

10F23080A

**ARREST REPORT**

City

County

Adult

Juvenile

Sector/Beat 0/4

ID/EVENT# 1893015	ARRESTEE'S NAME (Last, First, Middle) Rodriguez, Michael		S.S.# [REDACTED]	
ARRESTEE'S ADDRESS (Number, Street, City, State, Zip Code) [REDACTED]				
CHARGES: Murder with use of a Deadly Weapon / Conspiracy to Commit Murder with a Deadly Weapon / Conspiracy to commit Burglary with Deadly Weapon / Burglary with a Deadly Weapon / Prohibited Person (X-Felon) Possession Firearm / Possession Dangerous Drugs w/out Prescription				
OCURRED:	DATE 12-1-10	DAY OF WEEK Wed	TIME 2331	LOCATION OF ARREST (Number, Street, City, State, Zip Code) [REDACTED]
RACE H	SEX M	D.O.B. 6-16-79	HT 5'9"	WT 185
			HAIR Bal	EYES Blk
PLACE OF BIRTH San Jose, CA				

**CIRCUMSTANCES OF ARREST**

On 12-1-10 at approximately 2330 hours, United States Air Force Staff Sergeant Nathan Paet was leaving for work from his home wearing his military uniform. As he exited his residence at [REDACTED] and walked into the garage, he was shot several times. Paet's wife, Michelle Paet, called the police and reported the shooting after Nathan stumbled into the home and collapsed on the floor. Other witnesses also called police to report hearing gunfire at or near the same time. One of those witnesses also reported seeing a man fleeing from the scene wearing a tan hooded sweatshirt. Another witness described a newer model, black, four door vehicle, possibly a Cadillac, driving from the scene with its headlights off.

Nathan Paet was transported to UMC Trauma where he died of his injuries. Paet was shot numerous times, with most of the gunshots in his back. After a completed autopsy at the Clark County Coroner's office, Dr. Telegenhoff determined the cause of death was multiple gunshot wounds and the manner of death was homicide. At the time of his murder, Paet's personal items, including his cell phone and wallet, were intact on his person.

Because nothing was taken from Nathan at the time of his murder, detectives did not believe robbery was the motive in the killing. Because of the remoteness of Nathan's home and the fact that Nathan was shot repeatedly and immediately as he exited his residence, detectives believe that Nathan was specifically targeted to be killed. Detectives also believe that because the trajectory of one of the bullets found at the scene, the killer would had to have been standing inside the garage when he fired the weapon.

During the initial interview with Michelle Paet, she told detectives Nathan usually left for work at approximately 2240 hours (10:40 pm). She said on the night of the murder, Nathan overslept and was late for work. Michelle claimed she overheard Nathan call someone at NAFB and told them he "woke up late" and would "be there by 2400 hours" (midnight). Later in the interview, Michelle admitted to flirting with other men at her place of employment. She specifically identified one man she flirted with as a Michael Rodriguez. She described Rodriguez as a white male, bald, tattooed and drives a black Cadillac.

ARRESTING OFFICER(S)	P#	APPROVED BY	CONNECTING RPTS. (Type or Event Number)
T. Williams	3811	Lt. A. Walsh P# 5994 0600 hrs 12/8/10	
L. Andersen	2780		

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
**CONTINUATION REPORT**

ID/Event Number: 1893015

Page 2 of 3

Michelle also admitted that she had been "texting" Rodriguez just prior to her husband's murder, starting at 2312 hours. Michelle showed detectives, on her phone, the last two text messages she sent to Rodriguez just prior to the murder which read: "Sorry took my meds and was asleep. My husband just woke me up and he's trying to rush out the door. I guess he's late lol. Sorry that contract is a pain." That message was sent at 2319 hours. The last message, "Can't go back to sleep right now. Got woken up from a man screaming I'm late. He's rushing to get out the door. Lol", was sent at 2324 hours. The last text message Michelle sent to Rodriguez indicating her husband was late for work was approximately 5 or 6 minutes before the murder. There was no other text conversation between the two after Michelle's last text message to Rodriguez.

Detectives confirmed with officials from the United States Air Force that Michelle Paet would receive \$400,000.00 upon the death of her husband and Michelle claimed that she would receive \$250,000 from another life insurance policy on her husband.

Detectives believe that the murder suspect(s) waited for Nathan to leave for work and must have known Nathan's schedule to have so successfully timed the attack. There were two vacant homes directly across the street from the Paet home providing a place for the killer(s) to conceal themselves. Detectives believe that the killer(s) knew the neighborhood well or were given the information by someone who did.

During her interview, Michelle indicated she worked with Rodriguez at the EIN Credit Inc, a telemarketing firm at 3355 W. Spring Mountain. On 12-3-10 detectives responded to that location and located a 2004 black Cadillac CTS, bearing [REDACTED]. A records check showed the vehicle registered to a female at [REDACTED]. Detectives were able to identify Michael Rodriguez with an ID# [REDACTED] registered as a convicted person at [REDACTED]. Detectives maintained surveillance on the Cadillac and observed Rodriguez get into the vehicle and drive off. Rodriguez was stopped by LVMPD patrol units, confirming that Rodriguez had access to the car. A search warrant was later executed on the Cadillac and Rodriguez' home at [REDACTED]. Pursuant to a search warrant on the Cadillac, dangerous drugs were found in the vehicle without a prescription belonging to Michael Rodriguez.

During an interview with Rodriguez, he claimed he had an alibi for the time of Nathan Paet's murder and claimed he was "having sex with an ex-porn star" from 2300 hours to 2400 hours at the Sunset Station Hotel and Casino, located at 1301 W. Sunset Road, Henderson, NV.

Rodriguez identified the woman he was having sex with by name and phone number, the identity of which will not be revealed at this time. The woman provided a statement to detectives and gave the following information: There had been an on-going plan to kill the victim (Nathan Paet). She identified the subjects involved in developing the plan as Michael Rodriguez, Corry Hawkins and Jessica Austin. She also knew the victim's wife (Michelle Paet) as being involved in the planning of the murder and suspected that Rodriguez was romantically involved with her. She knew the wife was going to get money from the murder of her husband. The female planned on getting 5% of the four or five thousand dollars that Rodriguez said he was planning to get for the murder of Paet. The woman remembered a conversation where Hawkins and Rodriguez discussed using blue latex gloves during the crime.

The female stated on the night of the murder, she, Jessica Austin, Corry Hawkins and Michael Rodriguez were at [REDACTED] where Austin and

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
**CONTINUATION REPORT**

ID/Event Number: 1893015

Page 3 of 3

Hawkins live. She was told that Rodriguez and Hawkins left to commit a robbery using Rodriguez' black Cadillac. While the two men were gone, Austin lit a fire in the fireplace with fire logs she purchased earlier that day. When Rodriguez and Hawkins returned to the apartment, they were both in a rush. They quickly stripped naked and Austin put their discarded clothing in the fireplace and burned the clothing. The female believed Austin purchased the fire logs specifically for the use of burning the clothes. Hawkins and Austin left to gamble at a casino. Rodriguez and the female went directly to the Sunset Station Hotel and Casino in Rodriguez' black Cadillac.

Later the next day, when the female went back to apartment at [REDACTED] she noticed a heavy smell of bleach and thought the apartment had been sterilized to hide any evidence from the murder. In a later conversation with the detectives, the female said, Rodriguez admitted to her that he shot the victim; Hawkins claimed to have been with Rodriguez at the time of the shooting. Rodriguez and Hawkins then destroyed the cellular telephones they had been using prior to the murder and also destroyed the females' cellular telephone. She said Rodriguez told her to lie to the police in order to provide him (Rodriguez) with an alibi for the time of the murder.

A check of the Sunset Station Hotel and Casino guest records show a Michael Rodriguez making a telephonic room reservation on 12-1-10 at 2127 hours. Records and video surveillance further show that Michael Rodriguez and a female actually checked into the hotel and entered room number 1017 at 0010 hours, 40 minutes after the murder.

On 12-7-10, Michelle Paet admitted to planning the murder of her husband with Rodriguez. She admitted she and Rodriguez were romantically involved and planned to develop a relationship together after the murder of her husband. She and Rodriguez began talking about "getting rid of" Nathan Paet for the insurance money as early as October, 2010. Rodriguez claimed he would have another man assist in the murder and would need to pay him \$200,000. The details of the plan were discussed when the two were at work and in private meetings after work. On the night of the murder she was aware Rodriguez and possibly another suspect were waiting for Nathan to open the garage door and come out to his vehicle. Nathan was late coming out of the house and Rodriguez began texting Michelle at 2312 hours, in coded language. She stated her two texts to Rodriguez were coded as well to let him know that her husband would be late leaving the house.

Michelle stated there were several different plans discussed between her and Rodriguez as to the details of how Paet would be killed. One of the plans included the use of a large car cover. Paet was supposed to be shot inside his Chevy Tahoe and the vehicle taken to an apartment complex by Rodriguez where it would be abandoned and covered with the car cover to conceal the presence of a body. Michelle stated this plan fell through.

A search warrant was executed on the apartment belonging to Jessica Austin and Corry Hawkins, located [REDACTED]. Located inside the apartment were Austin and Hawkins. When Austin was questioned about the murder, she admitted going to a Wal-Mart on 12-1-10, hours prior to the murder, and purchasing a large car cover, blue latex gloves and air freshener. Detectives believe these items were initially intended to be used in the commission of the murder.

Austin also stated that on 12-1-10 Rodriguez returned to her apartment and burned his clothes. Rodriguez had a change of clothing he brought with him earlier. She admitted to cleaning the fireplace after Rodriguez burned his clothing.

Rodriguez, Hawkins and Austin were arrested and transported to CCDC where they were booked.