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Of Counsel

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

MANUEL de JESUS ORTEGA MELENDRES, on
behalf of himself and all others similarly
situated; *et al.*

Plaintiff,

v.

JOSEPH M. ARPAIO, in his individual
And official capacity as Sheriff of Maricopa
County, Arizona; *et al.*

Defendants.

DENNIS L. MONTGOMERY

Intervenor.

Civil Action No.
CV-07-2513-PHX-GMS

**INTERVENOR DENNIS L. MONTGOMERY'S NOTICE OF SUPPLEMENTAL
AUTHORITY AND SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT OF
MOTION FOR INTERVENTION OF RIGHT**

Intervenor, Dennis L. Montgomery, by proposed counsel (*pro hac vice* pending) seeks to
supplement his Motion to Intervene and Memorandum in support thereof and files the attached

1 notice of supplemental authority.

2 The Court recently ordered that the Defendants provide notice to the chief legal counsel of
3 the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) concerning allegations that Dennis L. Montgomery has
4 possession of CIA property which was characterized as obtained without authorization.

5 However, Intervenor files the attached supplemental authority and clarifies for his motion to
6 intervene that the ownership of Dennis Montgomery's intellectual property has already been
7 litigated and resolved in Dennis Montgomery's favor. This prior litigation is *res judicata* binding
8 upon the U.S. Government including the CIA and National Security Agency (NSA). Intervenor
9 demands the return of his intellectual property from the Court. The data, information, and
10 intellectual property was provided under limited license to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office for
11 limited purposes, not provided to the Court.
12

13 The U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada has already ruled that

14 (1) the data and intellectual property belongs to Dennis Montgomery,

15 (2) none of the data or information is classified,

16 (3) the U.S. Government was required to return all of the data and
17 information to Dennis Montgomery, and

18 (4) the U.S. Government deceived the Court in falsely claiming that
19 the data, information, and/or intellectual property did not belong to
20

21 Dennis Montgomery and/or was classified.

22 Attached as Exhibits 1 and 2 are the Orders in *Dennis Montgomery and the Montgomery*
23 *Family Trust v. eTrepid Technologies, LLC, Warren Trepp and the U.S. Department of Defense*,
24 Case Nos. 3:06-CV-00056-PMP-VPC and 3:06-CV-00145-PMP-VPC, Order, Judge Philip M. Pro,
25 March 19, 2007, and *In the Matter of the Search of: The Residence Located at 12720 Buckthorne*
26 *Lane, Reno, Nevada, and Storage Units 136, 140, 141, 142 and 143, Double R Storage, 888*
27
28

1 *Madestro Drive, Reno, Nevada*, Case Nos. 3:06-CV-0263-PMP-VPC and 3:06-MJ-00023-VPC,
2 Order, Magistrate Judge Valerie P. Cooke, November 28, 2006. These Orders are *res judicata* and
3 are now final.

4 Intervenor notes that Defendants, by counsel, have objected that there was no notice that
5 these topics would be raised in the evidentiary hearing from April 21-24, 2015, and they were not
6 prepared to address these topics. The Court did not accept the objections that the witnesses made
7 on April 21-24, 2015, and the witnesses were not expecting questioning on these topics and did not
8 come prepared to address these issues. As a result, the Defendants have notified the Court that they
9 did not come prepared to discuss any of these topics on April 23 and 24, 2015, and did not have this
10 information at their fingertips.
11

12 Dated: May 13, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

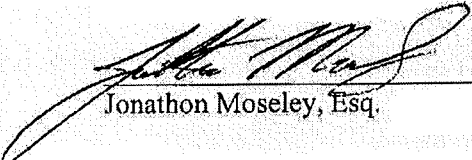
I hereby certify that on May 13, 2015, I served by U.S. mail and email the foregoing document on the following participants:

Dated: May 13, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on May 13, 2015, I served this document by U.S. mail and email to the following participants:

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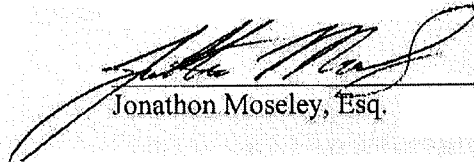
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15 *(Pro Hac Vice Application Filed)*
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Exhibit 1

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

* * *

DENNIS MONTGOMERY and the
MONTGOMERY FAMILY TRUST,

Plantiffs,

v.

ETREPPID TECHNOLOGIES, LLC;
WARREN TREPP; and the UNITED
STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,

Defendants.

AND ALL RELATED MATTERS.

3:06-CV-00056-PMP-VPC
BASE FILE

3:06-CV-00145-PMP-VPC


ORDER.

Attached hereto is a copy of the Order entered this date in "IN THE MATTER OF THE SEARCH OF: THE RESIDENCE LOCATED AT 12720 BUCKTHORNE LANE, RENO, NEVADA, AND STORAGE UNITS 136, 140, 141, 142, AND 143, DOUBLE R STORAGE, 888 MADESTRO DRIVE, RENO, NEVADA, 3:06-CV-0263-PMP-VPC, 3:06-MJ-00023-VPC."

Counsel for the parties to this action are hereby directed to comply with the requirements set forth in the attached Order that they forthwith review the sealed case file and file any objections to the unsealing of any portion thereof within twenty-one days of this date.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: March 19, 2007.



PHILIP M. PRO
United States District Judge

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

* * *

IN THE MATTER OF THE SEARCH OF:)

THE RESIDENCE LOCATED AT 12720)
BUCKTHORNE LANE, RENO,)
NEVADA, AND STORAGE UNITS 136,)
140, 141, 142, AND 143, DOUBLE R)
STORAGE, 888 MAESTRO DRIVE,)
RENO, NEVADA.)

3:06-CV-0263-PMP-VPC
3:06-MJ-00023-VPC

ORDER

On November 28, 2006, the Honorable Valerie P. Cooke, United States Magistrate Judge, entered an Order (#86) granting the Motion of Dennis Montgomery, Brenda Montgomery, and the Montgomery Family Trust ("Montgomery") to unseal search warrant affidavits and return seized property pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 41(g) (#21). Magistrate Judge Cooke's Order further denied Montgomery's Motion for Segregation and Sealing of all Attorney-Client and Trade Secret Material as moot because the Court ordered the return of all seized property.

On December 12, 2006, Respondent United States of America filed Objections to Magistrate Judge Cooke's Order (#99). On December 21, 2006, Dennis Montgomery filed an Opposition to the Government's Objections (#100). On February 21, 2007, this action was reassigned to the undersigned District Judge for further proceedings (#112).

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I. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The FBI searched Dennis and Brenda Montgomery's home and leased storage space pursuant to search warrants executed on March 1, 2006, and March 3, 2006. In granting Montgomery's Motion to unseal the search warrant affidavits and return seized property, Magistrate Judge Cooke followed the line of authority that requires the Government to demonstrate a compelling government interest in keeping the affidavit under seal and that no less restrictive means are available to prevent disclosure. Following a three day evidentiary hearing and extensive pre- and post-hearing briefing, Magistrate Judge Cooke found the Government failed to meet its burden of establishing a compelling Government interest to prevent unsealing the search warrant affidavits and the return of property seized pursuant to Rule 41(g). Additionally, Magistrate Judge Cooke concluded the Government had made no showing whatsoever that probable cause existed to justify the issuance of the search warrants in this case based on a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1832.

II. AUTHORITY TO ISSUE THE ORDER

The Government argues that 28 U.S.C. § 636 does not authorize a magistrate judge to issue an order unsealing documents or returning seized property to putative property owners in the context of a pre-indictment Rule 41(g) motion. As a result, the Government argues Magistrate Judge Cooke's order should be treated as a finding and recommendation. In Response, Montgomery argues Magistrate Judge Cooke did not exceed her authority by issuing an "order."

Title 28, United States Code, § 636(b)(1)(A) outlines the authority of a magistrate judge in pertinent part as follows:

... a judge may designate a magistrate judge to hear and determine any pretrial matter pending before the court, except a motion for injunctive relief, for judgment on the pleadings, for summary judgment, to dismiss or quash an indictment or information made by the defendant, to suppress evidence in a criminal case, to dismiss or to permit maintenance of a class action, to dismiss for failure to state a

1 claim upon which relief can be granted, and to involuntarily dismiss an
2 action. A judge of the court may reconsider any pretrial matter under
3 this subparagraph (A) where it has been shown that the magistrate
4 judge's order is clearly erroneous or contrary to law.

5 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A). Section 636(b)(1)(B) provides:

6 . . . a judge may also designate a magistrate judge to conduct hearings,
7 including evidentiary hearings, and to submit to a judge of the court
8 proposed findings of fact and recommendations for the disposition, by
9 a judge of the court, of any motion excepted in subparagraph (A), of
10 applications for posttrial relief made by individuals convicted of
11 criminal offenses and of prisoner petitions challenging conditions of
12 confinement.

13 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B). Therefore, if Magistrate Judge Cooke's Order derived its
14 authority from section 636(b)(1)(A), the district court may reconsider the Order if it is
15 clearly erroneous or contrary to law. If Magistrate Judge Cooke's Order was issued
16 pursuant to section 636(b)(1)(B), the district court's review is de novo.

17 In ruling on Montgomery's motion, Magistrate Judge Cooke labeled her decision
18 as an "Order" indicating the decision was made pursuant to section 636(b)(1)(A). In
19 addition, her Order cited to LR IB 3-1 and stated, "any party wishing to object to this order
20 shall . . . file and serve specific written objection to the ruling together with points and
21 authorities in support thereof." LR IB 3-1 is essentially a local rule setting forth a
22 magistrate judge's authority under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A). Therefore, Magistrate Judge
23 Cooke's Order was issued pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A).

24 The Government cites In the Matter of Application and Affidavit for a Search
25 Warrant v. Hughes, 923 F.2d 324 (4th Cir. 1991) and United States v. Urlacher, 136 F.R.D.
26 550 (W.D. N.Y. 1991) for the proposition that Magistrate Judge Cooke exceeded her
authority. In Hughes, a newspaper requested the federal court unseal a search warrant
affidavit. 923 F.2d at 325. A magistrate judge held a hearing on the matter and denied the
motion. Id. The parties appealed to the district court. Id. After hearing argument, the
district judge ruled that the affidavit should be released in its entirety. Id. In reviewing the

1 prior proceedings, the Fourth Circuit determined that the district court's decision would be
2 reviewed for an abuse of discretion. However, in a footnote, the court addressed the
3 dissent's assertions that the discretion of the magistrate judge and not the district judge, was
4 at issue in the case. Id. at 325 n.2

5 In Hughes, the overriding concern about unsealing the affidavit was the prejudice
6 that might result to the criminal defendant in that case. The Hughes court opined, "[t]he
7 dissent's assertion that a reviewing court must ignore the judgment of a district court and
8 defer to the opinion of a magistrate who has no experience with voir dire in felony cases
9 involving pretrial publicity cannot stand as a matter of logic or law." Id. However, the
10 Hughes court did note that "[w]here a magistrate holds hearings and issues complete
11 findings and the district court only summarily reviews the ruling . . . evaluation of the
12 magistrate's actions may be appropriate." Id. In Hughes, "the magistrate's order provided
13 a legally inadequate record and the district court properly reconsidered the issue by holding
14 hearings and making findings." Id. The Hughes court noted that "[a] magistrate's power to
15 seal or unseal a document derives from the district court's power to take such actions and
16 the dissent points to no statute or court rule empowering magistrates to making final rulings
17 in such cases." Id.

18 In Urlacher, a magistrate judge ordered the unsealing of the motion papers and
19 the docket entries relating to a motion for a subpoena duces tecum. However, in a footnote,
20 the magistrate judge noted that the portion of the order directing unsealing was, in essence,
21 a report and recommendation for the reasons stated in Hughes. 136 F.R.D. at 559 n.5. "A
22 stay thus ensures district court review before unsealing is accomplished. Such review
23 would be meaningless if the unsealing recommended here was effected prior to the district
24 court review ensured here." Id.

25 Although the cases cited by the Government arguably support the proposition that
26 Magistrate Judge Cooke's decision should be reviewed *de novo* as a report and

1 recommendation, the plain language of section 636 indicates otherwise. Section
2 636(b)(1)(A) initially permits a magistrate judge to “hear any pretrial matter pending before
3 the court.” Section 636(b)(1)(A) continues by not permitting a magistrate judge to decide
4 the following motions: motion for injunctive relief, for judgment on the pleadings, for
5 summary judgment, to dismiss or quash an indictment or information made by the
6 defendant, to suppress evidence in a criminal case, to dismiss or to permit maintenance of a
7 class action, to dismiss for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted, and to
8 involuntarily dismiss an action. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A). Applying the statutory canon
9 of construction *expressio unius est exclusio alterius* indicates that magistrate judges are
10 permitted to decide any pretrial matter not included within the list above. Therefore,
11 Magistrate Judge Cooke had the authority to issue her Order pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §
12 636(b)(1)(A) and this Court’s review is limited to whether the Order is clearly erroneous or
13 contrary to law.

14 Regardless, for the reasons set forth below, this Court would reach the same
15 result under a *de novo* standard of review.

16 **III. THE GOVERNMENT’S SPECIFIC OBJECTIONS**

17 The Government objects to several specific findings made by Magistrate Judge
18 Cooke.

19 **A. Page Three**

20 Page three of Magistrate Judge Cooke’s Order states that in the affidavit of
21 February 28, 2006, in support of the search warrants, Special Agent (“SA”) Michael West
22 relied on three categories of eTreppid documents: the Contribution Agreement, the
23 amended and restated operating agreement of eTreppid, and ten patent assignments from
24 Montgomery to eTreppid. The Government argues that a review of the affidavit
25 demonstrates that a majority of the affidavit speaks to software development efforts on the
26 part of all software developers at eTreppid.

1 Although the Government is correct that a small portion of the affidavit relates to
2 the three documents discussed by Magistrate Judge Cooke, her finding is not clearly
3 erroneous.

4 **B. Page Three, Line 10-13**

5 With respect to the Contribution Agreement, Magistrate Judge Cooke's Order
6 states, "[t]he court drew the inference from this summary of the Contribution Agreement
7 that Montgomery assigned *all* intellectual property and related property he owned to
8 eTreppid because that is what the plain meaning of the excerpt of the Contribution
9 Agreement states." The Government points to language in SA West's affidavit that ends
10 with the following language: "relating to or used in connection with, or otherwise
11 describing or consisting of any part of, the software compression technology."

12 The paragraph of SA West's affidavit relating to the Contribution Agreement
13 reads as follows:

14 MONTGOMERY signed a Contribution Agreement, dated September
15 28, 1998, in which MONTGOMERY effectively assigned all rights to
16 his "Contributed Assets" to eTreppid in exchange for a fifty percent
17 (50%) interest Management Interest in eTreppid. The "Contributed
18 Assets" means all of MONTGOMERY's know-how; trade secrets;
19 patent rights, copyrights, trademarks, licenses and permits, registered
20 or unregistered, pending or approved; software programs and all
programming and Source Codes used in connection therewith or
otherwise required to operate any component thereof; and all
programming documentation, designs, materials and other information,
all in whatever form and wherever located, relating to or used in
connection with, or otherwise describing or consisting of any part of,
the software compression technology.

21 (Aff. of Michael A. West (#1) at 2.) It was not clearly erroneous for Magistrate Judge
22 Cooke to infer that this Contribution Agreement assigned all intellectual property from
23 Montgomery to eTreppid. There is no indication in the affidavit that Montgomery owned
24 any additional intellectual property that was not part of the Contribution Agreement.

25 **C. Page Four, Lines 1-3**

26 The pertinent lines of Magistrate Judge Cooke's Order relevant to the

1 Government's objection are as follows: "The affidavit states that through these patent
2 assignments, Montgomery assigned full and exclusive use of the technologies described in
3 the patents to eTreppid. The next paragraph of the affidavit describes 'trade secrets,' which
4 [Magistrate Judge Cooke] inferred were the patented technologies Montgomery assigned to
5 eTreppid in 2000-2001: Software programs relating to data compression, pattern
6 recognition, and change and anomaly detection." The Government argues that SA West's
7 affidavit contains no indication that the trade secrets were covered by the ten patents
8 described in the preceding paragraph of the affidavit.

9 The relevant language in SA West's affidavit is as follows:

10 MONTGOMERY filed ten Patent Assignment applications with
11 the United States Patent and Trademark Office during the period of
12 November 2000 to November 2001 for patents pertaining to various
13 technologies developed by MONTGOMERY while an employee at
14 eTreppid and on each patent MONTGOMERY assigned full and
15 exclusive rights, title, and interest of these technologies to eTreppid.

16 Trepp considers eTreppid's trade secrets to be various software
17 programs relating to data compression, pattern recognition, change and
18 anomaly detection, among other things, which derive independent
19 economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known
20 to, and not being readily ascertainable through proper means by the
21 public. eTreppid has earned in excess of ten million dollars in
22 revenues since 1998 from various government and commercial
23 contracts. Trepp anticipates that eTreppid's development efforts will
24 result in other multi-million dollar contracts.

25 (Aff. of Michael A. West (#1) at 3.) SA West's affidavit indicates that Montgomery
26 assigned patents relating to various technologies to eTreppid. In reviewing the affidavit,
Magistrate Judge Cooke was attempting to determine whether there was probable cause to
support the issuance of a search warrant. Specifically, the alleged criminal activity related
to the theft of trade secrets and unlawfully retaining national defense information. Because
the subject matter of the trade secrets was of primary importance to the affidavit, it was not
clearly erroneous for Magistrate Judge Cooke to infer that the trade secrets were related to
the assigned patents.

D. Page Fourteen, Lines 15-18

At page fourteen, lines fifteen through eighteen, Magistrate Judge Cooke's Order states, "[t]he Government has denied Montgomery is a target, and there has never been any indication that either Ms. Montgomery or the Montgomery Family Trust is a search warrant target. Nine months have passed since the Government executed the search warrants, and it appears there are no current plans to prosecute any of the movants." The Government objects to this portion of the Order stating that no evidence has been presented that would indicate whether law enforcement has terminated their investigation of Mr. Montgomery. The Government further asserts that the investigation is ongoing. According to the Government, "While the sworn statements/declarations of eTreppid employees provide evidence of criminal conduct on the part of Mr. Montgomery, it is apparent that the results of a forensic examination of the seized computer storage media would provide strong corroboration of their statements."

Magistrate Judge Cooke, in the relevant section of her Order, was discussing the issue of whether there was an adequate remedy at law. This is one factor to be considered before the Court can reach the merits on a pre-indictment motion pursuant to Rule 41(g). See United States v. Kama, 394 F.3d 1236, 1238 (9th Cir. 2005). In light of the fact that almost one year had passed since the Government executed the search warrants, this Court does not find clearly erroneous the statement by Magistrate Judge Cooke that "it appears there are no current plans to prosecute any of the movants."

E. Page Sixteen, Lines 20-24

The relevant language to this objection is as follows:

[t]urning to the evidence in the proceeding, the redactions involve direct and recent contacts Montgomery had with other individuals, and it is difficult to imagine that the Government is concerned about revealing identities of witnesses or protecting an ongoing investigation. In fact, Montgomery has already surmised that part of the redaction relates to seeking investors for the source code. Moreover, at the June 29, 2006, evidentiary hearings, SA West revealed the identity and

1 involvement of SA Haraldsen during his testimony.

2 The Government argues that Montgomery's suppositions about investigative techniques
3 should not result in an order directing the Government to disclose information to support his
4 beliefs. The Government further asserts that, with the exception of Magistrate Judge
5 Cooke's Order, there was no disclosure of investigative techniques used by SA Haraldsen.

6 In the relevant section of the Order, Magistrate Judge Cooke was addressing the
7 issue of whether the Government had demonstrated a compelling government interest in
8 keeping the affidavit under seal. Upon addressing this issue and the relevant language
9 above, Magistrate Judge Cooke found that the Government has not met its burden to
10 establish a compelling government interest. Here, the Government has failed to show clear
11 error in Magistrate Judge Cooke's reasoning. Even if new information would be revealed,
12 the Government has not made any showing to this Court that would establish a compelling
13 government interest.

14 **F. Page Nineteen, Lines 22-26**

15 The Order reads:

16 [h]ad this court been provided the entire contribution
17 agreement, it would have concluded that whatever is on
18 CD No. 1 - nothing more and nothing less - belonged to
19 eTreppid. The court would have expected the
20 Government to demonstrate there was probable cause to
21 believe that CD No. 1 contained the disputed trade
22 secrets. However, SA West testified that he does not
23 know what CD 1 contains, and he never inquired as to
24 how long Montgomery has been creating software
25 technology.

26 The Government argues that this finding ignores the majority of the search warrant
27 affidavit, which describes the efforts of eTreppid software developers. According to the
28 Government, the affidavit clearly established that the search warrant was for evidence of
29 source code that both Montgomery and other software developers worked on while at the
30 eTreppid facility, and not certain technology contained on CD No. 1.

1 In discussing the business relationship between Montgomery and eTreppid,
2 Magistrate Judge Cooke stated that SA West had a “fundamental misunderstanding of the
3 operating agreement and the business relationship between Montgomery and eTreppid.”
4 This statement was based on SA West’s testimony that he believed that eTreppid owned
5 more than what was on CD No 1. because Montgomery had worked at eTreppid for eight
6 years. Based on the record before the Court and the affidavit in support of the search
7 warrant at issue, it is unclear exactly when the source code was developed, who developed
8 it and who owns it. However, the affidavit in support of the search warrant does not
9 “clearly establish” that the search was for a source code developed while Montgomery was
10 employed at eTreppid. Magistrate Judge Cooke’s findings in this regard are not clearly
11 erroneous.

12 **G. Page twenty-two through twenty-three, Lines 11-8**

13 In her Order, Magistrate Judge Cooke wrote, “[a]lthough SA West referred to the
14 patent assignments to illustrate Montgomery’s employment relationship with eTreppid, this
15 is what the reference conveyed to this court: that since Montgomery had conveyed all of his
16 technological know-how to eTreppid, the ten patents bore an integral relationship to the
17 trade secrets that Montgomery allegedly stole.” The Order continues, “[i]t is now evident
18 that these patents had nothing to do with the trade secrets alleged to have been stolen.”
19 The Government argues that Magistrate Judge Cooke focused on “software technology
20 contained on a certain CD that was not identified or referenced in the initial affidavit to the
21 exclusion of the allegedly stolen eTreppid software that was explicitly identified in the
22 search.”

23 The affidavit does discuss the Contribution Agreement that began the business
24 relationship between eTreppid and Montgomery. As a result, it was not clearly erroneous
25 for Magistrate Judge Cooke to conclude that the software on CD No. 1 was at issue and that
26 the patents bore a relationship to the trade secrets that Montgomery allegedly stole.

H. Pages twenty-three through twenty-five

Pages twenty-three through twenty-five of Magistrate Judge Cooke's Order discuss the security clearance of Montgomery and eTreppid. Magistrate Judge Cooke concluded that "although SA Haraldsen and Venables represented to SA West that eTreppid possessed a facility clearance to store secret material, eTreppid did not have one." With respect to Montgomery, Magistrate Judge Cooke stated, "Although SA West's affidavit never specifically stated the level of Montgomery's security clearance, the inference was that it was tied to his work at eTreppid and that he lost it. However, SA West's testimony conflicts as to whether he knew what, if any, security clearance Montgomery possessed at the time of the search." According to the Government, "the affidavit established that SA West ascertained that eTreppid did have a facility clearance and that Montgomery no longer had a special access program, top secret clearance based on his interview with Special Agent Paul Haraldsen, Air Force Office of Special Investigations and Director of Policy for Special Access Programs, United States Air Force." Therefore, the Government disputes Magistrate Judge Cooke's finding that SA West displayed callous disregard for the constitutional rights of Montgomery because he did not obtain additional information. The Government asserts that Magistrate Judge Cooke's finding "begs the question of what additional investigation, beyond consulting with an AFOSI Special Agent and the USAF Director of Policy for Special Access Programs and obtaining DoD documents indicating that Montgomery's clearance has been suspended."

Magistrate Judge Cooke's Order states, "[a]fter examination of his affidavit, his testimony concerning his investigation, and the protocols the Department of Justice has implemented for these crimes, this Court can only conclude that SA West acted with callous disregard of Montgomery's fundamental Fourth Amendment rights." Therefore, it is clear that Magistrate Judge Cooke based her ruling on the totality of the circumstances surrounding the issuance of the search warrant. With respect to the security clearance

1 issues, the Government does not dispute Magistrate Judge Cooke's conclusions concerning
2 whether or not Montgomery and eTreppid had security clearances. Even if this Court were
3 to accept the Government's argument that SA West adequately investigated this portion of
4 the case, Magistrate Judge Cooke's ultimate conclusion is not clearly erroneous in light of
5 the other findings made in the Order.

6 **I. Page twenty-seven, lines 13-18**

7 A portion of Magistrate Judge Cooke's Order reads, "[a]s a preliminary
8 observation, the court notes that SA West never disclosed in his affidavit that Trepp and
9 Montgomery were engaged in civil litigation concerning ownership of the trade secrets,
10 which are intertwined with the allegation in the affidavit that Montgomery engaged in the
11 criminal theft of trade secrets." The Government disputes this statement and points out that
12 the affidavit references a TRO filed against Montgomery by eTreppid. The reference in the
13 affidavit referred to by the Government states as follows:

14 On or about February 26, 2006, at approximately 8:00 p.m. (Eastern
15 Standard Time) SA Haraldsen, received an unsolicited call from
16 MONTGOMERY in which MONTGOMERY expressed concerns
17 about providing SA Haraldsen with information concerning anomaly
18 detection and pattern recognition technical capabilities as doing so
19 would violate the Temporary Restraining Order filed against him by
20 eTreppid. MONTGOMERY suggested that the U.S. Government
21 remove the Temporary Restraining Order if they were truly interested
22 in these capabilities.

23 (Aff. of Michael A. West (#1) at 12.)

24 The fact that the affidavit makes reference to a temporary restraining order does
25 not render Magistrate Judge Cooke's statement clearly erroneous. There is no explicit
26 reference to the two related civil cases or the fact that the parties are disputing the
ownership of the software code at issue. From the portion of the affidavit stated above, the
exact nature of the dispute between Montgomery and eTreppid is unclear.

27 **J. Pages twenty-nine through thirty**

28 The Government's final objection to the Order challenges Magistrate Judge

1 Cooke's findings concerning callous disregard of Montgomery's constitutional rights. First,
2 the Government disputes Magistrate Judge Cooke's reliance on a Department of Justice
3 manual that suggests disputes between two potential owners are better left to a civil forum.
4 According to the Government, the Order ignores the evidence establishing that the software
5 purportedly stolen from eTreppid premises was not subject to a legitimate ownership
6 dispute. In addition, the Government asserts that "SA West personally interviewed SA Paul
7 Haraldsen, Warren Trepp, Sloan Venables, and Patty Gray, along with obtaining sworn
8 declarations of Venkata Kalluri and Barjinder Bal." The Government concludes, "In doing
9 so, he focused on individuals knowledgeable regarding allegations of trade secrets, i.e.,
10 employees of the victim company, and corroborated this information by obtaining DoD
11 documents and interviewing an AFOSI Special Agent and USAF Director of Policy for
12 Special Access Programs."

13 The Court finds untenable the Government's argument that the software at issue
14 is not subject to a legitimate ownership dispute which has manifested itself in related
15 federal civil actions filed by both Montgomery and eTreppid currently pending before this
16 Court. See Dennis Montgomery, et al. v. eTreppid Technologies, Inc., et al., 3:06-CV-
17 0056-PMP (VPC) and eTreppid Technologies, Inc., et al., v. Dennis Montgomery, et al.,
18 3:06-CV-0145-PMP (VPC). Magistrate Judge Cooke's reference to the Department of
19 Justice manual in support of her finding that the ownership of material seized pursuant to
20 search warrants is better left to the pending civil litigation cannot be characterized as clearly
21 erroneous. This is particularly so in light of the numerous examples cited by Magistrate
22 Judge Cooke wherein she was misled by unchallenged factual representations which upon
23 closer examination were revealed to be inaccurate.

24 ///

25 ///

26 ///

1 **IV. THE RELATED CIVIL ACTIONS 3:06-CV-0056-PMP-(VPC) and**
2 **3:06-CV-0145-PMP-(VPC)**

3 In resolving the Governments objections to Magistrate Judge Cooke's Order for
4 the return of seized property, this Court is mindful that the ownership of some of the items
5 seized pursuant to the search warrants is heavily contested by Montgomery and eTreppid in
6 two civil lawsuits currently pending before this Court. See Dennis Montgomery, et al. v.
7 eTreppid Technologies, Inc., et al., 3:06-CV-0056-PMP (VPC) and eTreppid Technologies,
8 Inc., et al., v. Dennis Montgomery, et al., 3:06-CV-0145-PMP (VPC). As a result, both in
9 this case and the related civil cases eTreppid has expressed its objection to the return of any
10 property to Montgomery as which to eTreppid claims an ownership interest. Indeed,
11 eTreppid unsuccessfully attempted to intervene in this action by way of a motion for return
12 of seized property (#88).

13 However, property which is the subject of the ownership dispute between
14 Montgomery and eTreppid in the two related civil actions is the subject of a Preliminary
15 Injunction entered February 8, 2006, by the Honorable Robert Perry, District Judge of the
16 Second Judicial District Court, State of Nevada. As a result, any items currently in the
17 Government's possession which the Court's orders returned to Montgomery in this case,
18 and which also are subject to the ownership dispute in the related civil cases, remain subject
19 to the Preliminary Injunction, unless and until that Preliminary Injunction is modified by
20 order of this Court.

21 Nevertheless, there is one additional issue which must be confronted by this
22 Court before it enters an order unsealing the volumes of materials filed in this case over the
23 past year. On March 15, 2007, the Court conducted a status conference hearing in the
24 related civil cases. Those proceedings involve assertions of state secrets privileges on
25 behalf of the United States and trade secrets on behalf of eTreppid. It is unclear whether
26 any of the filings made in this case concerning the return of seized property under Rule 41

(g), contain material which maybe subject to a valid claim of privilege by the parties in the related civil cases. This rather anomalous circumstance stems from the fact that all of the filings in this case have to date been filed under seal and thus were not in every instance available for review by each of the parties to the two related civil cases. As a result, as the Court advised the parties at the status conference conducted March 15, 2006, in the related civil cases, it is appropriate to permit counsel for the parties to the two related civil cases to review the sealed filings made in this case prior to giving effect to the order unsealing these proceedings.

It should be understood by the parties to the related civil actions that the permission granted by this Court to review the filings in this case prior to unsealing does not extend to an examination of the items of property seized pursuant to the search warrants at issue. Those items of property were in the possession of Montgomery prior to execution of the warrants and shall be returned to him. To the extent those items of property are otherwise implicated in the two related civil actions, they remain subject to the Preliminary Injunction entered in the related civil actions.

V. CONCLUSION

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections filed on December 12, 2006, by Respondent United States of America (#99), to Magistrate Judge Cooke's Order (#86), are overruled and Magistrate Judge Cooke's Order is affirmed.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that within ten days of the date of this order, Respondent United States shall return to Dennis Montgomery all materials seized pursuant to the search warrants at issue in the case which were executed on March 1, 2006 and March 3, 2006. To the extent any of the property returned to Montgomery is the subject of dispute in the related civil cases, Dennis Montgomery, et al. v. eTreppid Technologies, Inc., et al., 3:06-CV-0056-PMP (VPC) and eTreppid Technologies, Inc., et al., v. Dennis Montgomery, et al., 3:06-CV-0145-PMP (VPC), said property remains subject to the

1 Preliminary Injunction issued in those related cases.

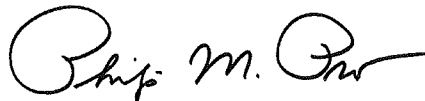
2 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all filings made in this action with the
3 exception of the declaration of Dennis Montgomery (#115) filed on February 28, 2007,
4 shall be unsealed unless for good cause shown the Court determines that assertion of state
5 secrets, trade secrets, or other privilege is found to be meritorious and requires the
6 continued sealing of a particular filing, declaration or exhibit in this case. In this regard,
7 counsel for the parties in the related civil actions shall have twenty-one days from the date
8 of this order within which to review the sealed case file in this case and to file with the
9 Court any objection to the unsealing of any portion thereof. To assist in the review of the
10 sealed search warrant case file, counsel for Montgomery, eTreppid, and the United States
11 shall immediately contact Chief Deputy Clerk of Court, Cynthia Jensen, at (702) 464-5477,
12 who will provide limited access to the sealed case file through the Court's electronic case
13 filing system.

14 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Government's Motion to Strike Pleadings
15 filed by Michael James Flynn and preclude Pro Hac Vice of Michael James Flynn (#110),
16 filed February 13, 2006, is DENIED as moot.

17 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that eTreppid Technologies Motion for
18 Reconsideration (#98), filed December 12, 2006 is DENIED.

19 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Motion to Intervene (#120), March 13,
20 2006, by proposed intervener Reno Newspapers Inc., is DENIED as moot.

21 DATED: March 19, 2007.

22 

23 PHILIP M. PRO
24 United States District Judge
25
26

Exhibit 2

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FAX No. 775

P. 001/034



**United States District Court
District of Nevada**

Bruce R. Thompson U.S. Courthouse and Federal Building
400 South Virginia Street, Room 404
Reno, Nevada 89501

Chambers of Valerie P. Cooke
United States Magistrate Judge

Telephone: (775) 686-5855
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FAX TRANSMITTAL

DATE: November 28, 2006

THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE BEING FAXED TO:

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Ronald Logar, Esq. (#786-7544)
Eric A. Pulver, Esq. (#786-7544)
Paul Pugliese, Esq. (#784-5181)

RE: In the Matter of the search of 12720 Buckthorn Lane

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET: 34

FROM: The Honorable Valerie P. Cooke
United States Magistrate Judge

PHONE: (775) 686-5855

FAX NO.: (775) 686-5864

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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

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FAX No. 775

P. 002/034

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

In the matter of the search of:
12720 BUCKTHORN LANE,
RENO, NEVADA,
and
888 MAESTRO DRIVE, RENO,
NEVADA, STORAGE UNITS
136, 140, 141, 142, and 143,

3:06-CV-0263-LRH (VPC)
3:06-MJ-0023-VPC

ORDER

Before the court is a motion by Dennis Montgomery, Brenda Montgomery and the Montgomery Family Trust ("Montgomery") (1) to unseal search warrant affidavits; (2) for the return of property pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 41(g); and (3) for the segregation and sealing of all attorney client and trade secret material seized (#21, 50). The Government opposed (#s 23, 24, & 25) and Montgomery replied (#26). The parties engaged in additional briefing (#s 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, & 51), and the court held an evidentiary hearing on June 29, July 31, and August 17, 2006. Thereafter, the parties submitted post-hearing briefs (#s 74, 76, & 77).

The court has thoroughly reviewed the record and the papers submitted herein, and Montgomery's motion is granted as follows: 1) the search warrant affidavits shall be unsealed, and 2) Montgomery's property shall be returned.¹

I. HISTORY & PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

A. Basis for Probable Cause for Search Warrant Applications and Affidavits

Dennis and Brenda Montgomery ("Montgomery") own a home located at 12720 Buckthorne Lane, Reno, Nevada and lease storage space located at 888 Maestro Drive, Reno, Nevada, storage unit numbers 136, 140, 141, 142, and 143 (#21). The Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") searched both

¹Since the court is ordering the return of Montgomery's property, the request to segregate and seal all attorney-client and trade secret material is denied as moot.

1 the residence and storage units pursuant to search warrants executed on March 1 and March 3, 2006.
2 *Id.* This court granted the Government's motions to seal the affidavits in support of the warrants (#3,
3 14). A copy of the warrant and receipt for items seized was left with counsel for Montgomery (#15).
4 On March 8, 2006, returns on the search warrants were executed, and the requisite inventories of items
5 seized were provided to this court. (#15-20).

6 The Government set forth the original basis for probable cause in the affidavits accompanying
7 the applications for the search warrants (#s 1, 4, 6, 8, 10, & 12).² With respect to the search of the
8 Montgomery residence at 12720 Buckthorne Lane, Reno, Nevada, Michael West, Special Agent, Federal
9 Bureau of Investigation ("SA West"), states that he first became involved in the investigation of Dennis
10 Montgomery based on a complaint made by Warren Trepp ("Trepp"), management committee chair of
11 eTreppid Technologies, LLC, of Reno, Nevada (#1). Trepp alleged that Dennis Montgomery, eTreppid's
12 chief technical officer, removed eTreppid computer equipment and storage media containing "source
13 code" files derived from eTreppid's development of certain data compression and pattern recognition
14 software, removed hard disk drives containing "Secret" information provided to the Department of
15 Defense ("DOD"), and systematically deleted source code files from the remaining eTreppid data
16 servers, all in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1832, Theft of Trade Secrets, and 18 U.S.C. § 793(e), Unlawful
17 Retention of National Defense Information. *Id.*

18 The basis for probable cause is described in detail below; in sum, the majority of information was
19 provided by Trepp or eTreppid employees. The only other information appears to have come from Neil
20 Azzinaro, a businessperson with whom Montgomery allegedly had a conversation about seeking
21 investors for the source code and/or a new business venture of Montgomery's, and Air Force Special
22 Agent Haraldsen ("SA Haraldsen") with whom Montgomery had conversations about continuing to
23 perform work for the government, independent of eTreppid. To better understand the chronology of
24 events and the complex factual issues giving rise to these searches, the court has divided its discussion
25 of the affidavit into six segments.

26
27 ²For the ease of reference, this order will refer to docket #1 as the search warrant affidavit.

1 **1. The Documents Offered in Support of the Affidavit**

2 To establish probable cause for the search warrant SA West relied on three categories of
3 eTreppid documents: 1) a contribution agreement between Montgomery and eTreppid ("contribution
4 agreement"); 2) the eTreppid amended and restated operating agreement ("operating agreement"); and
5 3) ten patent assignments from Montgomery to eTreppid.

6 **a. The Contribution Agreement - page 2, lines 3-12³**

7 SA West attested that Montgomery signed a contribution agreement in which he assigned his
8 rights to "contributed assets" to eTreppid in exchange for fifty percent management interest in eTreppid.
9 According to the affidavit, "contributed assets" included trade secrets, patent rights, copyrights, licenses
10 and permits, software programs and source codes, etc. (#1, 2:3-12). The court drew the inference from
11 this summary of the contribution agreement that Montgomery assigned *all* intellectual property and
12 related property he owned to eTreppid because that is what the plain meaning of the excerpt of the
13 contribution agreement states.

14 **b. The eTreppid Amended and Restated Operating Agreement -**
15 **2:13-25; 3:1-4**

16 Montgomery also signed an amended and restated operating agreement of eTreppid
17 Technologies, and SA West quoted a provision of that agreement which states that Montgomery agreed
18 to devote substantially all of his time and efforts to the business and affairs of eTreppid and also
19 restricted Montgomery's independent activities; in other words, it is a non-compete agreement.
20 According to the affidavit, Trepp considered eTreppid's trade secrets to be various software programs
21 relating to data compression pattern recognition, change and anomaly detection, among other things.
22 *Id.* at 3:10-13.

23 **c. Ten Patent Assignments from Montgomery to eTreppid - 3:5-16**

24 Finally, SA West identified ten patents that Montgomery, as an eTreppid employee, assigned to
25 eTreppid in 2000-2001. *Id.* at 3:5-9. The affidavit states that through these patent assignments,

26 ³The references that follow are to the page and line numbers in SA West's affidavit in support
27 of the search warrant (#1).

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1 Montgomery assigned full and exclusive use of the technologies described in the patents to eTreppid.
2 The next paragraph of the affidavit describes "trade secrets," which the court inferred were the patented
3 technologies Montgomery assigned to eTreppid in 2000-2001: software programs relating to data
4 compression, pattern recognition, and change and anomaly detection. *Id.* at 10-16.

5 **2. The Source Code and eTreppid Security - 3:17-26; 4:1-12**

6 The next section of the affidavit is devoted to a description of the protocols eTreppid established
7 to insure the security for the source code files, which contained data compression and pattern recognition
8 software. *Id.* at 3:17-26. The affidavit states that only two eTreppid employees, Montgomery and Sloan
9 Venables ("Venables"), had access rights to duplicate, modify or delete source code. The affidavit
10 describes Montgomery's responsibility to maintain a back-up copy of the source code server data on
11 specifically described hardware units, and that Trepp required Montgomery to provide him with current
12 source code files, which Trepp stored at a secure off-site location. *Id.* at 4:7-9. The affidavit then
13 summarizes eTreppid's locks, alarm system and video surveillance system. *Id.* at 4:10-12.

14 **3. The SOCOM Contract and Montgomery's Security Clearance -**
15 **4:13-26; 5:1-4**

16 Having established ownership of the technology in eTreppid, Montgomery's role in the work of
17 eTreppid, and the sophisticated security system in place at eTreppid, the affidavit turns to a March 2003
18 agreement between eTreppid and U.S. Special Operations Command ("SOCOM"), which required
19 eTreppid to have access to secret material. *Id.* at 4:13-18. The affidavit states that eTreppid was
20 permitted to store secret material onsite pursuant to DD Form 254. *Id.* at 4:16-18.

21 The affidavit then states that Montgomery received and signed two security briefings in August
22 and September of 2003, which outlined his obligation to protect classified material of concern to the
23 United States, to protect unauthorized disclosures, and to prevent negligent handling of marked or
24 unmarked classified information, which could irreparably damage the United States and be used to
25 advantage by a foreign nation. *Id.* at 4:19-26; 5:1-4.

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1 4. **November 2005 Visit to Nellis Air Force Base and the Nine Secret**
2 **Hard Drives - 5:5-13**

3 In the next section of the affidavit, SA West develops the chronology of events concerning the
4 “nine eTreppid hard drives,” which are then characterized as the “nine Secret hard drives,” and
5 ultimately transformed into “classified material.” In November 2005, Patty Gray (“Gray”) of eTreppid
6 visited the Predator Drone Operations Center at Nellis Air Force Base where she recorded “Secret
7 Predator Drone video images” onto nine eTreppid hard drives for use in developing “Automatic Target
8 Recognition” software. *Id.* at 5:5-8. The affidavit states that pursuant to instructions from “contractor
9 personnel at Nellis AFB,” Gray marked these nine hard drives with “red standard U.S. Government
10 Secret labels” and mailed them to eTreppid’s facility in Reno. *Id.* at 5:8-11. The nine secret hard drives
11 were stored in a GSA-approved safe as required by the DOD. Gray, Trepp and Montgomery were the
12 only persons with access to the safe. *Id.* at 5:11-13.

13 5. **December 2005: Montgomery’s Breaches of Protocol, Deletion of**
14 **Classified Material and Trade Secrets, and Removal of Classified**
15 **Material and Trade Secrets from eTreppid - 5:14-26; pages 6, 7, 8, 9,**
16 **and 10**

17 This portion of the affidavit recounts the events which led to the allegations of theft of trade
18 secrets and unlawful retention of national defense information. According to SA West’s affidavit,
19 during December 2005, Gray and other eTreppid employees noticed that Montgomery was not following
20 the standard protocols for use and storage of the nine secret hard drives. Gray discovered on two
21 occasions that Montgomery was not properly securing them in the safe, and they were returned after
22 Montgomery was questioned. *Id.* at 5:14-26;6:1-7. Despite these incidents, Gray continued to find the
23 nine secret hard drives missing from the safe, and Trepp intervened to insure that all “classified material”
24 be kept in the top drawer of the safe. *Id.* at 6:13-17. Gray changed the combination to the top drawer
25 of the safe, and she was the only eTreppid employee who had it. *Id.* at 6:15-17.

26 Montgomery requested access to the classified material, and Trepp not only gave Montgomery
27 authorization; he also instructed Gray to give Montgomery the combination to the top drawer of the safe,
28 which she did. *Id.* at 6:18-22. From December 18th until December 21st, other eTreppid employees
29 reported that Montgomery was deleting eTreppid source code files and that certain computer hardware

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1 was missing. *Id.* at 6:23-26;7:1-6. When asked about the missing equipment, Montgomery responded
2 that he had taken the equipment home, although the eTreppid employee who reported the missing
3 equipment had never known Montgomery to take this equipment home. *Id.* at 7:6-12.

4 Prior to leaving for the holidays, Venables installed software to back up all of eTreppid's server
5 data, including the source code server, and he verified that it was operating properly before his departure.
6 *Id.* at 7:13-17. Two key eTreppid employees, Gray and Venables, departed for the holidays on
7 December 22, 2005, and did not return until January 3, 2006. *Id.* at 7:18-19. During their absence, one
8 eTreppid employee discovered portions of the eTreppid source code he was working on had been
9 deleted, and when he asked Montgomery about this, Montgomery advised he would provide the
10 employee with the source code he needed to do his work. *Id.* at 7:20-26;8:1-3. Montgomery also asked
11 another eTreppid employee to load some boxes into Montgomery's truck, which had never happened
12 before. *Id.* at 8:4-8. After Venables returned from the holidays in January, he noticed that the source
13 code server cabinet and keyboard were in disarray and the screen was active. *Id.* at 8:9-10. When he
14 asked Montgomery about this, Montgomery responded that he was "cleaning up stuff," but when
15 Venables went into the warehouse, he also noticed that the units Montgomery used to back up the source
16 code server were still missing. *Id.* at 8:13-17. Montgomery told Venables he would bring back the
17 equipment, as he no longer needed it. *Id.* at 8:17-19. When he looked at the source code server,
18 Venables discovered that most of the folders used by the eTreppid software developers had been deleted,
19 and he could not access the ISA server either. *Id.* at 8:20-23.

20 Shortly thereafter, Trepp became aware source code was missing when employees complained
21 that they could not operate their computer systems, and Venables reported that all source code had been
22 deleted from the source code server, the ISA server, and all of the software developers' work stations.
23 *Id.* at 8:24-26;9:1-2. Although Montgomery then told Trepp that the source code could be located on
24 removable hard drives, a two-day analysis failed to locate the source code. *Id.* at 9:3-5. It was also at
25 this time that Gray found seven hard drives containing copies of the nine original secret hard drives from
26 Nellis AFB in Montgomery's file cabinet, and she found seven additional hard drives also containing
27 copies of the nine original hard drives in the safe. *Id.* at 9:6-10. A search of the eTreppid facility failed

28

1 to locate the nine original secret hard drives, and Gray and Montgomery were the only employees with
2 access to the top drawer of the safe. *Id.* at 9:10-14. At Trepp's request, Venables reviewed all of the
3 video surveillance cameras and found that none was recording video, and he also discovered that all
4 stored video had been deleted. *Id.* at 9:15-18.

5 Despite Montgomery's assurances that the source code was stored on hard drives in the building,
6 the hard drives were never located, and on his last day at eTreppid, Montgomery was reported to have
7 said that if Trepp wanted the source code, "he [Trepp] needs to give me big money if he wants it." *Id.*
8 at 9:19-24. Montgomery never returned to eTreppid and he was terminated on January 18, 2006. *Id.*
9 at 10:14-16. Warren Trepp told SA West that Montgomery had devoted eight years of his life to
10 developing software products at eTreppid, that Montgomery worked on these products every day and
11 on weekends, that Montgomery would never delegate these projects to anyone else, and that in order to
12 continue this work, Montgomery would require substantial computing power, similar to the workstation
13 and RAID unit removed from the warehouse, and have access to the nine secret hard drive video images.
14 *Id.* at 10:4-13.

15 **6. Montgomery's Conversations with Neil Azzinaro and Special Agent**
16 **Paul Haraldsen ("SA Haraldsen") – p. 10:17-24; 11:1-26; 12:1-7**

17 Apart from the information provided SA West from Trepp and eTreppid employees, SA West
18 also relied on two other individuals who had conversations with Montgomery during this same time
19 period. The first is Neil Azzinaro, a casino host and Montgomery's friend. In a January 2006
20 conversation, Montgomery recounted the business dealings of Trepp, Montgomery's unhappiness that
21 he had not received a raise, and Montgomery's interest in looking for individuals who would invest
22 several million dollars. *Id.* at 10:17-23. Montgomery specified the investor would have to be an
23 individual with United States citizenship. *Id.* at 10:23-24. SA West stated that based on this
24 conversation with Azzinaro, and possibly others, it appeared that Montgomery may have provided source
25 code to others and was looking for investors for the source code. *Id.* at 11:1-3.

26 In mid-February 2006, SA West was contacted by SA Haraldsen, Air Force Office of Special
27 Investigations, Pentagon. During this period SA Haraldsen placed consensual, recorded telephone calls
28

1 with Montgomery. During these calls, Montgomery made several representations to SA Haraldsen: 1)
2 that Trepp did not have the capability to continue the work; 2) that Montgomery had made certain that
3 the assets of the U.S. Government were protected; 3) that if the work is to continue, it must be through
4 Montgomery; and, 4) that the capability to do the work continued to exist. *Id.* at 11:4-10. SA Haraldsen
5 and Montgomery had two additional telephone calls on February 24, 2006, during which Montgomery
6 indicated he might just give the technology to the government, and when SA Haraldsen asked for proof
7 that the technology still exists, Montgomery became agitated. *Id.* at 11:11-17. Later that same day,
8 Montgomery purchased computer disks, and business card stock. *Id.* at 11:18-21.

9 Finally, on February 26, 2006, Montgomery telephoned SA Haraldsen again and expressed
10 concerns about supplying SA Haraldsen with information about anomaly detection and pattern
11 recognition technical capabilities, as to do so might violate a temporary restraining order filed against
12 him by eTreppid. *Id.* at 12:1-7.

13 Based upon SA West's affidavit, the court found probable cause existed that Montgomery may
14 have unlawfully retained classified material and stolen trade secrets, and it issued the search warrant.
15 The court also granted the Government's motion to seal the affidavit (#3).

16 **B. The Search Warrants for the Storage Units**

17 With respect to the search of the storage units, SA West's affidavit sets forth the following basis
18 for probable cause: the CPU and RAID storage unit used by Montgomery and the nine original secret
19 hard drives were not located during the search of the residence of Buckthorne Lane (#4, 6, 8, 10, 12).
20 Montgomery rented five storage units at Double R Storage in Reno, Nevada. *Id.* The storage units were
21 accessed a total of ninety-two times between November 1, 2005 and March 3, 2006. *Id.* Double R
22 Storage's video surveillance showed that a truck registered to Brenda Montgomery entered the facility
23 on March 3, 2006, an individual walked between the storage unit and the truck, but no observable items
24 were taken from or transported to the truck. *Id.* SA West stated that this constituted probable cause to
25 believe that the storage units contained the evidence of theft of trade secrets and unlawful retention of
26 national defense information. *Id.* Based upon SA West's affidavit, the court found probable cause

1 existed for issuance of these search warrants, and the court also ordered these search warrant affidavits
2 sealed (#14).

3 The court granted the Government's motion to seal the search warrants and affidavits because
4 the Government argued that the information contained therein related to proprietary intellectual property
5 and national security classified materials (#3, 14).

6 **C. Search Warrant Returns**

7 The following items were seized from the Montgomery residence:

8 HP Pavilion laptop
9 6 SanDisk compact flash cards
10 letter on white paper and yellow pages of ripped up paper
11 rolodex
12 15 computer CDs
13 white shredded paper
14 miscellaneous post-it notes
15 Network Solutions account paperwork 4 pages
16 check stubs - Montgomery Family Trust
17 Western Digital hard drive serial number WEAL 71844911
18 Grante digital devserver labled 12/17/2005 serial number F05090650042-A
19 silver CPV (tower) labeled ATI 3
20 16 computer CDs
21 3 pieces of paper containing phone numbers
22 Grante digital server labeled DEO 1/2/06 PROG
23 8 containers of medicine, each with 40-168 tablets
24
25 (#15).

17 The following items were seized from storage unit 140:

18 1 yellow/gray case containing eTrepid disks
19 7 compact disks
20 9 mini DV cassettes
21 1 Sony Hi8 video cassette
22 1 USB (black 2.0 flashback)
23 1 256MB SanDisk compact flash card
24 1 IBM travel star hard drive serial number V29CH7080N5
25 11 sealed Western Digital hard drives
26 1 TDK mini DV video cassette
27 10 various manufacturer hard drives
28 1 box containing 78 compact disks
bank statements 12/2005 through 1/2006
financial documents and phone bills
1 removable hard drive labeled "Dennis Eyes Only" and 1 compact disk labeled
eTrepid
25 (#17).

26 No items were seized from the other four storage units searched (#16, 18, 19, 20).

1 **D. Chronology of Motions**

2 On March 10, 2006, Montgomery filed a motion to unseal the search warrants and affidavits and
3 for the return of property pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 41(g) and for the segregation and sealing of all
4 attorney-client privileged materials seized (#21). Montgomery argued that he has a Fourth Amendment
5 right to view the search warrant affidavits and that the Government cannot show a compelling
6 governmental interest that cannot be served by a less restrictive means than withholding the entire
7 affidavits. *Id.* Next, he contended that the warrants are facially invalid because they lack specificity and
8 are overbroad. *Id.* Therefore, Montgomery asserted that he is entitled to the return of his property. *Id.*
9 Finally, Montgomery also sought to have attorney-client privileged information segregated prior to any
10 inspection by the Government. *Id.* Montgomery's overarching argument is that the entire investigation
11 stems from Trepp having convinced the United States Attorney to use the power of the federal
12 government to achieve what Trepp could not accomplish through a civil action – a search of
13 Montgomery's property in an effort to obtain certain technology. *Id.*

14 The Government filed three separate responses (#23, 24, 25). In its response to the Rule 41(g)
15 motion, the Government first argued that because the balance of the equities favored the Government,
16 the court should decline to consider the merits of this pre-indictment Rule 41(g) motion (#23). The
17 Government further asserted that it would produce evidence at an evidentiary hearing to demonstrate
18 that probable cause for the searches existed, that the warrants were valid, and to refute Montgomery's
19 assertions regarding how the searches were executed. *Id.* In its response to the motion to unseal the
20 search warrant affidavits, the Government contended that Montgomery failed to support his position that
21 he has a constitutional right for pre-indictment review of the affidavits (#24). The Government also
22 asserted that its interests in maintaining the secrecy of the information in the affidavits including: (1)
23 the premature identification of possible witnesses; (2) the possibility that such witnesses could be
24 compromised or influenced; (3) the possibility that potential subjects could alter, remove, or destroy
25 information sought by the Government; and, (4) that the affidavits identify specific, sensitive
26 information. *Id.* Finally, the Government opposed the motion to seal and segregate all attorney-client
27 privileged information and trade secrets prior to the DOD conducting an analysis of the seized electronic
28

1 storage media and documents for classified information and information relating to the national defense
2 (#25). Montgomery replied to the government's oppositions (#26).

3 The court set a sealed evidentiary hearing for May 3, 2006, on the motion to unseal the affidavits,
4 return the property pursuant to Rule 41(g) and segregate attorney-client privileged information and trade
5 secrets (#27). On April 19, 2006, the court further ordered that the parties file simultaneous
6 supplemental briefs concerning certain specific issues identified by the court (#28). On April 28, 2006,
7 the Government filed a partial compliance with court order of April 19, 2006 (#31). The Government
8 explained that it had provided redacted affidavits to Montgomery and did not oppose supplemental
9 filings by Montgomery subsequent to his review of the affidavits. *Id.* The Government argued that the
10 redacted information could (1) expose witnesses; (2) identify investigative techniques prior to
11 completion of the investigation; (3) interfere with the identification of other suspects; and (4) interfere
12 with the recovery of equipment that may contain evidence of criminal violations. *Id.* Also on April 28,
13 2006, the court vacated the hearing set for May 3, 2006 and vacated the order for supplemental briefing
14 (#32). The court stated that there appeared to be serious concerns about the search warrants issued by
15 the court as they relate to certain classified information. *Id.*

16 On May 8, 2006, the Government moved for a protective order prohibiting disclosure of
17 classified information (#34). Montgomery opposed (#36, 39), and the Government replied (#38). The
18 court held a hearing and denied the motion (#42). At the hearing, the Government provided
19 Montgomery with redacted versions of the applications and affidavits for the search warrants,⁴ which
20 were supplemented on June 1, 2006 (#40, 41, 43, 44). The only portions of the affidavits that remain
21 redacted, after the supplements, are the conversation between Montgomery and a business friend about
22 finding investors for the source code, and Montgomery's telephone conversations with SA Haraldsen.
23 *Id.*; compare #40 at 10-12 to #1 at 10-12.

24
25
26 ⁴It is unclear whether this is the second redacted version of affidavits provided by the
27 Government, or the same version referred to in Government's partial compliance with court order of
28 April 19, 2006 (#31).

1 On June 2, 2006, Montgomery filed a supplemental memorandum in support of his motion to
2 unseal the affidavits, return the property, and seal attorney-client communications (#45). Montgomery
3 again stated that the court need not hold an evidentiary hearing on the Rule 41(g) issues. *Id.* The
4 Government filed a response to issues identified in court minute order of April 19, 2006 (#46). The
5 Government noted in parentheses that recent information provided by the DOD indicated that the
6 information was not classified. *Id.* at 2. The Government argued that the search warrants set forth
7 probable cause and described the items sought as specifically as possible. *Id.* The Government did not
8 explain whether the determination that the information was improperly classified affects whether
9 probable cause for the search existed, and thus apparently took the position that probable cause existed
10 independent of the belief that classified information was sought. *Id.* The Government provided a
11 declaration by SA West which describes the execution of the searches in detail (#47). The Government
12 still sought to establish a protocol to screen attorney-client privileged material and suggested two
13 alternatives (#46).

14 Upon receipt of the redacted affidavits and the supplements, Montgomery filed a second
15 supplemental memorandum in support of its motion to unseal the search warrant affidavits, for the return
16 of property pursuant to Rule 41(g), and to segregate privileged material (#48, 49, 50). Montgomery then
17 requested an evidentiary hearing, arguing that a hearing is the only way to pin down the Government's
18 shifting positions (#50). He asserted: "The Government has essentially admitted that it did not raid Mr.
19 Montgomery's property to retrieve 'classified information being in a place it shouldn't be;' but rather
20 to do the bidding of wealthy Warren Trepp and thrust itself into a private, civil dispute between the two
21 owners and founders of eTreppid Technologies. The search for 'classified information' was obviously
22 only the cover story seeking to justify the search." *Id.* Montgomery also stated that Assistant United
23 States Attorney Pugliese informed Montgomery's counsel that the "classified information thought to be
24 in Mr. Montgomery's possession had been found." *Id.* at 3. Montgomery's counsel included his
25 declaration that he had conversations with AUSA Pugliese and SA West, during which they discussed
26 approximately ten compact discs, which were the only materials marked "classified" and the only

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1 material sought in the search (#49). Montgomery questioned why the Government did not list that
2 information or the storage media containing it in the search warrants (#50).

3 The court held an evidentiary hearing over the course of three days, which concluded on August
4 17, 2006. At the conclusion of the final day of the hearing, the court directed the parties to file post-
5 hearing briefs (#67). The Government filed three separate post-hearing briefs addressing Montgomery's
6 motion to unseal search warrant affidavits (#74), the motion to seal and segregate all attorney-client and
7 trade secret information (#76), and the motion for return of the seized property (#77). Montgomery filed
8 a consolidated brief regarding all three issues (#80).

9 II. DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

10 A. Equitable Jurisdiction over Rule 41(g) Motion to Return Property

11 Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 41(g) generally is used to seek the return of property after
12 an indictment is issued; however, "district courts have the power to entertain motions to return property
13 seized by the government when there are no criminal proceedings pending against the movant."
14 *Ramsden v. United States*, 2 F.3d 322, 324 (9th Cir. 1993). "These motions are treated as civil equitable
15 proceedings, and, therefore, a district court must exercise 'caution and restraint' before assuming
16 jurisdiction." *Id.*

17 Before the court can reach the merits of a pre-indictment motion pursuant to Rule 41(g), the court
18 must consider whether: (1) "the Government displayed callous disregard for the constitutional rights of
19 the movant; (2) the movant has an individual interest in and need for the property he wants returned; (3)
20 the movant would be irreparably injured by denying return of the property; and (4) the movant has no
21 adequate remedy at law for the redress of his grievance." *U.S. v. Kama*, 394 F.3d 1236, 1238 (9th Cir.
22 2005) (internal citations omitted). If the balance of equities favors reaching the merits, the court should
23 exercise its equitable jurisdiction to entertain the Rule 41(g) motion. *Ramsden*, 2 F.3d at 326.

24 1. Callous Disregard

25 Here, the Government has conceded that *none* of the seized material is classified; therefore, there
26 is a question whether the Government displayed callous disregard for Montgomery's constitutional
27 rights. SA West testified that the central focus of the search was classified information: "... [The search
28

1 warrant] was based on the possession of classified information. Obviously there's a lot of things going
2 on at eTreppid, but nothing was more influential than the information that [Montgomery] may have been
3 in possession of secret information." Tr. II, 144:17-19.⁵ As will be more fully discussed herein, the
4 court concludes that the Government acted in callous disregard of Montgomery's rights.

5 2. Individual's Interest in and Need for the Property

6 Montgomery has established that the seized property includes items covering many years of his
7 work as a computer programmer, an inventor, as well as items of personal family property (#21, 26; Tr.
8 Ex. 38). Many of the items seized are also integral to the two civil actions pending between Montgomery
9 and Trepp/eTreppid. *Id.* See *In re Singh*, 892, F.Supp. 1, 3 (D.D.C. 1995).

10 3. Irreparable Harm

11 In addition to the concerns identified above regarding Montgomery's interest in and need for
12 the property, he contends that some of the seized information includes attorney-client privileged
13 information, which will be compromised if a third party reviews it. *See id.* at 3-4.

14 4. No Adequate Remedy at Law

15 The Government has denied Montgomery is a target, and there has never been any indication that
16 either Ms. Montgomery or the Montgomery Family Trust is a search warrant target. Nine months have
17 passed since the Government executed the search warrants, and it appears there are no current plans to
18 prosecute any of the movants. *See Ramsden*, 2 F.3d at 326 (movant does not have the opportunity to
19 challenge the seizure of the documents and request their return at a later date, without a current plan to
20 prosecute). Mindful that Montgomery has not been indicted, the balance of equities favors reaching the
21 merits of his 41(g) motion. *Id.* at 4.

22 The court now considers Montgomery's requested relief: (1) the unsealing of the redacted
23 portions of the search warrants affidavits, and (2) the return of the seized property.

24 B. Right to View Affidavits

25
26 ⁵Transcript I is the transcript of the June 29, 2006 evidentiary hearing.
27 Transcript II is the transcript of the July 31, 2006 continued evidentiary hearing.
28 Transcript III is the transcript of the August 17, 2006 continued evidentiary hearing.

1 Some courts have held that no right to inspect sealed affidavits for search warrants exists under
2 the Constitution or the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure prior to the initiation of a criminal
3 proceeding against the movant. *See Matter of Eyecare Physicians of America*, 100 F.3d 514, 517 (7th
4 Cir. 1996); *Matter of the Search of S & S Custom Cycle Shop*, 372 F.Supp.2d 1048, 1051-52 (S.D. Ohio
5 2003).⁶ The court in *Eyecare Physicians* applied a "right of access committed to the sound discretion
6 of the court." *Eyecare Physicians*, 100 F.3d at 517.

7 Other courts have held that a search target has a pre-indictment Fourth Amendment right to
8 examine the search warrant affidavit. *In re Search Warrants Issued on April 26, 2004*, 353 F.Supp. 2d
9 584, 585 (D. Md. 2004), *see also United States v. Oliver*, 208 F.3d 211, 2000 WL 263954 (4th Cir.
10 2000) (unpublished opinion); *In re Search Warrants Issued Aug. 29, 1994*, 889 F.Supp. 296, 299 (S.D.
11 Ohio 1995); *In re the Search of Up North Plastics, Inc.*, 940 F.Supp. 229, 232 (D. Minn. 1996). The
12 right is not unqualified; the Government bears the burden to "demonstrate compelling government
13 interests in keeping the affidavit under seal and . . . that no less restrictive means, such as redaction, is
14 available to prevent disclosure." *In re Search Warrants Issued on Apr. 26, 2004*, 353 F.Supp. 2d at 587.
15 The United States District Court for the District of Maryland emphasized that the plain words of the
16 Fourth Amendment protect the public from unreasonable intrusions and specifically require that
17 probable cause support search warrants. *Id.* at 588. The Court reasoned that "implicit in that language
18 is the public's right to challenge both the reasonableness of the search and the degree to which the
19 warrant was supported by probable cause." *Id.* The Court invoked Justice Harlan's statement that
20 "constitutional provisions for the security of person and property should be liberally construed" and
21 concluded that without a right to access the affidavit upon which a search warrant is based, a search
22 target could never challenge the warrant for probable cause. *Id.* "More than a conclusory allegation
23
24

25 ⁶In *Search of S&S Custom Cycle Shop*, the court stated that "Absent the existence of a criminal
26 action, an individual simply has no basis for bringing a motion to unseal an affidavit under the Criminal
27 Rules. If it is a constitutional right, such as the Fourth Amendment right to be free from unreasonable
28 search and seizures, that has been violated by federal authorities, vindication is civil in nature and can
be achieved through a *Bivens* action." 372 F. Supp. 2d at 1051.

1 about the need to protect a continuing investigation is necessary to meet the Government's burden of
2 showing compelling need" to keep the affidavits sealed. *Up North Plastics*, 940 F.Supp. at 232.

3 Apart from the arguments it advanced initially to seal the entire affidavit – generalized concerns
4 that unsealing will reveal witnesses, investigative techniques, or compromise on ongoing criminal
5 investigation – the Government has not explained why remaining portions of the affidavit should still
6 remain redacted (#74). The Government contends the standard in the Ninth Circuit for unsealing such
7 information is the balancing test established in *United States v. Napier*, 436 F.3d 1133, 1137 (9th Cir.
8 2006). However, *Napier* had nothing to do with a search target's pre-indictment Fourth Amendment
9 right to review a search warrant affidavit; rather, it concerned a post-indictment challenge to a search
10 warrant that the defendant sought to unseal in order to make the "substantial preliminary showing"
11 required by *Franks v. Delaware*, 438 U.S. 154, 155-56 (1978). In that instance, the court rejected the
12 view that *Franks* creates an unlimited right to all information possibly needed to meet the preliminary
13 showing requirement and held that the court must balance the defendant's interests against those of the
14 government. *Napier* at 1133.

15 The court has considered the authorities addressing a search target's pre-indictment Fourth
16 Amendment right to review the search warrant and concurs with those courts that have required the
17 Government to "demonstrate compelling government interests in keeping the affidavit under seal and
18 . . . that no less restrictive means, such as redaction, is available to prevent disclosure." *In re Search*
19 *Warrants Issued Apr. 26, 2004*, 353 F.Supp. 2d at 587.

20 Turning to the evidence in this proceeding, the redactions involve direct and recent contacts
21 Montgomery had with other individuals, and it is difficult to imagine that the Government is concerned
22 about revealing identities of witnesses or protecting an ongoing investigation. In fact, Montgomery has
23 already surmised that part of the redaction relates to seeking investors for the source code (#50).
24 Moreover, at the June 29, 2006 evidentiary hearing, SA West revealed the identity and involvement of
25 SA Haraldsen during his testimony. Tr. I, 15. Accordingly, the court finds that the Government has not
26 met its burden to establish a compelling government interest in keeping the remaining portions of the
27 affidavits sealed, and it further finds that Montgomery has a right to view the affidavits in their entirety.

1
2 **C. Return of Montgomery's Seized Property Based Upon Lack of**
3 **Probable Cause**

4 The Fourth Amendment provides that "no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause,
5 supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons
6 or things to be seized." U.S. Const. Amend. IV. "A search warrant . . . is issued upon a showing of
7 probable cause to believe that the legitimate object of a search is located in a particular place, and
8 therefore safeguards an individual's interest in the privacy of his home and possessions against the
9 unjustified intrusion of the police." *U.S. v. Adjani*, 452 F.3d 1140, 1145 (9th Cir. 2006) quoting
10 *Steagald v. United States*, 451 U.S. 204, 213 (1981). The United States Supreme Court has

11 reaffirm[ed] the totality-of-the-circumstances analysis that traditionally
12 has informed probable-cause determinations. The task of the issuing
13 magistrate is simply to make a practical, common-sense decision
14 whether, given all the circumstances set forth in the affidavit before him,
15 . . . there is a fair probability that contraband or evidence of a crime will
16 be found in a particular place. And the duty of a reviewing court is
17 simply to ensure that the magistrate had a substantial basis for
18 conclu[ding] that probable cause existed.

19 *Illinois v. Gates*, 462 U.S. 213, 238-39 (1983). The Supreme Court also explained that the "probable
20 cause standard . . . is a practical, nontechnical conception." *Id.* at 231. Further, "probable cause is a
21 fluid concept – turning on the assessment of probabilities in particular factual contexts – not readily, or
22 even usefully, reduced to a neat set of legal rules. *Id.* at 232. "[A]n affidavit may be based on hearsay
23 information and need not reflect the direct personal observations of the affiant, so long as the magistrate
24 is informed of some of the underlying circumstances supporting the affiant's conclusions . . ." *United*
25 *States v. Ventresca*, 380 U.S. 102, 108 (1965).

26 "In assessing whether a warrant passes constitutional muster, a court is therefore obliged to make
27 two inquiries: first, whether the scope of the search authorized by the warrant was justified by probable
28 cause and, second, whether the warrant was sufficiently particular to limit the discretion of the officers."
29 *In re Grand Jury Investigation Concerning Solid State Devices, Inc.*, 130 F.3d 853, 856 (9th Cir. 1997).
30 If the court finds that a search warrant lacked probable cause and, thus, that movant was aggrieved by
31 the unlawful search and seizure of his property, Rule 41(g) dictates the remedy: "the court must return

1 property to the movant, but may impose reasonable conditions to protect access to the property and its
2 use in later proceedings.” Since this court finds that the Government lacked probable cause, as more
3 fully explained below, the court does not reach the particularity analysis.

4 Montgomery argues that no probable cause supports SA West’s affidavits in support of the
5 search warrants (#21). The Government responds that SA West properly investigated Trepp’s
6 allegations, including interviewing Trepp and other employees and compiling information SA Haraldsen
7 provided (#23). It is now clear that no probable cause existed to believe that Montgomery had removed
8 classified information from eTreppid and improperly stored it at his home because after the warrants
9 issued, it was determined that the material was, in fact, not classified (#46; Tr. Ex. 4). As noted earlier,
10 SA West testified that the central focus of the search was classified information: “. . . [the search
11 warrant] was based on the possession of classified information. Obviously there’s a lot of things going
12 on at eTreppid, but none was more influential than the information that [Montgomery] may have been
13 in possession of secret information.” Tr. II, 144. Three months after the search was executed, the
14 Government determined that the information sought was not classified. Tr. I, 123.

15 In light of this very critical fact, the court now examines SA West’s affidavit and testimony at
16 the evidentiary hearing to determine whether probable cause exists to support the search warrants.⁷

17 **1. Documents Offered in Support of the Affidavit**

18 SA West relied on three documents discussed below to support a finding that there was probable
19 cause to believe Montgomery had stolen eTreppid’s trade secrets.

20 **a. The Contribution Agreement**

21 As noted earlier, SA West referred to the 1998 contribution agreement, and he quoted an excerpt
22 from the agreement which stated that Montgomery contributed *all* of his intellectual property, software
23 programs, and source codes to eTreppid; therefore, this court inferred that eTreppid owned *all* of the
24 assets described in the balance of SA West’s affidavit. This inference was incorrect. At the evidentiary
25

26 ⁷For ease of reference, the court considers SA West’s affidavit in the same order set forth in the
27 section of this order entitled “procedural history,” *supra*, at pages 3-8.

1 hearing, the entire contribution agreement was admitted into evidence, and the relevant portions state
2 as follows:

3 1.2 Contributed Assets. As used in this Agreement, the term
4 "Contributed Assets" shall mean and include, collectively, all the
5 following assets, together with all of Contributor's rights, title and
6 interest therein, tangible and intangible, present or future, including, but
7 not limited to, all development, distribution and exploitation rights, or to
8 any proceeds derived therefrom:

9 1.2.1 All of Contributor's know-how; trade secrets; patent rights,
10 copyrights, trademarks, licenses and permits, registered or unregistered,
11 pending or approved; software programs and all programming and source
12 codes used in connection therewith or otherwise required to operate any
13 component thereof; and all programming documentation, designs,
14 materials and other information, all in whatever form and wherever
15 located, relating to or used in connection with, or otherwise describing or
16 consisting of any part of, the software compression technology *contained*
17 *on that certain Software Compression Engine Development Program*
18 *contained on CD No. 1, all of which is being contributed by Contributor*
19 *hereunder (collectively, the "Technology").*

20 1.2.2 Certain of Contributor's tangible personal property used in
21 connection [sic] the Technology as more particularly described on
22 SCHEDULE 1.2.2 attached hereto and made part of this Agreement.

23 1.2.3 All of Contributor's books and records relating to the Contributed
24 Assets.

25 1.3 Excluded Assets and Liabilities. *Notwithstanding any of the*
26 *foregoing, Contributor is specifically not contributing, transferring or*
27 *conveying to INTREPID under this Agreement or by any other means,*
28 *nor is INTREPID acquiring from Contributor, any other tangible or*
intangible assets of Contributor not specified herein, and expressly is not
assuming any claims, liabilities or obligations of Contributor of any kind
or nature, whether existing as of the Closing Date or arising thereafter,
on account of Contributor's ownership, development, exploitation or
operation of the Contributed Assets at any time prior to the Closing Date.

Tr. Ex. 7 (emphasis supplied).⁸

Had this court been provided the entire contribution agreement, it would have concluded that whatever is on CD No. 1 – nothing more and nothing less – belonged to eTrepid. The court would have expected the Government to demonstrate there was probable cause to believe that CD No. 1 contained the disputed trade secrets. However, SA West testified that he does not know what CD 1 contains, and

⁸INTREPID was the predecessor of eTrepid.

1 he never inquired as to how long Montgomery has been creating software technologies. Tr. I, 51, 53,
2 60. SA West did not investigate whether Montgomery had created software that was not contributed
3 under the contribution agreement or ask what assets Montgomery had not contributed. Tr. I, 60. SA
4 West stated that the fact that his affidavit does not refer to CD No.1 was not intended to mislead the
5 court. Tr. II 124. His impression was that any work that Montgomery performed while at eTreppid was
6 also part of what eTreppid owned; he did not believe that it was limited to CD No. 1. Tr. II, 124.
7 Montgomery's counsel and SA West had the following exchange:

8 Counsel: . . . as I understand your testimony today you're saying that
9 notwithstanding paragraph 1.3 [of the Contribution Agreement],
10 excluding everything if it's not specified, you thought that [Montgomery]
conveyed everything, patents, trademarks, copyrights, didn't limit it to
CD No. 1.

11 SA West: No, I think what the – my thought at the time was that that
12 agreement was in 1998 and that the CD and the particular CD 1 was
13 conveyed. We're in 2005. He has worked there for eight years working
14 on various projects for eTreppid, one as the chief technology officer.
They've employed ten other programmers to do the programming, and
what he took wasn't just his.

15 Tr. II, 124. This interchange conveys SA West's fundamental misunderstanding of the operating
16 agreement and the business relationship between Montgomery and eTreppid.

17 On the final day of the evidentiary hearing SA West was once again asked about CD No. 1 and
18 the discrepancy between the entire contribution agreement and the excerpt quoted in his affidavit. SA
19 West testified that he received an incomplete copy of the contribution agreement from SA Haraldsen,
20 who had sent it to him in a different "landscape format;" therefore, the crucial reference to CD No. 1 was
21 cut off. *See* Tr. Ex. 31; Tr. III, 47-54. SA West testified that he did not realize the tops of each page
22 were missing until Government's counsel pointed it out to him. Tr. III, 52:17-53:6. The court finds SA
23 West's explanation difficult to comprehend, since one has only to read Exhibit 31 to realize that it is
24 quite obviously an incomplete document with missing sentences and paragraphs. Yet, it is this fatally
25 incomplete document that SA West relied on to obtain the warrants to search Montgomery's home and
26 the storage units for stolen trade secrets.

1 **b. The eTreppid Operating Agreement**

2 SA West quoted an excerpt from the operating agreement in his affidavit, which led this court
3 to conclude that Montgomery was contractually bound by a non-compete agreement; therefore,
4 Montgomery was prohibited from developing or purchasing any software programs or technology
5 competitive with eTreppid, or in engaging in any similar business to that of eTreppid. However, at the
6 evidentiary hearing the entire operating agreement was admitted, and it, too, revealed that SA West
7 omitted a critical phrase from the sentence he quoted in his affidavit:

8 **6.6. Restriction on Independent Activities; Agreement not to**
9 **Compete.** *So long as MONTGOMERY is appointed a Committee*
10 *Member and/or as Chief Technology Officer pursuant to this Agreement,*
11 *MONTGOMERY and his Affiliates agree that, during the terms of this*
12 *Agreement, non of them shall compete with the LLC, whether for their*
13 *own account and/or for the account of others, individually, jointly with*
14 *others, or as a part of any other limited liability company, limited*
15 *partnership, general partnership, joint venture, corporation, or other*
16 *entity, by: (i) developing, licensing or exploiting in any manner any*
17 *software programs or other technology which is competitive with the*
18 *Technology or the Business of the LLC, or providing any services or*
19 *supplies which are encompassed within the definition of the "Business"*
20 *of the LLC as set forth in this Agreement; (ii) purchasing or otherwise*
21 *acquiring, owning, holding, operating, managing, investing in or*
22 *otherwise disposing of a like business of the LLC's Business and interests*
23 *therein of any kind or nature; or (iii) otherwise engaging in any or all*
24 *aspects of a like business of the LLC's Business. MONTGOMERY's or*
25 *his Affiliates' participation in any of the activities restricted by this*
26 *paragraph shall be deemed a breach of his duties and obligations as a*
27 *Committee Member hereunder.*

18 Tr. Ex. 30 (emphasis in italics supplied). SA West omitted the beginning phrase of paragraph 6.6, which
19 expressly limits the non-compete to Montgomery's tenure as a committee member or chief technology
20 officer. Based on SA West's omission, this court drew the incorrect inference that in addition to giving
21 all of his intellectual property to eTreppid, Montgomery had also agreed not to compete with eTreppid.
22 This is not true.

23 SA West testified that he had in his possession the entire operating agreement prior to preparing
24 his affidavit. Tr. III, 34-35 and stated:

25 No. It was not an intentional - - as I said before, I tried to capture the
26 pertinent parts out of these voluminous documents like you've done,
27 giving me three pages of probably a fifty-page document, and to try to
28 capture those parts that were relevant to the investigation.

1 Tr. I, 173. SA West admitted that he included this excerpt of the operating agreement in his affidavit
2 to demonstrate that Montgomery had a covenant not to compete, and he also testified that the evidence
3 of Montgomery's efforts to sell to potential investors in violation of the operating agreement concerned
4 the redacted portion of his affidavit, which was the single conversation Montgomery had with Azzinaro
5 in late December or early January. Tr. I, 174-175. The affidavit states that Montgomery talked with
6 Azzinaro about his problems at eTreppid and inquired whether Azzinaro might know of anyone willing
7 "to invest" – nothing more (#1 at 10:17-24). Based upon the incomplete provision of the operating
8 agreement, followed by the conversation between Montgomery and Azzinaro, the court concluded that
9 in violation of the operating agreement, Montgomery solicited Azzinaro for new investors and intended
10 to use stolen trade secrets as a new competitor of eTreppid. This is not true.

11 **c. The Ten Patent Assignments**

12 SA West identified ten patent assignments provided by SA Haraldsen, which he also referred to
13 in his affidavit. Tr. III, 5. SA West testified that he referred to these patent assignments to "illustrate that
14 Dennis Montgomery is employed by eTreppid and has done work at eTreppid, that he is assigned to
15 eTreppid." Tr. III, 6. SA West believed that these documents also confirmed that Montgomery was not
16 only an assignor of the patents, but also an "employee" of eTreppid, Tr. III, 7, and this is what SA West
17 stated in his affidavit (#1 at 3:5-9). However, Montgomery was not an employee of eTreppid when he
18 made these assignments; he was an independent contractor as evidenced by Montgomery's form K-1s
19 for the period 1999-2001. Tr. Ex. 29. SA West testified that he was unaware that Montgomery had
20 received 1099 independent contractor forms from eTreppid during the period November 2000 to
21 November 2001. Tr. II, 174.

22 The patent assignments concern various items, ranging from "method and apparatus for
23 streaming data using rotating cryptographic keys," to "system and method for generating alert conditions
24 in a surveillance system," to "method and apparatus for encoding information using multiple passes and
25 decoding in a single pass." Tr. Ex. 26. SA West did not ask Trepp whether Montgomery had assigned
26 patents to eTreppid for the source code that SA West sought. Tr. II, 174-175.

1 Although SA West referred to the patent assignments to illustrate Montgomery's employment
2 relationship with eTreppid, this is what the reference conveyed to this court: that since Montgomery had
3 conveyed all of his technological know-how to eTreppid, the ten patents bore an integral relationship
4 to the trade secrets that Montgomery allegedly stole. One has only to review SA West's affidavit to see
5 how the juxtaposition of his reference to the ten patent assignments to eTreppid's trade secrets –
6 software programs relating to “data compression, pattern recognition, change and anomaly detection”
7 – led the court to draw this conclusion. (#1 at 3:5-16). It is now evident that these patents had nothing
8 to do with the trade secrets alleged to have been stolen.

9 2. The SOCOM Contract and eTreppid's Security Clearance

10 SA West's affidavit states that a government contract from SOCOM in March 2003 required
11 eTreppid to have access to secret material; therefore, eTreppid received government authorization to
12 store secret material at its facility (#1 at 4:13-18). The court inferred from this portion of SA West's
13 affidavit that eTreppid was engaged in work for the United States involving secret materials, and that
14 eTreppid had the proper facility clearance to conduct this work. It appears eTreppid never had a facility
15 clearance.

16 SA West first stated that his understanding is that eTreppid had not received approval to store
17 certain classified material at eTreppid facilities. Tr. I, 145. Subsequently, SA West testified that, as
18 stated in his affidavit, eTreppid was permitted to store secret material at least since August 2005. Tr.
19 II, 156-62. To the query, “And to your knowledge despite the three years of government contracts,
20 Trepp's facility never got a facility clearance?” SA West responded, “I don't know what the reasoning
21 was. It could have been Montgomery that held it up.” Tr. II, 186.

22 However, SA West testified later that SA Haraldsen told him that eTreppid had a facility
23 clearance to store secret material, which is based upon a DOD form DD 254. Tr. III, 141-142; Tr. Ex.
24 34. SA West relied on this information in preparing his affidavit, but he never saw the form. Instead,
25 he relied on SA Haraldsen's statements to him. Tr. III at 141-143. SA West included this information
26 in his affidavit “[t]o show that eTreppid had access, had permission by the U.S. Government or the
27 author of that form to possess secret information.” Tr. III, 142. SA West only saw a copy of the actual
28

1 DD 254 form just days prior to the final August 17, 2006 evidentiary hearing when Venables faxed it
2 to him. Tr. III, 103-104. Although a signature line is provided on form DD 254, presumably to signify
3 certification for a facility clearance, there is no signature. Tr. Ex. 34. Therefore, the court now
4 concludes that although SA Haraldsen and Venables represented to SA West that eTreppid possessed
5 a facility clearance to store secret material, eTreppid did not have one.

6 3. Montgomery's Security Clearance

7 SA West attested that Montgomery received and signed two security briefings in 2003, which
8 outlined his duty to protect classified material and to protect it from unauthorized disclosure (#1 at 4:19-
9 26;5:1-4). Later in the affidavit, SA West recounted a conversation between Montgomery and Gray
10 during which Gray warned Montgomery that his improper storage of classified material could result in
11 the loss of Montgomery's security clearance. *Id.* at 6:8-17. Montgomery allegedly replied, "I don't care
12 about my clearance. They'll always give me my clearance because they want me to do the work." *Id.*
13 at 6:12-13. The affidavit then recites continued problems with Montgomery's storage and handling of
14 classified material and, ultimately, the allegation that he removed it from eTreppid. *Id.* at 6:13-26-7:10.

15 The court concluded there was probable cause to believe that Montgomery breached his security
16 clearance and took classified materials in violation of the law. Although SA West's affidavit never
17 specifically states the level of Montgomery's security clearance, the inference was that it was tied to his
18 work at eTreppid and that he lost it. However, SA West's testimony conflicts as to whether he knew
19 what, if any, security clearance Montgomery possessed at the time of the search. SA West testified that
20 he knew Montgomery had a top secret clearance in the fall of 2005. Tr. I, 115. SA West stated that he
21 did not look into who at eTreppid had what level security clearance prior to November 2005. Tr. I, 114
22 at 9-13. SA West initially stated that he did not remember whether he contacted Defense Security
23 Services ("DSS"), the determining agency, regarding Montgomery's security clearance before or after
24 the search. Tr. I, 112-113. SA West subsequently testified that Jay Dixon of DSS and Venables both
25 told him that Montgomery's security clearance was suspended, and SA West said that he believed that
26 he learned that information prior to the search. Tr. I, 116-117. SA West later testified that Dixon told
27 him Montgomery's clearance was suspended, but only after the search. Tr. III, 92. In any event, SA

1 West made no reference to Dixon in his affidavit, and the court finds that SA West did not rely on
2 Dixon.

3 SA West testified that, as he understood it, Montgomery's clearance was contingent on his
4 employment with eTreppid. Tr. II, 113. SA West stated that he is unfamiliar with Jpass, the electronic
5 system that governs security clearance, but that Venables provided him with a computer printout
6 indicating that Montgomery's clearance had been suspended. Tr. II, 129-132. To the question "[s]o this
7 was an issue to you before you raided his home whether he still had his security clearance?" SA West
8 responded: *"Yes. I mean it would be significant if he had legitimate access to classified information*
9 *or not."* Tr. II, 132 at 6-9 (emphasis supplied).

10 SA West stated that he did not know whether Montgomery had notice that his security clearance
11 had been suspended. Tr. II, 156-157. He testified that eTreppid tried to provide Montgomery with
12 termination documents and that he did not know if those documents informed Montgomery that his
13 security clearance had been suspended. Tr. II, 156. Montgomery's counsel questioned SA West about
14 DOD directives, which movant's counsel represented governed the revocation or suspension of security
15 clearance. Tr. II, 155-156. The DOD directive outlines steps that must be taken, including providing
16 notice and an opportunity to be heard to the applicant, before an "unfavorable clearance decision" is
17 made. Tr. II, 159-160. SA West had no knowledge of the directive or whether the procedures were
18 followed prior to suspending Montgomery's security clearance. Tr. II, 160. SA West testified that the
19 basis for searching Montgomery's home was the unlawful retention of national security information and
20 that Montgomery did not have permission to store it at home. Tr. II, 160-161. Contrary to SA West's
21 understanding, Montgomery attests that the Government has never revoked his security clearance. Tr.
22 Ex. 38, para. 21.

23 **4. The November 2005 Visit to Nellis Air Force Base and Nine Secret**
24 **Hard Drives**

25 The evidentiary centerpiece of SA West's affidavit insofar as it concerns unlawful retention of
26 classified material are the "nine Secret hard drives," which Gray recorded at Nellis Air Force Base and
27 "marked with red standard U.S. Government Secret labels as instructed by contractor personnel" and
28

1 which were "stored [at eTreppid] in a GSA approved safe as required by DOD" (#1 at 5:5-12). These
2 are the "Secret hard drives" that metamorphosized into "classified material" three paragraphs later in
3 the affidavit. As is now clear, there was no secret material and there was no classified material;
4 therefore, no probable cause existed that Montgomery unlawfully retained national defense information
5 in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 793(e). The court agrees with SA West's testimony on one fact: *Nothing*
6 was more influential to this court in the issuance of these search warrants than the information that
7 Montgomery might unlawfully be in possession of secret material belonging to the United States. *See*
8 Tr. II, 144.

9 SA West testified that in mid-February, Gray provided him with an inventory of classified
10 material that was either missing or destroyed. Tr. III, 27-28.⁹ The inventory itemizes hard disk drives,
11 dated November 4, 2005, "Nellis, SOCOM." Tr. Ex. 40. SA West testified that when Gray provided
12 him with the inventory, he did not inquire about the original classification authority, although Gray did
13 tell him that an unnamed contract employee from Nellis provided the information concerning
14 classification. Tr. III, 30-31. SA West never contacted Nellis Air Force Base or checked its logs to
15 verify whether the material was, in fact, classified. Tr. I, 96, 100, 124-126; Tr. III, 30-31. Venables and
16 Gray did tell him that the classified information was on "nine hard drives" and two digital videotapes,
17 but SA West did not include detailed descriptions in his affidavit. Tr. I, 39, 92-93, 103-104, 119-120;
18 #1. SA West testified that in addition to relying on interviews with Venables and Gray, as well as
19 Gray's inventory, he also "relied on Mr. Haraldsen, who had been working – who is an Air Force
20 official who is familiar with the project that eTreppid was working on, who said they were handling
21 classified information, and then the other, you know, disclosure documents that they – that eTreppid
22 employees had signed to take possession of classified information." Tr. II, 86-87; *see also* Tr. II, 104.

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25 ⁹The Government never provided the court with the actual inventory Gray provided to SA West.
26 Instead, the court was provided with a copy of an August 11, 2006 memo from the Government's
27 counsel to Montgomery's counsel, which states that on February 14, 2006, Gray provided an inventory
28 of classified material to SA West. Tr. Ex. 40. That memo summarizes missing or destroyed classified
material.

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1 Based upon this section of SA West's affidavit, the court concluded that probable cause existed
2 that the nine eTreppid hard drives were classified as secret by the appropriate government agency, that
3 they contained information of importance of the United States government, and that the Department of
4 Defense had provided instructions concerning their classification, access, and storage. It is now
5 abundantly clear that this conclusion was incorrect because there was no classified material.

6 **5. December 2005: Montgomery's Breaches of Protocol, Deletion of**
7 **Classified Material, and Removal of Classified Material and Trade**
8 **Secrets from eTreppid**

9 Since it is now evident that there was no classified material, the court will only note that the
10 chronology of events in December 2005, which SA West described in his affidavit, led the court to
11 conclude that there was probable cause to believe that in breach of his security clearance, Montgomery
12 had unlawfully removed classified information from eTreppid. The court now turns to the theft of trade
13 secrets.

14 As a preliminary observation, the court notes that SA West never disclosed in his affidavit that
15 Trepp and Montgomery were engaged in civil litigation concerning ownership of the trade secrets, which
16 are intertwined with the allegation in the affidavit that Montgomery engaged in the criminal theft of trade
17 secrets.¹⁰ Over the course of SA West's meetings with Trepp prior to the search warrant applications,
18 he knew that Trepp was engaged in trade secret litigation against Montgomery and that Trepp was
19 attempting to obtain a temporary restraining order against Montgomery. Tr. I. 20-22, 47. Trepp and
20 SA Haraldsen also provided SA West with declarations of eTreppid employees and other court

21 ¹⁰In fact, two civil cases are pending in federal court: *Montgomery v. eTreppid Technologies,*
22 *LLC, et al.*, 3:06-CV-0056-LRH (VPC); *eTreppid Technologies, LLC v. Montgomery, et al.*, 3:06-CV-
23 0145-LRH (VPC). In Case No. 3:06-CV-00056 LRH (VPC), the complaint was filed on January 31,
24 2006 (#1), and as of the dates this court issued the search warrants, February 28 and March 3, 2006,
25 there were no matters under submission to this court; therefore, the court was unaware of this pending
26 action. On January 25, 2006, Montgomery filed a petition to remove the state court proceeding initiated
27 by eTreppid against Montgomery to the United States District Court in Case No. 3:06-CV-00041-HDM
28 (RAM); however, that matter was remanded to the state district court on January 31, 2006 (#14).
Thereafter, the United States Department of Defense filed its notice of removal to the United States
District Court on March 20, 2006, in Case No. 3:06-CV-00145-LRH (VPC). Thus, this second civil
action between Montgomery and eTreppid was not pending in this court at the time the search warrants
were issued.

1 documents. Tr. I, 22-23, 74-75; Vol. II, 199-200; Tr. Ex. 10. SA West was aware that the trade secrets
2 at issue are valued in millions of dollars, but he did nothing during his pre-search warrant investigation
3 to determine the extent of Montgomery's claim to ownership. Tr. I, 60-62, 141; Tr. II, 176, #1 at 3:10-16.
4 Had this court had even the slightest inkling that Trepp and Montgomery were engaged in civil litigation,
5 it is an understatement to say that the court would have scrutinized the theft of trade secrets allegation
6 very, very carefully.

7 As discussed earlier, SA West omitted critical portions of the contribution agreement and the
8 operating agreement, which stated that whatever Montgomery contributed to eTreppid could be found
9 on CD No. 1. However, SA West testified that he did not know what CD No. 1 contained. Tr. I, 51-53.
10 He never inquired as to how long Montgomery had been creating software technologies, Tr. I, 60. SA
11 West did not investigate whether Montgomery had created software that was not included under the
12 contribution agreement or ask anyone what assets Montgomery had not contributed. Tr. I, 62; Tr. II, 123,
13 128, 214. SA West testified that his impression was that any work Montgomery performed while at
14 eTreppid was also part of what eTreppid owned; he did not believe that it was limited to CD No. 1.

15 Putting aside the questions concerning SA West's investigation, the court understood that the
16 trade secret Montgomery had allegedly stolen was "source code" (#1 at 1:16-23). However, to this day,
17 it is unclear to the court exactly how "source code" is a trade secret that Montgomery allegedly stole.
18 SA West was unable to describe the allegedly stolen trade secret because no one at eTreppid was
19 adequately able to identify it. Tr. I, 84-85, 87, 131-132, 136, 152; Tr. II, 78-79, 192. SA West never
20 checked eTreppid's computers for the missing source code, and it appears that Trepp referred SA West
21 to Venables for source code questions. Tr. I, 84-87. However, Venables admitted that he did not know
22 what source code was "ever there" at eTreppid; therefore, Venables had no way of knowing what to look
23 for to confirm missing source code (Tr. I, 136; 152-154; Tr. Ex. 33, Vol. 1:11-120). Venables's
24 testimony at the preliminary injunction hearing appears to contradict the assertions SA West made in
25 his affidavit that the source codes at issue were located on the "source code server," using the "RAID
26 Unit" and "back-up ISA" on the premises at eTreppid, and that Venables had access to them (#1 at 3:17-
27 26; 18:1-2).

1 Montgomery asserts that the term "source code" is meaningless and that the Montgomery Family
2 Trust owned the software pursuant to copyrights filed years before Montgomery's involvement with
3 Trepp (#21). Montgomery also states:

4 The source codes used on military contracts are derived from my
5 copyrighted source codes on file in the Copyright Office. None of those
6 source codes are on CD No. 1 or in the patents I assigned to eTreppid.
7 They were all created by me with no other input from anyone and none
8 of them were created as part of my work at eTreppid. Approximately 90%
of the codes were developed before September 28, 1998, and 99% were
developed prior to November 2002, when even eTreppid treated me as an
independent contractor.

9 Tr. Ex. 38, ¶ 16.

10 Had the court been apprised of the civil litigation between Trepp and Montgomery and the
11 disputed facts summarized herein, it would have concluded – as the court does now – that there was no
12 probable cause to issue a search warrant based upon the allegation of theft of trade secrets.¹¹

13 6. Callous Disregard of Montgomery's Constitutional Rights

14 The court has reviewed the record in this proceeding in great detail, since the power of the
15 Government to safeguard a citizen's privacy in his or her home and possessions against unjustified
16 intrusions by government officials is a "basic purpose" of the Fourth Amendment. *Camarav. Municipal*
17 *Court of City and County of San Francisco*, 387 U.S. 523, 528 (1967). In this proceeding, SA West was
18 charged with the investigation of two very serious and two potentially very complex criminal violations.
19 After examination of his affidavit, his testimony concerning his investigation, and the protocols the
20 Department of Justice has implemented for these crimes, this court can only conclude that SA West
21 acted with callous disregard of Montgomery's fundamental Fourth Amendment rights. The over-arching
22 concern in this proceeding is that SA West became an unwitting pawn in a civil dispute, and as a result
23 of his inexperience and lack of training, he prepared search warrant affidavits that are riddled with
24 incorrect statements, edited documents, and uncorroborated conclusions, which caused this court to

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26 ¹¹Because the court has concluded that there is no probable cause as to the trade secret allegation,
27 the court notes that the conversations Montgomery had with Azzinaro and SA Harraldsen do not change
28 the court's finding of lack of probable cause, and they need not be addressed.

1 exercise its formidable power to authorize the government to search Montgomery's home and storage
2 units.

3 In 2000, the Department of Justice's Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section
4 ("CCIPS") published the *Prosecuting Intellectual Property Crimes Manual*. Tr. Ex. 12. With respect
5 to theft of commercial trade secrets, it states:

6 The EEA [Economic Espionage Act of 1996] is violated only where
7 someone acts knowingly without authorization. Under certain
8 circumstances, however, two individuals or companies may have a
9 legitimate dispute over ownership rights in a trade secret. This type of
10 dispute is likely to arise where the two potential owners previously
11 worked together to develop the disputed technology and where the
12 contractual arrangements governing each party's respective ownership
13 interests are unclear or entirely absent. In these circumstances, unilateral
14 action with regard to the trade secret by one of the owners may precipitate
15 an EEA referral. *Such cases are rarely appropriate for criminal
16 prosecution, especially where the party taking unilateral action has
17 obtained advice of counsel.* Notwithstanding the passage of the EEA,
18 many disputes regarding ownership of intellectual property, including
19 trade secrets, continue to be best resolved in a civil forum.

20 *Id.* at 17, section VIII.B.6.e (emphasis supplied). Prior to this case, SA West had never investigated a
21 trade secrets case, he was unfamiliar with Department of Justice manuals relating to intellectual property
22 crimes, and he did not consult with anyone within the Department of Justice for guidance, such as the
23 Department of Justice's Computer Hacking and Intellectual Property Unit ("CHIPS Unit"). Tr. I, 14,
24 18, 23-24; Tr. II, 187-188; 216-218; Tr. Ex. 12, 14, 21, 25. Like SA West, SA Haraldsen had no training
25 in investigating intellectual property crimes, and his role was to act as a liason between eTreppid and
26 the U.S. Air Force and Department of Defense on contracts eTreppid had with these government
27 agencies. Tr. I, 17-18. SA West was aware that Trepp and Montgomery were engaged in civil trade
28 secret litigation, and he relied on one side of that dispute – Trepp's – for critical evidence concerning
potential criminal prosecution for theft of trade secrets against the adverse party, Montgomery. SA West
relied on Trepp's representation that court records were sealed, but he never confirmed this
representation. Tr. I, 74-76; 136-138. In fact, although certain portions of eTreppid's lawsuit were
sealed, the parallel lawsuit filed by Montgomery was not. SA West blindly relied on the documents,
sworn statements, and evidence supplied by eTreppid, and he never appeared to question whether he had

1 become an agent, not for the Government, but for private interests engaged in litigation valued in
 2 millions of dollars. The litigation that has ensued based upon the seizure of Montgomery's property is
 3 a cautionary tale to heed the admonition that trade secrets litigation is best left to the civil forum.

4 The court has similar concerns about SA West's investigation of unlawful retention of national
 5 defense information. SA West took SA Haraldsen, Trepp, Venables, and Gray at their word and never
 6 confirmed basic facts they alleged. Upon learning of these serious allegations, one would presume that
 7 an FBI agent with no experience in this area would consult with Department of Justice officials or his
 8 own supervisors regarding the investigation. However, SA West never confirmed with the proper
 9 government agency whether eTreppid had a facility clearance to store classified materials; he simply
 10 relied on statements of Haraldsen and Venables. SA West did not even see the actual DD Form 254
 11 until a few days before the final day of the evidentiary hearing – six months after the search warrants
 12 were issued. SA West never confirmed the status of Montgomery's security clearance with the
 13 appropriate government agency, and once again relied on Venables's statement. Moreover, SA West
 14 had no knowledge of government procedures for suspension or revocation of an individual's security
 15 clearance. When Gray supplied SA West with a list of so-called classified materials, he never confirmed
 16 with anyone at Nellis Air Force Base that they were, in fact, classified. He continued to rely on
 17 Venables, Gray and Haraldsen's representations concerning classification, and he never verified himself
 18 whether the allegedly classified materials were actually missing.

19 The evidence before this court compels the conclusion that SA West acted with callous disregard
 20 of Montgomery's constitutional rights, which resulted in the improper search of Montgomery's home
 21 and storage units, and the improper seizure of his property.

22 7. Conclusion

23 Once the Government conceded that "nine Secret hard drives" were not, in fact, classified and
 24 that the material "was not properly classified by an Original Classification Authority within the U.S. Air
 25 Force," (Tr. Ex. 4), the obvious question is whether the search warrant can stand based on probable
 26 cause that Montgomery violated 18 U.S.C. § 793(e), unlawful retention of national defense information.
 27 Throughout the three days of the evidentiary hearing and in its post-hearing brief, the Government made

1 no showing whatsoever that probable cause still exists to justify keeping the seized material based on
2 this criminal violation, notwithstanding this court's invitation that the Government do so. Tr. III, 211-
3 212. Likewise, the Government has also failed to demonstrate that probable cause exists to justify the
4 issuance of the search warrants in this case based on a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1832, theft of trade
5 secrets. The Government's post-hearing brief is devoid of any legal or factual argument in opposition
6 to Montgomery's motion for a return of the seized property, other than a defense of SA West's
7 investigation prior to the issuance of the search warrants. Having considered the evidence adduced at
8 the hearing, and all of the papers submitted in this proceeding, the court grants Montgomery's motion
9 for a return of the seized property (#21).¹²

10 **III. ORDER**

11 Based upon the foregoing,

12 **IT IS ORDERED** that Montgomery's motion to unseal the search warrant affidavits (#21) is
13 **GRANTED**, and Montgomery's motion for the return of property pursuant to Fed.R.Crim.P. 41(g) (#21)
14 is **GRANTED**. Montgomery's motion for the segregation and sealing of all attorney-client and trade
15 secret material (#21) is **DENIED AS MOOT**, since the court has ordered the return of all seized
16 property.

17 Pursuant to LR IB 3-1, any party wishing to object to this order shall, on or before **Tuesday,**
18 **December 12, 2006**, file and serve specific a written objection to the ruling together with points and
19 authorities in support thereof. The opposing party shall within ten days thereafter file points and
20 authorities opposing the objection. Points and authorities filed in support of or in opposition to the order
21 are subject to the page limits set forth in LR 7-4. This proceeding shall remain sealed until the deadline
22 for filing a written objection has expired. If no objection to this order is filed by **Tuesday, December**
23 **12, 2006**, this order shall stand as the final order, and all papers filed in this proceeding shall be
24 **UNSEALED** without further order of this court.

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27 ¹²Since this court concludes that the Government lacked probable cause, it does not reach the
28 particularity analysis.

1 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that in the event an objection is filed, this proceeding shall
2 remain **SEALED** until such time as the District Court issues its final order. The parties shall file any
3 written objection to this order or opposition to the objection under seal by delivering any documents to
4 be filed in a sealed envelope addressed to Jake Herb or Lia Griffin or the U.S. District Court, District
5 of Nevada, Reno Office.

6 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

7 Dated this 28th day of November, 2006.

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10 **UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**
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