

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

v.

CASE NUMBER:

DWAYNE MEEKS

UNDER SEAL

I, the undersigned complainant being duly sworn state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief:

Count One

From no later than May 2012, through on or about May 28, 2013, in Cook County, in the Northern District of Illinois, and elsewhere, DWAYNE MEEKS, defendant herein, not being a licensed dealer within the meaning of Chapter 44, Title 18, United States Code, did willfully engage in the business of dealing in firearms, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(a)(1)(A).

Count Two

On or about July 14, 2012, in Cook County, in the Northern District of Illinois, DWAYNE MEEKS, defendant herein, did knowingly sell and dispose of a firearm, namely, a DPMS A15 .223 caliber assault rifle, bearing serial number F214385; a Colt Law Enforcement Carbine 5.56 caliber assault rifle, bearing serial number LE007045; a DPMS Inc., Panther Arms .223 caliber assault rifle, bearing serial number F243996; a Surplus Ammo and Arms, Low15, .50 caliber Beowulf assault rifle, bearing serial number SA18804; a Romarm Cugir GP WASR 10-/63 7.62 caliber assault rifle, bearing serial number SAH-1058-81; a Ruger P345 .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol, bearing serial number 664-50818; a Taurus PT92AF 9 mm semi-automatic pistol, bearing serial number TAV33590; and a Smith and Wesson M&P 15-22 .22 caliber riffle, bearing serial number DZN1359, to Individual A knowing and having reasonable cause to believe that Individual A had been convicted of a crime punishable by a term of imprisonment exceeding one year, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(d).

I further state that I am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and that this complaint is based on the following facts:

See attached affidavit.

Continued on the attached sheet and made a part hereof: X Yes ___ No

Rick Stenberg, Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Signature of Complainant

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence,

May 28, 2013 at
Date

Chicago, Illinois
City and State

Sidney I. Schenkeier, United States Magistrate Judge
Name & Title of Judicial Officer

Signature of Judicial Officer

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
)
COUNTY OF COOK) ss

AFFIDAVIT

I, Rick J. Stenberg, being duly sworn, state as follows:

1. I am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") and have been so employed since approximately 2009. I am currently assigned to FBI's Criminal Enterprises Division, and my responsibilities include the investigation of firearm trafficking offenses.

2. This affidavit is submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause in support of the attached complaint and therefore contains only a summary of the relevant facts. I have not included each and every fact known by me concerning the individuals and events described herein.

3. The following information is based upon my own personal knowledge and observations, information conveyed to me by other law enforcement officers and agents, conversations with a confidential human source ("CHS"), consensually recorded conversations, and on my review of documents and records relating to an investigation of trafficking of firearms. The recorded conversations described below are summaries and do not include all statements and topics discussed in the recordings.

Background of Investigation

4. In or about May 2011, FBI Special Agents met with a Confidential

Human Source (CHS)¹ who informed FBI that, several years ago, while serving time in prison for a felony conviction, CHS met MEEKS, who worked as a guard at the same prison.² CHS stated that, after release from prison, CHS kept in contact with MEEKS, who now resides in Arkansas. According to the CHS, MEEKS told the CHS that MEEKS had been transferring or arranging for the transfer of firearms to various people in Chicago.

5. According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, MEEKS is not, and never has been, a licensed importer, manufacturer, or dealer of firearms.

6. CHS, who agreed to work with the FBI in an undercover capacity by posing as a firearms trafficker interested in brokering firearm transactions for a fictitious customer, asked MEEKS whether MEEKS could obtain firearms for CHS.

MEEKS and CHS Negotiate a Firearms Transaction

7. According to CHS, on May 18, 2012, CHS spoke with MEEKS in an

¹ CHS has been proven to be reliable. While working in other, unrelated investigations, CHS participated in controlled purchases of narcotics and firearms, and provided information that was corroborated by recorded conversations, surveillance, and information obtained from other sources. CHS, who is working with the FBI in exchange for money, has prior criminal convictions for violent felonies.

² A former prison guard who worked with the FBI as a Task Force Officer in 2011, confirmed that MEEKS had been a prison guard at the same prison where CHS was an inmate, and that, as a result, CHS and MEEKS knew one another.

unrecorded telephone call during which MEEKS informed the CHS that he would be coming to Chicago, Illinois, with his two sons. CHS and MEEKS arranged to meet MEEKS in Chicago the following day.

8. On May 19, 2012, CHS met with MEEKS³ in Chicago, Illinois. During the conversation with CHS, who was outfitted with an audio recording device, MEEKS began showing CHS photographs of firearms that MEEKS could sell to CHS. According to CHS and confirmed by the recording device, MEEKS showed several photographs that were stored on Meeks' phone. MEEKS described one of the firearms displayed to CHS on the phone by stating, "Now this right here [first photograph]. This is a regular 223 a M4, M16. That's the caliber."⁴ MEEKS then showed a second photograph on over the phone and

³ FBI agents identified MEEKS after seeing him meet with CHS on multiple occasions during this investigation. At times, MEEKS' face and voice were captured on video and audio recordings. FBI agents compared a photograph from an Arkansas Driver's License issued to DWAYNE MEEKS with the person they saw meeting with CHS on the video recordings, and identified MEEKS. Additionally, the FBI agents compared the voice using Meeks Phone 1 with MEEKS' voice captured on audio recordings during meetings with CHS, and identified MEEKS' voice. FBI agents also identified MEEKS' Email Account ("Meeks' Email Account") not only from the many emails sent to CHS during this investigation, but also from recorded conversations between MEEKS and CHS during which they discussed the content of the emails, as well as Meeks sending and CHS receiving the emails. Some of these recorded conversations are described in the affidavit below.

⁴ On May 26, 2011, CHS received an email from account known to CHS as MEEKS' email account (Meeks' Email Account"). Attached to the email were photographs of a Sig Sauer Sig 556 semi-automatic assault rifle and a DPMS AR15 short barreled assault rifle, and a Smith & Wesson .40 caliber pistol.

stated “That’s the fifty caliber right there... [in a second photograph].” MEEKS further described the rifle in the second photograph to be a .50 caliber “Beowulf.” MEEKS stated his firearms supplier has several other firearms for sale, “...Five rifles. Well actually like M16 assault rifles. Five of them. Two pistols, a .45 and a nine millimeter.” MEEKS showed another photograph of his firearms’ supplier holding an M4 and stated, “...This one right here is the, is the original colt M14, I mean M4. That’s used by police and Special Forces.”

9. On May 20, 2012, CHS received four emails from Meeks’ Email Account. Attached to the emails were the photographs of the firearms and ammunition that, according to CHS, MEEKS had shown to CHS on May 19, 2012, on Meeks Phone 1. In the first email, a photograph of a person holding an M4 rifle with the caption that read, “This is the original colt m4 carbine that is used by police swat and u.s. special forces.” In the second photograph was another AR-15 style carbine with that caption that read, “This is a 50 caliber Beowulf.” In the third email the photograph was of a magazine with a round of ammunition with two handguns and a knife in the background with a caption that read, “This is what the 50 beowulf shoots and the two pistol you see laying in the back ground are the two thats with the deal.” In the fourth email was a photograph of two rounds of ammunition with a caption that read, “This is the 50 round compared to a regular rifle round. A lot of difference.”

10. On June 17, 2012, CHS received several emails from Meeks' Email Account. In each email was an attached photograph of one or more firearms.

11. Also, on June 17, 2012, CHS received two text messages from Meeks Phone 1 that read: "(1/2) Check your email. Missing 2 [two firearms] one didn't want to depart [be sold by supplier]. And the other miss fired [needs repairs]. But the last one is getting dress up [repaired] 2moro. This is some bad stuff \$ (2/2) 15000 [\$15,000 for all the firearms that were previously discussed by MEEKS]. My plus my deliver/broker fee \$3000 [\$3,000 for MEEKS to broker the deal] ? The toys [firearms] are costly but they are high tech. Let me know soon."

12. On June 18, 2012, CHS had a recorded telephone call with MEEKS on Meeks Phone 1 in reference to the photographs that MEEKS had sent from Meeks' Email Account on June 17, 2012. During the course of the call, CHS asked for the price of everything [all the firearms that were sent in the emails from June 17, 2012]. MEEKS then went on to explain that one of the photographs that he sent on June 17, 2012, which the CHS had yet to see, "...Wait until you look at one of those guys advertising [displaying a firearm in a photograph]. He got a drum on one of those 47s[AK-47 style rifle]. It got a drum on it." MEEKS then explained that there were eight firearms for sale.

13. On June 20, 2012, CHS placed a recorded telephone call to Meeks Phone 1. During the course of the call, MEEKS asked "Did you see that picture

of the guy holding the drum [photograph that MEEKS sent on June 17, 2012 of a white male in a black leather vest holding an AK-47]...that's an AK with a drum and I think it's auto [an automatic firearm]." CHS later asked, "He [supplier] didn't get a chance to get the other thing I asked did he?" [CHS was referring to specific firearms, FN Five Seven 5.7x28 caliber pistols, that Agents had requested to see if the firearm supplier could obtain]. MEEKS replied, "...I told him [the firearm supplier] about it and he said he check. He sent me that last picture I sent you. You see that last picture I sent you?... He [the firearm supplier] said her name is Ruger so....He said she is forty-five [.45 caliber semi-automatic pistol] years old and everything." MEEKS then went on to explain why firearms are hard to obtain by saying, "I seen on the TV the other day. Obama did something to the executive order because somebody did the same thing. He stuck up for this stud doing that. It [firearms] was going to the Mexican people. Got caught with the...You saw that?...That's what I'm saying, it's a lot of risk but it can be done...it can be done and it will be worth your while."

14. On June 20, 2012, CHS placed a second recorded telephone call to Meeks Phone 1. During the course of the call, CHS further explained to MEEKS that CHS' customer wanted to purchase additional firearms. CHS stated, "Yeah, it's called a FN Five Seven." MEEKS replied, "Alright, I'll let him [the firearms

supplier] know.” CHS also stated that CHS’s customers wanted additional AR15s rifles. MEEKS replied, “Yeah he [the firearms supplier] said he was going to pick up a load of them so we’ll see what he got on Monday.”

15. On July 8, 2012, CHS placed recorded telephone call to Meeks Phone 1. During the course of the call, CHS explained to MEEKS that CHS’ customer was ready to conduct the firearms transaction described above. CHS stated, “My man [CHS’ fictitious customer] called, he be in tomorrow man [to conduct the firearms transaction]. He ready to rock and roll.” MEEKS replied, “Alright. Yeah that dude [the firearms supplier] called me. He left me a little message. He been bugging me and said, ‘Man I thought you all was ready.’” CHS stated, “Yeah, tell him we ready this week. Tell him to bring all, everything you get. Let’s get it over with.” MEEKS stated, “I’m not bringing those other ones yet [additional firearms]. That’s too much...He said he got ten tactical M14s...I ain’t getting caught with that much.” CHS responded, “I thought that he [the firearms supplier] was coming with you.” MEEKS replied, “He said that’s the next time. He gotta plan for that. He said he take care of this one, he said next time he got that one you talking about....That’s the other one...I think they got a Fed watch.” CHS said, “How many you got though?” MEEKS responded, “I think this one I think nine, with the cannon [the a .50 Beowulf AR15 style rifle described above].” CHS asked, “Yeah, yeah that fifty piece [.50 caliber rifle]?”

Meeks answered, "Yeah." CHS said, "...Alright let's take care of that this week." MEEKS told CHS, "Be prepared about Friday or Saturday morning."

16. On July 8, 2012, CHS placed a second recorded telephone call to Meeks Phone 1. During the course of the call, MEEKS further arranged the future firearms transaction in Chicago, Illinois. MEEKS stated, "...I just called and let him know right. He say he got thirteen or fourteen [additional firearms] next time." CHS answered, "That's cool." MEEKS, "...Yeah, he said, 'I got to go with you on that one though.' I was like ain't no problem...because like ten of those same thing those those tac [tactical] weapons. You know they suited up like those SWAT team stuff." MEEKS then went on to say, "You know they cracking down. You hear what Obama is doing? He got caught with the same thing." CHS said, "Yeah." MEEKS stated, "...And then I saw on TV the other day, they was talking about y'all up there man [the violence in Chicago]." CHS responded, "Yeah they rough up here man...That's why my man is doing what he's doing cause he living in Chicago and he's putting a little bit of fear over hear and a little bit over there...These motherfuckers are going loco out here believe me man." MEEKS replied, "Hey, that ain't my concern. I'm just letting you know that's why you have to be cautious with how much you got [how many firearms are being transferred at one time]. You know what I'm saying?" CHS stated, "Right." MEEKS continued, "You know, that's all I'm saying. You be

safe...You know I'm an outta town cat comin' in there that's why I be real safe. Alright, see you after awhile." CHS said, "Alright."

17. On July 10, 2012, CHS had a recorded conversation with MEEKS on Meeks Phone 1. During the conversation, CHS inquired about the price of the firearms for sale and said, "I need to know the address [price of firearms]...what the ticket is [price]....And I need to know when you comin' [to Chicago]...You said you got 10 of them [firearms], right?" MEEKS replied, "...I don't know if he [firearm supplier] sold some [firearms], or whatever...He don't like to keep too much, too long..." CHS said, "...I know man...Let's make it do what it do..." MEEKS said, "Right on...I called him [firearm supplier] last night, I asked him, 'Everything Ready?' He said, 'Yeah.' I try to get him to meet me...Memphis so I don't have to go so many ways [MEEKS wanted to meet the firearm supplier in Memphis, Tennessee instead of Alabama]." MEEKS said, "...The next one [firearms transaction], it's supposed to be huge [MEEKS will be able to bring many more firearms to Chicago]. I gotta try to get some that [firearms] for myself." CHS agreed and said they would talk more when MEEKS got to Illinois. At the end of the conversation CHS explained that they needed to get the firearms transaction done quickly and said, "I want to dip in, dip out. Let's keep it movin'." MEEKS said, "Right on. That's what I'm talkin' about." CHS continued and said, "He [customer] ready. There's so much going on up here, it's

crazy [There are a lot of shootings and gang violence]...” MEEKS said, “Alright. I’ll talk to him [supplier] tonight.”

18. On July 11, 2012, CHS had a recorded conversation with MEEKS who was using Meeks Phone 1. During the conversation MEEKS and CHS discussed the price of the firearms. MEEKS stated that the price for everything would be \$12,000 if CHS did not purchase a Colt M4 [brand and type of AR15 style rifle]. Specifically MEEKS said, “It’s 12 for everything if he [customer] don’t want that Colt...He got a Colt M4. It’s supposed to be uh...a Colt AR15, and it was expensive. And he got this one tact’d out [the firearm includes tactical features]. He [firearms supplier] said he’ll let that go but he wanted, uh, 3 [\$3,000] for it.” MEEKS said that he needed to call back his supplier back to see what the final number of firearms that he would be able to bring to Chicago.

19. On July 13, 2012, CHS had a recorded conversation with MEEKS who was using Meeks Phone 1. During the conversation CHS inquired if the transaction was still set to occur the following day. CHS said, “Am I going to see you tomorrow or what?” MEEKS answered, “If y’all ready to do something, yeah, I’m on my way...Let me get on the road this afternoon. It’ll [the firearms transaction] will be firest thing in the morning then. I see y’all bright and early.” CHS asked, “You got to go down to ‘Bama [Alabama], huh?” MEEKS later discussed his firearms supplier, Firearms supplier, and said, “...He is

giving us some good stuff, ain't no junk." CHS interrupted and said, "I want to get me that little..." MEEKS the interrupted CHS and said, "He got that next time." At the end of the conversation, MEEKS informed CHS that he would be in the Chicago area around 8 a.m. the following day.

MEEKS Sells Eight Firearms to CHS in the Northern District of Illinois on July 14, 2013

20. On July 14, 2013, after calls between CHS and MEEKS, who was using MEEKS Phone 1, CHS and MEEKS agreed to meet in a Cook County Forest Preserve in the Northern District of Illinois. FBI searched the CHS and CHS's vehicle for any contraband, including firearms, and after finding none, gave the CHS \$20,000 to purchase the firearms from MEEKS and outfitted the CHS with an audio and video recording device and transmitter.

21. FBI followed CHS to the Forest Preserve and set up surveillance and monitored CHS' transmitter. CHS parked in the parking lot, and MEEKS later drove in and parked next to CHS. MEEKS then got into CHS' car. After a few initial comments between the CHS and MEEKS, CHS took out FBI funds and began to count the money out loud. CHS then gave \$15,000 to MEEKS, but MEEKS said, "Where my three [\$3,000 broker fee] at? Man, this his [Firearms supplier's \$15,000 for the firearms]." CHS said, "Man, you said 15 [\$15,000], man." MEEKS replied, "I said 15[\$15,000] was his. I'm gettin' 3 [\$3,000] fort my delivery fee..." CHS asked, "How many things [firearms] you got?" MEEKS

said, "I got eight. Let me show you man." CHS and MEEKS exited CHS's vehicle and walked to the back of MEEKS' pickup truck. MEEKS told CHS, "This one [a firearm] right here...[worth] 'bout 5 grand [\$5,000] right there...That's an AR15, night scope and everything. Tact'd out, everything." MEEKS picked up another firearm and said, "This one right here...it's got two [optics], sniper...for long distance, it's got two...I ain't got to the machinegun yet...M4 [another firearm AR15 type of rifle], hologram [sight]....[with a] flashlight and laser..." MEEKS then showed another firearm and said, "This a cannon...fifty cal [.50 caliber Beowulf]...That's the AK47 [MEEKS showing an additional firearm to CHS]...[the AK-47 style rifle is a] machine gun, 75 rounds [drum attached to the AK47 style rifle]. Not even, it ain't even legal. 65 round, right there. All that, scope and everything." CHS said, "Big nice pieces [firearms]." MEEKS continued and said, "Hold on, ain't even done yet. We ain't done yet [MEEKS had additional firearms to show CHS that were for sale]." MEEKS pulled out another firearm and said, ".22 [.22 caliber rifle], it's a M-something, I forgot. What it [the rifle] is, is for like urban warfare...It fits about 40 rounds in there [the firearm's magazine]...New in the box [the .22 caliber rifle was new in the box]." MEEKS then continued and said, "Cannon." CHS said, "That's the 50 cal [.50 caliber rifle]....Light, all that [for accessories. I told you, that's why he [firearms supplier] was crying [about the price]. This [firearms]

aren't no junk. I told you it was worth it [the high price in exchange for high quality firearms]." MEEKS then pulled out ammunition and said, "That's the ammo. Now he [firearms supplier] said he get all the ammo on the next trip. He didn't bring none. That's a couple hundred [rounds of ammunition] right there." MEEKS then showed two hand guns and said, "...That's a forty-five [.45 caliber Ruger brand handgun]." CHS asked, "And what's that other one?" MEEKS answered, "That's a Taurus [brand of firearm] forty-five [.45 caliber handgun]."

22. MEEKS and CHS then transferred the firearms from the back of the truck that MEEKS had been driving to the trunk of the car that CHS had been driving. Shortly after, both MEEKS and CHS left the Forest Preserve in their respective vehicles. FBI agents followed CHS and, once back at a predetermined location, FBI agents looked into the trunk of the car and confirmed that eight firearms - (1) a DPMS A15 .223 caliber assault rifle, bearing serial number F214385; (2) a Colt Law Enforcement Carbine 5.56 caliber assault rifle, bearing serial number LE007045; (3) a DPMS Inc., Panther Arms .223 caliber assault rifle, bearing serial number F243996; (4) a Surplus Ammo and Arms, Low15, .50 caliber Beowulf assault rifle, bearing serial number SA18804; (5) a Romarm Cugir GP WASR 10-/63 7.62 caliber assault rifle, bearing serial number SAH-1058-81; (6) a Ruger P345 .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol, bearing serial number 664-50818, (7) a Taurus PT92AF 9 mm semi-automatic pistol, bearing

serial number TAV33590; and (8) a Smith and Wesson M&P 15-22 .22 caliber rifle, bearing serial number DZN1359 - were inside the trunk. CHS also returned \$2,000 of the \$20,000 that FBI agents gave CHS to conduct the gun transaction because the price of the firearms plus MEEKS' fee was only \$18,000.

MEEKS and CHS Negotiate Another Firearms Transaction

23. As CHS and MEEKS had previously discussed, MEEKS agreed to bring additional firearms to Chicago the following week. MEEKS communicated with CHS by phone and text from Meeks Phone 1. For example, on July 14, 2012, at approximately 7:01 p.m., CHS received a text from Meeks Phone 1 that read, "Remind me of what all ammo yall need . He [firearms supplier] said he will bring cases [of ammunition]." Later on July 14, 2012, CHS received another text from Meeks Phone 1 that read, "For sure got 10 m-4's [10 M-4 Machine guns], Fn-57, and if Yall need hand [handguns] let him [firearms supplier] know." The following day, CHS received a text from Meeks Phone 1 that read, "I was just thinking. Do you really want 15 plus [15 or more firearms] when 8 made you quench [CHS was happy with the 8 firearms MEEKS had brought to Chicago on July 14,2012]?" CHS responded to the text on July 21, 2012, that read "Send me the pic and cost :) [send me photographs of available firearms and the price]."

24. On July 21, 2012, at approximately 9:35 p.m., the day after the

shooting at the Aurora, Colorado movie theater that was covered by news media worldwide, CHS received a text from MEEKS that read, “My guy is out just told me atf has flag him.” Therefore, the firearms transaction scheduled for the end of July 2012 did not occur. MEEKS and CHS continued to discuss a future firearms transaction, but MEEKS consistently reported the difficulty he was having finding firearms.

***Demand For Firearms Makes It Difficult
For MEEKS to Find Additional Firearms to Sell to CHS***

25. CHS kept in contact with MEEKS after July 2012. MEEKS updated CHS about his attempts to acquire firearms for CHS, but explained that firearms and ammunition were in high demand in light of certain political dynamics occurring across the nation. For example, on November 12, 2012, CHS had a recorded conversation with MEEKS on Meeks Phone 1, during which MEEKS told CHS, “Hey man, I called the other stud [another firearms supplier], down there and he said they keeping everything [no one is selling firearms]. Ammunition is off the shelf [in high demand], everything. . . . They actin’ ignorant . . . some of that crab because of the election [fearing that firearms, ammunition, and firearms will be banned by President Obama]. They talkin’, that nigga, they ignorant . . . He said let them slow down a little [before conducting another firearms transaction].”

26. Another example occurred on December 6, 2012, when CHS had

another recorded conversation with MEEKS on Meeks Phone 1. CHS said, “I thought we was going to be poppin’ before the holiday.” MEEKS said, “Who you tellin’? Ain’t nothing [no firearms are available]. I talked to my boy the other day, he ain’t got nuttin’. The white boys bought everything up, they ain’t getting’ nuttin’ [they are not buying firearms] . . . gettin’ rid of nuttin’ [they are not selling firearms]. I heard it down here too [in Arkansas]. Dude told me . . . at work the other day I said, ‘Man, I heard that too.’” CHS asked, “What, they ain’t got nuttin’?” MEEKS answered, “No. They ain’t getting’ rid of nuttin’. They . . . bought up everything, bought up all the ammunition, everything on the shelves. . . . Every election they do that. They did it the last time he got elected. They did that, ain’t nothing happen then either. Then they start getting rid of it then. After awhile they can’t hold on to it forever [they will want to start selling firearms again after awhile].” CHS said, “...Yeah they make a drought.”

27. On January 9, 2013, CHS had a recorded conversation with MEEKS who was using Meeks Phone 1. During the conversation MEEKS discussed attempting to obtain firearms in the current gun climate following the Newtown, Connecticut shooting in December of 2012. Specifically MEEKS said, “I went down Alabama, Monday, and I came back last night. Man . . . It is a mess out there [it is hard to obtain firearms in Alabama].” CHS asked, “Is it?” MEEKS continued, “Yeah , they talkin’ ‘bout, ‘Man they buying everything up. Nobody’s

sellin' nuttin'. Obama finnin' to cancel, uh, all the assault stuff [firearms] and their clips [high capacity firearm magazines]. That's what he wants, these clips. So everybody buyin' these clips. So everybody buying every clip they can get. They on backorder, can't even get 'em from a company right now. They on backorder."

28. On February 26, 2013 at approximately 4:49 p.m., CHS received an incoming text message from Meeks Phone 1. The text message informed that one of his firearm suppliers, Firearms supplier, had a Draco AK47 style pistol and an AR15 style rifle for sale. Specifically the message read, "White Power [firearms supplier] got a draco ak47 and a m4... Wants way 2 much [firearms supplier is charging too much money for the firearms]." Later, at approximately 5:14 p.m., CHS received an incoming text message from Meeks Phone 1. CHS received a photo of AK47 Draco style pistol and photo of an AR15 style rifle with a caption that read, "The 47 comes with 530 rds and 3 clips." At approximately 6:26 p.m., Meeks Phone 1 sent a text message with a photograph of a handgun and the caption read, "40 cal." At approximately 7:51 p.m., CHS received another text message from Meeks Phone 1 that read, "Got another one will get pic 2moro."

29. On February 26, 2013 at approximately 8:16 p.m., CHS had a recorded conversation with MEEKS who was using Meeks Phone 1. During the

conversation MEEKS discussed his firearm suppliers. MEEKS said, "Ol' Boy [supplier] just gave me a little text while ago, man...He said, man, people so scared they don't want to get rid of none of that [no one wants to sell firearms]. I said I already know. I look at the news everyday. Uh, I know all that. They, they selling rounds a dollar apiece. Everything went crazy." CHS said, "Yeah but he (UI) just to jack the prices [of firearms] up, man. Man, you know what I'm sayin'...What kind of price he talkin' about?" MEEKS said, "Man they too much. I just thought I'd show it to you 'cause I remember you talking about that, that Draca [CHS previously requested a Draco AK47 style pistol]...I saw that and was like 'Ooo that looks nice'...and he was talkin' about they was talking about he [firearms supplier] wants 2,000 [dollars] just for the Draca [Draco]." CHS said, "But I'm talkin' about a package [several firearms]. Ain't nobody gonna give him no 2,000. It ain't even like that before. He tryin' to going to jack it up [the prices of the firearms] to 1700 dollars, man...He want an extra 700. Come on, man." MEEKS said, "Yup." CHS said, "He [firearms supplier] on some goofy shit." MEEKS said, "Nah, it ain't, it ain't him...I'm tellin' ya, if you check any store, it like that. It ain't him this time. Last time, yeah. He was tryin' to get his [the firearms supplier was trying to make a profit last time]. But this right here, he, he, it's everywhere [prices of firearms are high everywhere]...I even seen on your email some stuff, what they talk about...even

the dealers [FFL dealers] jackin' their stuff up [raising their prices]...because Obama scared everybody with...this new gun law that supposed to come."

30. On April 13, 2013 at approximately 11:39 a.m., CHS had a recorded conversation with MEEKS who was using Meeks Phone 1. MEEKS asked, "So how's those lookin' on the hand [an email that MEEKS sent containing 2 photographs of SKS type rifles]." ⁵ CHS said, "Yeah he [CHS's fictitious customer] liked it [the firearms], he looked at it [the email]." MEEKS said, "Yeah those the ones. He [firearms supplier] had another one, uh but, I had to take that one 'cause it was just [MEEKS thought one of the firearms was nice and intended to keep it for himself], man..." MEEKS continued, "He [firearm supplier] said, 'Strictly cash.' I said ain't nothing but a cash business baby. I said I don't want no information. He said, 'Yup I don't want none from you.'" CHS said, "Mmm hmmm [Yes]." MEEKS said, "Yeah but that's all the ones [firearms] he had right now but the ones we got from Ol' Boy [Firearms supplier], uh he called me the other day talkin' about uh, he said, 'Everything straight?' I said, 'Yeah.' I said, 'We still lookin' for something.' He said, 'Hold on, I may have somethin' to add to that.' He said, 'Let me know.' I said, 'They...want at least 10 [firearms].' I said, 'So you got 10, go hollar at me.' And

⁵ CHS received an email from Meeks' Email Account containing two photographs of SKS assault rifles, with a caption that read, "Two sks - one with 30rd mag and the other takes 10 rds at a time. I think that is 7."

so he said he gonna work on it. He said that because that Obama scare is going down know..." CHS said, "Ok...I'm ready when you ready, man. You know." MEEKS said, "Alright, I'll get you everything in order instead of these tick tock tick tock...everything in order, add it up [prices of all firearms] and see where we at." CHS said, "Alright."

31. On April 25, 2013, CHS had a recorded conversation with MEEKS on Meeks Phone 1. During the conversation, MEEKS told CHS that the firearms were no longer available for sale. MEEKS explained that Firearms supplier got married and, "That's why he probably got rid of that stuff [the firearms described in the preceding paragraph]. He got married." CHS said, "Oh, tell him congratulations in order then, you know what I'm sayin." MEEKS said, "Yeah...he gotta find some more stuff [firearms] for me...I need that [money from the firearms transaction]. We tryin' to get this little house, thing [a new house]." Later in the conversation MEEKS continued to talk about his firearm supplier getting rid of the firearms and said, "...I thought about sayin' somethin' to him, I say [to myself], 'No. He gonna redeem himself [obtain more firearms for MEEKS and CHS], he always do, so, let me see if he redeem himself.' 'Cause I already had that gone [MEEKS already arranged for the sale of those firearms]."

Negotiating A Firearms Transaction for May 29, 2013

32. On May 16, 2013, CHS had a recorded conversation with MEEKS, on Meeks Phone 1. During the conversation, MEEKS informed CHS that he had eight firearms for sale and that he would send pictures of the firearms. Specifically MEEKS said, "I just got couple of those things [firearms], couple over there, I think he [gun supplier] got about, 'bout...eight [8 firearms]. I send you a picture of the one I got today, I got one real nice. I got from each guy [supplier]...Let him [CHS's fictitious customer] look at it [a firearm] and let me know...It's, uh, it's kind of a collector piece [collectable firearm], it's uh...lots of dates and stamps [on the firearm], one stamp is a 'post World War', that's a collector...That's like a 308 [.308 caliber firearm], that's one of them big ol' things [rifles]. Big ol' rounds in that." CHS said, "Send me the pictures, that's all. What are we talking about [for prices of the firearms?]" MEEKS answered, "I don't even know yet. He [MEEKS' firearm supplier] just showed me the pictures to see if I was interested before he bring it down to me..." CHS said, "...Just send me the flicks [photos of the firearms] and break it down [the cost to conduct the transaction]. Let me know what's what . . . We tryin' to do it this weekend or what?" MEEKS said, "Uhh uhh [no] . . . My boy he graduate Monday. We got people comin' down from Chicago....And my boy from Alabama [firearms supplier], he got four [4 firearms]. I'm going four with his, uh...The other stud [another/new firearm supplier] I mess with today and put them [new

supplier's firearms] together [with those being sold by the old firearms' supplier] we get eight [8 firearms total]. And one of them a forty-five [.45 caliber handgun]. I know you gonna want that 'cause that's brand new...it's nice." CHS said, "Ok...send pictures and give me, uh, two days [notice before MEEKS is ready to conduct the transaction]." MEEKS said, "Right on."

33. From May 16, 2013, to May 18, 2013, CHS received multiple emails from Meeks' Email Account that contained photographs of various firearms. Each one of these emails appeared to be forwarded to CHS from an original email sent to Meeks' Email Account from Meeks Phone 1. In one email on May 16, 2013, MEEKS sent a photograph of a firearm with the accompanying message stating that the firearm was a "Bushmaster predator." A second email on May 16, 2013, MEEKS sent two photographs, one of a handgun, and another of several assault rifles. In an email on May 17, 2013, MEEKS sent a photograph of a handgun with an accompanying messages stating that the firearm was a "40 cal glock 27." In another email on May 17, 2013, MEEKS sent a photograph of several other assault rifles with the accompanying message stating that the firearms were "sks, 9mm rifle, 2 Remington, 12guage." In an email on May 18, 2013, MEEKS sent a photograph of a firearm with the accompanying message that the firearm was an "M 4 carbine." In another email on May 18, 2013, MEEKS sent a photograph of another assault rifle with the

accompanying message that “This should be all 13 . . .price coming soon.”

34. On May 23, 2013, CHS has a recorded conversation with MEEKS, who was using Meeks Phone 1. During the conversation, MEEKS agreed to bring the firearms to Chicago and conduct the firearms transaction with CHS on May 29, 2013.

35. Based upon the above information, there is probable cause to believe that MEEKS is unlawfully dealing firearms, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(a)(1), and transferring a firearm to a felon, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(d).

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT

RICK J. STENBERG
Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn to and subscribed to before me on
this 28th Day of May 2013.

SIDNEY I. SCHENKIER
United States Magistrate Judge