

Police also were told of an incident at Watson dormitory where a 12-gauge shotgun and ammunition was found as well as a hand grenade, 59 flares, a knife and "some related military equipment," Tilby said.

Tilby would not confirm whether the two incidents were related.

However, Badillo claims the two matters are related. He gave his version of the story a few

hours before he was arrested:

On Monday night Badillo and a friend, who lives on the second floor of Willcox, were in the basement "just drinking beers" when a mutual friend, Miranda, whose nickname is "Ozzie," arrived at about 11:30, Badillo said.

Miranda was carrying a bag that contained a gas mask and a canister. He told the others he had obtained the material from a black "Chevy Luv" pick-up

truck, which was parked in the Bean Complex parking lot.

The three then went up to the second floor of Willcox where, with some difficulty, they opened the canister.

"My friend brought the container over, and we could not open it, so I had it in my hand and squeezed it and powder flew all over the place, and I dropped the canister," he said.

The canister was the size of a "size-D battery pack, about five inches tall, three inches round and one inch thick," Badillo said.

"At first nothing happened, and we were joking around. The stuff looked like cocaine so I picked some up with my finger and put it next to my nose. I got some in my nose, and it burned, so I dropped the canister a second time.

"The three of us went to the restroom because the powder was burning our faces. After my face cooled down, I picked up the container, capped it and washed it off," he added.

A floor resident who witnessed the event then threw the canister onto a stairwell landing that is outside the second-floor fire door, Badillo said.

After the powder had stopped burning, Miranda and Badillo drank a few more beers and decided to return to the truck from which Miranda had taken the canister, Badillo said. They returned to the truck at about 2:30 a.m., he said.

In the truck they found the shotgun, grenade, and rounds of ammunition as well as army pants, T-shirts, shorts, boots and a backpack. The two took these items back to a room on the fourth floor of Watson Hall in the Hamilton Complex where Miranda lives, Badillo said.

"When we went back to the room in Watson, on the fourth floor we found out what we had, and once we knew what we had we put it away," he said.

In the morning Manuel Pacheco, the director of the HEP

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— David Badillo

program, and Tilby entered the room and found the grenade, gun and the ammunition, Badillo said.

"Manuel came around 10:30 — I guess he was looking for beer or drugs because we found out later that he was searching everyone's room, everyone who is in the program, and not just ours," he said.

"If we had kept the stuff in a regular college student's room they would never have known about it," he added.

A random search of a room is not regular practice, however, Pacheco said.

"We went to the room at 10:30 because we had a tip there had been some weapons there the night before," he said.

After entering the room, Pacheco and Tilby found the weapons, he added.

Badillo was kicked out of the HEP program a few months ago for a drinking violation and is not a good source of information concerning the case since he is one of the main suspects, Pacheco said.

The truck from which the articles were stolen belongs to a University student, Tilby said. He declined to give a name. A license plate check revealed that Madison Myers is the truck's owner, however.

Tilby said he has interviewed the owners of the truck, and the information he has gathered

will be submitted to the military.

"This matter is military in nature, and I will hand the information over to the military," he said.

Lane County Environmental Health Services cleaned up the rest of the powder from the floor, and students were allowed to re-enter at 2 p.m.

John Falconer, a freshman at the University who lives on the second floor, was asked to leave his room by a security guard at around 10:15 a.m. He knew something peculiar was happening at 10, however, when he heard security guards talking over walkie-talkies in the hallway, he said.

Freshman Bradford Silverman, also a second-floor resident, said he was asked to leave his room at 10 and that no explanation was given for the evacuation.

"No one knew what it was about for quite some time," he said.

Silverman said students found out what the chemical was when they overheard some police officers discussing the issue. This is when the residents learned that the chemical spilled on their floor was in fact a concentrated powder form of tear gas, he said.

Although the second floor was evacuated, residents on the first and third floors were not asked to leave their rooms.

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