

Media Release

Yavapai County Sheriff's Office

Scott Mascher – Sheriff

255 E. Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301

Dwight D'Evelyn - Media Coordinator

928-777-7441



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11 Pounds of Meth Seized during K9 Traffic Stop



On January 13, 2017, at approximately 7:45 AM, a YCSO K9 deputy conducted a traffic stop resulting in the arrest of 27-year-old Steven Lugo from California for charges including Transportation/Possession of Dangerous Drugs for Sale, Possession of Dangerous Drugs and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.



Lugo

Just before 7:30 AM, a YCSO K9 deputy stopped a 2016 white Nissan Sentra for an equipment violation while travelling east on I40 near Ash Fork, Arizona. During contact with Lugo, who was the driver and only occupant, the deputy could detect an odor of burnt marijuana coming from the inside the vehicle. The deputy noted that Lugo appeared more nervous than the innocent motoring public and conflicted as to travel plans. Lugo denied carrying any contraband in his car.

Even though the deputy had legal cause to search the vehicle to determine the source of the marijuana odor, Lugo was asked and consented. During the search, a K9 deputy found about 10 grams of methamphetamine inside a glove located in the driver's door pocket. Lugo was arrested. Based on the investigation to this point, K9 deputies believed additional drugs were hidden in the vehicle. As a result, K9 'Miley,' a certified narcotics detection dog, was deployed around the exterior of the vehicle. 'Miley' positively alerted to narcotic/drug based odors along the front fender and driver's door.

In order to provide a measure of safety for a more thorough search, the vehicle was moved off the highway to a secure location. During the subsequent search, a K9 deputy discovered numerous

packages of methamphetamine concealed underneath the Nissan's windshield trim piece. When weighed, the total was nearly 11 pounds of methamphetamine.

Lugo was booked into the Camp Verde Detention Center on the indicated charges and remains in-custody on a \$100,000 bond. The investigation is ongoing.

The street value of this load in well into six figures.

Citizens can contact the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office with information or questions at 928-771-3260 or the YCSO website:
www.ycsoaz.gov