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Two Arrests at Arms Cache

Authorities were checking with intelligence agencies yesterday to determine if two men caught burying guns and hand grenades in a San Lorenzo field are members of any militant organization.

A tip to the Alameda county sheriff's office that the small arsenal was going to be buried in a field near the San Lorenzo industrial park, which borders on San Francisco Bay, led to the arrests Sunday night.

Deputies watched the site through night-vision field glasses and observed two men get out of a car, dig a

hole and start to bury a bag, a sheriff's spokesman said.

The posse of officers moved in and arrested John Gilligan, 28, of New York, and John Merrill, 26, of Detroit, who refused to say anything other than to give their identities.

A third suspect, who was driving the car, sped from the scene when he caught sight of the deputies.

The bag which was being buried contained 30 hand grenades and two automatic pistols, police said.

Gilligan and Merrill are being held in the Alameda county jail for questioning by federal authorities.