



PRESS RELEASE

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**SHEEP SPRINGS, N.M., MAN PLEADS GUILTY
TO FEDERAL ASSAULT CHARGES**

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning, Jason Allen Hunter, 46, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation who resides in Sheep Springs, N.M., entered a guilty plea to federal assault charges under a plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Hunter was charged in a superseding indictment with two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon and one count of using and discharging a firearm in relation to a crime of violence. During this morning’s proceedings, Hunter pled guilty to the two assault charges.

In his plea agreement, Hunter admitted that, on May 9, 2009, he fired a shotgun at two people in a truck as it drove past him. He further admitted that, at the time he fired shots at the truck, he intended to cause those individuals bodily injury. Hunter committed these unlawful acts near his home, which is located just outside Sheep Springs on the Navajo Indian Reservation.

Under the terms of the plea agreement, Hunter will be sentenced to four years of imprisonment to be followed by a term of supervised release to be determined by the Court. Hunter was remanded into the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service after entering his guilty plea.

The case was investigated by the Shiprock Division of the Navajo Nation Department of Public Safety, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Mark T. Baker and Kyle T. Nayback.

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