

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

NUESTRA FAMILIA MEMBER AND FORMER REGIMENTAL COMMANDER OF MONTEREY COUNTY FOUND GUILTY IN GANG RELATED CRIMES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that on March 1, 2018, a jury found 36-year-old, Duane Joseph Jefferson, aka Joe Jeff, a member of the Nuestra Familia prison gang and one of the highest-ranking gang members in Monterey County, guilty of possession for sale of heroin and methamphetamine while armed with a firearm, and being a felon in possession of a firearm all for the benefit of, in association with, or at the direction of the Norteno Criminal Street Gang.

On September 25, 2016, Jefferson was wanted by Parole for cutting his GPS ankle monitor when he was spotted by the Salinas Police Department's Violence Suppression Unit. Jefferson and Robert Campos, another known Norteno gang member, fled from police both discarding loaded and operable firearms as they fled. VSU Officers apprehended them, and a search of their vehicle revealed over two pounds of pure, un-cut methamphetamine and over 350 grams of uncut heroin: approximately \$100,000 worth of narcotics for sale.

Jefferson has a lengthy gang related criminal history dating back to the 1990's. By 2016, he was known to be a member of the Nuestra Familia, the leadership of the Norteno Criminal Street Gang. At the time of this crime he was the Regimental Commander of Monterey County, meaning he oversaw the Norteno Criminal Street Gang's Monterey County regiment.

Judge Pamela L. Butler will sentence Jefferson on March 28, 2018. Campos was previously sentenced on August 25, 2017 to 10 years in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The case was investigated the Salinas Police Department's Violence Suppression Unit, Officers Justin Salinas and Zachary Dunagan, as well as District Attorney Investigator John Coletti.