#### **CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

C.T.I.P. TASKFORCE



#### PRESENTER BACKGROUND Sgt. Ken Huerta

25 Years, Port of Los Angeles Police
Cargo Theft Interdiction Program
Cargo Criminal Apprehension Team
Criminal Investigations / Air Support
Observer
Training Officer / Dive Team Operations

Patrol Officer

#### C.T.I.P. Taskforce

ESTABLISHED IN 1995 COMBAT CARGO THEFT STATEWIDE OBJECTIVES: - RELATIONSHIP WITH PRIVATE INDUSTRY – ASSIST ALLIED AGENCIES - INCREASE ARRESTS, PROSECUTION AND **CONVICTIONS OF THIEVES & RECEIVERS** - RECOVER STOLEN CARGO/VEHICLES – ESTABLISH STATEWIDE DATA BASE

#### REGIONAL CTIP TEAMS

Southern Division - Los Angeles (310) 513-7800 <u>SOCTIP@CHP.CA.GOV</u> Inland Division - Inland Empire (909) 481-4611 Border Division - San Diego area (858) 864-7025 Golden Gate Division - San Francisco area (510) 622-4628

#### PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

California Highway Patrol
Port of Los Angeles P.D.
Vernon P.D.
NICB

- San Bernardino P.D.
  I.C.E. (Customs)
  US D.O.T.
  - Dept. of Insurance

PROGRAM RESPONSE

REGIONAL APPROACH -4 CTIP TEAMS INCREASE TRAINING - DETECTIVES & RESPONDING OFFICERS -PRIVATE INDUSTRY IMPROVE REPORTING -THEFT REPORTS -LOSS REPORTS BY EMAIL OR INTERNET

#### CARGO THEFT DATABASE

C.T.I.P. internet site:

www.chp.ca.gov/html/ctip.html

- Timely exchange of information between private industry and law enforcement.
- Tracking cargo thefts / recoveries.
- Repository of information available to allied law enforcement agencies.
- Internet / email reporting
- Link analysis.



#### Manager Manager \_ (P X He Edit view search Look Record Window Help -09 ACAL & A MARK マキウガな日中にえる 読む感じ キャー • • • • • • • S. CT Report on Gargo Theft 0 - 0 × World Cargo Theft # - D K Headquarters # LIE Expert Date Reported Record T1 CTCT00001024 + \_ Reduct Library **Cargo Theft Report** 07/04/2002 Record Created By MCKEENE E-DE CrupTiell R al CT-Report \* Required Pield Diate created 06/50/2003 gose CT-Business CT-Commodity Lock TT CT IDNumber \* Date of Theft Time of Theft \* Theft Location \* Theft Gity \* Theft State 🗌 🥵 CT Location 07/03/2002 21:00:00 Rest Area off of 1-5 Tacoma WA -Source CT-Person Action -C1 🗰 C1-Vehicle \* Contact: First ME \* Last \* Victim / Thucking Company \* Contact Phone Ext E Coyote (206) 555 1234 ACME Corporation /Acme Trucking Wile n ( Vespa Victim Address Victor City Victm State A7 Grand Canyon . \* Investigating Law Enforcement Agency NICK/ORI Number Looney Toones PD \* Case Number MI \*Last \* investigator: First Investigator Phone END. Test1234 Buster. Burny -Insurance Company Ins. Contact: First M Last Ins. Contact Phone Ext \* cargo / Product stolen QUARTERY TEST TEST TEST 10 Cases ACME Rocket Propelled Roller Skates 300 Pounds ACME Bird Seed 10 Cases ACME Ball Bearings Yalue. 1 ACME 20 th Industrial Strength Rubber Band ¥ \$ 250,000 1 ACME 5 ft Industrial Strength Magnet Main Narrative Recovery 1410 101 . . Databases Brittles Cases CT-Report o Last Login: 09/16/2003 12:39 Time Remaining - 60 9/16/2003 1:40 PM 🖬 Start 🔄 🏈 🗇 🗃 🙋 🗢 🕸 🗐 🦉 🧔 🐑 🐣 🔯 https://www.linew. 1:40 PM



#### HIGH THEFT AREAS

Texas - 38 - El Paso - Houston Arizona - 10 – Phoenix Utah – 6 - Salt Lake City Nevada - 25 – Reno / Sparks – Las Vegas California - 660



#### ECONOMIC IMPACT

Cargo theft costs California \$1 million + per day. \$15 billion + nationally. Cost of high tech theft \$5-10 billion yearly. Losses are not just \$\$, but include jobs and lives.

# WEST COAST TRENDS

Multiple warehouses Western U.S. Thefts Multiple trailer thefts Violence against drivers **Employee** Involvement Counterfeit Paperwork Rental trucks/vans

#### WHY?

#### Harbors

- PORTS OF LA & LONG BEACH BUSIEST IN NATION; 10 MILLION CONTAINERS HANDLED
- Airports
   International Border
- Rail system
   Distribution Centers

- Commercial Business'
- High profit
- Low risk of arrest
- Minimal prosecution
- 75-100 full-time officers working cargo crime in U.S.





driver involved

#### Contributing Factors

POOR REPORTING
LAW ENFORCEMENT / PRIVATE INDUSTRY
MANDATORY REPORTING
SPECIFIC CARGO THEFT STATUTE
PROSECUTION
AGGRESSIVE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S
BAIL ENHANCEMENTS
LIMITED RESOURCES
FISCAL & PERSONNEL CONSTRAINTS
CTIP FUNDING

# "It's just a property crime"



#### INVESTIGATIVE STRATEGY

- Watch stolen vehicles and cargo to locate warehouse operation. How long?
- Identify, arrest, prosecute thieves at highest level of group.
- Track and document as many players in the theft "ring" as possible, especially receivers.

# INVESTIGATIVE METHODS

- CRI
  REWARD MONEY
  TIPS:
  - Law enforcement
  - Insurance companies
  - Company security
  - Private
     Investigators
  - Concerned citizens

SURVEILLANCE
CONTROLLED DELIVERY
GPS
U/C WAREHOUSE
U/C OFFICER
BAIT TRAILERS

#### GRAND THEFT CARGO

#### 487h(a) California Penal Code:

every person who steals, takes, or carries away cargo of another when the cargo exceeds specified values, is guilty of grand theft.

487h further defines the term "cargo" as "any goods, wares, products, or manufactured merchandise that has been loaded into a trailer, rail car, or cargo container, awaiting or in transit.

#### WHAT TYPES OF CARGO ARE BEING STOLEN?

ELECTRONICS
TOYS
TIRES
CLOTHING
SOFT DRINKS
SOFT DRINKS
CHEMICALS
TOILETRIES
FOOD

SHOES
ALCOHOL
LUMBER
FURNITURE
FURNITURE
COSMETICS
SEAFOOD
TEXTILES

# HOW IS CARGO BEING STOLEN?

Thefts can be broken down into two basic categories:

**– ARMED ROBBERY** 

-BURGLARY

Thefts most often occur during the hours of darkness and or during weekend. Victim identification Product identification Cargo thieves becoming more violent and more sophisticated. Losses are not just \$\$, but include jobs and lives.



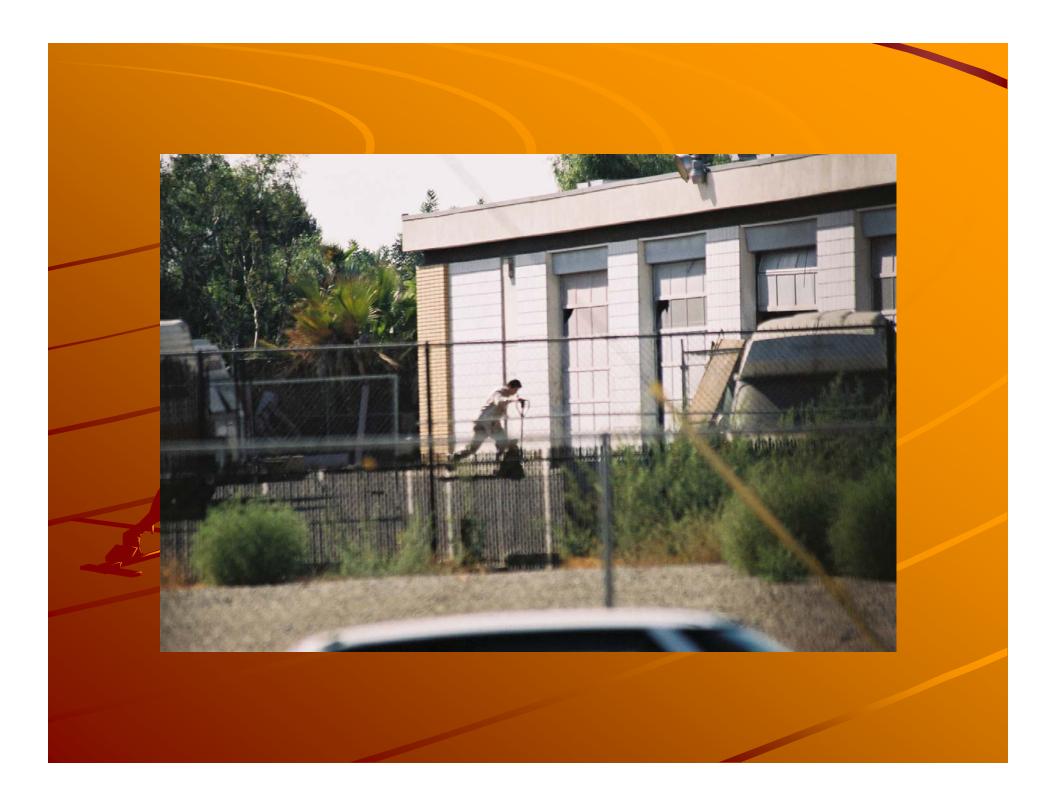
#### Truck yards

Distribution centers

Railroad yards

These thefts most often occur during the hours of darkness and or during weekend.











# Anaheim, CA

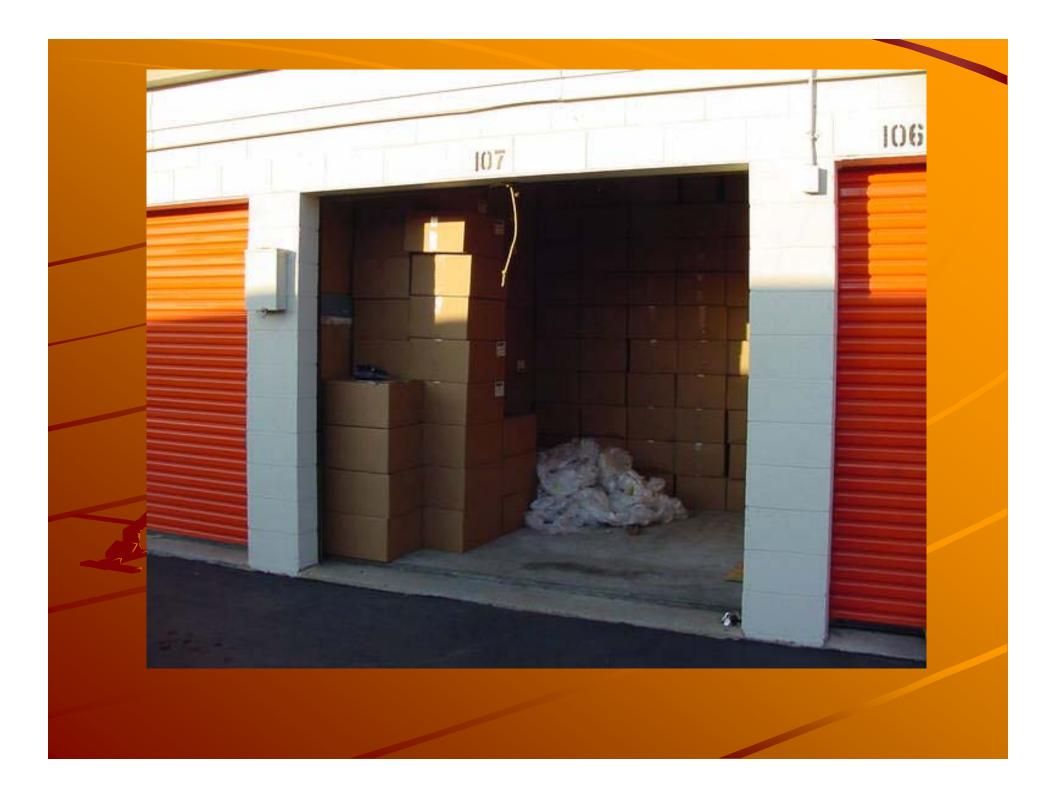








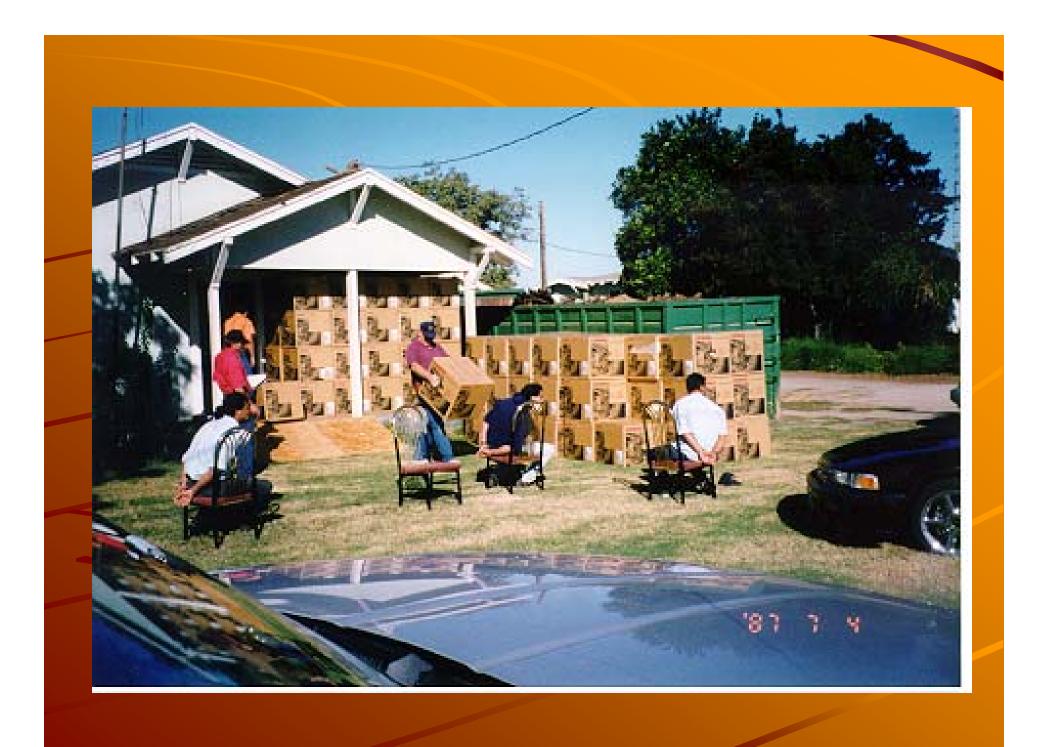








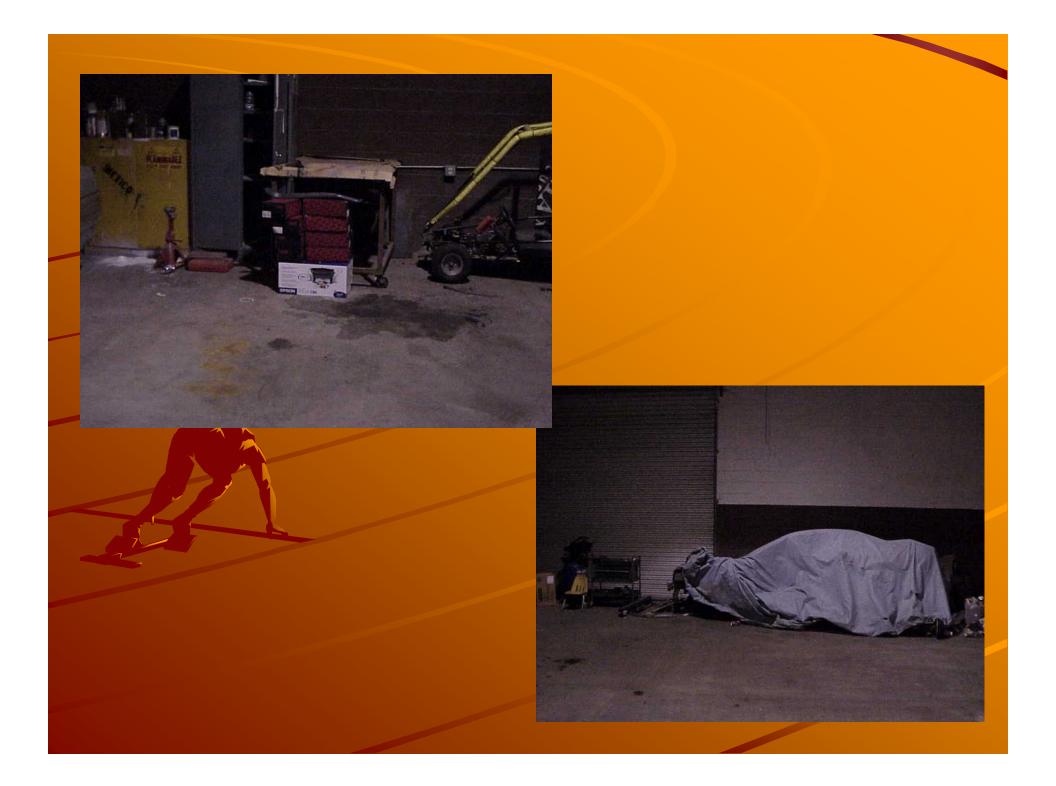


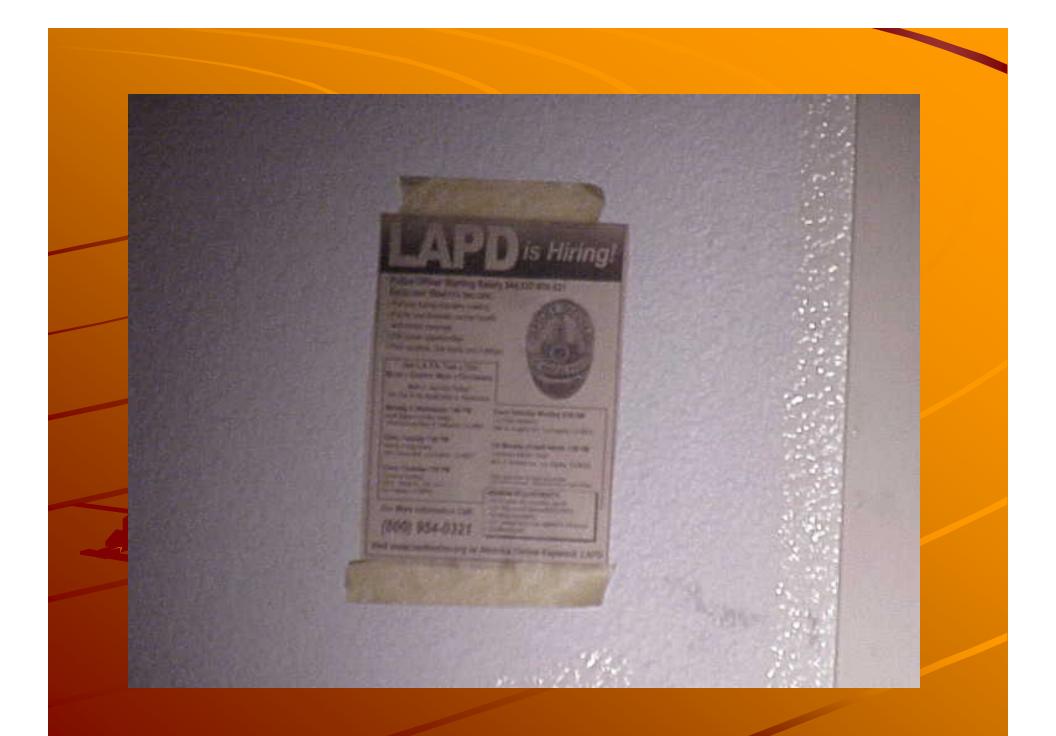


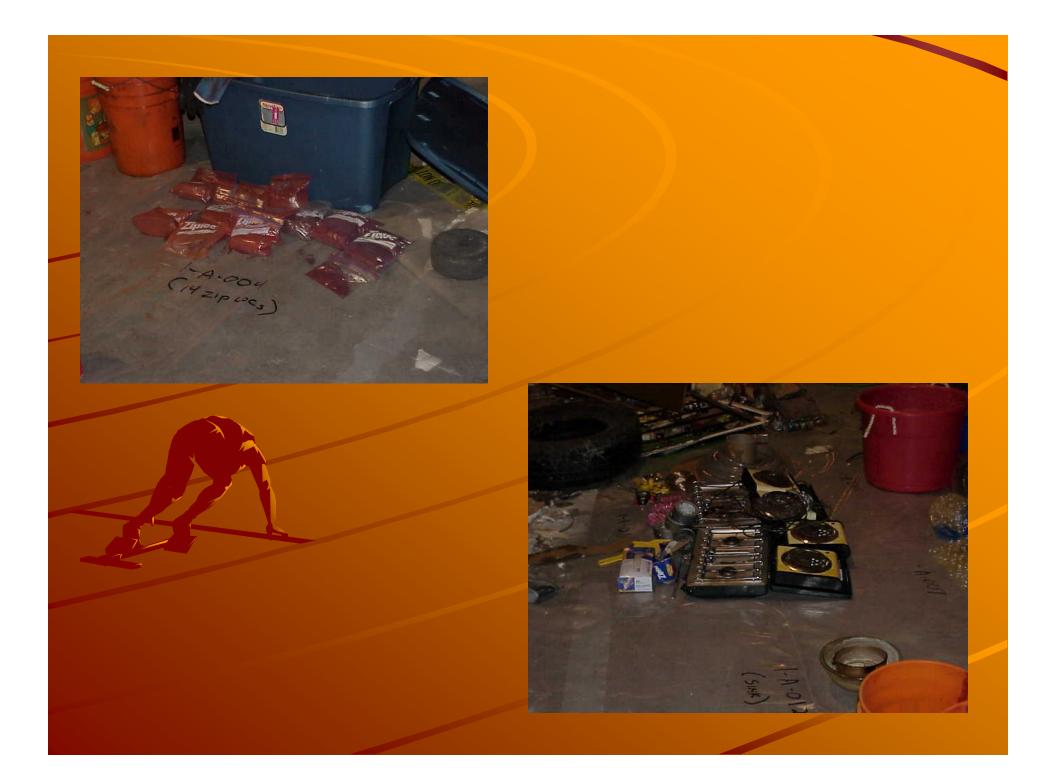


















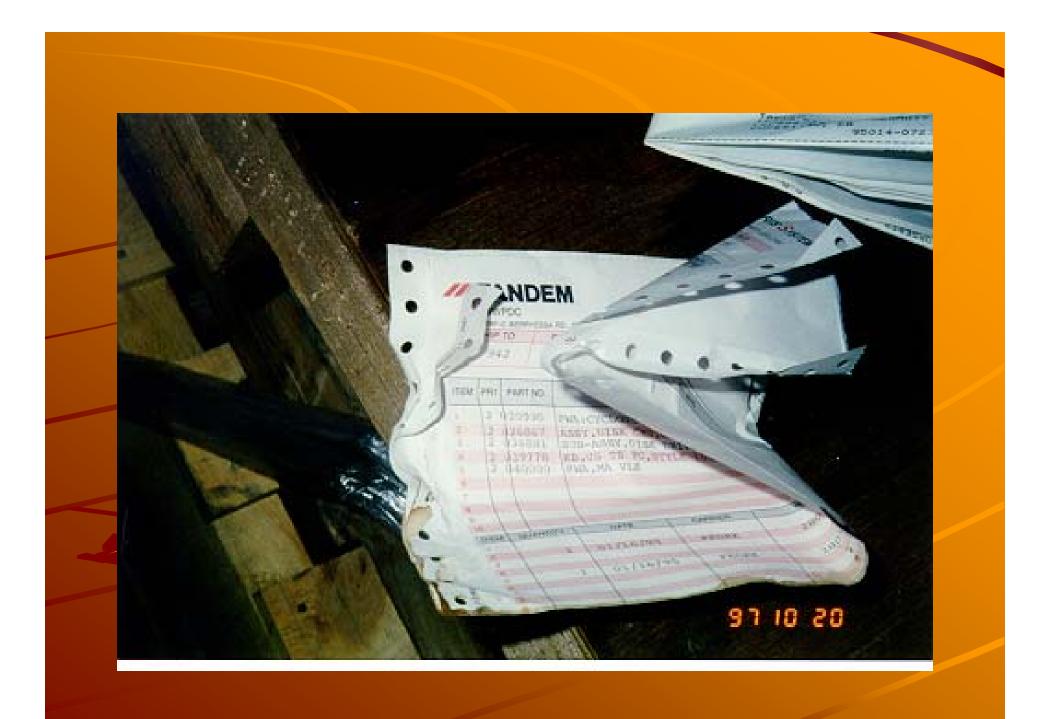


# THE WAREHOUSE: WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Does property match warehouse ?
Shipping labels removed from boxes ?
Company hours?
Color of shrink wrap ?

- Trans loading in unusual locations
- Trailers being off loaded into bobtail trucks
- Evidence of other cargoes?







## WHO'S DOING IT?



"Crews"

"Organized Crime"

## 18<sup>th</sup> Street















#### **4 RNA RECVING**

### **3 PREP AREA**













#### **4 RNA RECVING**



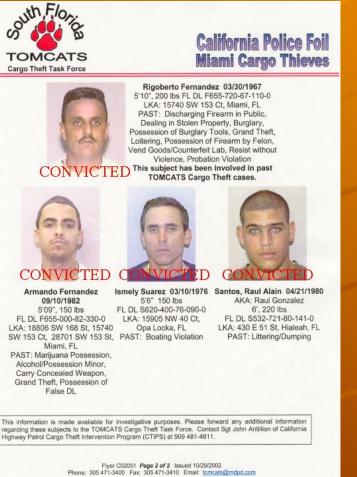
### **4 RNA RECVING**











TOMCATS Cargo Theft Task Force

#### **California Police Foil Miami Cargo Thieves**

On October 28, 2002, members of the Cargo Theft Intervention Program (CTIP) arrested seven subjects, all from the Miami area, in connection with a Commercial Burglary in Ontario, CA. The subjects were caught while fleeing Microtech, Inc. at 1950 S Vintage Street. Police had investigated an alarm call there earlier, but found nothing disturbed. The thieves had already stacked 23 pallets of flat-screen monitors valued in excess of \$1 million near the bay door when police intervened.

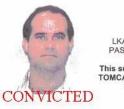


Michel Fajardo 09/14/1970 5'6", 190 lbs FL DL F263-540-70-334-0 Lka: 9837 w Okeechobee Rd, #603, Hialeah, FL

PAST: Commercial Vehicle Marking Violation This subject has been involved in past TOMCATS Cargo Theft cases. (Refer to Flyer C02-044)



Geovanni Gonzalez 02/14/1970 5'8", 229 lbs FL DL G524-280-72-054-0 LKA: 8181 NW S River Dr #C304, Medley, FL, 1055 W 33 St, Hialeah, FL Past: Burglary, Grand Theft, Dealing in Stolen Property This subject has been involved in past TOMCATS Cargo Theft cases.



Oscar Perez 07/17/1969 5'4", 150 lbs FL DL F263-540-70-334-0 LKA: 15905 NW 40 Ct, Miami, F L PAST: Commercial Vehicle Marking Violation This subject has been involved in past TOMCATS Cargo Theft cases. (Refer to TOMCATS Flyer C02-044)

regarding these subjects to the TOMCATS Cargo Theft Task Force. Contact Sgt John Antillion of California

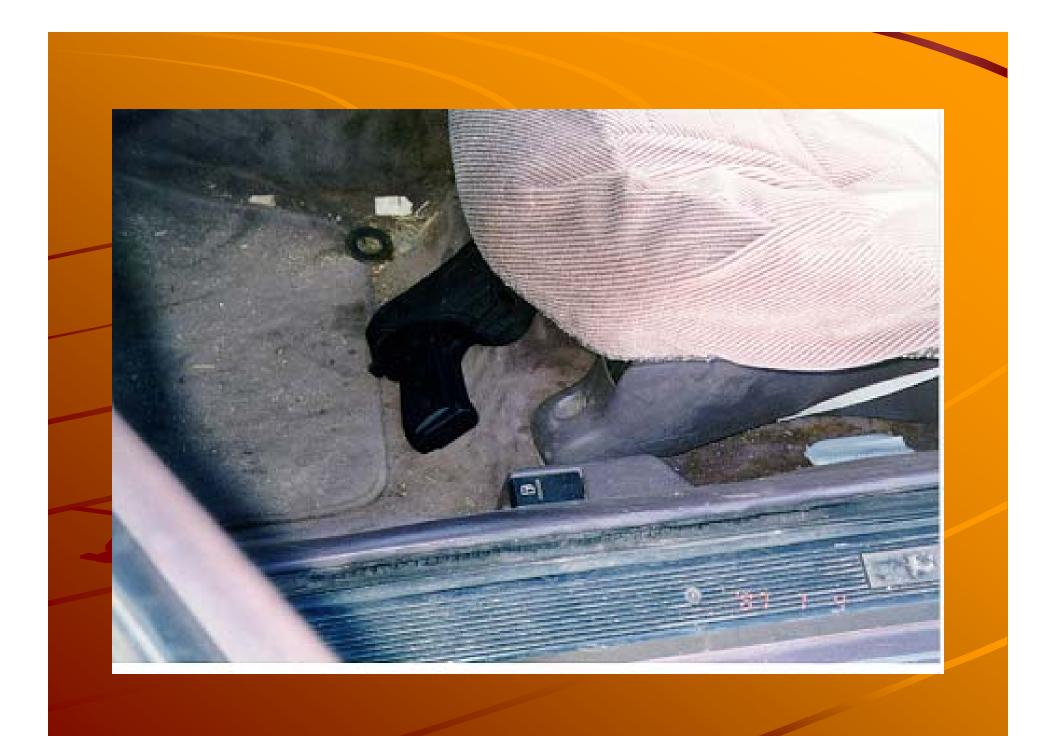
WHY ARE CARGO THEFT INVESTIGATIONS DIFFERENT? How is cargo theft classified. - Auto Theft, Burglary, Robbery, High-Tech? Timely reporting by the victim. - Victim may report theft 3-5 days after theft. Poor on-scene documentation - Tractor/trailer noted in report, but not the cargo. Incomplete vehicle/container/chassis information given to officer.



Frozen shrimp stolen in Los Angeles recovered in San Bernardino. \$500,000 VALUE OFFICER SAFETY

Should always be your first concern!
Just because you're investigating a "non-violent" crime doesn't mean you're dealing with non-violent criminals.

- Beware of "chase vehicles" while on traffic stops.
- A hardened criminal will not let your life impede their freedom.







# TRAFFIC STOPS

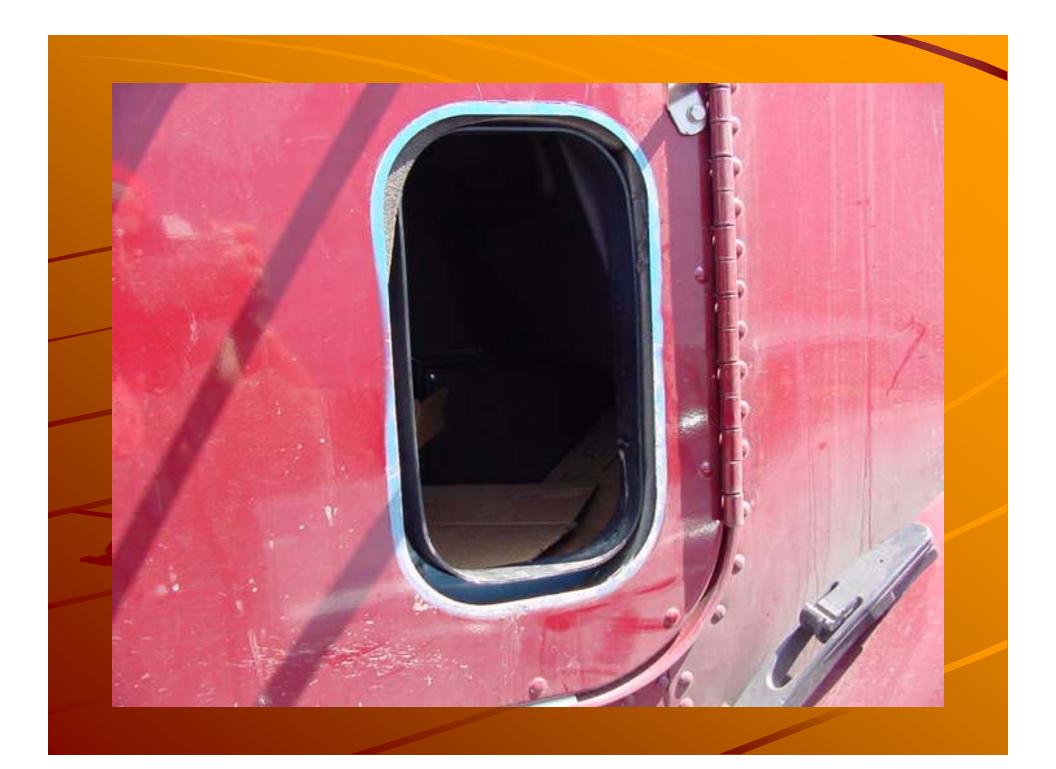
Hot on plate? Run VIN + I.D. Driver Dispatch info. Record all vehicle info, i.e. chassis and container # I.D. load Bill of lading Punched ignitions

- Wing/lane change window broken
- Cut external wires
- GPS antenna wires cut
- Seal or lock cut
- Trailer hasp cut
- Driver cruising truck stops, lots
- Burglary tools





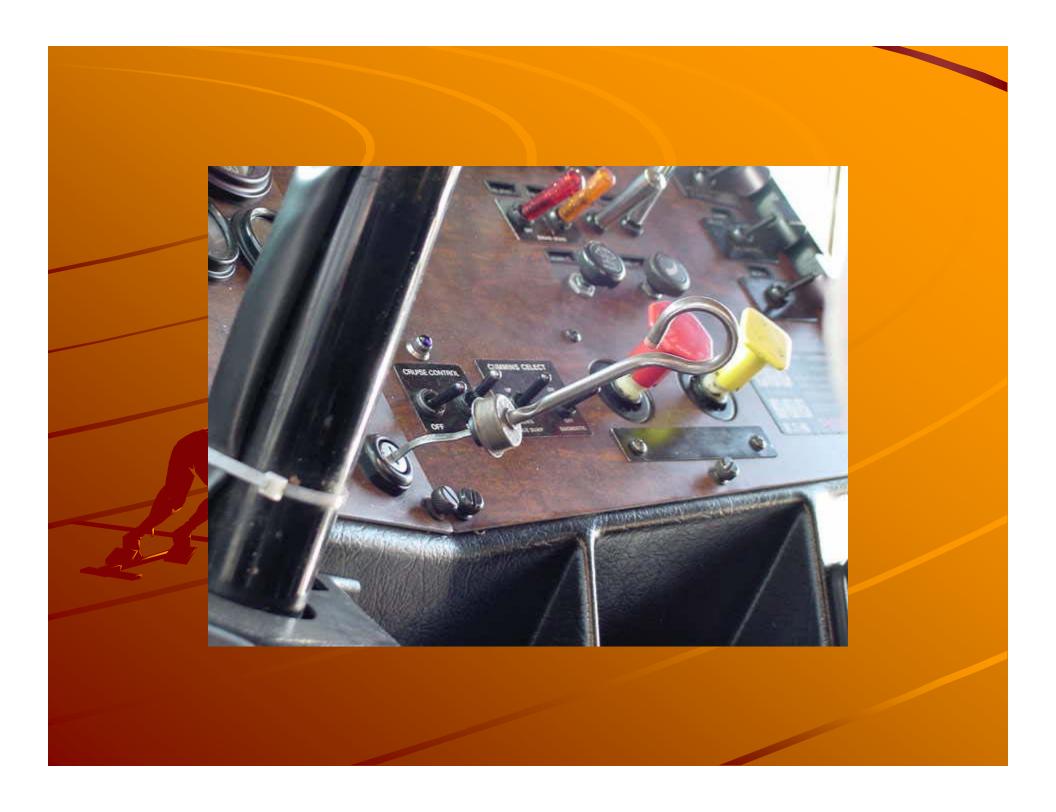












### VEHICLE/CARGO THEFT REPORTS

Stolen report for all vehicles -Owner applied numbers (OAN) for the tractor and trailer. -Any unusual markings, such as roof numbers. Grand theft report for cargo -Bill of lading for the cargo Statement from the driver/reporting party.

# VEHICLE RECOVERIES

Make a note of what you recover.
Run the VIN
What you find may be different than what the "victim" says happened.
Remember Driver Give Ups.

- Check for evidence of broken locks/seals, forced entry, other trailers broken into.
- Canvas the area.
   May lead to more vehicles, warehouses, bodies.

## REPORTING A CARGO THEFT

 Immediately report theft to local State Police, Police or Sheriff's Department & provide as much information as possible about vehicle and cargo stolen.
 Specifics are important.
 Notify regional cargo theft units.