



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE
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Illegal Rifle and Drugs Seized in Visalia Search Warrant; One Arrested

On August 28, 2025, members of the Tulare Area Regional Gun Enforcement Team (TARGET), with assistance from the Visalia Police Department's Special Enforcement Bureau, executed a search warrant at a residence in the 1800 block of South Cindy Court in Visalia, California. The warrant was part of an investigation into 24-year-old Martin Escobar, who had allegedly advertised a short-barreled rifle for sale.

During the search, officers seized a privately manufactured, fully automatic AR-15 style short-barreled rifle, a large-capacity magazine, 281 rounds of live .223 caliber ammunition, and approximately 4.2 grams of a white powdery substance resembling cocaine.

Escobar was arrested and booked into the Tulare County Adult Pre-Trial Detention Facility in Visalia for multiple charges, including possession of a short-barreled rifle (PC 33215), possession of a machine gun (PC 32625(a)), possession of a ghost gun (PC 29180(g)), possession of a controlled substance while armed (H&S 11370.1(a)), and possession of a controlled substance (H&S 11350(a)).

The case will be submitted to the Tulare County District Attorney's Office for review and consideration of formal charges.

