Deputies from the Bates County Sheriff's Office took a second report this week of a residential burglary. When the victim returned home they noticed their door had been kicked open. Deputies and a Trooper from MSHP conducted a search of the residence to check for suspects with negative results. The victims entered the residence to check for any items that may have been stolen. The house had been ransacked by the suspects. The victims stated that there were 5 rifles missing that included a Winchester 30.30 lever action rifle and a Steven single shot .22. Many of the firearms are priceless as they had belonged to the victim's father.

Sheriff Chad Anderson would like to remind citizens that during the Christmas holiday residential burglaries may increase. Criminals know that most people will be doing their holiday shopping and may have more valuables inside their residences this time of year. This may seem like an obvious tip, but make sure you lock your doors and all of the windows in your home. You should also make sure your valuables are hidden from passer-bys. It is a good idea to not leave gifts, even wrapped ones, in front of any window. If you are going to be out of town for the holidays, don't tell people via your answering machine or social media. It is also a good idea to purchase a timer that will automatically turn on your lamps when it gets dark.

If you return home and find that your house has been broken into, don't go into the house. If you have already walked in, do not touch anything because the thieves may have left fingerprints. Leave the residence immediately. The thieves may still be inside, and it's not worth your life to find out. Call the Sheriff's Office or your local Police Department from your cell phone or from a neighbor's phone.

If you know anything about this burglary please do not hesitate to contact a Detective at 660-679-3232.