

For Immediate Release  
May 11, 2011

**ROSWELL MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL  
METHAMPHETAMINE AND GUN CHARGES**

LAS CRUCES – Earlier today in federal court, **Jesse W. Nicholson**, a 30-year-old resident of Roswell, New Mexico, pled guilty to a three-count indictment charging him with possession of methamphetamine with the intent to distribute, being a felon in possession of a firearm, and carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking crime. At sentencing, Nicholson faces a mandatory minimum sentence of five years of imprisonment on the methamphetamine charge and an additional five-year mandatory sentence for carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking crime. At the conclusion of today’s plea hearing, Nicholson was remanded into the custody of the U.S. Marshal’s Service and will be detained pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that the charges arose from a traffic stop in Roswell on June 17, 2010. Nicholson admitted during his plea hearing that, during the traffic stop, a Roswell police officer found 140 grams of a mixture containing methamphetamine in the car he was driving. Nicholson also admitted that the officer found a .40 caliber pistol and eight rounds of .40 caliber ammunition on the passenger seat. According to the indictment, Nicholson was prohibited from possessing a firearm because he previously had been convicted of felony possession of cocaine and larceny in Chaves County, New Mexico.

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Roswell Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Maria Y. Armijo and Aaron O. Jordan.

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