

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

Central Office Administration: 4337 State Road 14, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508
Post Office Box 27116, Santa Fe, NM 87502-0116
Main Number (505) 827-8600 Fax (505) 827-8533
www.corrections.state.nm.us

Susana Martinez, Governor
John Sanchez, Lt. Governor

Lupe Martinez

Secretary of Corrections (505) 827-8884

Jolene M. Gonzales

Deputy Secretary of Administration/CFO (505) 827-8667



Administrative Services	(505) 827-8601
Adult Prisons	(505) 827-8767
Corrections Industries	(505) 827-8597
General Counsel	(505) 827-8698
Information Technology	(505) 827-8713
Probation and Parole	(505) 827-8830
Training Academy	(505) 827-8900

April 28, 2011

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Elsie Duran 505-841-4975

Probation/Parole Officers Conduct Gang Sweep

(SANTA FE)- Probation/Parole Officers with the New Mexico Corrections Department teamed with Rio Rancho Police Department officers and the Gang Unit of the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department in a sweep of gang members in Albuquerque. Operation Rio Bell Grande resulted in the identification of thirty-four active gang members and allowed police to make twenty-five arrests including five felony arrests. The charges against the gang members included trafficking controlled substances and possession of stolen property, including iPads, iPods, cell phones, televisions, and clothing. Additionally, the officers also seized weapons including a handgun, knives, and several look-alike rifles. The stolen property was valued at over \$10,000. The arrests that occurred on April 16, 2011 included members of the Burque Boys, Sindicato Nuevo Mexico, "505" and the Brewtown gangs.

Tamera Marcantel, the Program Manager for the New Mexico Gang Task Force, said "This operation was hugely successful", noting that the statistics on the operation exceeded those of previous operations, and that Probation/Parole officers are "huge partners that are crucial to law enforcement".

The New Mexico Gang Task Force partners officers from different agencies to conduct anti-gang operations. Saturday's operation used nine teams made up of two probation officers, one Rio Rancho Police officer, and one member of the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Gang Unit. Officers report that gang members are now employing sophisticated counter-surveillance techniques that include video monitoring and the use of dogs to alert probationers to officers making field visits. Officers were able to off-set those counter-surveillance efforts during the operation.

For reporters interested in photographs of offenders and recovered property, please contact Elsie Duran, Region II Operations Manager, at 505-841-4975 or via e-mail, elsie.duran@state.nm.us.

###