

COUNTY/DISTRICT COURT, BOULDER COUNTY, COLORADO

Criminal Action Number D0072020CR001129 - 4

DATE FILED: July 13, 2020 3:09 PM
CASE NUMBER 2020CR1129

WARRANT FOR ARREST UPON AFFIDAVIT

BEFORE THE HONORABLE Bruce Lange

The People of the State of Colorado,
To: Any person authorized by law to execute arrest warrants.

You are hereby commanded to arrest the person of:

Jason Korte

DOB:	7-6-1977	HAIR:	Brown
HEIGHT:	5'11"	EYES:	Brown
WEIGHT:	190 LBS.	RACE/SEX:	White/Male
DL#:		SSN:	██████████
ALIAS:		ALIAS D.O.B.:	

OFFENSE DATE(S): **July 3, 2020**

And take the person above-named without unnecessary delay before the nearest judge of the Court of Record; to be advised that the person is being held for the alleged commission of the following crime(s), to-wit: In violation of C.R.S., 1973 revised:

Charge #	CRS #	Charge	Classification
1	18-18-406.6	Unlawful marijuana concentrate extraction	DF2
2	18-4-102	First Degree Arson	F3
3	18-4-105	Fourth Degree Arson	F4
4	18-12-109(2)	Knowing possession of explosive	F4
5	18-12-109(2)	Knowing control of explosive	F4
6	18-12-109(2)	Knowing manufacture of explosive	F4
7	18-3-208	Reckless endangerment	M3

That this warrant for arrest is issued upon affidavit sworn to and affirmed before this court and relating facts sufficient to establish probable cause that the above-named offense has been committed and probable cause that the person named in this warrant committed that offense.

BAIL IS SET AT \$ 100,000 cash WITH CONDITION(S) NO weapons, no drugs, no explosive precursors.

DATE: 7/13/20

[Signature]
Judge's Signature

Nederland PD Case # 20-212

Jennifer Fine-Loven

RETURN OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have duly executed this warrant on this _____ day of _____, 20____, by _____ as I am herein commanded.

SHERIFF FEES:

Service \$ _____

Mileage \$ _____

By: _____

Return \$ _____
Total \$ _____

Deputy

AFFIDAVIT FOR ARREST WARRANT

Your Affiant, Sergeant Fine-Loven, is a duly commissioned Peace Officer for the Nederland Police Department, County of Boulder, State of Colorado. Being duly sworn, I depose and state:

I am currently employed as a Sergeant for the Nederland Police Department. I have been employed by the Nederland Police Department for 1 year and have approximately 21 years of previous law enforcement experience.

I collected the following information, which is documented in Nederland Case N20-0212, through personal investigation, interviews, speaking with my fellow officers, and conversations with firefighters, bomb squad technicians, state and federal agents:

Initial Report and Response:

On July 3, 2020, at 1859 hours, Boulder County Communications Center (BCCC) dispatched Nederland Officer Gerthe to an explosion and structure fire at 283 Alpine Dr. Nederland Co, 80466, County of Boulder, State of Colorado. The first reporting party told dispatch that they observed a window on the residence was blown out. There were secondary and tertiary 911 reports of smoke coming from the residence.

Units from the Nederland Fire Protection District (NFPD) arrived at 1912 hours. followed by Nederland Officer Eric Gerthe shortly after. Upon arriving on scene, Officer Gerthe reported smoke coming from west side of the residence, which he confirmed was unoccupied. Officer Gerthe told me that when he arrived on scene, he observed a male and female in the driveway of the residence, near the garage door. Officer Gerthe told me that the male identified himself as Jason Korte (07/06/77). The female identified herself as Liliana Ducoure ([REDACTED]).

Officer Gerthe told me that Korte had burns on his face, arms and hands. Korte was wheeling around an oxygen bottle that he uses to assist with breathing. Korte had skin and mucus hanging from his nose.

Officer Gerthe told me that Korte explained that the fire and explosion resulted from Korte "manipulating a box with fireworks and smoke bombs." Korte told Officer Gerthe that he estimated there were a dozen smoke bombs. He demonstrated a size of approximately 6" in length and 1" in diameter. Korte said he was in the living room at the time of the explosion. Ducoure said she was in the kitchen and didn't know exactly what Korte was doing. Korte was ultimately flown to University Hospital for his injuries.

I responded to 283 Alpine Drive and met with Nederland Firefighter Lieutenant Dan Vinnola. I learned from him that there was an explosion in the living room area of the residence. The explosion blew out one large window (directly east of the front door) on to the front porch area. It also blew out a large bay window and pushed a sliding door off its frame. The force of the explosion also buckled the upper door frame approximately 3" outward. The explosion also shattered the sliding glass doors out onto the deck area. Additionally, though the explosion occurred on the first floor, it blew out windows on the second floor.

As Lieutenant Vinnola and Firefighter Fred Fialco were checking the house for active fire and

going room to room, they observed several concerning indicia of explosives and dangerous chemicals. As a result, Lieutenant Vinnola pulled his crew from the residence for safety reasons. The following is a list of items Lieutenant Vinnola and Firefighter Fred Fialco observed inside the home. (It should be noted the fire department made entry into the residence three consecutive times as part of their investigation and the following information is not listed chronologically for ease of reading.)

- Approximately 20 class E oxygen cylinders were found by the front door.
- In the basement, firefighters observed 30-50 seedling marijuana plants in a room partitioned off with plastic. They also saw a 150-200-gallon water tank and unknown chemicals.
- In what was later determined to be Korte's bedroom, firefighters observed "commercial" fireworks in an open box. These were described as 5-6 tubes, about 12" long and 1"-2" in diameter.
- Korte's closet was locked with a deadbolt. Firefighters forced entry to access the attic. Inside the closet, they observed a gunrack holding 5 "long guns." Lieutenant Vinnola described these as an "AR 15, AK47, shotguns, and a rifle." He told me one of the firearms had a "suppressor" on it. They also observed loaded magazines, ammo boxes, a safe, reloading supplies, a container of gunpowder, and "shelves full of magazines and bullets" inside this closet.
- Inside Korte's closet was a square box with an orange sticker that read Explosive 1.3 G. The size of this box was approximately 12" x 12."
- A safe inside Korte's closet had a similar orange sticker that read, 1.4 G explosives.
- In a room later determined to be the garage, firefighters located an assembly of glassware. This assembly included beakers, tubes, hot plates, and a "cooling jar" that appeared to be "full of clear liquid."
- Lieutenant Vinnola noted he didn't see kerosene or acetone which are often used in the production of meth, but he did see "hundreds" of small white plastic screw top bottles all labeled and organized by label. To the best of his recollection, there was Potassium Nitrate, Ammonium Nitrate, Sodium Chloride. He said there were, in total, 5-6 different labels. Lieutenant Vinnola told me there was Periodic Table of Elements on the wall of this room and "at least three sheets of chemical recipes" on the same wall. The chemical recipes were on 8.5 x 11 sheets of paper. Due to there being no active fire or hot spots the fire department pulled out immediately upon observing these things.

I used crime scene tape to set up an interior perimeter consisting of the home, shed, two motor vehicles. I observed, in plain view, evidence of fireworks in the open bed of the pickup truck described as maroon, 1997 Toyota T100 holding Colorado US Army plate, [REDACTED] and VIN [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. The last registration for this plate was 2011 to Korte

I also used crime scene tape for an exterior perimeter across the driveway to a fence line east and along the roadway to the west. Any doors accessible from a lower level had evidence tape

placed on them for scene integrity. The windows on the main and basement level that were closed were locked from the inside and no tape was placed on them. Evidence tape was placed on the lower level sliding glass door.

Colorado Law Enforcement Rangers were requested to hold scene security overnight. Additional lighting was brought in to aid in scene integrity by Boulder Emergency Services.

Investigation on July 4

On July 4, 2020, at 0651, Nederland Town Marshal Larry Johns arrived at 283 Alpine Dr. and met with Captains Morgan and Monclavias of the Colorado Rangers. Chief Johns told me that he observed the glass blown out of the middle level window on the west side of the house.

Chief Johns told me that on July 4, at approximately 1000 hours, he was contacted by the residence owner, Ducoure, via telephone. Ducoure initially said there was nothing dangerous in the home because she had been living there. However, further into the conversation, Ducoure told him Korte “likes chemistry, he likes to mix chemicals.” She also stated that Korte makes fireworks that produce multi colored smoke (green, red, blue) but don’t explode.

Chief Johns told me that on July 4, at 1035 hours, he returned a phone call to Laura Cartwright. Cartwright is a former girlfriend of Korte. They had a four-year relationship and resided for some of that time together at 283 Alpine Drive. Cartwright knew of Korte’s hobby of making fireworks and mixing chemicals. Korte usually would do this late at night while she slept. She reported a specific occasion on which Korte mixed some chemicals which created an accidental explosion. Cartwright said there are holes in the concrete floor of the garage. When asked about size of the holes, she characterized them as the size of a teaspoon. She reported being made aware of the damage after Korte showed it to her. She recounted a second time there was an explosion that resulted in Korte getting glass lodged in his chest. She knew of this because Korte came and woke Cartwright up to show her the glass embedded in his chest. During a follow-up interview on July 9th, Cartwright specified these explosions occurred at the Alpine address. Cartwright also described Korte making a “wax.” Cartwright reported Korte used a solvent to clean up his wax. She could not remember the name of the solvent; However, she did say “it’s explosive for sure.”

During the remainder of July 4, officers secured the residence and I began writing an affidavit to support a warrant to search of the home. I later submitted my affidavit to Judge Martinez. She approved and signed the warrant.

Initial Search of 283 Alpine Dr., Nederland

On July 5 and 6, 2020, a multi-agency team executed the initial search warrant on 283 Alpine Dr., Nederland. In doing so, agents discovered several significant pieces of evidence in plain view:

First, agents discovered approximately three gallons of what appeared to be hash oil concentrate. Bomb squad technicians located the oil while securing the explosives, incendiary devices, incendiary parts, and precursor chemicals authorized for seizure in the initial warrant. Relatedly, technicians also discovered, in plain view, empty butane canisters, torches, and both industrial and homemade hash oil extraction equipment.

Second, agents discovered—in plain view in the room where the explosion occurred—a

notebook containing a “pyro wish list.” This list described items that I understand, through my training and my consultation with ATF agents, are commonly used to make explosives and incendiary devices like those found at 283 Alpine Dr. Additionally, agents located a white notebook that contained “recipes” for making high explosives, including one for triacetone triperoxide (“TATP”).

Third, agents discovered a box of homemade explosives labeled “TATP.” I learned from speaking to bomb technicians that TAPT is an extremely volatile compound that becomes more volatile as it ages and can explode by being moved. In fact, after discovering this box the bomb squad closed the house to all persons except bomb technicians and arranged to remove the explosives remotely (with a robot and rigging) and detonate them on-site. While making these arrangements, the bomb squad explained that we would have to evacuate nearby homes while the explosives were moved and destroyed.

Fourth, agents found a Sentry 1250 fire safe in Korte’s closet. The safe was located under or next to cardboard boxes containing homemade explosives and incendiary devices, and below a cardboard box containing containers labeled TAPT. The safe was located immediately across the closet (which is only a few feet wide) from shelves containing journals, chemistry texts, folders, and other papers. The safe was also located immediately across the closet from Korte’s long-guns and ammunition. Still further, the safe has an orange sticker on it with the number “1.4,” which I understand to be a designation of explosive material (other boxes in the home that had similar stickers contained explosives). Thus, bomb squad technicians concluded that it was highly likely the safe contained TATP or another, similarly volatile explosive material.

Secondary Search and Device Mitigation

Based on the initial search of 283 Alpine Dr., I authored an addendum to the original search warrant. Judge Martinez signed that updated warrant early in the morning of July 7, 2020.

Given the TATP and other explosives found in Korte’s closet, the Boulder County Bomb Squad spent July 7 and July 8 removing and destroying items in an effort to make the house safe for a more thorough search. It is my understanding that on July 7, the bomb squad was able to remove the devices labeled TATP and destroy them using a countercharge. The resulting explosion was significant enough to indicate that the devices likely did, in fact, contain TATP.

I also understand that on July 8, the bomb squad located another box of devices in Korte’s closet. This box had handwritten warnings that cautioned against moving the box or introducing water into it. The bomb squad used a robot and “rigging” to remove the devices from the home. They then destroyed the devices with a countercharge. The resulting explosion was even greater than that produced by the suspected TATP. Indeed, the explosion shattered windows on the property, cracked the concrete driveway, and buckled the garage door inward.

Near the end of the day on July 8, the bomb squad was able to x-ray the Sentry 1250 safe inside Korte’s closet. The resulting images showed a piece of PVC pipe that in the bomb technician’s experience would indicate an IED.

July 9 Interview with Korte

On July 9, ATF agents were able to speak with Korte in his hospital room. As I understand it, Korte made the following admissions:

- He manufactured pyrotechnics in the garage at 283 Alpine Dr. home and stored those in his closet.
- He manufactured the high explosive TATP in the garage at 283 Alpine Dr. home. He explained that he placed the TATP into cardboard tubes and stored those tubes into his closet.
- He possessed the firearms and ammunition located in the closet of his bedroom.
- He enjoyed detonating his homemade explosives in mountain areas, but never sold or transferred them to others.
- He did not intend to hurt anyone.
- He possessed the precursor chemical hexamine but did not use it to manufacture explosives. Instead, he claimed to have used it as a fuel. ATF agents have informed me that this is a plausible explanation.
- He denied using hexamine to produce the explosive HMTD, which explosive I understand was involved in the 2016 attempted bombing of the Nederland Police Department. Korte denied any connection to that attempted bombing.
- He admitted to using butane as a drug, and that his use of butane coincided to some degree with his expanded interest in manufacturing explosives.
- He said that, on July 3, he moved two boxes that consisted of a variety of Ziplock bags, each containing pyrotechnic compositions that he had made approximately 4 months earlier. He was moving the boxes from the kitchen to the living room in preparation to load them into cardboard tubes. He left the room and when he returned one of the boxes exploded inside the 283 Alpine Dr. home. He further admitted that Liliana Ducoure was in the home with him at the time of the explosion.
- He admitted that his minor children had visited and stayed with him during the time he was manufacturing explosives.
- He admitted to extracting hash oil or marijuana concentrate.

On Friday, July 10, the Boulder County Bomb Squad and ATF were able to open the Sentry safe located in Korte's closet. Inside, they located a significant number of explosives, including the PVC/IED viewed on the x-ray. Bomb technicians were able to dispose of these explosives, including the contents of the PVC.

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing evidence, probable cause exists to believe that Jason Korte, a white male, 5'11, 190 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, SOC [REDACTED], and DOB 07/06/77, did

commit the crimes of:

1. **Unlawful manufacture of marijuana concentrate using an inherently hazardous substance (namely: butane) in violation of Section 18-18-406.6(1), C.R.S., a level two drug felony (DF2)**
2. **First-degree arson, in violation of Section 18-4-102, C.R.S., a class three felony (F3)**
3. **Fourth-degree arson, in violation of Section 18-4-105, C.R.S., a class four felony (F4)**
4. **Knowing possessive of an explosive or incendiary device, in violation of Section 18-12-109(2), C.R.S., a class four felony (F4)**
5. **Knowing control of an explosive or incendiary device, in violation of Section 18-12-109(2), C.R.S., a class four felony (F4)**
6. **Knowing manufacture of an explosive or incendiary device, in violation of Section 18-12-109(2), C.R.S., a class four felony (F4)**
7. **Reckless endangerment, in violation of Section 18-3-208, a class three misdemeanor (M3).**

/s/Jennifer Fine-Loven
Affiant

Sworn to before me and subscribed to in my presence this 13th day of July, 2020, in the City of Boulder, County of Boulder, and the State of Colorado.



Judge

Based on the above information, I believe probable cause exists for the court to issue a search warrant