



City of Ridgecrest Police Department

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MICHAEL D. AVERY, Chief of Police

Press Release

DATE: Sunday, December 31, 2006
INCIDENT: VEHICLE PURSUIT / RESIST, OBSTRUCT, DELAY POLICE OFFICER
ARRESTED: CHRISTOPHER KIRK WHITFIELD (22 years old)

On 12/24/06, at approximately 2:15 pm, Ridgecrest Police Department Officers got into a pursuit with a motorcyclist who failed to yield after a routine traffic violation. The chase started at the intersection of S. Gateway Blvd. and Upjohn Ave. when Sergeant Mike Myers observed the motorcyclist fail to stop for the posted stop sign. As the driver headed N/B on Gateway Blvd., Myers noticed the motorcycle did not have license plate. When Myers activated his emergency lights to conduct a traffic stop on the motorcyclist, the driver accelerated at a high rate of speed. The driver turned E/B onto SR-178 (E. Ridgecrest Blvd) and continued driving well over 100 mph. Myers notified the CHP and San Bernardino County Sheriff's Dept. requesting their assistance. The driver then turned onto Randsburg Wash Rd. continuing to evade. The motorcyclist was seen passing several cars and crossing over double yellow lines during this pursuit.

The driver then turned S/B onto Trona Rd. and continued his high rate of speed. A short distance later, the driver was found sitting on the motorcycle just off the paved roadway attempting to conceal himself and the motorcycle by pulling into a drainage ditch near the area of Wagon Wheel (a well known off-road vehicle area).

As Myers approached the motorcyclist in his patrol unit, the driver jumped off the motorcycle and started running into the desert. A short foot pursuit followed and the driver was taken into custody.

He was transported to the Kern County Jail in Ridgecrest for booking.

His bail was set at \$15,000.

MICHAEL D. AVERY Chief of Police
PREPARED BY: Sgt. Mike Myers
Sunday, December 31, 2006 14:09