

**State of New Mexico
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"We commit to the safety and well-being of the people of New Mexico by doing the right thing, always."

Press Release

August 27, 2012

Re: SNMCF Visitor Busted for Drug Contraband Attempt

"The New Mexico Corrections Department is proud of the continued professional diligence of our correctional officers in intercepting drugs and other contraband destined for the inside of our prison walls. The trafficking and use of illicit drugs behind our prison fences, wire, and walls are a direct assault upon the public safety of our State. Drug use and trafficking by inmates not only create more dangerous prison environments but undermine the very nature of our rehabilitative efforts to return offenders back to our State's neighborhoods without the pro-criminal lifestyles, attitudes and beliefs of their past."

An observant Correctional Officer attentive to his duties at Southern New Mexico Corrections Facility in Las Cruces stopped a woman from bringing in a significant amount of drugs into the facility. On Sunday afternoon August 26, 2012, the officer noticed a visitor had something in her mouth.

Maria Torrez was questioned and found to have 59 strips and 5 tablets of Suboxone. She was visiting inmate Vicente Lopez (#45077).

The New Mexico State Police were called to investigate and subsequently arrested Torrez. Torrez was booked into the Dona Ana County Detention Center on two (2) felony counts of possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute and bringing contraband into places of imprisonment. For more information on the investigation please contact the New Mexico State Police Department.

Attached to this press release are several pictures including the contraband Torrez attempted to bring in and shots of SNMCF in Las Cruces.

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Courage **R**esponsibility **E**thics **D**edication - **CRED**ibly serving the public safety of New Mexico
"We commit to the safety and well-being of the people of New Mexico by doing the right thing, always."