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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: *Rick Abasta, Communications Director*
Office of the President and Vice President
THE NAVAJO NATION
Phone: 928-871-7884
Fax: 928-871-7884
Email: rickyabasta@navajo-nsn.gov

Navajo Police Gang and Drug Unit arrest Navajo male on narcotics charges

FT. DEFIANCE, Ariz.—A Navajo male suspect is under arrest on narcotics and weapons possession charges in Window Rock this evening.

Around noon today, reports of gunfire at the Rio Puerco and Black Rock Acres housing area of Ft. Defiance was called into the Window Rock Police Department.

Navajo Police from the Window Rock and Crownpoint Districts responded and were supported by the Arizona Department of Public Safety, Gallup Police Department, Apache County Sheriff's Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

The housing area was on lockdown, as authorities ordered residents to remain indoors. Police officers cleared the houses one at a time in their search for the suspect.

Around 5 p.m., the male suspect was arrested by the Navajo Police Drug and Gang Unit on narcotics charges and was transported to the Window Rock Jail. A female suspect in the house was also detained and questioned.

John Billison, director of the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety, said the neighborhood is secured and began allowing residents back into their homes.

“I can't comment on the shooting because that's under investigation. However, there are no federal charges and the Navajo Police Drug and Gang Unit are taking the lead on the narcotics investigation,” Bilison said.

Several firearms, mostly rifles, were also recovered.

Billison thanked all the agencies that supported the Navajo Nation, especially for the immediate response.

“It was a good response, we could not hope for a better outcome. All the agency came together and supported one another,” Billison said. “We had troops on the ground, reinforced by air.

“The neighborhood is secured,” he added.

Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly was in Alamo, N.M. for the Justice Day celebration when the reports of gunfire in Ft. Defiance first came in. He applauded the work of the responding agencies and said thanks for their work in securing the neighborhood.

“We are serious about the safety of the public and our law enforcement officers,” President Shelly said. “We will respond in full force, as several agencies responded.”