



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,  
Firearms and Explosives  
*New Orleans Field Division*  
*Group IV - Intelligence*



**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY**

December 15, 2008

**Gulfport, Mississippi – 35 firearms, 1 vehicle**

On November 21, 2008, at 0127, a Gulfport Police Officer conducted a traffic stop on a 1994 Ford Ranger, Georgia registration ALK 5651 on Interstate 10 within the city limits of Gulfport, Mississippi. Upon approaching the vehicle, the Officer observed that the truck bed liner was not attached to the truck bed, but was being held down by a Honda four-wheeler. The driver, the sole occupant, Abel Jesus RODRIGUEZ, h/m, dob: 10/15/1957, a resident of Harlingen, Texas, stated that he was driving the vehicle from Atlanta, Georgia to San Benito, Texas.

Subsequent to a consent to search the vehicle, the Officer removed a tail light and observed several objects wrapped in plastic hidden in the wheel well of the vehicle. A more detailed search revealed two hidden compartments built into the bed of the truck along the wheel wells (see photo below). Found in these compartments was a total of 35 firearms (23 long guns and 12 handguns) and approximately four thousand rounds of ammunition sealed in plastic (see photo below). Each firearm was fully loaded, to include a round in the chamber. The vehicle and the firearms were seized. Investigation is continuing.

For additional information contact: Special Agent John Bordages, (228) 575-6501, Special Agent Kevin Roch, (228) 604-1015 or Intelligence Research Specialist Dawn Heck (504) 841-7061.



Hidden compartment in truck bed.



Firearms sealed in plastic.

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