

LEMOORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



PRESS RELEASE

On 05/18/16 at about 2316 hours, officers from the Problem Oriented Policing team were on patrol in the area of C Street and N. Lemoore Ave. when they observed a white Buick driving southbound on N. Lemoore Ave. The vehicle was not displaying a front license plate as required and had expired registration. They conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and contacted the driver, Cristino Lopez Ochoa (10/17/74 of Coalinga), and his passenger Tiago Arruda (03/22/91 of Riverdale).

Ochoa stated that he had recently purchased the vehicle and had not registered it yet. During his conversation at the vehicle, one of the Officers observed what appeared to be a knife handle concealed near the armrest and seatbelt. Both subjects were removed from the vehicle and a large hunting knife was recovered near where the driver had been seated. Ochoa was placed under arrest for possession of a concealed weapon. A search of his person incident to his arrest led to the discovery of methamphetamine. The passenger, Tiago Arruda, was arrested for being under the influence of a controlled substance. A search of his person incident to arrest led to the discovery of approximately 8.5 grams of methamphetamine as well as several keys that could be used to commit auto theft. Inside of the vehicle officers located narcotics packaging as well as a radio that had been stolen in a burglary earlier in the day in Lemoore.

Ochoa and Arruda were interviewed and admitted that they were going to the Tachi Palace and Casino to sell the methamphetamine to make money as both were currently unemployed.

Both subjects were booked into the Kings County Jail for Criminal Conspiracy, Possession of Controlled Substance for sales, Transportation of a Controlled Substance for sales, and Possession of a Controlled Substance. Ochoa was booked on an additional charge of carrying a concealed weapon. Arruda was also booked on additional charges of possession of burglary tools and being under the influence of a controlled substance. Bail was set at \$100,000.00 for each subject.