

Continuation of Criminal Complaint

1. I make this affidavit from personal knowledge based on my participation in this investigation, including witness interviews by myself and/or other law enforcement agents, communications with others who have personal knowledge of the events and circumstances described herein, and information gained through my training and experience. The information outlined below is provided for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause and does not contain all details or all facts of which I am aware relating to this investigation.
2. I have been employed as a Special Agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives since June of 1990. Prior to becoming a Special Agent, I was employed as a Deputy Sheriff with the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department for approximately two and one half (2 ½) years. I have been involved in numerous investigations involving violations of Federal firearms and narcotics laws.
3. I am currently investigating **Rodney Vernon CONN**, a white male born in 1947, who maintained a last known address on Balsam Street in Kingsford, Michigan. This residence is in Dickinson County, which is in the Western District of Michigan, Northern Division.
4. On March 6, 2016, the Iron Mountain Police Department received a phone call from Shawn Bleicher at [known address] Kewaskum Street in Iron Mountain. This residence is also in Dickinson County. Bleicher stated that CONN was at his house 4 to 5 days prior and that he and CONN had a conversation about firearms. Bleicher advised CONN admitted to owning an AK-47 rifle that he had made some modifications to, and said he would go home to get it so Bleicher could look at it. Bleicher stated CONN left and returned a short time later with the AK-47 rifle. Bleicher stated CONN told him he would leave it so Bleicher could look it over. Bleicher ended up securing this rifle in his gun locker. Bleicher said he mentioned these events to his wife. His wife stated that she believed CONN was a convicted felon and didn't think he could possess firearms. Bleicher stated he then became concerned and refused to release this firearm to CONN on a later date, when CONN returned to pick up his firearm. On March 6, 2016, Iron Mountain Police Officer Solka went to the Bleicher residence and retrieved this rifle, as well as 40 rounds of 7.62x39mm ammunition.
5. On March 24, 2016, I received the aforementioned firearm and ammunition from the Iron Mountain Police Department. The firearm is further described as a Romarm/Cugir, Model GP WASR 10/63,

7.62x39mm rifle, serial number 1973ET2731. This firearm was examined by the Michigan State Police Crime Lab and test shots were taken for the NIBIN database. This firearm functioned as designed.

6. During the month of March 2016, I researched CONN's criminal record. CONN has (a) a 1994 Felony conviction for Armed Burglary in Broward County Florida on docket number 947633CF10, and (b) a 2013 Felony conviction in Florence County Wisconsin for Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon on docket number 2012CF014. Conn received a sentence of 3 years of probation for this Wisconsin conviction.
7. On March 24, 2016, ATF SA Voogd and I interviewed Shawn Bleicher. Bleicher reiterated the information he supplied to the Iron Mountain Police Department (IMPD). He confirmed that the firearm he turned over to the IMPD was CONN's firearm. At the conclusion of this interview, Bleicher agreed to a written affidavit. He asked that the statement be written on his behalf using his statements. Bleicher read, reviewed and signed this sworn affidavit. The affidavit repeated his earlier statements.
8. On or about May 22, 2016, CONN was arrested by officers from the Kingsford Dept. of Public Safety on unrelated charges and lodged in the Dickinson County Jail. On that same date, officers from the Kingsford Dept. of Public Safety found CONN's vehicle in a ditch. His vehicle was towed, impounded and searched. During the search, officers found 16 boxes of 7.62x39mm ammunition.
9. On May 23, 2016, CONN was interviewed at the Dickinson County Jail by Iron Mountain Police Lieutenant Mooney. Prior to the interview, CONN was advised of the nature of the interview and was advised of his *Miranda* rights. CONN stated he understood his rights and agreed to answer questions. When asked about the AK-47 type rifle, CONN advised Detective Mooney that he (CONN) believed he brought the gun to Bleicher's residence around the end of January 2016. CONN stated he gave the gun to Bleicher and that Bleicher could do whatever he wanted with it. CONN admitted that he had the AK-47 rifle hidden in a barn on his property in Florence Wisconsin for years and that he owned the gun for 10 or 15 years. CONN stated he didn't want the gun any longer as he "can't take it out and shoot it" and he wasn't going to "throw it away." He said that he decided to give it to Bleicher. CONN said he built the gun after he bought the firearm receiver at a gun show in Florida. He said that he obtained tactical parts from a store in

Green Bay, Wisconsin, and added them to the weapon. CONN stated the gun had a collapsible stock, a laser sight, and a 45 round magazine.

10. I previously submitted the information on this firearm to the ATF National Tracing Center. The trace of this firearm revealed that it was purchased by Andrew Sellinger of Rubicon, Wisconsin, on April 25, 2012, from a Federal Firearms Licensee identified as Trip Wire, FFL# 33903288, Delavan, Wisconsin 53115. Based on the results of this firearms trace, CONN's post-*Miranda* statement to Lt. Mooney is partially false, in that he falsely stated the origin of this gun.
11. On July 5 & 6, 2016, SA Voogd examined the aforementioned Romarm/Cugir rifle and determined this firearm was made in Romania and imported into the United States through Vermont. Thus, this firearm traveled in or affected "interstate or foreign commerce," as that term is defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(2).
12. Based on these facts, I submit there is probable cause to believe that in March of 2016, in Dickinson County, in the Western District of Michigan, Northern Division, Rodney Vernon CONN, a multi-convicted felon, knowingly possessed a firearm that had traveled in or affected interstate commerce, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1).