THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 5, 2008

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MAN ARRESTED FOR LASER VIOLATION

(San Diego) At about 10 p.m. on May 1, 2008 the crew of the San Diego Police Department helicopter ABLE was involved in a laser incident. While on random patrol over the Mission Valley area, ABLE was struck with a red laser light from someone on the ground.

The incident occurred as ABLE was flying westbound, adjacent to Interstate 8 and the Mission Valley Shopping Center. The pilot and tactical flight officer (TFO) both saw the red laser light being directed at the aircraft from the ground. It lasted for about 3-5 seconds. The source of the light was the river valley area to the west of 2500 Hotel Circle Place. It was approximately 1.5 miles away from ABLE's position. ABLE moved into the general area and began searching with both the forward looking infrared (FLIR) and Nightsun spotlight.

The ABLE crew located a pickup truck parked under a large tree at the dead end of 2500 Hotel Circle Place. The truck was almost completely hidden by the tree. The TFO observed a heat source inside the truck using the FLIR. A patrol unit was directed to that location to contact the occupant of the truck. After a brief investigation, the patrol officers reported they had located a red penlight laser inside the truck. The officers arrested Larry Crober (DOB 1/1/52) for 247.5 PC; cited and released him in the field.

A DVD version of this incident is available at the SDPD headquarters front counter until 5 p.m. today (May 5, 2008).

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