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Ex-Navajo police officer sentenced for sex abuse

By The Associated Press

Posted: 11/06/2012 06:22:34 PM MST

ALBUQUERQUE — A former Navajo Police Department officer has been sentenced to more than four years in prison for sexually abusing a woman in his custody in 2009.

Federal prosecutors in Washington, D.C., say 31-year-old Lawrence Etsitty received a 54-month prison term Tuesday followed by three years of supervised release. He also will be barred from serving in law enforcement.

Etsitty was indicted in December 2011 on a charge that he groped and kissed a woman against her will while she was handcuffed on Jan. 25, 2009.

He was accused of violating the woman's civil rights and later lying to the FBI about the incident.

Authorities say the woman had been arrested outside of the Fire Rock Casino in Churchrock, N.M.

Etsitty later wrote a letter of apology to the victim.

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