave chase. During the course of the foot pursuit, Rivera turned and fired at the officer. The officer was hit two times, once just above his body armor the other in the arm. Officer Gray later died at the hospital.

A concentrated investigation led to the location and arrest of Rivera in Merced, California. Search warrants conducted on locations associated with Rivera revealed narcotics and illegal weapons. Numerous individuals were arrested and or deported in connection with this case.



**Cuitlahuac Tahua
Rivera**

Wanted for the Shooting Death of a Police Officer

New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force

The New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force (NY/NJ RFTF) arrested Oliver Berry, the prime suspect in two separate homicides committed in New York City. In July 2002, Berry was involved in a traffic dispute with Josiah Salley in Queens, New York. Minutes after the dispute, Berry returned to the scene and shot Salley twice, killing him. Berry was also believed to have been the shooter in the murder of a New York City Department of Environmental Protection employee during the commission of a robbery. NY/NJ RFTF developed information that led them from Baltimore, Maryland to Watertown, New York in search of Berry. In March, Berry was profiled on the television show *America's Most Wanted*. A tip received from a viewer was instrumental in the investigation that resulted in the fugitive's arrest on May 5, 2004.



Oliver Berry

Wanted for Homicide

Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force

On May 4, 2004, members of the Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force (SERFTF), in conjunction with the Coweta County, Georgia Sheriff's Office, arrested Roderick Thomas, without incident, at an apartment complex in Union City, Georgia. Thomas was wanted by the Coweta County Sheriff's Office for homicide for his role as the triggerman in a shotgun slaying stemming from a home invasion robbery. On April 12, 2004, Thomas and two other males attempted to rob several individuals at a suspected drug stash house. After Thomas and one other entered the home, Thomas began firing at the occupants. A seventeen year old female was killed instantly and two older males were critically wounded. The two individuals who were with Thomas were apprehended by law enforcement shortly after the shooting, however, Thomas managed to escape on foot. He remained a fugitive until SERFTF agents developed leads which placed him at the Union City apartment. When agents searched the residence, Thomas was found hiding in a bedroom closet with a .22 caliber rifle lying nearby.



Roderick Thomas

Wanted for Homicide