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Weld deputies seize 10 firearms, arrest one on suspicion of recklessly shooting from car

Weld County Sheriff's Office deputies arrested a man earlier this week on suspicion of recklessly shooting several different firearms from his car while driving on the south end of the county.

Jeremy Combs, 25, of Fort Collins, was arrested Monday and booked into the Weld County Jail on suspicion of one count of possession of an illegal weapon, a felony, as well as misdemeanor charges of reckless endangerment, unlawfully carrying a concealed weapon and prohibited use of a weapon. He has since been released from jail on \$2,000 bond.

The charges stem from about 9:45 p.m. Monday when deputy Stephen Del Negro responded to a report of shots fired in the 23100 block of Weld County Road 7 in unincorporated Weld County east of Longmont. The caller told dispatchers someone had fired several rounds from a white or silver sedan as it drove south on Weld 7.

When Del Negro arrived at the scene, he spoke to the caller who said he believed the vehicle was made by a foreign manufacturer and that it had a modified exhaust system. Del Negro went out to Weld 7 to search for evidence, locating seven spent 5.56-caliber shell casings and one spent 9mm shell casing. The casings were found in the southbound lane and on the shoulder about 100 yards from the caller's house.

After recovering the evidence, Del Negro decided to remain in the area in the event the suspected vehicle returned. Shortly before 11 p.m., Del Negro was passed by a silver Lexis sedan with a modified exhaust driving north on Weld 7. Del Negro observed the vehicle not come to a complete stop at Colo. 66 and initiated a traffic stop.

Deputy Brian Hammond responded to the area to assist with the traffic stop. When he and Del Negro approached the car, Hammond said he could see an AR-15-style rifle in plain sight on the rear passenger floorboard, as well as a magazine on the rear seat.

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The deputies ordered all three occupants out of the car, including the driver, later identified as Combs, and his two passengers, Stephon Taylor and Jonathon Elrod. When asked by Del Negro, Combs admitted to firing his guns in the air while driving near Weld roads 7 and 28.

Deputies searched Combs, finding a handgun concealed in the pocket of his hooded sweatshirt. In addition to the rifle and the handgun, deputies also located eight more firearms in the trunk.

Combs told deputies he owned all the guns and he was the only one who fired them. He was subsequently arrested. Taylor and Elrod were cited with reckless endangerment. They were taken to a nearby gas station where they waited for a ride and were released.

The sheriff's office received similar reports of a vehicle firing weapons from a moving car on April 2 and April 5 in the area of Weld 1 and Colo. 66. Deputies recovered one spent 9mm shell casing in their investigation into those two incidents. Detectives continue to investigate whether Combs is connected to those earlier reports.

Anyone with information regarding this or any other crime is asked to call the Weld County Sheriff's Office at (970) 356-4015 or Northern Colorado Crime Stoppers at **1-800-222-TIPS** (8477). Tips can also be submitted through the Crime Stoppers website at www.crimeshurt.com. Those submitting tips through Crime Stoppers that lead to the arrest and filing of charges on a suspect(s) may be eligible for a cash reward.

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Steve Reams - Sheriff