



**Porterville Police Department  
Press Release**

**Incident:** Burglary Investigation / Arrests  
**Date/Time:** February 15, 2010 / 12:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Multiple throughout the City of Porterville  
**Suspects:** 15, 16, and 17 year old juveniles, all Terra Bella residents

**Narrative:**

During the months of January and February, 2010, the City of Porterville experienced several vehicle burglaries occurring in the evening hours. Several of these burglaries resulted in thousands of dollars of property loss to the victims. These incidents were investigated by the Porterville Police Department's Neighborhood Crime Suppression Unit (NCSU).

During this investigation, N.C.S.U. officers identified several commonalities in the method and time frames of these crimes. As a result, a special detail was conducted in conjunction with the Porterville Police Special Investigations Unit. During this detail, Detective Contreras observed a vehicle which matched the suspect vehicle description. Officers conducted a traffic stop and the driver was determined to be unlicensed. During further investigation, a search of the vehicle was conducted and several items of stolen property were located as well as burglary tools. The three juvenile suspects were arrested at that time and transported to the police department for further questioning.

Detectives wrote two search warrants for residences in the town of Terra Bella. During service of the search warrants, additional stolen property was located and connected with over fifteen burglaries that had occurred over the past several weeks. The stolen property was collected and several victims were contacted and their property returned to them. Officers and Detectives also located gang paraphernalia, marijuana, packaging materials, digital gram scales, and other paraphernalia associated with the sales of marijuana.

This investigation culminated with approximately \$10,000.00 of stolen property located and returned to the victims. The suspects were transported to the Tulare County Juvenile Detention Facility and charged with several counts of burglary, possession of stolen property, conspiracy to commit a felony, and possession of marijuana for sales.

**Investigating Officers / Detectives:**

*Officer S. Garcia (NCSU)*  
*Officer M. Hatch (NCSU)*  
*Detective C. Contreras (SIU)*

**Supervisor:**

*Sergeant D. Barteau (SIU)*