



OAKLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TRAINING BULLETIN

December 14, 2023

South American Theft Group (SATG) Interdiction for Patrol

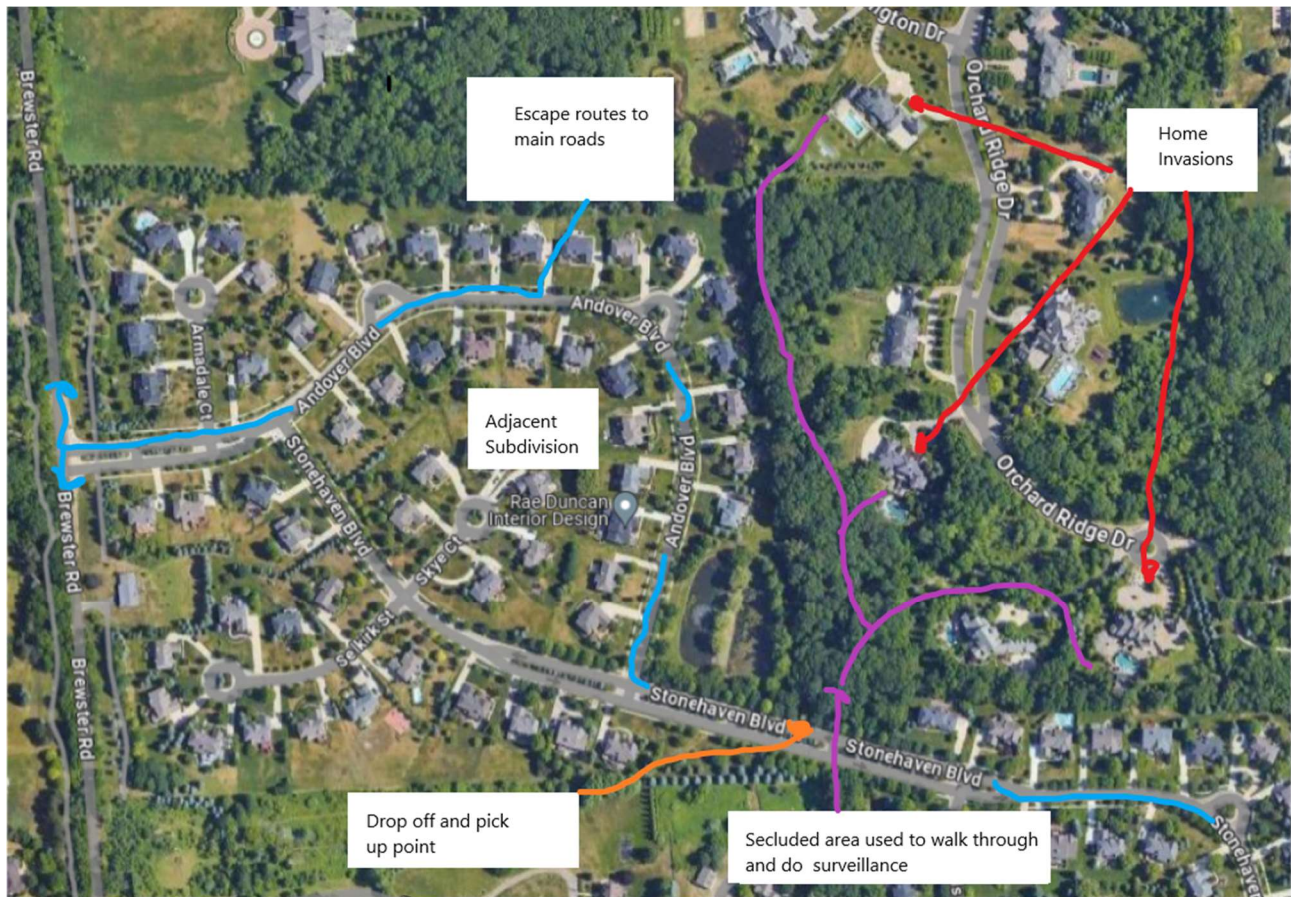
The South American Theft Group (SATG) is operating as-many-as 100 crews in the United States at any given time. These individuals are an International Organized Crime Ring responsible for stealing hundreds of millions of dollars from high end residential homes and retailers. Oakland County is no stranger to this group. They are responsible for as many as forty home invasions since the beginning of 2023. The groups are sophisticated, highly trained, and technologically savvy. These are not your average criminals; these are professional burglars. Due to their transient nature and meticulous planning, these criminals will not be caught by detectives, but by well informed and vigilant patrol officers.



Target Location Information

The theft groups look for large high-end homes that are secluded in the rear of the property (woodlands, golf courses, etc.). These secluded places behind the homes need to be accessible by some type of escape route, often a trail or adjacent subdivision that provide a point for insertion and extraction.

These subjects are known to look for homes that are not occupied, like individuals who are out of town or on vacation for long periods of time. However, they will also surveil homes to learn the pattern of the owners. This includes the use of trail cameras, trackers for the homeowner's vehicles and physical surveillance. If you are dispatched to an alarm at this type of home have a game plan. This is a situation that may call for a silent run. If you have partners, have some of them respond to the adjacent subdivision.



What to Look for While on Patrol

Deputies must develop their own probable cause when initiating contact with the public or stopping a vehicle. However, a combination of the following facts and circumstances may assist in developing that probable cause.

- **Look for out of state plates.** The majority of SATG home invasions are done with rental vehicles with out of state plates. Most often they are in Sport Utility Vehicles or Crossover to accommodate crews of four to six people. The SATG has also been known to steal license plates that match new rental vehicles making it imperative to check VIN numbers.
- **Look for multiple people in one vehicle wearing similar dark clothing.** Surveillance footage of crews has the subjects all in dark colored clothing including gloves, hoods, masks, similar footwear, and backpacks.
- **Look for burglary tools.** These individuals bring all needed tools to complete home invasion s including but not limited to glass punches, wire cutters, bolt cutters, Sawzall's, grinding wheels, crowbars, chisels, sledgehammers, and screwdrivers.

- **Look for abnormal electronics.** The SATG commonly uses Wi-Fi Jammers, tracking devices, and vehicle signal jammers.



- **Look for Individuals attempting to use a language barrier to conceal their identity.** Members of the SATG come from Spanish speaking countries. They have used a language barrier during prior law enforcement contacts to evade law enforcement.
- **Look for surveillance and counter surveillance.** Recent intelligence suggests that these teams use multiple vehicles for one job. If you observe the same vehicles driving through the same area several times, or parking and stopping in unusual places, please check it out.
- **Look for Fraudulent Identification.** Members of the SATG use fraudulent identification IE. Passports, fake driver's license, and international driver's licenses. These documents will often be your best probable cause.

If you think you have encountered someone related to these groups, ensure positive identification of all occupants and contact your direct command or the Command Sergeant (while still on scene with the individuals) for on-call investigator notification.

The OCSO point of contact for SATG related cases is Lieutenant Tim Willis or Sergeant Don Stevenson at (satg@oakgov.com).