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High-Tech Tactics Lead To Confession

Duval County Investigators arrest man for multiple counts of burglary

A confession is usually one of the most solid pieces of evidence used by investigators to obtain a conviction.

That is exactly what strong interrogation tactics, with a little help from modern technology, did to help Duval County investigators obtain a confession from a man suspected in three different burglaries.

Duval County Investigator Ricardo Carrillo said a ranch off of County Road 332 in the Los Reyes area had been burglarized three times since May.

"We had three different reports of burglaries of a habitation and burglary of a building in May, July and October," Carrillo said. "As our investigation continued, we began to follow up on leads and got a break in the case as the owner of the ranch called in regarding suspicious activity out at his property."

A mobile home and shed which are on the property had been burglarized and the ranch owner feared it was about to happen again, Carrillo said.

"Officers went out to the ranch late last week and made contact with the four suspects who were found at the scene," Carrillo said. "Officers with DPS and the Game Warden's office assisted us as well at the scene. We had the four individuals follow us to the sheriff's department here in San Diego for questioning."

Carrillo said the first two suspects he spoke to declared they had nothing to do with the burglaries and were released.

Later, the third suspect was also released, but Carrillo said he is still a person of interest.

The fourth man, identified as 22 year-old Alex Garza Jr., admitted to committing one of the burglaries to investigators.

Garza, along with the other three men, are residents of Corpus Christi who lease property adjacent to the ranch.

"After Garza confessed, we arrested him on burglary charges," Carrillo said. "From there, we employed several modern intelligence gathering techniques, including computer assistance, which gave us the information needed to get him to confess to the other burglaries."

Garza was arrested and charged with three counts of burglary of a building and three counts of burglary of a habitation.

Carrillo said more arrests are coming due to information gathered through his investigation.

"There were other accomplices," Carrillo said. "We are working on getting the warrants together. They will face similar charges."

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