On Monday, August 17, 2020 at approximately 9:48 a.m., the Monterey Police Department was advised that Alan Smith, a 38-years old male, of Monterey had manufactured a “zip gun” and possessed ammunition. A “zip gun” is a makeshift object (such as a pipe) altered to accept and fire live ammunition.

On August 17, 2020 at approximately 3:24 p.m., as part of the on-going investigation, Monterey Police Officers attempted to contact Smith in his driveway in the 700 block of Oak Street in an effort to arrest him.

Smith ran to his front porch and tried to enter the house, however the front door was locked and Smith was not able to gain entry into the house. The front porch was surrounded by a short wood railing which created some containment, however there was concern Smith would attempt to flee or attempt to break into the house (which contained other family members), creating a more dangerous situation. MPD Officers continued dialogue with Smith in order to have him voluntarily surrender. Officers were aware that Smith had previously made “zip guns,” often times carried knives and were unsure if he had any weapons.
While some Officers continued to attempt dialogue with Smith, others created a plan to contain the situation and utilize a variety of tools dependent on the circumstances as they developed. The MPD devoted almost all police resources in the City to the situation. All MPD Officers on scene had attended Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training and de-escalation training. One of the Detectives on scene was a member of the Monterey Peninsula Hostage Negotiations Team.

During the situation officers could see the clips to two knives in Smith’s pockets and Smith related that he had “blades.” Smith continuously stated that he would not comply with the Officer’s requests and if the Officers walked onto the porch, “it would end badly.”

Monterey Officers continued dialogue, negotiations and de-escalation tactics with Smith in an attempt to take him into custody. Smith continued to disregard officer’s requests to disarm himself and surrender. After approximately 3 ½ hours Officers deployed several less lethal munitions, and a taser which had little to no effect on Smith, however they distracted him long enough for officers to utilize a plastic shield and body weight to overcome him and take him into custody without serious injury to Smith or officers.

After being seen at the hospital, Smith was booked into County Jail for violating 30305(a)(1) PC – Person prohibited from possessing ammunition, 33600 PC – Manufacture of a “Zip Gun”, and 148(a)(1)PC – Resisting, delaying, or obstructing a Peace Officer. A bail enhancement was requested and granted and his bail was set at $250,000.
MPD Media Release – Arrest of subject with “Zip Gun”
August 19, 2020

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