

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Middle District of Florida

United States of America

v.

ALEX JARED ZWIEFELHOFER and  
CRAIG AUSTIN LANG

Case No.

2:19-mj-

1098-NPM

Defendant(s)

## CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of April 9, 2018 in the county of Lee in the  
Middle District of Florida, the defendant(s) violated:

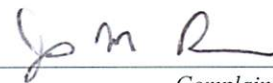
## Code Section

## Offense Description

18 U.S.C. § 1951(a);  
18 U.S.C. §§ 924(c)(1)(A)(iii), (j)(1)  
and (o).1) Conspiracy to Interfere with Commerce by Violence;  
2) Interference with Commerce by Violence;  
3) Conspiracy to Use a Firearm During a Crime of Violence;  
4) Use and Discharge of a Firearm During and in Relation to a Crime of  
Violence, Which Resulted in Murder

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See Attached Affidavit of FBI Special Agent James Roncinske

☒ Continued on the attached sheet.

Complainant's signature

James M. Roncinske, Special Agent, FBI

Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: 8-16-19City and state: Ft. Myers, Florida

Judge's signature

Nicholas P. Mizell, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

2019 AUG 16 PM 5:47  
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
FORT MYERS, FLORIDA

FILED

**AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF A CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

I, James M. Roncinske, hereby depose and state:

1. I am employed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as a Special Agent (SA) and have been so employed since October 1999. As such, I am an investigative law enforcement officer within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 2510(7), that is, I am an officer of the FBI empowered by law to conduct investigations of, and to make arrests for, offenses enumerated in 18 U.S.C. § 2516. I am currently assigned to the FBI's Tampa Division, Fort Myers Resident Agency. Before becoming an FBI Special Agent, I was employed as a police officer for the City of Rochester, New York for nine years.

2. As both a police officer and an FBI Special Agent, I have received extensive training and experience in conducting robbery investigations, and in particular, those that have a Federal nexus such as violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1951 (Interference with Commerce by Violence) and 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1)(A) (Use of a Firearm During and in Relation to a Crime of Violence).

3. This affidavit is based on information personally known to me or provided to me by other law enforcement officers in the course of this investigation. Because it is being submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause, I have not included all of the facts known to me concerning this matter.

4. I submit this affidavit in support of a Criminal Complaint charging and **ALEX JARED ZWIEFELHOFER** ("ZWIEFELHOFER") and **CRAIG AUSTIN LANG** ("LANG") with violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1951(a) (Conspiracy to Commit

Interference with Commerce by Violence); 18 U.S.C. §§ 1951(a) and 2 (Interference with Commerce by Violence); and 18 U.S.C. §§ 924(c)(1)(A)(iii), (j) and (o) (Conspiracy to Use and Carry a Firearm During and In Relation to a Crime of Violence) (Use and Discharge of a Firearm During and in Relation to a Crime of Violence, which caused the death of a person).

5. Based on the information contained herein, probable cause exists to believe that LANG and ZWIEFELHOFER conspired to commit and committed a crime of violence that interfered with interstate commerce, namely robbery, and conspired to use and carry and did use and carry a firearm during and in relation to that crime of violence resulting in the discharge of a firearm that caused the death of a person, in violation of the above-referenced statutes. Specifically, on April 9, 2018, at 9351 Corkscrew Road, Estero, Lee County, Florida, LANG and ZWIEFELHOFER committed an armed robbery of S.L., a 53-year-old male, and his 51-year-old wife D.L., both of Brooksville, Florida, and during the course of the armed robbery, murdered S.L. and D.L. through the use and discharge of firearms. Further, I have probable cause to believe that LANG and ZWIEFELHOFER conspired to commit and committed these crimes to obtain U.S. currency to fund travel to Venezuela to participate in an armed conflict against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

#### **BACKGROUND OF THE DEFENDANTS**

6. LANG is a 29-year-old white male who was born in North Carolina. Department of Defense (DOD) records indicate that LANG entered on duty with the

United States Army on November 25, 2008, and was discharged on June 4, 2014. The FBI's Legal Attache Office in Kyiv, Ukraine, was able to determine from Ukrainian authorities that LANG is currently residing in Ukraine.

7. ZWIEFELHOFER is a 22-year-old white male who was born in Wisconsin. DOD records indicate that ZWIEFELHOFER entered on duty with the United States Army on April 21, 2015, but went Absent Without Leave (AWOL) from the Army on September 27, 2016. The Army discharged ZWIEFELHOFER on February 16, 2018. He is currently in the custody of the United States Marshals Service in Madison, Wisconsin, pending resolution of a separate federal offense brought in the Western District of Wisconsin.

8. In June 2017, LANG and ZWIEFELHOFER came to the attention of authorities at the United States Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, as the two were detained by Kenyan authorities trying to enter the South Sudan. LANG and ZWIEFELHOFER were both eventually deported to the United States.

9. On July 12, 2017, LANG arrived at George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas, where he was interviewed by a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer. LANG told the CBP officer that he had been a soldier and military advisor to the Ukraine Army since 2015. LANG advised the CBP officer that "we" attempted to enter Kenya and the Sudan to help fight along with their military. LANG told the CBP officer they were not allowed in the country (Sudan) because they did not have the proper visa. LANG provided the name of "Alex" as the person he was detained with in Kenya. LANG also advised the CBP officer that

“Alex” was AWOL from the US Army. LANG told the CBP officer he was going to reside with his mother in Surprise, Arizona.

10. On August 1, 2017, ZWIEFELHOFER arrived at the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he was interviewed by an FBI SA and a CBP officer. During this interview, ZWIEFELHOFER provided the following information: In September of 2016, he traveled to France to join the French Foreign Legion (FFL), but soon after left when he learned more about the FFL and its service commitment. ZWIEFELHOFER then traveled to the Ukraine, where he met LANG. According to ZWIEFELHOFER, he and LANG fought with the Right Sector, a volunteer battalion that fought Russian separatists. In 2017, he and LANG traveled to Kenya because they wanted to fight against Al Shaabab.<sup>1</sup> The two subsequently attempted to enter the South Sudan where they were detained by authorities and eventually deported to the United States.

11. While ZWIEFELHOFER was at the Charlotte airport, CBP officers discovered videos on a cellular telephone belonging to ZWIEFELHOFER, which led to an FBI Task Force Officer (TFO) obtaining a search warrant for electronic stored data contained within ZWIEFELHOFER’s cellular telephone. ZWIEFELHOFER was arrested and charged under North Carolina law with five counts of third degree sexual exploitation of a minor, and was booked into the

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<sup>1</sup> Harakat al-Shabaab al-mujahideen, commonly known as al-Shabaab, is a fundamentalist militant group based in East Africa.

Mecklenburg County Jail (MCJ) on August 2, 2017. ZWIEFELHOFER was released on bond on from the MCJ on November 16, 2017. He then returned to his hometown of Bloomer, Wisconsin. The State of North Carolina charges are still pending.

### **INVESTIGATION AND PROBABLE CAUSE**

#### ***a. The Crime Scene***

12. On Monday, April 9, 2018, at 10:55 p.m., the Lee County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) received multiple 911 calls for service in reference to reports of rapid gunfire being heard in the area of Cypress Park Circle, Estero, Florida. LCSO deputies responded to the area in which the shots were heard but did not find anything significant. LCSO deputies searched the immediate area, but ultimately cleared the call for service based upon the fact that they were unable to locate a crime scene.

13. On Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at 7:14 a.m., the LCSO received a 911 call in reference to a deceased person found at 9351 Corkscrew Road, Estero, Florida, a commercial plaza adjacent to the area in which LCSO deputies responded eight hours earlier for the shots-fired calls for service. Upon arrival at the scene, deputies found a red GMC truck, with multiple gunshot defects, parked in the middle of the plaza. During a cursory search of the immediate area, deputies located an obviously deceased male, suffering from multiple gunshot wounds, lying supine on the ground next to the front passenger side tire of the truck. The male decedent was later positively identified as S.L. Deputies also found a female decedent, likewise

suffering from multiple gunshot wounds, sitting in the front passenger seat of the truck. The female decedent was later positively identified as D.L. A query of the truck's registration yielded an address in Brooksville, Florida, approximately a two-and-a-half hour drive north of the homicide scene, which was later determined to be the residence of S.L. and D.L.

14. Due to the nature of the scene, the LCSO's Homicide Unit responded and assumed the investigation. Upon arrival, homicide detectives conducted a walk-through of the scene, noting that on the ground adjacent to S.L. was a brown leather wallet, a Florida Driver's License belonging to S.L., and a bill of sale for a firearms transaction. Based upon the trajectory and precision of the shot groupings at the scene, it appeared that the shooting was perpetrated by at least two suspects; one suspect fired from the rear into the passenger side of the truck where D.L. was seated, and the other suspect fired towards the front passenger side of the truck where S.L. was located.

15. The LCSO's Forensics Unit also responded to assist with documenting the scene, and processing and collecting the evidence. During processing of the scene, Crime Scene Technicians (CSTs) collected upwards of sixty-three spent shell casings to include .9mm and LC 17 rifle casings.

16. On April 11, 2018, at approximately 8:30 a.m., a doctor with the Medical Examiner's Office performed postmortem examinations on both S.L and D.L. During the examination, the doctor noted that S.L. was shot approximately seven times, with multiple gunshot wounds mostly to the head and to the lower body. The doctor



recovered three projectiles from S.L. during the autopsy examination. Additionally, the doctor noted that D.L. was shot approximately eleven times with multiple gunshot wounds to the head, neck, and abdomen. The doctor recovered ten projectiles from D.L. during the examination. The doctor subsequently ruled the causes of death for S.L. and D.L. as homicide from multiple gunshot wounds.

***b. Forensic Examination of Cellular Activity***

17. During the preliminary investigation, a cellular telephone belonging to S.L. was located at the crime scene. After a search warrant was obtained for the electronic contents of the cellular telephone, the contents were downloaded by a LCSO Digital Forensics Specialist. Detectives reviewed the download of the cellular telephone and determined that S.L. and D.L. left Brooksville, Florida just after 7:00 p.m. on April 9, 2018, and traveled down Interstate 75 to the location of the murders. A review of the download indicated that S.L. and D.L. had traveled to Estero for the purpose of meeting least one individual to purchase firearms listed for sale on an Internet website called ARMSLIST. Specifically, a text message thread showing communication between S.L.'s cellular telephone and a cellular telephone number believed to be used by the suspect(s) was initiated on April 9, 2018, at approximately 12:10 a.m., in response to an ARMLIST posting listing a number of firearms for sale.

18. Further investigation revealed that S.L. was regularly engaged in the buying and re-selling of real and personal property for profit, otherwise known as "flipping," and had intended to purchase these firearms and re-sell them for a profit.



On the day of the homicides, S.L. withdrew \$3,000.00 in U.S. currency from his bank account and had brought the currency with him to Estero to purchase the firearms advertised for sale on the above-referenced ARMSLIST posting, which included the following: (One) Gen 4 Glock 17, (One) Gen 3 Glock 17, (One) Gen 3 Glock 17 with Swenson side treaded (One) barrel, (One) Gen 4 Glock 19, (One) G3HK91 Clone – Federal Arms, (One) Uzi Pistol .9mm – Group Industries, (Four) AR15 5.56 11in Pistol Uppers, (Four) AR15 Lowers – Complete Wilson Combat, and (One) Star Pistol .9mm.

19. Based on Detectives' review of S.L.'s cellular telephone communications, it appeared as though the suspect(s) traveled to Estero from out of the area, and changed the location of the meeting with S.L. and D.L. several times prior to luring S.L. and D.L. to the dark and secluded parking lot at 9351 Corkscrew Road. Based on the contents of S.L.'s cellular telephone, as well as a neighborhood canvass that included the callers who had initiated the 911 shots-fired calls-for-service, it is believed that the armed robbery and murders of S.L. and D.L. occurred at approximately 10:55 p.m. on April 9, 2018.

*c. Text Message Communications*

20. Starting at approximately 12:10 a.m. on April 9, 2018, in the early morning hours of the day of the murders, S.L. began communicating by text message with cellular telephone number (786) 747-9856, which was the contact telephone number listed in the above-referenced ARMSLIST posting. The following is a

timeline and summary of the text communications between S.L. the individual(s) using cellular telephone number (786) 747-9856:

**April 9, 2018 – Early morning hours of day of homicide**

12:10 a.m.: A text message was sent from S.L.'s cellular telephone to the suspect cellular telephone (786) 747-9856 inquiring about the availability of the firearms.

12:15 a.m.: A multimedia message from the suspect's cellular telephone to S.L.'s cellular telephone depicting photographs of the guns to purportedly be sold.

1:04 a.m.: A text message was sent from S.L.'s cellular telephone to the suspect's cellular telephone relaying that S.L. could pay cash or with an Oris watch.

1:05 a.m.: A text message from the suspect's cellular telephone to S.L.'s cellular telephone indicated not being interested in the watch.

1:08 a.m.: A text message from the suspect's cellular telephone to S.L.'s cellular telephone indicated the suspect would take \$3,000 if S.L. would meet now as the suspect would be driving from Naples.

1:10 a.m.: A text message was sent from S.L.'s cellular telephone to the suspect's cellular telephone asking the suspect to call S.L. later in the day.

1:11 a.m.: A text message from the suspect's cellular telephone to S.L.'s cellular telephone relayed that the suspect works from 2p to midnight in Naples.

1:14 a.m.: A text message from the suspect's cellular telephone to S.L.'s cellular telephone indicated that the suspect told S.L. his name was Jeremy.

**April 9, 2018 – Morning into afternoon hours of day of homicide**

10:08 a.m.: A text message from the suspect's cellular telephone to S.L.'s cellular telephone that the meeting location will be at 1921 David Blvd, IHOP.

1:59 p.m.: A text message from the suspect's cellular telephone to S.L.'s cellular telephone indicating that he's (the suspect) going to meet someone else for a \$5,000 deal.

2:10 p.m.: A text message was sent from S.L.'s cellular telephone to the suspect's cellular telephone, "I have cash on hand, mine is a sure deal."

3:05 p.m.: A text message was sent from S.L.'s cellular telephone to the suspect's cellular telephone, "did you sell?"

6:38 p.m.: A text message from the suspect's cellular telephone to S.L.'s cellular telephone, "no, he just flaked on me, we cold (sic) meet".

6:41 p.m.: A text message was sent from S.L.'s cellular telephone to the suspect's cellular telephone in which S.L. indicates that he (S.L.) will call him.

6:59 p.m.: A text message was sent from S.L.'s cellular telephone to the suspect's cellular telephone indicating the meeting location would be the Pilot Travel Center in Punta Gorda.

7:00 p.m.: A text message from the suspect's cellular telephone to S.L.'s cellular telephone, "okay."

7:12 p.m.: S.L. and D.L. left Brooksville to travel to meet for the firearms transaction.

8:32 p.m.: A text message from the suspect's cellular telephone to S.L.'s cellular telephone indicates that he (suspect) ran into bad traffic and "we should arrive 10:45p-11p".

8:39 p.m.: A text message was sent from S.L.'s cellular telephone to the suspect's cellular telephone indicating that S.L. should arrive at 9:45 p.m.

9:25 p.m.: A text message from the suspect's cellular telephone to S.L.'s cellular telephone asked if S.L. could meet closer to Naples.

9:42 p.m.: A text message was sent from S.L.'s cellular telephone to the suspect's cellular telephone asking to meet at Loves Travel Shop in North Fort Myers, Exit 143 off of Interstate 75.

10:03 p.m.: A text message from the suspect's cellular telephone to S.L.'s cellular telephone indicates that he (suspect) doesn't live in Naples and only works there. The text message indicates that he's already been on the road 5 hours because he had to drive to Miami and tells S.L. there's a church in Estero. The address of 21115 Design Parc Lane was sent.

10:37 p.m.: S.L.'s cellular telephone called the suspect's cellular telephone.

10:44 p.m.: A text message was sent from S.L.'s cellular telephone to the suspect's cellular telephone that read, "I'm at the church."

10:44 p.m.: S.L.'s cellular telephone called the suspect's cellular telephone.

10:55 p.m.: The LCSO received the 911 shots fired calls.

After 10:55 p.m., there were no further communications from S.L.'s cellular telephone.

*d. The ARMSLIST Posting*

21. On April 11, 2018, a subpoena was served to ARMSLIST in an effort to obtain any information behind the creator of the posting to assist with identifying persons of interest. The ARMSLIST results provided the following information: the posting, labeled Post #8204183, was created on April 7, 2018, in Miami-Dade, Florida, and was associated with an email address: jeremygb8441@gmail.com.

22. Detectives then served a search warrant on Google for information related to the Gmail email address, to include obtaining Internet Protocol (IP) addresses associated with the Gmail account, along with any information that may lead to a residence or identify a suspect. The results showed an IP address associated with the Gmail account in the middle of the bay area of Miami, Florida, the same area that the ARMSLIST posting was created. The result also provided some email records in which the user of jeremygb8441@gmail.com contacted several yacht brokers in the Miami area in order to set up a meeting to view expensive yachts. The emails indicated the meetings to view the yachts were to take place on April 8, 2018.

23. Detectives determined that the telephone service provider (TSP) for cellular telephone number (786) 747-9856, which was used by the individual(s) facilitating the firearms transaction with S.L., was Tracfone Wireless. Tracfone Wireless cellular telephones are prepaid and do not require a subscriber's name. A search warrant was served upon the TSP for records pertaining to telephone number

(786) 747-9856. The cellular telephone number was determined to be a Tracfone SIM card, on the AT&T network, sold through Walmart, as a “Bring Your Own Device” plan.

*e. Identification of Alex Jared ZWIEFELHOFER*

24. An additional search warrant for the suspect’s cellular phone records for number (786) 747-9856 resulted in obtaining an International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number<sup>2</sup> associated with the device used with the Tracfone SIM card (IMEI: 358533051468). Subpoena results from AT&T for IMEI: 358533051468 and the records for this device revealed the subscriber as Alex Jared ZWIEFELHOFER, a white male born in 1997, with email address [AZ4721@gmail.com](mailto:AZ4721@gmail.com). The records further confirmed that the day prior to the homicide, ZWIEFELHOFER was utilizing AT&T phone number (715) 404-0337, on the same IMEI device that was utilized by telephone number (786) 747-9856. An analysis of the records received from the TSP indicated that on April 7, 2018, at 9:40:35 p.m., someone removed the SIM card (which was associated with IMSI<sup>3</sup> number 310410034020606) clearly affiliated with phone number (715) 404-0337, and placed the Tracfone SIM card (which was associated with IMSI number 310410969230354), clearly affiliated with the suspect’s cellular

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<sup>2</sup> The IMEI number is useful to investigations in that it is a 15- to 17-digit code attached to a device that acts as a unique identifier as long as it is associated with a subscriber. The IMEI number associated with a particular device may then be tracked by use of cell towers and GPS coordinates revealing locations of an individual in possession of that device.

<sup>3</sup> IMSI stands for International Mobile Subscriber Identity.

telephone number (786) 747-9856, inside the device that ZWIEFELHOFER was previously utilizing. Records for both ZWIEFELHOFER's personal cellular telephone number ((715) 404-0337) and (786) 747-9856 were then placed into CellHawk, a software program used to generate geolocations of cellular activity from specific cellular telephone towers in an area, ultimately revealing the approximate whereabouts of the device by way of "pings." In doing so, it was determined during the time of the SIM card switch on April 7, 2018, at 9:40:35 p.m., ZWIEFELHOFER's personal cellular telephone ((715) 404-0337) pinged at the same location as (786) 747-9856 did twenty minutes later, at 10:00:59 p.m. The location of both pings, in the same geolocation, placed the one common phone (IMEI: 358533051468) using the two different SIM cards in Miami, Florida.

25. S.L.'s cellular telephone records and the records for (786) 747-9856 were also entered into CellHawk. This revealed that both S.L.'s cellular telephone and (786) 747-9856 pinged near the homicide scene during the time of the shots fired call for service on April 9, 2018. Telephone records also showed that S.L.'s cellular telephone was used to make a short voice call to (786) 747-9856 at 10:46 p.m. Location data indicated that S.L.'s phone and (786) 747-9856 were pinged inside the homicide scene just prior to shots being heard.

26. LCSO detectives served a search warrant on Google and Facebook for ZWIEFELHOFER's personal Gmail account, AZ4721@gmail.com, and Facebook account in order to determine with whom ZWIEFELHOFER was communicating leading up to, during the commission of, and after the homicide; what

ZWIEFELHOFER's search histories indicated; and any information further linking ZWIEFELHOFER to the armed robbery and murders of S.L. and D.L.

*f. Identification of Craig Austin LANG*

27. Upon receipt of the records from Google and Facebook, it was determined that ZWIEFELHOFER was communicating frequently, as well as making travel arrangements to Miami, Florida, with LANG. LANG was found to be using cellular telephone number (480) 678-7349, which records showed was in communication with ZWIEFELHOFER's personal cellular telephone number ((715) 404-0337). A search warrant was also served on LANG's TSP and Facebook account. Through further research into the social media and phone records, detectives discovered that ZWIEFELHOFER and LANG began their travels to Florida just prior to the homicides and ultimately traveled to Miami, Florida on April 5, 2018 (just four days prior to the armed robbery and murders). Through these records, detectives concluded that ZWIEFELHOFER and LANG would mainly communicate through Facebook Messenger.

28. Beginning around mid-March of 2018, Facebook Messenger messages showed that both ZWIEFELHOFER and LANG planned to travel to Florida together. During their communications, ZWIEFELHOFER and LANG discussed checking out a military surplus store in Miami, purchasing body armor, committing robberies, hotwiring and stealing boats and/or a yacht, escaping to South America or Ukraine and smuggling firearms and ammunition. ZWIEFELHOFER and LANG sent photographs of firearms back and forth to one another. Additionally, a message



to ZWIEFELHOFER from LANG indicated they would have .9mm ammunition with them as well as Glock 17 magazines. The Glock 17 is a semi-automatic handgun that fires .9mm ammunition; .9mm ammunition was found at the murder scene. Glock 17s were listed for sale on the ARMSLIST posting.

29. LANG also made several comments on his Facebook account that his mother would be driving him from her residence in Surprise, Arizona, to North Carolina, where she was relocating. Beginning on or about March 24, 2018, LANG's personal cellular telephone ((480)-678-7349) pinged through the State of Arizona, and pings showed LANG's cellular telephone traveling down to Texas, through Louisiana, into Alabama, and over to North Florida. On April 4, 2018, LANG then communicated through Facebook that he had obtained a Greyhound bus ticket. Greyhound records showed that LANG was to depart at 6:00 a.m. on April 4, 2018 from Orlando, Florida and travel to Miami, Florida. An analysis of LANG's phone pings show that his cellular telephone ((480)-678-7349) traveled as described above and placed him in the Orlando area during the time he was set to depart on the Greyhound bus for Miami.

30. ZWIEFELHOFER noted in his Facebook communications that he took a Greyhound bus from Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota, and traveled to Miami on April 5, 2018. ZWIEFELHOFER was residing in Bloomer, Wisconsin, at the time of his travel. Minneapolis/St. Paul is the nearest major metropolitan area to Bloomer, Wisconsin. An analysis of ZWIEFELHOFER's phone pings ((715) 404-0337) during this time period showed ZWIEFELHOFER's cellular telephone traveling through

Wisconsin, Illinois (Chicago), Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee (Nashville), down to Georgia (Atlanta) and into the North Florida area.

31. Detectives learned through a review of the records that ZWIEFELHOFER and LANG continued their communication during their bus travels, and on April 4, 2018, Facebook messages between ZWIEFELHOFER and LANG reflected their arrival times in Florida as well as coordination of their routes to make sure they were on the same bus once their stops placed them both in Florida.

32. On April 4, 2018, LANG communicated to ZWIEFELHOFER that he (LANG) was in possession of ammunition in his travel bag and was fearful the police K-9s at his bus stop were going to sniff it out. Later that day, phone pings and call detail records of ZWIEFELHOFER's and LANG's respective cellular telephones placed them together at 205 S. Tamarind Avenue, West Palm Beach, Florida, the location of the Greyhound Station. ZWIEFELHOFER's and LANG's communications then indicated they were on the same bus headed for their final destination: Miami, Florida.

33. Beginning on April 5, 2018, through the afternoon of April 9, 2018, prior to the (786) 747-9856 phone pings showing the travel from Miami to Estero, Florida, LANG's cellular telephone ((480) 678-7349) and ZWIEFELHOFER's cellular telephone ((715) 404-0337), pinged frequently together in the vicinity of the La Quinta Inn, 7401 NW 36<sup>th</sup> Street, Miami, Florida. Records received from the La Quinta Inn showed that LANG checked into the hotel on April 5, 2018, at 7:12 a.m., and was assigned room 210 for two guests under reservation number 478789. The hotel records

further revealed that LANG presented his photo identification, which was scanned during the hotel registration process by the manager, and that LANG provided his email address, his credit card for payment, and cellular telephone number as (480) 678-7349, matching the cellular telephone number he was in possession of during the timeframe leading up to the homicides. Photographs observed on both ZWIEFELHOFER and LANG's Facebook Messenger communications showed them wearing tropical shirts while taking "selfies" inside what appeared to be a hotel room with distinct purple, black, and white décor. LCSO detectives obtained an interior photograph of the La Quinta hotel room that LANG rented. The photograph of the hotel room rented by LANG matched the interior of the room depicted in the images posted by ZWIEFELHOFER and LANG on their Facebook accounts during the time period that the hotel room was rented to LANG.

34. Records show that on April 7, 2018, LANG's cellular telephone number ((480) 678-7349), ZWIEFELHOFER's personal cellular telephone number ((715) 404-0337) and the suspect number (786) 747-9856 (using one common IMEI), all pinged in the same location, placing the two telephones (the telephone using (480) 678-7349 and the telephone using (715) 404-0337 and later (786) 747-7349) at the La Quinta Inn. I believe that during the evening of April 7, ZWIEFELHOFER removed the SIM card for number (715) 404-0337 from his personal cellular telephone and inserted the Tracfone SIM card for number (786) 747-9856, as the (786) 747-9856 number thereafter began to ping as it traveled alongside LANG's cellular telephone for the remainder of that day. The pings indicated that LANG's cellular telephone and (786)

747-9856 were pinging in the same area in Miami, including near an Army Surplus Store (previously referenced in ZWIEFELHOFFER's and LANG's Facebook communications concerning them purchasing Ruck Sacks, ammunition, and body armor) as well as the Miami bay area, where various yachting businesses were located.

35. On April 8, 2018, LANG's cellular telephone pinged alongside (786) 747-9856 as the pings traveled towards the bay area again. Email records for the jeremygb8441@gmail.com account, which was associated with the ARMSLIST posting, show that this was the same day the individual(s) using that email address contacted several yacht brokers to meet for a boat tour.

36. Notably, LANG's Facebook records showed photographs posted to LANG's Facebook account that were an exact match of photographs sent by (786) 747-9856 to S.L.'s cellular telephone during the time they were communicating about the firearms transaction. One particular photograph depicted what appeared to be an Army green Glock Gen 3, which was listed as for sale on the ARMSLIST posting.

37. ZWIEFELHOFFER's Google records showed he searched for the following key phrases during the timeframe that he and LANG were in Miami prior to the SIM card switch and prior to the murders: Miami ARMSLIST, Classified Miami Handguns, Hotwire Boat Ignition Switch, Cheapest Hotels Miami, How to Smuggle Myself to South America, as well as multiple searches of videos to include a particular scene from a movie in which subjects were shown inside a vehicle and then ambushed by multiple shooters. A review of this video was important in that the

homicide scene in Estero, Florida was consistent with the tactical approach of the shooters and the trajectory of the gunshot defects depicted in the movie.

38. On April 9, 2018, both LANG's cellular telephone and (786) 747-9856 continued to ping together in the Miami area until later that evening. At approximately 7:00 p.m., (786) 747-9856 began to travel; LANG's cellular telephone was presumably turned off at this time as there was no call, text, or ping activity. At approximately 7:48 p.m., (786) 747-9856 began to ping as it traveled out of Miami and headed west towards Southwest Florida. A text message from (786) 747-9856 to S.L.'s cellular telephone at 8:48 p.m. read, "WE should arrive 10:45p-11:00p" (emphasis added). The (786) 747-9856 number continued to ping along Alligator Alley (the section of Interstate 75 between Broward County and Collier County) into Naples, arriving near the Corkscrew Road exit for Estero just before 10:00 p.m., approximately forty-five minutes before the scheduled meeting. S.L.'s cellular telephone pings coincide with the (786) 747-9856 pings as the phones traveled simultaneously to the scene of the homicide from their respective starting locations. A text message from (786) 747-9856 to S.L.'s cellular at 10:03 p.m. indicated that the final meet location would be 21115 Design Parc Lane at a church in Estero. At 10:37 p.m., S.L.'s cellular telephone made a voice call to (786) 747-9856. Seven minutes later, S.L.'s cellular telephone sent a text message to (786) 747-9856: "I'm at the church." S.L.'s cellular telephone then made a voice call to (786) 747-9856 at 10:44 p.m., with the call lasting for only a few seconds. Nine minutes later, multiple 911 callers adjacent to this area heard a volley of gunfire and called 911. At 10:46 p.m., both (786) 747-9856 and S.L.'s

cellular telephone pinged inside in the area of the homicide scene. Ten minutes after shots were heard, (786) 747-9856 pinged traveling southbound from the Estero exit near Bonita Beach Road, which was one exit south from the homicide scene. The (786) 747-9856 then showed a constant ping for approximately forty (40) minutes in that area before all activity and ping data ceased. S.L.'s phone had no further communications after the volley of gunfire.

39. In addition to the above, LCSO detectives have been able to corroborate through other evidence that ZWIEFELHOFER and LANG both traveled from their respective residences to Miami, Florida, and were together in Miami, Florida, during the relevant time frame. ZWIEFELHOFER's and LANG's Facebook communications also stated that they would be in possession of firearms in Miami and would commit robberies and kill a yacht owner, if necessary.

40. ZWIEFELHOFER's and LANG's personal cellular telephone call detail records also indicated that during the time period from April 5, 2018 through April 9, 2018, they were in communication with telephone numbers subscribed to by their family, friends, and close associates, indicating that they (ZWIEFELHOFER and LANG) were the ones using their respective cellular telephones during this time period, and no one else.

41. As mentioned above, S.L.'s bank records reflect that he withdrew \$3,000 in U.S. currency on or about April 9, 2018, which was the final price agreed upon by S.L. and the individual(s) using (786) 747-9856 for the purported sale of the firearms listed on ARMSLIST. The \$3,000 in currency that S.L. and D.L. brought with them

for the firearms transaction in Estero was not found at the scene, giving rise to probable cause that the murders were committed in furtherance of a robbery, which interfered with commerce by violence.

*g. Social Media*

42. Upon reviewing Facebook records related to ZWIEFELHOFER and LANG obtained via search warrants, LCSO detectives saw that ZWIEFELHOFER posted a partial photograph to his Facebook account of a Greyhound boarding pass dated April 2, 2018, indicating the location of origin to be Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the destination to be Miami, Florida. As noted above, Minneapolis is the closest major city to Bloomer, Wisconsin, where ZWIEFELHOFER was residing.

43. LCSO detectives also found in the records several photographs posted on April 6, 2018, just three days prior to the murders, of both ZWIEFELHOFER and LANG wearing “Hawaiian” style shirts. LANG appeared to take a “selfie” photograph wearing a white short-sleeve, button down t-shirt with navy and light blue hibiscus flowers and leaves printed throughout. In the same photograph of LANG, in the background lying on the bed behind him, is a black “Hawaiian” style shirt containing yellow, pink, red, and green martini glasses. On the same date, a photograph of ZWIEFELHOFER was posted to ZWIEFELHOFER’s Facebook page of ZWIEFELHOFER wearing the black “Hawaiian”-style martini glass shirt which was in the background of LANG’s photograph. ZWIEFELHOFER sent this photograph to an associate with whom he was communicating with in reference to ZWIEFELHOFER being in Miami, Florida.



44. LCSO detectives were able to observe the room that LANG rented at the La Quinta Inn located at 7401 NW 36<sup>th</sup> Street, Miami, Florida. The room's interior décor appears to match the background of the photograph depicting ZWIEFELHOFER wearing the "Hawaiian"-style martini glass shirt sent via Facebook.

*h. Interview of Lang's Associate and Additional Travel Records*

45. On May 21, 2019, LCSO detectives traveled to a prison in Missouri where they interviewed an associate of LANG's (hereinafter referred to as M.S.M.). M.S.M. served in the U.S. Army with LANG. According to M.S.M., sometime around August of 2018, M.S.M. met LANG at a mutual friend's residence in St. Louis, Missouri. LANG told M.S.M. that LANG gunned down some people in Miami, Florida. LANG told M.S.M. that he had been in Florida with some guy who is from Wisconsin. LANG told M.S.M. that he and the other guy unloaded both of their clips into the "dude's" red truck. LANG showed M.S.M. a news article on LANG's cellular telephone about a murder. LANG told M.S.M. that he and the other guy from Wisconsin traveled from Florida to Washington state after the shooting. M.S.M. told detectives that LANG told him that LANG had hidden two of the handguns used in the murder, a Glock 17 and Glock 19, in his mother's house in North Carolina. M.S.M. advised that LANG later traded the handguns to an individual in North Carolina in exchange for the individual's personal identification information. M.S.M. told detectives that M.S.M. was supposed to go to Miami with LANG to be part of a group that was to travel by boat overseas. M.S.M. did not go

to Miami because M.S.M. was arrested on April 2, 2018 on an outstanding warrant. Upon M.S.M. being released from custody, he and LANG traveled together from Missouri to North Carolina in August 2018. M.S.M. and LANG later traveled separately to Bogota, Colombia. LANG told M.S.M. that LANG was going to join combat forces opposed to the Venezuelan government. M.S.M. advised that LANG was going to join a Venezuelan resistance group. M.S.M. told detectives the resistance group LANG joined was able to obtain firearms from law enforcement in Bogota. M.S.M. advised that the resistance group had a safe house in the mountains of Cucuta, Colombia. The group planned to cross into Venezuela and fight against the Venezuelan government. LANG got on a bus to travel to Cucuta for the purpose of traveling to Venezuela to engage in combat against the Government of Venezuela. According to M.S.M., he left LANG in Bogota because M.S.M. did not want to kill people.

46. Based on my training and experience, I know that CBP maintains a database of travelers who enter the United States via international airports from foreign countries. This database also contains records of travelers who depart the United States from international airports for foreign countries. I also know that CBP has liaison relationships with certain foreign customs agencies and shares travel records with these agencies. A Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) SA provided information to me indicating that there was a record showing LANG departed Mexico City, Mexico, for Bogota, Colombia, on September 25, 2018. There was also a record that LANG thereafter departed from Colombia on November 23, 2018, for

Madrid, Spain. HSI advised that the CBP has no record of LANG re-entering the United States after his departure from Mexico to Colombia. A review of a social media account associated with LANG indicates that he is currently in Ukraine.

47. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is a sovereign nation located in South America. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela borders Colombia to the west. Cucuta, Colombia, is a city in Colombia located near the border of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The United States is at peace with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

48. A LCSO Crime Analyst determined from a commercial database that LANG conducted a pawn transaction involving firearm receivers at Palace Jewelry and Loan, 1420 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Seattle, Washington, on May 23, 2018. At my request, FBI SAs in Seattle went to Palace Jewelry and Loan to interview employees and obtain records pertaining to this pawn transaction. On May 10, 2019, FBI SAs went to this location and determined that LANG sold three firearm receivers to Palace Jewelry and Loan on May 23, 2018. LANG sold two lower rifle receivers and one upper rifle receiver. A lower rifle receiver connects to the upper receiver and includes the trigger group, buffer tube, magazine release, safety selector, bolt catch and all other necessary components. An upper rifle receiver is the part that consists of the barrel, forend, bolt carrier group and charging handle. The upper receiver attaches to the rifle's lower receiver to form a fully functional rifle. All of the receivers were 5.56 caliber. This caliber is consistent with the rifle rounds that were fired at the scene of the murders. In addition, FBI SAs determined that LANG sold 671 rounds of 5.56

caliber ammunition on May 23, 2018, to Palace Jewelry and Loan. The ammunition LANG sold was still at Palace Jewelry and Loan when FBI SAs interviewed employees. Palace Jewelry and Loan voluntarily turned the ammunition over to the FBI. The ammunition casings were stamped LC 17, which is the same stamp found on the expended rifle casings at the scene of the murders. Palace Jewelry and Loan sold the firearm receivers purchased from LANG to several different individuals. The FBI was able to locate the different purchasers in three different states. The three firearm receivers are now in the possession of law enforcement.

*i. Search of ZWIEFELHOFER's Residence*

49. While residing in Bloomer, Wisconsin, on March 25, 2019, ZWIEFELHOFER attempted to purchase a firearm by filling out a Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) Form 4473 during the attempted purchase at Tilden Gun, 12427 98<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin 54729. ZWIEFELHOFER listed his Bloomer, Wisconsin address on the form. Based on ZWIEFELHOFER's response to question(s) on the form, on May 15, 2019, a federal grand jury in the Western District of Wisconsin indicted ZWIEFELHOFER for knowingly making a false statement and representation to Tilden Gun, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(a)(1)(A), Case Number 3:19-cr-00057-jdp.

50. On May 21, 2019, United States Magistrate Judge Stephen L. Crocker, Western District of Wisconsin, authorized a search warrant for the search of ZWIEFELHOFER's residence in Bloomer, Wisconsin.

51. On May 23, 2019, FBI personnel executed the search warrant at ZWIEFELHOFER's residence. FBI personnel located a "Hawaiian"-style martini glass shirt located in ZWIEFELHOFER'S bedroom closet, which shirt appeared identical to the one worn by ZWIEFELHOFER in the selfie photograph that was most likely taken in a room located within the La Quinta Inn in Miami, Florida. FBI personnel also located a Dell Inspiron laptop computer on the floor of ZWIEFELHOFER's bedroom near the bed and seized it pursuant to the search warrant. The Dell Inspiron laptop was logged into evidence in the FBI's Milwaukee Office, then sent to the FBI's office in Tampa, Florida, and then onto the FBI's Office in Fort Myers.

52. On May 23, 2019, ZWIEFELHOFER was arrested by ATF agents in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin pursuant to the indictment issued in the Western District of Wisconsin for knowingly making a false statement on an ATF Form 4473.

53. After his arrest, law enforcement officers transported ZWIEFELHOFER to the Eau Claire, Wisconsin Police Department, where I and LCSO Detective Sarah Rodriguez met with ZWIEFELHOFER in an interview room and conducted a post-*Miranda* interview of him. The interview was recorded by a video recording system. ZWIEFELHOFER freely and voluntarily provided the following information to me and Detective Rodriguez: In 2016, ZWIEFELHOFER traveled to the Ukraine to fight as a combatant for a foreign paramilitary group in the Eastern part of the Ukraine. There, ZWIEFELHOFER met LANG as LANG was in the Ukraine fighting for this same paramilitary group. In 2017, ZWIEFELHOFER traveled with LANG to Africa,

where they were detained by African authorities and both eventually deported to the United States. ZWIEFELHOFER admitted to traveling to Florida from Minnesota via Greyhound bus in April of 2018. ZWIEFELHOFER also advised that LANG traveled from Arizona to Florida in April of 2018. ZWIEFELHOFER stated that he and LANG met in Florida and the two traveled aboard a Greyhound bus bound for Miami, Florida. LANG brought firearms, firearm magazines and ammunition with him from Arizona. ZWIEFELHOFER advised that he and LANG had planned to take a boat from Miami to Venezuela to fight the Venezuelan government. LANG transported the firearms and ammunition with him from Arizona for ZWIEFELHOFER and LANG to use in combat in Venezuela.

54. ZWIEFELHOFER further advised that he and LANG stayed at the La Quinta Inn in Miami, and that LANG had rented a room for them at the La Quinta Inn. ZWIEFELHOFER indicated that the two ran out of money after a short period of time and could no longer afford the room at the La Quinta Inn. ZWIEFELHOFER stated that he and LANG had to leave the motel and stay overnight in a public dog park in Miami. ZWIEFELHOFER advised that the park's sprinkler system came on while the two were in the park causing ZWIEFELHOFER's cellular telephone to become wet. ZWIEFELHOFER stated that his cellular telephone was damaged by the water, so he went to a Walmart in the Miami area and obtained another cellular telephone. ZWIEFELHOFER could not recall the telephone number of the cellular telephone he brought with him to Florida from Wisconsin. ZWIEFELHOFER also could not recall the telephone number of the cellular telephone he purchased in Miami.

However, ZWIEFELHOFER denied traveling to Southwest Florida during his stay in Florida in April of 2018. ZWIEFELHOFER advised that he had communicated with LANG since returning to Wisconsin after having traveled to Florida. ZWIEFELHOFER admitted to using the email address, [AZ4721@gmail.com](mailto:AZ4721@gmail.com) in the past. ZWIEFELHOFER claimed he was locked out of this email account some time ago and had not been able to use it.

55. On May 23, 2019, LCSO detectives and an FBI TFO interviewed J.Z. in Bloomer, Wisconsin, with whom ZWIEFELHOFER was residing. J.Z. voluntarily provided the following information: ZWIEFELHOFER returned to Bloomer after being released from jail in North Carolina. ZWIEFELHOFER left Bloomer and went to Florida with his friend “Craig.” ZWIEFELHOFER, “Craig” and others were supposed to take a boat to Venezuela to fight in combat. ZWIEFELHOFER’s and “Craig’s” plan to travel to Venezuela and fight in combat did not work out because the boat captain got murdered.

*j. Bank and Rental Car Records*

56. I obtained records from Bank of America pertaining to a checking account number ending in 6026 held by LANG. The debit card number associated with this account ended in 1022. I noted a debit card transaction dated April 7, 2018, for Inveradrian Rent a Car, Miami, Florida, in the amount of \$165.00, as well as a debit card transaction dated April 7, 2018, in the amount of \$53.88, at a Walmart store located at 8651 Northwest 13<sup>th</sup> Terrace, Doral, Florida, which is located approximately three miles from the La Quinta Inn, 7401 NW 36<sup>th</sup> Street, Miami.



57. On May 30, 2019, an FBI TFO and LCSO detectives went to Miami and obtained records from Inveradrian Rent a Car, including a Rental Agreement indicating that LANG rented a Toyota Corolla, Florida license plate number DIY-U73 on April 7, 2018, and returned it on April 10, 2018. The rented Toyota Corolla was delivered to LANG at the La Quinta Inn, 7401 NW 36<sup>th</sup> Street, Miami. On May 31, 2019, I met with an employee of Inveradrian Rent a Car in Miami and observed the Toyota Corolla, Florida license plate number DIY-U73. The Toyota Corolla was a four-door car and red in color. I observed that there was a SunPass transponder, with transponder number 1467345801, affixed to the interior windshield of the Toyota Corolla. Inveradrian Rent a Car confirmed that this same SunPass transponder was in the red Toyota Corolla during the time period that the car was rented to LANG in April 2018.

58. I then obtained records from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for the aforementioned SunPass transponder and red Toyota Corolla. The records indicate that the aforementioned SunPass transponder and Toyota Corolla traveled on Everglades Parkway West (Interstate 75-Alligator Alley Westbound) on April 9, 2018, at 7:57 p.m. The FDOT records indicate the aforementioned SunPass transponder and Toyota Corolla traveled on Everglades Parkway East (Interstate 75-Alligator Alley Eastbound) on April 9, 2018, at 11:59 p.m. The murders of S.L. and D.L are believed to have been committed on April 9, 2018, at approximately 10:55 p.m. The times and locations of the cellular telephone pings for the suspect phone number (786) 747-9856 on April 9, 2018, as described in detail above in this affidavit,

are consistent with the times and locations of travel depicted in the SunPass transponder records.

59. I also obtained records from Walmart related to the purchase made on April 7, 2018, at the Walmart in Doral, Florida, in the amount of \$53.38, with the debit card number associated with LANG's Bank of America account. Walmart provided records indicating this debit card was used to purchase a Tracfone SIM card, Phone Card Activation number 8407980000002008315755, on April 7, 2018, at 7:38 p.m. at the Walmart store located in Doral, Florida.

60. Records that I obtained from Tracfone Wireless showed that the SIM card associated with telephone number (786) 747-9856 is the Tracfone SIM card purchased with LANG's debit card at the Walmart in Doral on April 7, 2018, as the Serial Mobile PIN Number matches the last ten digits of the Phone Card Activation number (2008315755) indicated in the Walmart records.

61. Further, the electronic stored data on the Dell Inspiron laptop computer that was recovered from ZWIEFELHOFER's bedroom during the search warrant was examined by an FBI Computer Analysis Response Team Field Examiner (FE) pursuant to the search warrant. Within the Dell Inspiron laptop computer, the FE found electronic stored data that indicated the computer was used to create ARMSLIST posting #8204183 on April 7, 2018. The electronic stored data also indicated that the name "ALEX ZWIEFELHOFER" was searched numerous times using the Internet search site Google, and that someone used the computer to access a Facebook account in the name of Jeremy Goldstein. The profile picture of the

“Jeremy Goldstein” Facebook account is a photograph of ZWIEFELHOFER, the background of which appears to be the La Quinta Hotel room where he and LANG stayed in Miami. Among other things, the electronic stored data of the Dell Inspiron laptop computer also showed that someone drafted a book about “CRAIG’s” life, which mentioned travel to the Ukraine.

### **CONCLUSION**

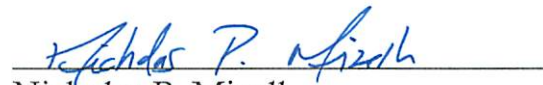
62. Based on the information contained herein, I respectfully submit that there is probable cause to believe that **ALEX JARED ZWIEFELHOFER** and **CRAIG AUSTIN LANG** violated 18 U.S.C. § 1951(a) (Conspiracy to Commit Interference with Commerce by Violence); 18 U.S.C. §§ 1951(a) and Section 2 (Interference with Commerce by Violence); and 18 U.S.C. §§ 924(c)(1)(A)(iii), (j) and (o) (Conspiracy to Use and Carry a Firearm During and In Relation to a Crime of Violence) (Use and Discharge of a Firearm During and in Relation to a Crime of Violence, which caused the death of a person).

WHEREFORE, I respectfully request that this Court authorize a Criminal Complaint for the arrest of **ALEX JARED ZWIEFELHOFER** and **CRAIG AUSTIN LANG** for the above violations of Federal law.

This completes my affidavit.

  
James M. Roncinske  
Special Agent  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn and subscribed to me on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2019.

  
Nicholas P. Mizell  
United States Magistrate Judge  
Middle District of Florida  
Fort Myers Division