Date/Time Occurred: Tuesday April 28, 2015
Crime or Incident: PC 530.5 (a) Identity theft, PC484e(b), Possession of four or more credit card numbers, PC 530.5(c) Possession of personal information of more than 10 victims, PC 484(f)(2), Forging access cards, PC484(a)(3), Unlawful Acquisition of access cards, PC484g, Use of a stolen access card, PC484i, Possession of equipment to forge access cards, PC 502.6(b) Possession of card encoder, HS11378 Possession of controlled substance for sale, PC30600a Manufacturing firearms
Location: 14000 block of Ironbark Ave., Chino, CA
Victim(s): Confidential
Suspect(s): Chai, Josephine, 30 years old, Chino
Duong, Jessica, 25 years old, Chino

SUMMARY

Chino Hills Multiple Enforcement Team deputies arrested two Chino women today on a slew of charges including possession of a controlled substance for sale, the theft of identities of dozens of Southern California victims and manufacturing a firearm using a 3D printer.

The extensive investigation started with the simple report of a credit card being stolen off the front porch of a Chino Hills resident. Further investigation discovered the card was used at local retail establishments and the San Manuel Casino. Patrol and MET deputies discovered a group of associates who were connected to a larger identity theft ring led by Josephine Chai and Steven Phong. Phong, 32, was arrested last month for PC530.5, identity theft, along with his associate Wesley Isaacs, 50.

A search warrant was served at Chai’s house in Chino on the morning of April 25, 2015. Upon service of the search warrant, deputies recovered dozens of forged or altered credit cards issued in the suspect’s name, as well as other names; several computers; an embossing machine; a credit card manufacturing machine; several card encoders; foil used to emboss fraudulent credit cards; several white-stock credit cards; a money counter; and hundreds of documents containing the personal information of other probable victims, including bank statements, bills and other personal identifying information.

During service of the search warrant, deputies also discovered a 3D printer that was in the process of creating a lower receiver for an AR-15, which is an integral part of the assault rifle. Deputies also recovered a manufactured lower receiver that was loaded with live ammunition, as well as a manufactured gun loaded with airsoft ammunition.

The suspects had very elaborate computer systems and machinery, with some credit card manufacturing machines that were professional grade costing thousands of dollars. The suspects were also in possession of mailbox keys throughout various cities. Detectives at the Chino Hills station will be researching the vast information in an effort to identify as many victims as possible.
Chai and Duong were arrested for the above mentioned charges and booked at the West Valley Detention Center. The investigation is ongoing.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Chino Hills Police/Sheriff's Station
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Dep. B. Arias