

**Middlebury Police Department
Media Release**

28 February 2008

Subject: Missing Person Investigation – Nicholas Garza

Investigation Continues

The missing person investigation into the disappearance of Nicholas Garza continues. No new information has been developed regarding the circumstances, cause, and manner of his disappearance. No information has been developed that would shed any light on Nicholas Garza's activity after 11:07 p.m. on February 5.

Currently, three investigators are assigned to the investigation. As of Monday, March 3, an additional two investigators will be added to the team. The scope of the investigation will broaden in an effort to develop any information on Garza's disappearance.

Included in the broadening investigation is the submittal of case information to the FBI's Behavioral Analysis Unit in Quantico, VA. This effort is underway in an attempt to gain some insight into Nicholas Garza's frame of mind and what he may have been doing or where he may have been going. The process is expected to take several weeks or more.

Search Suspended Indefinitely

The search and recovery operation centered on the Middlebury College campus and surrounding areas has been indefinitely suspended due to poor search conditions.

Search and recovery experts from the Vermont State Police and EquuSearch, a search and recovery agency from Texas, have both decided that further efforts to search in the snow are futile and should be suspended until the snowcover recedes significantly. The cold weather and snow cover defeats many of the recovery technologies and techniques that can be brought to bear. The search of the campus grounds to date have been deemed to have less than a 50% chance of detection due to layers of snow and ice and the inability to probe to ground level.

A recently completed search of confined spaces, building interiors, and accessible roofs on the campus did not result in any detection or recovery of evidence in this case.

Thomas Hanley
Chief of Police