

For Immediate Release
January 6, 2012

**FOUR MCKINLEY COUNTY RESIDENTS PLEAD GUILTY
TO FEDERAL DRUG TRAFFICKING OFFENSES**

ALBUQUERQUE – On January 5, 2012, four McKinley County residents entered guilty pleas to federal drug trafficking offenses in federal court in Albuquerque. The defendants were four of the nine defendants arrested on October 18, 2010, as a result of a five-month investigation by the DEA and BIA initiated in May 2010 at the request of the Navajo Nation Department of Public Safety (NNDPS) and for the purpose of combating the growing drug trafficking problem in and around the Navajo Indian Reservation.

The defendants entering guilty pleas yesterday were four of the five defendants charged with methamphetamine and marijuana trafficking offenses in a seven-count superseding indictment. Each pleaded guilty to all the charges against him or her.

Jason Jaramillo, 33, of Grants, N.M., pleaded guilty to Counts 1, 4 and 6 of the superseding indictment charging him with conspiracy to violate the federal drug laws, distribution of more than five grams of methamphetamine, and distribution of more than 50 grams of methamphetamine.

Michael Goodson, 48, and **Georgia Goodson**, 37, both of Prewitt, N.M., each pleaded guilty to all seven counts of the superseding indictment charging them with conspiracy to violate the federal drug laws, three separate distributions of marijuana; distribution of more than five grams of methamphetamine, distribution of more than 50 grams of methamphetamine, and maintaining a place for the distribution of controlled substances.

Gilbert Aragon, 34, of Grants, N.M., pleaded guilty to Counts 1 and 6 of the superseding indictment charging him with conspiracy to violate the federal drug laws and

distribution of more than 50 grams of methamphetamine.

Jaramillo, Aragon and Georgia Goodson entered their guilty pleas under plea agreements with the U.S. Attorney's Office. Michael Goodson entered his guilty plea without the benefit of any agreement. Each faces a mandatory minimum ten years of imprisonment and a maximum of life imprisonment when they are sentenced. All four defendants have been in federal custody since they were arrested in October 2010, and remain in custody pending their sentencing hearings, which have yet to be scheduled.

On December 29, 2011, **Lance Rochlitz**, 29, of Grants, N.M., the fifth defendant charged in the superseding indictment, entered a guilty plea to Count 4, charging him with distribution of more than five grams of methamphetamine. Rochlitz faces a mandatory minimum five years and a maximum of 40 years imprisonment when he is sentenced. Rochlitz has been in federal custody since his arrest in October 2010. He remains detained pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled.

The charges in the superseding indictment were the result of "Operation Yé'iitsoh," an investigation brought pursuant to the Native American Project, an initiative sponsored by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program and is supported by the DEA's Albuquerque District Office in partnership with the BIA and the NNDPS. Operation Yé'iitsoh also was brought pursuant to the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) program, a nationwide program that combines the resources and unique expertise of federal agencies, along with their local counterparts, in a coordinated attack against drug trafficking and money laundering organizations.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Samuel A. Hurtado and Nicholas Jon Ganjei.

###

12-8