



PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Elizabeth M. Martinez
Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney
Public Affairs Officer
elizabeth.martinez@usdoj.gov
505.224.1469

For Immediate Release

October 24, 2012

TSE BONITO, N.M., MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON
FOR FEDERAL ASSAULT CONVICTION

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning a federal judge in Albuquerque sentenced Kyle R. Westbrook, 27, to a 18-month term of imprisonment for his federal assault conviction. Westbrook, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation who resides in Tse Bonito, N.M., will be on supervised release for three years after he completes his prison sentence.

Westbrook was indicted on Aug. 23, 2011, and charged with assaulting a Navajo woman with a metal tent pole on June 26, 2010, in Indian Country within San Juan County, N.M. On April 12, 2012, Westbrook entered a guilty plea to an indictment charging him with assault with a dangerous weapon. Westbrook has been in federal custody since entering his guilty plea.

Court records reflect that Westbrook struck his girlfriend with a metal tent pole outside a residence in Crystal, N.M., which is located within the Navajo Indian Reservation. In entering his guilty plea, Westbrook said the assault occurred during an argument that became physical. Westbrook admitted hitting the victim several times with his hands, and then hitting her in the face and head with a metal tent pole. Two days later, Westbrook told law enforcement authorities that he used the tent pole to hit the victim because he was intoxicated and angry.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that the case was investigated by the Farmington office of the FBI and the Window Rock Division of the Navajo Nation Department of Public Safety, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul H. Spiers.

###