


**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FILED**  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

DEC 12 2008

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

Dean Edward Hudson  
1749 RIVER RUN DRIVE  
MARYSVILLE, CA 95901

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
BY  DEPUTY CLERK

**CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

CASE NUMBER:

**208 - M - 0434 88**

(Name and Address of Defendant)

I, the undersigned complainant state that the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. From in or about **July 2008** and continuing to and through at least **December 7, 2008** in **Yuba County**, in the Eastern District of California defendant(s) did, (Track Statutory Language of Offense)

**Count 1:**

Steal, take, or abstract, or by fraud or deception obtained, or attempted so to obtain, from or out of any mail, post office, or station thereof, letter box, mail receptacle, or any mail route or other authorized depository for mail matter, or from a letter or mail carrier, any letter, postal card, package, bag, or mail, or abstracts or removes from any such letter, package, bag, or mail, any article or thing contained therein, or secreted, embezzled, or destroyed any such letter, postal card, package, bag, or mail, or any article or thing contained therein.


**Count 2:**

As a Postal Service officer or employee, embezzle letters, postal cards, packages, bags, or mail, or any articles or things contained therein entrusted to him or which came into his possession intended to be conveyed by mail, or carried or delivered by any carrier, messenger, agent, or other person employed in any department of the Postal Service, or forwarded through or delivered from any post office or station thereof established by authority of the Postmaster General or of the Postal Service; or steal, abstract, or remove from any such letter, package, bag, or mail, any article or thing contained therein.

in violation of Title **18**, United States Code, Section(s) **1708 and 1709**. I further state that I am a(n) Special Agent with the United States Postal Service Office of the Inspector General and that this complaint is based on the following facts:

- **See Attachment**

Continued on the attached sheet and made a part of this complaint: 

  
Signature of Complainant Shani Lee  
USPS-OIG

Sworn to before me, and signed in my presence  
December 12, 2008


at

Sacramento, California

City

State

**SEALED**

  
Edward F. Brennan, U.S. Magistrate Judge

I, Shani Lee, being duly sworn, depose and state as follows:

### INTRODUCTION

1. I am a Special Agent with the U. S. Postal Service, Office of Inspector General (USPS - OIG). I am currently assigned to the USPS - OIG Sacramento, CA office. I am responsible for conducting investigations of mail theft by employees of the USPS. I have been with the USPS - OIG for approximately 21 months. I have approximately 31 months of prior Federal law enforcement experience with the Department of Interior, Office of Inspector General. I have completed training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Glynco, Georgia.

2. In my current assignment with the USPS - OIG, I am responsible for investigating crimes involving theft of mail perpetrated by individuals who are employed by or with the USPS. Specifically, Title 18, Section 1708, theft or receipt of stolen mail matter generally, which makes it a felony for anyone to steal mail or its contents; and Title 18, Section 1709, theft of mail matter by officer or employee, which makes it a felony for a USPS officer or employee to embezzle any mail matter or any article contained therein that is entrusted to them or that comes into their possession intended to be conveyed by mail.

### PURPOSE OF AFFIDAVIT

3. This affidavit is also made in support of a criminal complaint and arrest warrant for DEAN EDWARD HUDSON for violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1708 (Theft or receipt of stolen mail matter generally) and 1709 (Theft of mail matter by officer or employee).

### BASIS OF AFFIDAVIT

4. The information contained within this affidavit is based upon information I have gained from my investigation, my personal observations, my training and experience, and/or information related to me by other Agents, Analysts, field contacts, witnesses and/or victims, and reports. This affidavit is intended to show that there is sufficient probable cause for the requested complaint and arrest warrant, and search warrant, and does not purport to set forth all of my knowledge of or investigation into this matter.

5. The items to be seized are evidence of violations of Title 18, United States Code, Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1708 (Theft or receipt of stolen mail matter generally) and 1709 (Theft of mail matter by officer or employee). I have not included each and every fact known to me concerning this investigation. I have set forth only the facts that I believe are necessary to establish probable cause.

## OVERVIEW OF INVESTIGATION

6. Title 18, United States Code, Section 1708 (theft or receipt of stolen mail matter generally), makes it a felony for anyone to steal mail or its contents.

7. Title 18, United States Code, Section 1709 (theft of mail matter by officer or employee) makes it a felony for a postal service officer or employee to take any mail matter or any article contained therein that is entrusted to them or which comes into their possession intended to be conveyed by mail.

8. The USPS – OIG is investigating persons involved in stealing the contents of mail matter processed in the USPS Marysville Processing and Distribution Facility (Marysville P&DF). There were in excess of 1,000 pieces of first class mail opened and some or all of the contents removed during the period of July 9, 2008 to present. HUDSON has been identified as a person who improperly handles mail matter as a USPS employee by opening mail matter entrusted to his care and removing the contents of said mail matter and concealing it on his person. HUDSON was repeatedly video taped and/or observed opening mail matter that was not his property and was entrusted to his care, removing items from that mail matter, and retaining the items on his person.

## PROBABLE CAUSE

9. This investigation arises from complaints from U.S. Post Offices of mail tampering related to items processed at the Marysville P&DF. On July 9, 2008, the U.S. Chico Main Post Office in Chico, California received numerous greeting cards in rifled condition with the contents removed. Customers of the U.S. Chico Main Post Office in Chico, California also returned rifled greeting cards to the U.S. Chico Main Post Office in Chico, California stating that cash was missing from the envelopes.

10. On or about July 11, 2008, the U.S. Chico Midtown Post Office in Chico, California received from the Marysville P&DF numerous greeting cards in rifled condition with the contents removed. Customers of the U.S. Chico Midtown Post Office in Chico, California also returned rifled greeting cards to the U.S. Chico Midtown Post Office in Chico, California stating that cash was missing from the envelope. All mail matter, with the exception of those naturally damaged through mail processing machines, should arrive at U.S. Post Offices from USPS Processing Facilities in unopened and original condition.

11. Since the dates of the initial complaints, USPS - OIG has received numerous additional complaints from U.S. Post Offices and U.S. Postal customers stating that mail processed at the Marysville P&DF has arrived at U.S. Post Offices and residential addresses in opened and damaged conditions, without all of the expected contents. The opened and damaged envelopes were identified as being among those processed at the Marysville P&DF HUDSON is employed at and as being processed on the days of the week HUDSON reported for duty.

12. On several dates I have observed HUDSON process mail at the Marysville P&DF and witnessed him improperly handle mail matter through furtive movements and suspicious

mail handling practices. Specifically, I observed HUDSON behave more or less normally and consistent with USPS practices when others are present and within the vicinity of the mail processing equipment he utilizes to process mail. However, when HUDSON operated the mail processing equipment alone and/or was provided with minimal supervision, HUDSON's behavior changed. He began making furtive movements, rifling through the mail, and frequently left his line to take breaks off the workroom floor or visit the restroom. I also observed other employees working on the same dates and times as HUDSON and observed no behavior showing they might be tampering with or stealing any mail.

13. On numerous occasions I have spoken with USPS customers who stated they placed sealed mail in the mail stream containing US currency and their mail matter arrived to the addressee with the contents missing. Those items have been traced to the Marysville P&DF, and specifically to the dates and processing lines on which HUDSON was working.

14. On November 28, 2008, I reviewed an Incident Report from Target Corporation involving an incident in which HUDSON was suspected of shoplifting from a Target store. That report stated that HUDSON was detained for and admitted to stealing from numerous stores because "it was easy," and because he and his wife wanted things that they were not able to afford without resorting to theft. That report also stated that HUDSON admitted having experience with theft practices due to having past employment experience as a Loss Prevention Associate with Wal-Mart.

15. On December 1, 2008, I reviewed HUDSON'S Application for Employment submitted to USPS, which stated that HUDSON was employed by Wal-Mart as a Loss Prevention Associate and had experience with theft because he "caught shoplifters." Suspects with loss prevention and asset protection experience commonly have knowledge of how to avoid detection when stealing items.

16. On December 6, 2008, specific, identifiable pieces of mail ("Test Items") were placed in processing lines on which HUDSON was working. Some of these pieces of mail included marked United States currency, including currency with the following serial numbers: HG 27507253A, GE 44609511B, DB 89784334 A, GL 06764672 A, EB 40547409 G, GE 60846363 B, EG 11100104 F, CL 93301770 A, and AG 88199931 D.

17. On December 6 and 7, 2008, USPS-OIG Agents, including me, were in place to observe HUDSON's actions during mail processing. We observed HUDSON opening mail that was intended for processing and was not his property. HUDSON was observed attempting to conceal evidence of opening mail by inappropriately turning greeting cards upside down on the mail processing machinery for processing. Had HUDSON left the greeting cards in their original position, the rifled greeting cards would have jammed the machine, which would have caused detection of his illegal activity. While working on another portion of the mail processing machine, HUDSON inappropriately fingered through mail matter belonging to USPS customers, located mail of interest, closed the tray drawer slightly to conceal the mail matter in his possession, and opened the mail matter. If the mail matter contained United States currency or another item of interest to HUDSON, HUDSON secreted it on his person. HUDSON placed items both in his exterior and under clothing. Whether or not the mail matter contained United

States currency or other items of interest to HUDSON, HUDSON turned all of the mail matter he opened or rifled upside down in the mail processing tray to conceal the fact that he tampered with mail matter belonging to USPS customers. HUDSON frequently concealed himself and his hands behind USPS equipment for longer than normal periods of time. Such behavior is inconsistent with USPS policies for mail handling, and those policies are in place in large part to prevent USPS employees from inappropriately tampering with and/or stealing mail or contents of mail. HUDSON also continued his practice of frequent breaks, restroom visits, and concealment behind USPS equipment while he was responsible for removing mail from the processing line and placing mail in the processing line.

18. During the course of our observations, while HUDSON was working, we were able to examine some of the mail that was processed by HUDSON. We identified multiple items of mail that had been tampered with, including several of the Test Items introduced in HUDSON's processing line. These items had been opened, and the cash contained therein was missing, including serial numbers DB 89784334 A, GL 06764672 A, EB 40547409 G, GE 60846363 B, EG 11100104 F, CL 93301770 A, and AG 88199931 D.

19. Based on the prior investigation of HUDSON, in conjunction with our observations of HUDSON's behavior on December 6 and 7, 2008, USPS-OIG Agents, including myself, believed there is probable cause to show HUDSON has taken mail or items in the mail he was responsible for processing.

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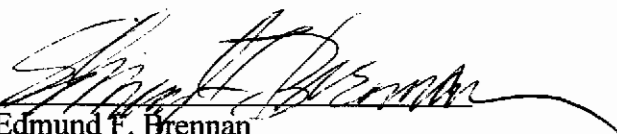
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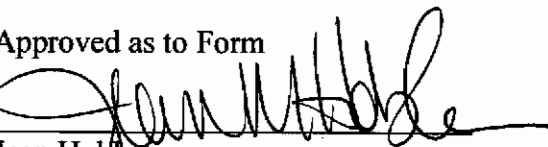
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20. Based on the foregoing information, your affiant submits that probable cause exists to arrest and charge DEAN EDWARD HUDSON based on violations of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1708, theft or receipt of stolen mail matter generally and Title 18, United States Code, Section 1709, theft of mail matter by officer or employee.

  
Sham Lee  
Special Agent, US Postal Service  
Office of Inspector General

Subscribed and sworn before me this 12th  
day of December, 2008

  
Edmund F. Brennan  
United States Magistrate Judge  
Eastern District of California

Approved as to Form  
  
Jean Hobler  
Assistant United States Attorney