



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

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NORTHERN ARIZ. MAN SENTENCED TO 4 YEARS IN PRISON FOR METH DISTRIBUTION ON THE NAVAJO NATION

PHOENIX— Joel Frank Upshaw, 24, of St. Michaels, Ariz., a member of the Navajo Nation, was sentenced here yesterday to four years in federal prison by U.S. District Judge Stephen M. McNamee. Upshaw pleaded guilty on September 26, 2006 to Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine.

On February 3, 2005, Upshaw was a passenger in car traveling on Route 54 in Fort Defiance, Ariz. within the Navajo Nation. The car in which he was riding had been involved in a prior accident and the hood continued to fly up blocking the windshield. A Navajo Department of Law Enforcement Officer attempted to pull the car over, but the driver fled. The car eventually flipped over, ejecting Upshaw. The driver and Upshaw were transported to a local hospital where they were treated for their injuries and released.

The officer found six bags containing a total of 14.4 grams of methamphetamine in the car that Upshaw intended to deliver to another person. The driver was not charged.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Navajo Department of Law Enforcement. The prosecution was handled by Thomas C. Simon, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-0051-PCT-SMM
RELEASE NUMBER: 2008-219(Upshaw)

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