



THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT  
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### NAVAJO POLICE OFFICER CRITICALLY INJURED

PREWITT-According to a statement released by the FBI Albuquerque Division, a Navajo Nation Police Officer was shot early Sunday morning while responding to a domestic violence call near Prewitt, N.M, on the Navajo Nation.

The police officer is said to have been critically injured. A suspect is in custody.

The officer was airlifted to the University of New Mexico Hospital.

Regarding the shooting, President Russell Begaye thanked Navajo Nation police officers, and all police officers, who risk their lives in protecting the general public.

“Our officers put themselves in highly volatile situations everyday in addressing domestic violence situations. Although they are highly trained, they can still be severely wounded which unfortunately is what happened today,” he said. “Words cannot express the concern we have when an officer is wounded. We pray for the officer, his family and the police force.”

The Office of the President and Vice President has recently upgraded equipment and units for the Navajo Nation Police Department.

“We do all we can to provide equipment and protective devices to our police force and we will continue to do this for their protection,” he said.

President Begaye noted that he received a call from New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez expressing her concern over the injured officer and offering her assistance.

“I appreciate her call and willingness to help,” he said.

The FBI and Navajo Nation are investigating this shooting. The New Mexico State Police and McKinley County Sheriff’s Office are assisting with the investigation.

More information will be released when it is available.

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