

For Immediate Release  
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**GANG MEMBER FROM FARMINGTON SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS FOR  
FEDERAL DRUG TRAFFICKING AND FIREARM CONVICTION**

LAS CRUCES -- U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales announced that, this morning, **Nathan Archuleta**, also known as “Enemy,” 31, of Farmington, was sentenced to 30 years of imprisonment for his federal drug trafficking and firearm conviction by a federal judge in Las Cruces, N.M. The judge sentenced Archuleta to an additional eighteen-month sentence for a supervised release violation, for a total sentence of 378 months. Archuleta, an admitted member of the Tortilla Flats Sureño gang, will serve a five-year term of supervised release after he completes his prison sentence.

On August 16, 2010, a federal jury convicted Archuleta of three methamphetamine trafficking charges and a firearms charge contained in an eight-count third superseding indictment after a six-day trial. According to the evidence at trial, in July 2009, Archuleta conspired with others to smuggle methamphetamine into the United States from Mexico by using women who concealed the drugs in their body cavities. The evidence also established that in July 2009, Archuleta possessed methamphetamine in Dona Ana and Luna Counties with intent to distribute the drugs.

The jury also convicted Archuleta of possession of methamphetamine in Valencia County with intent to distribute, and being a felon in possession of a firearm in November 2009. The firearm conviction stemmed from Archuleta’s arrest on November 5, 2009, in Los Lunas, N.M., after a police chase. The evidence at trial established that, on that day, Archuleta refused to pull over when a New Mexico State Police officer tried to stop him for a traffic violation. Archuleta eventually lost control of his car, and crashed after officers deployed a “spike strip” to deflate his

tires. When officers arrested him, Archuleta had two loaded firearms and was wearing body armor that had been stolen from the Central New Mexico Correctional Facility. Archuleta was prohibited from possessing firearms because he previously had been convicted of felony battery on a police officer in the Eleventh Judicial District Court in San Juan County, N.M., and being a felon in possession of a firearm in United States District Court.

Archuleta's co-defendant, Daniel Ramon Muñoz, 30, of Deming, N.M., pled guilty to Counts 1 and 8 of the third superseding indictment charging him with (i) conspiracy to possess methamphetamine with intent to distribute, and (ii) attempting to escape from the custody of the Luna County Detention Center on December 9, 2009. Muñoz is scheduled to be sentenced in federal court in Las Cruces tomorrow, and faces a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

The case was investigated by Homeland Security Investigations with assistance from the U.S. Border Patrol, the U.S. Marshal's Service and the New Mexico State Police. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Stephen H. Wong and Nathan J. Lichvarcik.

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