

Meriden Police Department  
Press Relations Unit  
50 West Main Street  
203-630-6344

**Date:** December 19, 2012  
**Time:** 10:36 P.M.  
**Location:** 243 Kensington Avenue 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
**Incident:** Weapon Violation

On Wednesday December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012, members of the Meriden Police Department's Detective Division along with the Meriden S.W.A.T. team executed a search and seizure warrant at 243 Kensington Avenue on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The S.W.A.T. team was utilized since there was the possibility that weapons were in the home. Meriden Police Detectives developed information that there may be an illegal AR-15 Assault Rifle within the apartment and therefore the S.W.A.T. team was utilized to make entry.

Once entry was made, six people were located and detained while the home was searched. Located inside of the home was a "Bushmaster" model XM15 .223 Assault Rifle (AR-15). The rifle was found in a rifle case underneath a bed within the home. Also inside of the gun case were two 30 round magazines loaded with 31 rounds each as well as a 10 round magazine which was also fully loaded. Additionally there were also 211 other loose .223 rounds within the gun case as well as 17 rounds of .380 handgun ammunition. A check of the weapon revealed that it was stolen out of the town of Coventry, CT back in 2009.

Based upon the results of the search and seizure warrant, one arrest was made. Waldemar Nieves; Date of Birth 05/02/1986 was arrested and charged with the following: Possession of a Stolen Firearm and Hindering Prosecution. He is being held on a \$150,000.00 bond and a court date of 01/14/13 has been assigned. Waldemar Nieves resides at the home where the warrant was executed (243 Kensington Avenue on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor).

This investigation has been ongoing since the summer months of 2012. The stolen AR-15 belongs to Ralph Falcon (D.O.B. 09/27/1990 of 76 Arch Parkway in Meriden) who is currently locked up in a CT correctional facility. Ralph Falcon has been incarcerated since earlier this month when he was arrested by Detectives of the Meriden Police Department on unrelated charges. Detectives have been actively investigating Mr. Falcon's possible possession of illegal weapons since the summer of 2012. Information

was obtained by Detectives that Waldemar Nieves was holding the gun for Ralph Falcon and that Mr. Nieves planned on selling the gun today. Detectives conducted surveillance earlier in the day and observed Waldemar Nieves transport the firearm to another location in Meriden. The gun was shown to another unidentified male who evidently did not make the purchase. Waldemar Nieves then transported the gun back to his home. Members of the Meriden Detective Division maintained surveillance on the home while a search warrant was obtained and then executed the search warrant upon its completion.

At this time this case is still under investigation and additional arrests may follow. Detectives will also be working to identify the unidentified male whom Mr. Nieves attempted to sell the gun to.

**Sergeant Darrin McKay**  
**Time of Release: 3:05 A.M.**  
**December 20, 2012**