

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

State of West Virginia

Case No.: 14 C-1916

v.

Blake Ryan Garnes

Defendant

☐ Misdemeanor

☒ Felony

Address: 181 Garnes Valley Drive

Evans, WV

Date of Birth: 09-02-93

Driver's License # N/A

Last four digits of SS: 234415891

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the undersigned complainant, upon my oath or affirmation, state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. On or about 06-25-14 in Jackson County, West Virginia, in violation of W. Va. Code (cite specific section, subsection, and/or subdivision as applicable) 61-6-24 the defendant did (state statutory language of offense):

TERRORISTIC THREATS

See Narrative for Statutory Language

I further state that this complaint is based on the following facts:

See attached narrative

Continued on attached sheet? ☒ Yes ☐ No

The defendant is/

- ☐ The victim's spouse or ex-spouse
☐ A parent or guardian of the victim
☐ A child in common with the victim

- ☐ Living with the victim or had lived with the victim
☐ A person who may be classified as a spouse, parent or guardian to the victim
☒ None of the above connections to the victim

Complainant (who appears before magistrate):

Name: Detective RH Mellinger

Address: 100 Maple Street

Ripley, WV 25271

Phone: 304-373-2290

Detective

Office or title, if any

RH Mellinger

Complainant

Signature

RH Mellinger

On this complaint, sworn or affirmed before me and signed this date by complainant in my presence, the item(s) checked below apply:

- ☒ Probable cause found
☐ Summons issued
☐ Warrant issued
☒ Warrantless arrest
☐ No probable cause found

Tom Reynolds

Magistrate Signature

6/26/14

Date

- ☐ Return
☐ Defendant
☐ File
☐ Complainant
☐ Prosecutor

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

State of West Virginia

Case No.: 14C-197

v.

Blake Ryan Garnes

Defendant

☐ Misdemeanor

☒ Felony

Address: 181 Garnes Valley Drive

Evans, WV

Date of Birth: 09-02-93

Driver's License # N/A

Last four digits of SS: 234415891

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the undersigned complainant, upon my oath or affirmation, state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. On or about 06-25-14 in Jackson County, West Virginia, in violation of W. Va. Code (cite specific section, subsection, and/or subdivision as applicable) 61-3E-3 the defendant did (state statutory language of offense):

POSSESSION OF INCENDIARY DEVICE

See Narrative for Statutory Language

I further state that this complaint is based on the following facts:

See attached narrative

Continued on attached sheet? ☒ Yes ☐ No

The defendant is/

- ☐ The victim's spouse or ex-spouse
☐ A parent or guardian of the victim
☐ A child in common with the victim

- ☐ Living with the victim or had lived with the victim
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- ☒ Probable cause found
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☐ No probable cause found

Magistrate Signature

Date

- ☐ Return
☐ Defendant
☐ File
☐ Complainant
☐ Prosecutor

61-6-24. Threats of terrorist acts, conveying false information concerning terrorist acts and committing terrorist hoaxes prohibited; penalties.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) Economic harm means all direct, incidental and consequential pecuniary harm suffered by a victim as a result of criminal conduct. Economic harm includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(A) All wages, salaries or other compensation lost as a result of the criminal conduct;

(B) The cost of all wages, salaries or other compensation paid to employees for time those employees are prevented from working as a result of the criminal conduct;

(C) The cost of all wages, salaries or other compensation paid to employees for time those employees spent in reacting to the results of the criminal conduct; or

(D) The overhead costs incurred for the time that a business is shut down as a result of the criminal conduct.

(2) Hoax substance or device means any substance or device that is shaped, sized, colored, marked, imprinted, numbered, labeled, packaged, distributed, priced or delivered so as to cause a reasonable person to believe that the substance or device is of a nature which is capable of causing serious bodily injury or damage to property or the environment.

(3) Terrorist act means an act that is:

(A) Likely to result in serious bodily injury or damage to property or the environment;
and

(B) Intended to:

(i) Intimidate or coerce the civilian population;

(ii) Influence the policy of a branch or level of government by intimidation or coercion;

(iii) Affect the conduct of a branch or level of government by intimidation or coercion;

or

(iv) Retaliate against a branch or level of government for a policy or conduct of the government.

(b) Any person who knowingly and willfully threatens to commit a terrorist act, with or without the intent to commit the act, is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$25,000 or confined in a state correctional facility for not less than one year nor more than three years, or both.

(c) Any person who knowingly and willfully conveys false information knowing the information to be false concerning an attempt or alleged attempt being made or to be made of a terrorist act is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$5,000

nor more than \$25,000 or confined in a state correctional facility for not less than one year nor more than three years, or both.

(d) Any person who uses a hoax substance or device with the specific intent to commit a terrorist act is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$10,000 nor more than \$50,000 or confined in a state correctional facility for not less than one year nor more than five years, or both.

(e) The court shall order any person convicted of an offense under this section to pay the victim restitution in an amount not to exceed the total amount of any economic harm suffered.

(f) The court shall order any person convicted of an offense under this section to reimburse the state or any subdivision of the state for any expenses incurred by the state or the subdivision incident to its response to a violation of this section.

(g) The conviction of any person under the provisions of this section does not preclude or otherwise limit any civil proceedings arising from the same act.

61-3E-3. Illegal possession of destructive devices, explosive materials or incendiary devices; penalty.

Any person who possesses or manufactures any explosive material without first obtaining a permit to use explosives from the office of the state fire marshal or who possesses or manufactures any destructive device or incendiary device shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be committed to the custody of the Division of Corrections for not less than one nor more than ten years or fined not more than five thousand dollars, or both.

On or about Wednesday -- June 25, 2014 this undersigned officer received information from an individual stating that a former Cooperating Individual, known by them, wished to provide new and additional information to this undersigned officer. The said CI had previously aided in conducting numerous prior drug investigations in and around Jackson County. This undersigned officer was relayed a message that the former CI wished to provide information regarding an individual who had developed and manufactured an explosive device in which the said deviant planned to detonate the said device at a nearby Jackson County school. This undersigned officer knew, based on prior successful covert drug transactions, that the CI had always had fruitful information and had never failed to produce accurate and corroborated information.

At approximately 1544 hours, this undersigned officer and Detective ME Cullen traveled to SCRJ, where the Cooperating Individual was being incarcerated for unrelated criminal charges. At that time, RHM and MEC conducted a recorded interview with the CI, at which time the CI divulged a plan to RHM and MEC involving a white male subject known to the CI as "Blake." Through discussions and various investigative techniques, RHM identified the subject as Blake Ryan Garnes. During the said interview, the CI discussed in detail an event that occurred approximately three weeks prior to this date at a residence near Evans, WV that is known by the CI to be the residence of the grandmother to Blake Ryan Garnes. The CI recalled an evening at the Garnes residence then in which the CI, Garnes, and another individual known as Dakota Long were all smoking marijuana. At that time, Long made a statement to Garnes "...Hey, shown him (the CI) the bomb!" At that time, the CI observed Garnes walk into an attached "Shed" to the right of the house doorway, at which time he turned and reached over the entrance doorway and retrieved a round green plastic object, filled with another darker sleeve type object. At that point in time, Garnes described in detail that the object was a "Bomb" that he had built from scratch and it involved a variety of projectiles suited for physical destruction, mayhem, and death to others. Some of the said projectiles were listed by the CI as nails, BB's, ball bearings, and bolts. The CI was told by Garnes that the propellant used in the device was gun powder / black powder. Garnes went on to state that his intentions were to build other explosive devices like the one that evening and to detonate them on his own family's residences or at the playground of Evans Elementary -- specifically when there were children present on the playground. This undersigned affiant knows Garnes's family to live very close by and that Evans Elementary is approximately 1 mile from the stored location of the device. The CI stated that Garnes only needed to locate and attach an appropriate fuse or other detonating device to make the explosive bomb ready for use.

The CI went on to extensively describe Garne's behavior and mental / psychological stature as being very emotionally disturbed and has been hospitalized as such in the past for unknown mental and psychological issues. The CI described Garnes has having "Manic episodes" and a genuine hatred towards law enforcement and his own family. The CI stated that Garnes was living with his grandmother because of his hatred towards his other family. The CI told RHM and MEC that Garnes talks continuously about "Killing things" and "Killing people." The CI stated that Garnes has an extensive alcohol and marijuana problem and self-medicates his emotional issues on a daily basis. The CI firmly believes that Blake Garnes is very capable of detonating the said device and carrying out his plans.

At approximately 1025 hours, this undersigned officer and numerous others, including explosives technicians from the Kanawha County S/O arrived at the Garnes residence to execute a search warrant for the same. As officers approached the final stretch of roadway leading up to the residence, Blake Garnes was seen sitting in an unknown lawn area of another resident. RHM and MEC detained Garnes and explained to him the reason behind the search warrant. At that point in time, Garnes admitted to manufacturing an explosive device / bomb and hiding it an area over a doorway leading to the basement area of the basement (specifically where the CI stated it would be).

A short time later, RHM and the other officers arrived at the residence and soon located the incendiary device where both Garnes and the CI said it would be. The aforementioned explosives technicians furthermore confirmed that the said device was that of an explosive and destructive nature. Further searching of the residence found numerous handwritten notes detailing Garnes's fascination with death, misery, and killing people and children. The said notes were later confirmed by Garnes as belonging to him and that he had, in fact, written them.

RHM later interviewed Blake Garnes at the JCSD. There, Garnes admitted that he had "Handcrafted" the said device and that he "...enjoyed pain." Garnes explained that he was fascinated by explosives since an early age, and that he had dreams / nightmares on a daily basis about killing people and death in general. Garnes went into great detail how he had made the explosive device and that it was only missing the fuse or detonation device. However, Garnes continued to state that he had recently given extensive thought into specifically which manner in which he was going to detonate the said device.

Based on the above information, RHM is charging Blake Garnes with TERRORISTIC THREATS and POSSESSION OF AN INCENDIARY DEVICE.



Detective RH Mellinger - JCSD