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Mercer County Narcotics Task Force Seizes Numerous Firearms, \$20,000 in Marijuana

TRENTON – A narcotics investigation concluded last week with the seizure of numerous firearms and \$20,000 in marijuana, Acting Mercer County Prosecutor Angelo J. Onofri reported.

Onofri stated that at approximately 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 22, officers observed the target of an ongoing narcotics investigation, Jason Chytraus, turn himself into the Ewing police on an active arrest warrant. At that time, Chytraus was informed of the investigation and officers from the county Narcotics Task Force and the county Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant for Chytraus' residence on Oriole Drive in Ewing.

A search of the residence revealed a safe in a bedroom containing handguns and the following assault rifles: one DPMS Panther Arms .223-5.56 MM Model A-15 assault rifle, one WASR-10 7.62 *39mm assault rifle, one Hi-Point firearms 9mm*19 model 995 assault rifle and one Iver Johnson's arms .30 caliber assault rifle. Various firearm magazines and .223 caliber ammunition were also located in the safe. Located in the basement was a plastic container with a large quantity of harvested marijuana stems. Another safe was located in Chytraus' bedroom with \$13,090 inside. Chytraus' vehicle, a 2012 black Ford F250, was located at the residence and seized as drug proceeds.

A search of a mobile home in the backyard revealed a small amount of marijuana and additional .223 caliber ammunition. A digital scale was discovered in the shed. A search of Chytraus revealed \$1343.

As a result of information received during the search warrant on Oriole Drive, Ewing officers obtained a search warrant for a residence on Harding Street, Ewing.

A search revealed a small amount of marijuana and a digital scale in the basement. A quantity of marijuana was found in a grill in the rear yard as well as in a broken-down vehicle in the rear yard.

Information discovered during this search led officers to a home on Millstone River Road in Montgomery Township. A search revealed approximately five pounds of marijuana packaged in various containers and in various sizes in the attic.

Officers with the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office, the Mercer County Sheriff's Office, the New Jersey State Police, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office, and the Ewing, Hamilton, Lawrence and Trenton police, under the command of Lt. Mike Novembre, assisted in the investigation.

Novembre said the estimated street value of the seized marijuana is approximately \$20,000.

Chytraus, age 33, is charged with possession of marijuana under 50 grams, possession of marijuana over 50 grams, possession with the intent to distribute marijuana over five pounds, three counts of possession of an assault rifle, possession of a high capacity magazine, certain persons not to possess a firearm, tampering with evidence and possession of drug paraphernalia. His bail was set at \$250,000.

Despite having been charged, every defendant is presumed innocent until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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