



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jason Salazar, Chief of Police

Liz Jones, Public Safety Police & Fire PIO,
Media & Communications Manager
(559) 713-4370 (office) / (559) 713-4807 (fax)
Elizabeth.Jones@visalia.city

NEWS RELEASE

September 9, 2025

Multi-Agency Investigation Leads to Firearms Arrests in Fresno County

On August 19, 2025, the Tulare Area Regional Gun Enforcement Team (TARGET), with assistance from the Visalia Police Department's Special Enforcement Bureau (SEU) and the Fresno Police Department's Multi-Agency Gang Enforcement Consortium, served a search warrant in the unincorporated area of eastern Fresno County near Reedley. The warrant followed a two-month investigation by TARGET personnel into the unlawful possession, manufacturing, and sale of machine guns and assault weapons.

During the operation, 21-year-old Benjamin Guzman was arrested at his job site on a Ramey warrant connected to the investigation. A search of the residence led to the recovery of three privately manufactured AR-15 style lower receivers, two AR-15 style assault rifles, one AR-15 style assault pistol, two short-barrel rifles, one privately manufactured AR-15 style assault pistol, 18 large-capacity magazines, seven standard-capacity magazines, and approximately 350 rounds of ammunition. Investigators also found two AR-15 style firearms equipped with multi-burst trigger activators.

As a result of the investigation, Benjamin Guzman was arrested on his Ramey warrant for multiple firearm violations, including possession and manufacturing of assault weapons, possession of short-barrel rifles, possession of a privately manufactured firearm, and possession of a firearm with a multi-burst trigger activator. Guzman was booked into the Fresno County Jail.

Also arrested was 21-year-old Matthew Rivera, who faces charges of manufacturing an assault weapon, possession of an assault weapon, and possession of an unserialized privately manufactured handgun. Rivera was also booked into the Fresno County Jail.

The case will be presented to the Fresno County District Attorney's Office for filing consideration. Investigators are requesting charges against Benjamin Guzman for possession of an assault weapon, manufacture of an assault weapon, possession of a short-barrel rifle, possession of an unserialized handgun, and possession of a firearm with a multi-burst trigger activator. For Matthew Rivera, investigators are requesting charges for manufacturing and possession of an assault weapon, along with possession of an unserialized handgun.

