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## **LAPD officer charged in federal court with distribution of methamphetamine**

The U.S. attorney's office in San Diego announced Wednesday it has charged a Los Angeles police officer with selling methamphetamine.

Yoshio Romero was arraigned Tuesday in federal court on the charge of distributing methamphetamine. He faces up to 10 years in federal prison if convicted.

Agents with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency said Romero arranged to sell 111 grams of methamphetamine in December 2009 for \$4,200, according to the federal criminal complaint.

The 28-year-old officer and five-year veteran of the LAPD allegedly placed the drugs inside a candy box on the front seat of a Chevrolet S-10 pickup truck with a paper dealer placard and then told a buyer he could find it at the North County Fair in Escondido, authorities said.

The buyer was instructed to leave the money in the center console, take the candy box containing the methamphetamine and lock the vehicle's door.

Romero, who is assigned to the Southeast Division, was arrested Monday without incident at his Inland Empire home. He is due back in court Thursday before Magistrate Judge Cathy A. Bencivengo.