ALBUQUERQUE – Twaine Willie, 26, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation who resides in Farmington, N.M., pleaded guilty May 8 in federal court in Albuquerque to an assault charge. Willie entered the guilty plea under a plea agreement that recommends that he be sentenced to a prison term within the range of 24 to 30 months followed by a term of supervised release to be determined by the court.

Willie was arrested on Jan. 18 on a criminal complaint charging him with assaulting a Jicarilla Apache man with a baseball bat on Jan. 3 on the Jicarilla Apache Nation in Rio Arriba County, N.M. According to the complaint, the victim sustained a compound fracture of his lower right leg as the result of the assault.

During the May 8 proceedings, Willie pleaded guilty to a felony information charging him with assault resulting in serious bodily injury. In entering the guilty plea, Willie admitted that on Jan. 3 he pushed and beat the victim, who required surgery to repair a compound fracture to his right tibia. Willie remains in custody pending a sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled.

This case was investigated by the Farmington office of the FBI and the Jicarilla Apache Tribal Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Novaline D. Wilson and Kyle T. Nayback.

Staff Reports