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*****NEWS RELEASE*****
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Felony Warrant Arrest Leads to Seizure of Firearms, Ghost Guns, and Methamphetamine in Porterville

On January 9, 2026, members of the Tulare County Agencies Gun Violence Enforcement Team (TARGET), working alongside the Tulare County Sheriff's Department's Tulare Area Gang and Narcotics Enforcement Team (TAGNET), arrested 38-year-old Mark Anthony Garza of Porterville on an outstanding felony warrant. Garza had been evading law enforcement since 2019, when he was convicted in Santa Clara County of being a felon in possession of a firearm and was placed on probation.

Following his arrest, investigators conducted a search of Garza's residence. The search resulted in the seizure of five firearms, approximately 250 rounds of ammunition, four large-capacity magazines, and 177 grams of methamphetamine packaged for sale. Two of the firearms were privately manufactured, unserialized "ghost guns" built in the style of AR-15 rifles.

Garza was booked into the Tulare County South County Detention Facility on his felony warrant and the following charges:

- PC 29800(a): Possession of a firearm by a convicted felon
- PC 30305(a): Possession of ammunition by a convicted felon
- PC 30605(a): Possession of an assault weapon
- PC 33215: Possession of a short-barreled rifle
- PC 23920(b): Possession of an unserialized firearm
- PC 32310: Possession of large-capacity magazines
- H&S 11378: Possession of a controlled substance for sale



- H&S 11370.1: Possession of a controlled substance for sale while armed

The Tulare County Agencies Regional Gun Violence Enforcement Team (TARGET) brings together local, state, and federal law enforcement partners, including the California Department of Justice Bureau of Firearms, Visalia Police Department, Tulare County Sheriff's Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Through collaboration and information sharing, TARGET works to reduce gun violence and keep Tulare County communities safe.

