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PRESS RELEASE

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BUTTE COUNTY MAN CHARGED WITH FELONY THREATS

A Butte County man, who allegedly threatened to kill several Butte County residents before he planned to travel to Las Vegas and commit a mass shooting, has been charged in court with various felony counts.

Dallas James Marsh, 37, was arraigned in Butte County Superior Court this afternoon on felony complaint charging counts of criminal threats and resisting arrest.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the felony complaint arose from an investigation that began on Monday, September 19, 2022, when the Chico Police Department received calls from a police chief in Tennessee.

The chief reported that an officer from his department had received concerning texts from Marsh threatening mass shooting incidents. That police officer was Marsh's former commanding officer when both men were in the U.S. Army over a decade ago.

The former commander provided screen shots of his text conversations with Marsh. Ramsey said the text messages included a "hit list" of specific people that Marsh intended to kill. The hit list included Marsh's father, a former Chico neighbor of Marsh, two local police officers and several persons the police were not able to positively identify.

Ramsey said Chico police detectives contacted the identified persons on the hit list, including Marsh's father. During an interview with Marsh's parents, the parents disclosed that Marsh had recently stopped taking psychiatric medication and had made detailed and graphic threats toward his father.

Ramsey said the former neighbor threatened by Marsh was also threatened in 2019. Those threats caused Marsh to be convicted and sent to state prison for three years, eight months.

Chico Police detectives also learned Marsh had expressed an abnormal interest in the October 1, 2017 mass shooting in Las Vegas. Detectives learned that Marsh had expressed a plan to kill the persons on his hit list and then travel to Las Vegas with the intent of carrying out a mass shooting on Friday, September 30, 2022, on the eve of the 5th anniversary of the Las Vegas mass shooting incident.

On Sunday, September 25, 2022, the Chico Police SWAT team located and arrested Marsh at a Chico motel. During the arrest, Marsh made several threats to kill the arresting officers and when detectives attempted to interview Marsh in an interview room at the Chico Police Department, Marsh violently shoved a table into the detectives and fought with them. Ramsey said the detectives were able to subdue Marsh without significant injury to Marsh or themselves.

Ramsey said Marsh was a former soldier in the United States Army from 2004 to 2009 and that he was wounded in combat in Iraq. In 2019, Marsh was convicted of making criminal threats to a neighbor and also convicted of evading a peace officer after leading officers on a high-speed pursuit. Marsh was sentenced to state prison. In 2021, instead of being paroled from state prison, Marsh was designated as a "Mentally Disordered Parolee" and transferred to Atascadero State Hospital. It is unknown when Marsh was released from Atascadero State Hospital.

In court today, Marsh was arraigned, appointed a public defender and was remanded without bail due to public safety concerns. He is due to enter a plea to his pending charges tomorrow in court.