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RSO Bangkok Captures Two U.S. Fugitives

In the summer of 2002, the Regional Security Office in Bangkok received a call from the DS Criminal Investigations Liaison Office in Washington, DC, requesting assistance in locating a fugitive. Richard Goos had escaped from an Oregon prison in November 1994 after being sentenced to a 2-year term for robbery. Goos had a long history of priors, including convictions for theft, kidnapping, and failure to appear.

Following his prison escape, Goos moved to the Philippines and started an import-export business dealing in books. The business was so successful that he stayed in the Philippines for the next 7 years. He moved to Bangkok in 2001 to continue his business in the region. The U.S. Marshals discovered Goos' address in Bangkok and contacted Diplomatic Security.

The regional security officer in Bangkok quickly confirmed that Goos was in Thailand and likely had violated Thai law by overstaying his tourist visa. Upon learning of Goos' location, the Justice Department secured an Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement warrant. Due to the close working relationship between RSO Bangkok and the Thai authorities, the Thai Immigration Bureau (TIB) was more than willing to assist in the surveillance of the fugitive. TIB committed a team of Special Enforcement Division police officers to the investigation. When Goos departed Bangkok, TIB waited outside his residence around the clock until he returned.

Goos was arrested on Thanksgiving Day 2002 on local charges of visa overstay. TIB took Goos to Bangkok, where special agents at the U.S. embassy verified his identity. Local authorities decided not to prosecute Goos for visa overstay but detained him during the extradition process and turned him over to U.S. officials for extradition to the United States to stand trial for escape.

In another case, RSO Bangkok coordinated with the U.S. Army in their investigation into a number of housing fraud and forgery cases involving active military personnel assigned to Thailand. Allegedly, one or more persons had filed fraudulent claims that reported the cost of housing to be higher than it actually was and then pocketed the excess money. One of the alleged suspects, Sgt. Kean Lunda, was detained by Army officials and transported to Fort Lewis, Washington, to answer larceny charges in the amount of \$236,000 of government housing funds. Lunda subsequently fled for Thailand in June 2002, where he remained in AWOL status.

After months of failing to locate Lunda, DS agents joined the hunt and discovered that the suspect was living with his girlfriend in Bangkok. At the request of the regional security officer in Bangkok, Thai police officials placed Lunda under around-the-clock surveillance in January 2003. Unfortunately, when DS agents and CID officials arrived with police to arrest Lunda, he wasn't in his apartment.

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Behind the Scenes

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Surveillance officers couldn't explain his disappearance and were dumfounded as to how he could have eluded them.

To make matters worse, manpower shortages at Camp Zama forced the CID investigators to fly back to Japan empty-handed the following day. Desperate to find him, Thai authorities questioned Lunda's girlfriend that evening and discovered that Lunda was hiding on the roof

of the apartment building police had under surveillance. Police quickly apprehended Lunda and took him to a local precinct for questioning.

Lunda stated he'd seen the police and retreated to the roof where he hid for 36 hours. Lunda was taken into custody at the request of RSO Bangkok and was subsequently escorted to Camp Zama where he is awaiting court martial. 

