

For Immediate Release
May 17, 2011

**TUCUMCARI MAN RECEIVES 37-MONTH PRISON
SENTENCE FOR UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF AMMUNITION**

ALBUQUERQUE – United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales announced that, on May 12, 2011, in Albuquerque federal court, **Mark Blea**, 28, was sentenced to a 37-month term of imprisonment to be followed by three years of supervised release based on his federal conviction for the unlawful possession of ammunition. Blea, a resident of Tucumcari, has been in federal custody since his arrest on November 12, 2010.

Blea was indicted on October 27, 2010 and charged with (1) being a felon in possession of ammunition, and (2) being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition. According to the indictment, Blea unlawfully possessed .40 caliber ammunition and a .40 caliber pistol on March 13, 2010 in Quay County. At the time, Blea was prohibited from possessing ammunition or firearms because he previously had been convicted of possession of methamphetamine in the Tenth Judicial District Court for the State of New Mexico.

On December 23, 2010, Blea entered a guilty plea to count one of the indictment charging him as a felon in possession of ammunition under a plea agreement with the United States Attorney's Office. In the plea agreement, Blea admitted that he had a prior felony conviction when he possessed four cartridges of .40 caliber ammunition on March 13, 2010. Blea also admitted that a police officer found the ammunition in his pant pocket when he arrested Blea on an outstanding state warrant. The remaining count of the indictment was dismissed after Blea was sentenced.

Assistant United States Attorney David M. Walsh prosecuted the case, which was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives with the assistance of

the Tucumcari Police Department.

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