



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

July 10, 2012

**ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL SENTENCED TO FIFTEEN YEARS IN
PRISON FOR UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM**

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning in federal court, John Anzures, 38, of Albuquerque, was sentenced to 15 years of imprisonment for being an armed career criminal in possession of a firearm. He will be on supervised release for three years after completing his prison sentence.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that the case against Anzures was brought as part of a federal anti-violence initiative that targets “the worst of the worst” offenders for federal prosecution under the federal firearms and narcotics laws. Under the initiative, a state-wide, multi-agency effort denominated as the New Mexico Federal Gang Task Force, the U.S. Attorney’s Office and federal law enforcement agencies work with New Mexico’s District Attorneys and state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies to target violent or repeat offenders for federal prosecution with the goal of removing repeat offenders from our communities for as long as possible.

Anzures was charged in an indictment filed on Dec. 28, 2010, alleging that he unlawfully possessed a firearm on Nov. 10, 2010, in Bernalillo County. At the time, Anzures was prohibited from possessing firearms and ammunition because he previously had been convicted of the following felony offenses:

- Aggravated battery with a deadly weapon in 1993 in the 13th Judicial District Court;
- Commercial burglary in 1996 in the 2nd Judicial District Court;
- Larceny in 1996 in the 2nd Judicial District Court;
- Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and auto burglary in 1997 in the 2nd Judicial District Court;
- Escape from jail in 1997 in the 2nd Judicial District Court;
- Receiving or transferring a stolen vehicle in 1997 in the 2nd Judicial District Court;
- Receiving or transferring a stolen vehicle in 1999 in the 2nd Judicial District Court;
- Conspiracy to bring contraband into a place of imprisonment in 2001 in the 13th Judicial District Court;
- Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon in 2004 in the 2nd Judicial District Court;
- Possession of cocaine in 2004 in the 2nd Judicial District Court;

- Receiving or transferring a stolen vehicle in 2004 in the 2nd Judicial District Court; and
- Possession of heroin in 2005 in the 2nd Judicial District.

On April 11, 2012, Anzures pled guilty to the indictment, and admitted that on Sept. 10, 2010, he unlawfully possessed a Springfield Armory, model XD (X-treme Duty)-40, .40 caliber pistol and ammunition.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives and the Albuquerque Police Department with assistance from the District Attorney's Office for the 2nd Judicial District, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles L. Barth.

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