

*** *NEWS RELEASE* ***
**PRISON INMATE SENTENCED TO
25 YEARS TO LIFE FOR
POSSESSING WEAPON**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean Flippo announced today that Ernest Jacinto Velasco, age 30 and an inmate at the Salinas Valley State Prison, was found guilty by a jury of possessing a sharp instrument capable of being used as a stabbing weapon. The jury also found that he had been previously convicted of two serious felonies. Immediately after the verdicts, the defendant was sentenced by Superior Court Judge Timothy P. Roberts to a prison term of 25 years to life.

On November 26, 2008, while an inmate at the Salinas Valley State Prison, Velasco attempted to enter the prison yard with the weapon hidden in his boxer shorts. An officer performing routine metal detector scans searched him after the metal detector's alarm sounded and found the weapon.

Velasco was already serving a prison sentence for attempting to murder two Sheriff's Deputies in Los Angeles with an automatic weapon, causing great bodily injury to one of them.