

Chapter 18 Customs

Officer Jeremy Klein was assigned to work the anonymous tip retrieval the next morning after Bigsby had filed the tip. The typical false filings had to be weeded through, but this morning produced another odd report. Jeremy had heard of the weird report that Brad had received, and it now looked like Jeremy had also gotten one. He looked at the report's output.

Severity	Actor	Status	Rule Match ID	Type	Additional Info
Severe	Charlie Simons	Confessed	82	Murder	Victim: Sam Wilks, Alibi: Golf Course
Severe	Frank Harding	Confessed	83	Accomplice to Murder	Victim: Sam Wilks, Alibi: Golf Course
Severe	Sam Wilks	Suspect	53	Embezzlement	Bank in Barbados
High	Sam Wilks	Suspect	28	Illegal Product	Product not identified
High	Charlie Simons	Suspect	28	Illegal Product	Product not identified
High	Frank Harding	Confessed	28	Illegal Product	Product Manufacturer: Taiwan Silicon Manufacturing Corporation (TSMC); Illegal Product Source: TSMC Employee; Illegal Product Type: Computer Chips; Illegal Shipment date: 11/1/26; Illegal Shipment location: dock
High	Frank Harding	Suspect	17	Domestic Abuse	Victim: Chelsea Wilks
High	Chelsea Wilks	Confessed	29	Accomplice to Illegal Product	Product Manufacturer: Taiwan Silicon Manufacturing Corporation (TSMC); Illegal Product Source: TSMC Employee; Illegal Product Type: Computer Chips; Illegal Shipment date: 11/1/26; Illegal Shipment location: dock

He remembered that the previous report didn't have much real information in it. This was not the case in this report. The details on the illegal product were very specific and should be reported to the US Customs and Border Patrol, CBP for short, for investigation. Instead of reporting it right away, Jeremy decided to call Brad and let him know of the new information. Jeremy knew Brad's cell phone as their kids played soccer together on the same team and they would often ride share. Jeremy called Brad.

"Hey Jeremy", Brad answered thinking the call was about this afternoon's soccer game, "Billy need a ride today?"

"No, thanks Brad, we'll be there, my phone call is about work stuff. Do you remember that odd anonymous tip you got a while back?" Jeremy said with all integrity as he knew nothing of the recent developments on the case.

Brad hesitated for a second and then replied, "Yeah, sure. Definitely was a strange report. Why, what's up?"

Jeremy continued, "did anyone pick up the case? I got another report like it last night but it has real information in it about the illegal product. It says there's a shipment tonight of illegal TSMC computer chips at some dock. It also calls out domestic abuse by Frank Harding on Chelsea Wilks. Is anyone working the case?"

Brad's heart started to race. "The real Bigsby must have gotten more information and reported it", thought Brad. Brad also wondered if he should admit to working on the case as Jeremy was in his department and might react badly that Brad is working with the Homicide Department. Finally, Brad responded, "Mac in Homicide took the case. He's been working on leads over the last few days. Why don't you send a picture of the report to me and I'll get it to him."

"Ah, you don't need to do that, I can contact Mac. Thanks for the pointer. See you at the game", Jeremy finished as he hung up the phone.

Brad sat there trying to decide what to do. He decided to text Mac, "New anonymous tip coming in about case, Jeremy doesn't know I'm working on it. Please forward."

Mac's phone rang just as he had finished reading the text. "Hello, this is Mac" Mac replied in a monotone voice to not give anything away.

"Hi Mac, this is Jeremy over in HQ and I've got a new anonymous tip that may relate to the previous homicide tip you got from Brad. Have you got a few minutes?" Jeremy asked but expecting to continue.

"Sure, shoot". Brad replied.

"Well, it looks like a similar report to the one you got before, but it appears to have more information on the illegal product stuff. It says there's a shipment of illegal TSMC computer chips tonight at some dock, likely here in Seattle," Jeremy added with a slight twinge as he didn't really know.

Mac jumped in almost before Jeremy had finished, "did you call CBP in yet? Customs has told us before that if we get a tip, they want the info as soon as we get it."

Jeremy paused for a second, "No, I thought to call you first since it likely related to your case."

Mac paused a second and then decided to test Jeremy, "How did you know I was working on the case?"

Jeremy, responding a little defensively, "Brad told me, I contacted him first as I knew he took the previous tip."

Mac saw what was happening, these guys, Jeremy included, don't feel like they're getting good assignments from their new boss and they are reaching out to other departments for something interesting. "Man, these guys really hate their boss", thought Mac.

Jeremy didn't wait for Mac to respond, "Hey, maybe I should contact CBP right now and give them the info. It will show Tory my initiative and my willingness to follow through."

Mac smiled, "Hey Jeremy, I've got a better idea. Lets call CBP together and I will let them know you were the one who called me and wanted to call them as well. You'll get the credit for the phone call and I'll be able to tell them about the homicide information that we know to date."

Jeremy thought for a second and didn't like the fact that Mac wanted to do a three-way call, but at this point, he didn't think he could get out of it. "Sure, you want to bring them in or should I?" said Jeremy with a slightly disgusted tone.

"I'll do it, I've got a contact I've worked with before down there and she's really good. Hold on a second," Mac said as he pulled the phone from his ear. He clicked the "+" and searched for CBP, which

stood for Customs and Border Patrol, and found Angela's contact. He clicked her phone number to add her to the call. Once connected, he immediately hit "Merge Calls".

"CBP, Officer Angela Rice speaking", she said with a military tone to her voice.

Mac spoke first, "Hi Angela, this is Mac over in SPD Homicide. How are you doing?"

Angela recognized his voice and smiled, "Hi Mac, good to hear from you. I'm in the park today playing with my kid so I may get distracted. Have you got something for me?"

Mac didn't wait for Jeremy to speak and jumped right in, "Well, its not me. On the line we have Officer Jeremy Klein from HQ. I'll let him tell you what he's got and then I'll tell you how it relates to me."

Jeremy picked up the conversation, "Thanks Mac. Hi Angela, nice to meet you. We got an anonymous tip last night that appears to be an update to a previous tip a few days back. It says there's a shipment of illegal TSMC computer chips coming in tonight at some dock, likely here in Seattle."

Angela slowly spoke, "let me see, I think I have something here already. Let me look on my phone, I'm putting you on speaker. Oh, here it is. Is this a table of names that calls Actors, Rule Match ID's, Type, and Additional Info? Looks like some weird computer-generated table. Did you guys send this to us?" Mac and Jeremy were silent for a bit and didn't know how to respond. Mac hadn't seen the table yet and Jeremy had not forwarded it to anyone. Angela spoke again, "Ah, nope, this came from the FBI. They said they got this tip late last night and sent it to us right away. The email was a little after midnight. I think we're already assembling two teams to meet the two shipments coming in tonight. One from Taiwan and the other from Singapore. I think the ship from Singapore looks like the sketchy one. Its manifest is dubious, and we've seen illegal shipments come through Singapore before."

Jeremy felt silly. He had tried to work the information to his personal gain, and it had already been there in CBP's hand. Mac realized that Jeremy was likely feeling bad, so he decided to step in, "well, Jeremy here did a good job at contacting me and getting me involved. The table also calls out the murder suspects that we've been investigating from a different angle. If either of these guys, Frank Harding or Charlie Simons are at the dock tonight when the shipment comes in, you need to be careful. They are known killers and may not hesitate to do so again."

Jeremy realized what Mac had just done and responded, "Thanks Mac, I appreciate the recognition."

Angela spoke up, "Mac, can you send us pictures of your two suspects? Also, do you want to be part of tonight's meeting of the shipments? We could use every person we can get. We're short handed down here just like you guys are."

Mac replied, "Sure, I can send the pictures over. Also, I and likely another officer will join you tonight. Please send me the logistics and I'll meet you."

Angela responded, "perfect! Anything else gentlemen, I need to get back to my kid and then prep for these raids tonight."

Mac responded first, "Not from me, thanks Angela for including SPD."

Jeremy responded wondering who the second officer from homicide would be, "Well, I do have a few questions. What about the wife, Chelsea Wilks and what if one of the guys isn't at the dock when the raid goes on. Won't they be a flight risk if they hear of the raid?"

Mac was impressed with Jeremy's question, "Good point, Jeremy. Can you take this to Tory and arrange for two squads to go to the houses at the same time we do the raid on the docks?"

Jeremy smiled as he realized that he was now part of the take down and he would get credit for it. "I sure will", Jeremy replied, "and maybe we'll get Brad as part of the team since he was part of the original tip."

Mac paused for a minute as that would take Brad out of the picture of working with him. "Maybe it is better if Brad goes to the house with the robot and make sure it is safe as well", thought Mac to himself.

Mac responded, "Jeremy, that's a good idea. Contact Brad as well so he can have a heads up about tonight."

Angela jumped in, "Ok boys, gotta go, looks like we have the bases covered."

Mac spoke first, "Yep, thanks a bunch and lets keep the comms line open. Jeremy, send me a copy of that anonymous report."

Jeremy spoke second, "Sure Mac, I'll send it. Thanks folks, I'll let you know what Tory sets up for the house raids. Good luck."

Jeremy created an email to Mac and attached the new anonymous report. He stared at it for a while, wondering if he should include some more words to help improve his image or reputation with Mac. After typing a few sentences and then deleting them, he decided to just send the report, nothing else.

After hanging up, Mac quickly texted Brad to notify him of the changes, "raid tonight at the docks with CBP to meet illegal shipment. Jeremy arranging with Tory to raid Frank and Chelsea's house and Charlie's house simultaneously tonight. Recommend you be part of the Frank and Chelsea's team to verify safety of the robot. Will forward the anonymous report from Jeremy."

Brad thought for a moment and was slightly disappointed to not be involved with CBP on the shipment raid. But, on second thought, making sure that robot is safe is a good thing. Brad was the right guy for that. Brad responded to Mac's text, "Roger that, will contact Tory to get in position." Brad thought for a minute on strategy, "Should I contact Jeremy or Tory or wait for them to contact me?" Brad wondered for a moment. He decided to text Tory, "Homicide case arrests likely happening tonight. Jeremy will call you but doesn't know my involvement. Request you put me on the team that goes to Chelsea Wilks house, the wife of the deceased. Will explain later."

Tory got the text as he was on the call with Jeremy. He pulled his phone away from his ear while Jeremy was talking to read Brad's text. Tory thought to himself, "these guys are always jockeying for position."

Jeremy finished his explanation of the situation and decided to ask for a specific assignment, "Tory, I'm requesting that I lead the team going to Frank Harding and Chelsea Wilks house. Frank may be at the dock, but Chelsea will likely be at home, she has a child." Jeremy had remembered the Sam Wilks death

and murder investigation. He remembered that he had left a wife and child behind. Jeremy thought the child angle would help him get the assignment.

Tory responded, "No, I want Brad to lead that team. You lead the raid on Charlie Simons house. I'll contact Brad and let him know of the assignment. Jeremy, good work and bring the bad guy in, if he's there. I'll contact Mac to let him know and we will have him coordinate the raid timing." Tory hung up the phone.

Jeremy was stunned. "Was there something he didn't know?" thought Jeremy to himself. "Why does Tory always pick the other guy and not me?" Jeremy continued to stew on the topic, "we are going to go to this house and the guy won't even be there. He'll be at the dock picking up the shipment and Mac and CBP will get all that credit. What a shaft!"

Tory texted Brad back right after hanging up. "You're in, recruit three badges to go with you and raid the wife's home. There's a child there, so be careful. Mac will coordinate the timing with CBP and Jeremy", Tory decided to add at the end. Brad read the text and thought as he smiled, "and there's a very important robot that we don't want to shoot!"

Tory texted Mac, "house raids approved. Brad leads on the wife's house, Jeremy leads on the wife's brother's house. Coordinate with them on timing."

Mac read the text and responded, "Thanks Tory, will do." Mac sat for a minute strategizing who he could bring besides Brad to the raid that night.

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As he sat there, his cell phone rang, it was from the DA department. "Hello, this is Mac", he answered.

"Mac, this is Keith Bartley from the DA department. Have you got a minute?" Keith asked with assertiveness.

Mac responded, "Well, actually, I'm prepping for a raid tonight at the port, so it needs to be quick."

Keith responded quickly, "Well, good luck with that. I won't keep you long. We wanted to get back to you on your request about the robot's recording of a confession and whether it can be used as evidence?"

"Oh, yeah, awesome. It relates to my case, so go ahead", Mac said with excitement in his voice.

Keith continued, "We'll we've talked it over and there has been some related cases about Alexa and Siri overhearing a crime. The law is not definitive on it yet and so we need to be careful. But, there are two people involved in the conversation, Charlie Simons and Frank Harding I think were their names. Anyway, we think that the recording can likely be used for Charlie Simons, since he was the one who configured the robot to track and record violations. But, we don't think it can be used on Frank Harding as he had no knowledge of the robot's ability to record the conversation. So, that will be a little weird. In Frank's court case, we likely can't use the recording and we'd need some other evidence or clear motivation to convict. Are these guys in custody yet?"

Mac paused for a moment and replied, "No, neither of them are in custody yet. We raid tonight and we hope to pick them both up."

Keith continued, "Well, I won't keep you, but just know that we'll need more evidence for sure for Frank and it likely would be good to get something more concrete on Charlie as well. These recordings can be tricky evidence."

Mac nodded and said, "Thanks for letting me know. If we get them tonight, I'll be sending a lot more time with you folks on this one. Have a good day."

Keith responded, "and good luck to you tonight. Hope you get your guys."

Mac got a text back from Angela from CBP that the raid would happen after 10pm as the ships were getting in sometime between 7pm and 9pm. Both docks had hired overtime workers from the port to accelerate the unloading of the shipments at nighttime. The ships were not the typical large freight haulers with the hundreds of shipping containers on them. They were both smaller ships and were being handed by specialty docks where things were often a little shadier. They also were not too far from each other, about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile away, so if one team came up dry they could be at the other site very quickly if things went bad. Jeremy and Brad had both texted their wives after Mac texted them. Brad's wife immediately called him and asked if he would still be at the soccer game that afternoon. Brad was still able to go but would need to leave about 8:30pm to meet up with the other officers. Jeremy and Brad hardly said a word to each other at the soccer game. They shook hands and wished each other good luck tonight after the game. They both knew what was in store and they knew they shouldn't discuss it at the game. The wives looked at each other, said hi and waived, but were both uneasy and quiet knowing their husbands were likely going into harm's way later that night. The soccer game was a good distraction for them all, especially since Jeremy's boy had scored a goal and Brad's son had saved one with a great defensive play. The night was going to be a long one for both families but for now, they all relished in the fun of a youth soccer game.