

U.S. POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE CHILD EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

FACT SHEET

- ❑ U.S. Postal Inspectors began investigating child pornography offenses in 1977 (Federal Sexual Exploitation of Children Act of 1977), long before any other federal agency addressed the problem.
- ❑ Since the enactment of the Child Protection Act of 1984, Postal Inspectors have arrested over 3,200 offenders for child exploitation crimes.
- ❑ U.S. Postal Inspectors, working with the Department of Justice, conducted the largest pro-active undercover operation of its time in 1986, dubbed Project Looking Glass, to identify individuals trafficking in child pornography. This national initiative resulted in over 230 search warrants and more than 160 arrests.
- ❑ The U.S. Postal Inspection Service has co-sponsored, exhibited, and presented at the National Symposium on Child Sexual Abuse, held in Huntsville, AL, home of the nation's first Child Advocacy Center founded by Congressman Bud Cramer, since 1992.
- ❑ Operation Special Delivery, an undercover investigation publicly announced in 1996, dismantled a \$500,000 a year commercial child pornography enterprise and resulted in 133 search warrants and more than 95 prosecutions of child pornographers and molesters.
- ❑ Recognizing a need to factually demonstrate a direct correlation between child molesters and traffickers of child pornography, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service began compiling statistical information in 1997 resulting in:
 - 299 Child Molesters Identified and Stopped (36 percent of the 828 arrests)
 - 370 child victims identified and rescued from further abuse
- ❑ During fiscal year 2000, 77 percent of the child exploitation cases investigated by Postal Inspectors had a nexus to the Internet in addition to mail violations.
- ❑ Today, 52% percent of all digital evidence examinations performed by the Postal Inspection Service's Forensic and Technical Services Division involve child exploitation cases. This workload is expected to continue to increase.
- ❑ U.S. Postal Inspectors regularly make presentations and conduct training on child exploitation at national and international conferences and through DOJ and NCMEC sponsored training programs.
- ❑ The U.S. Postal Inspection Service is an active member of the Attorney General's Federal Agency Task Force on Missing and Exploited Children and participates with the Attorney General's Advisory Committee Working Group on Child Exploitation.
- ❑ A U.S. Postal Inspector is assigned on a full-time basis to the FBI's Innocent Images national initiative at Calverton, Maryland.
- ❑ The NCMEC Cyber Tipline reports are regularly reviewed at National Headquarters and forwarded to our child exploitation specialists in the field for follow-up investigation or referral to an appropriate law enforcement agency.
- ❑ U.S. Postal Inspectors across the country have formed working partnerships with the federally funded ICAC task forces to enhance and strengthen our collective efforts to combat child exploitation.
- ❑ On September 8, 1999, a multi-agency task force led by the Postal Inspection Service executed federal search warrants and shut down what may prove to be the largest commercialized child pornography enterprise ever uncovered, Landslide, Inc. On December 1, 2000, the defendants were convicted on all 87 counts following a federal jury trial. NCMEC's Cyber Tipline received in excess of 250 complaints from American citizens over Landslide's child pornography business.
- ❑ U.S. Postal Inspector Robert Adams, Ft. Worth, Texas, received one of eight National Missing and Exploited Children's Awards in 1999 and was given top honors by being named Officer of the Year for his outstanding investigative work in the Aquilla, Texas, child sex ring case.
- ❑ U.S. Postal Inspector Paul Groza, Portland, Oregon, received one of the National Missing and Exploited Children's Awards this past year, 2000, for his fine work in an Oregon case that began with a lead referral from NCMEC Cyber Tipline.

UNITED STATES POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service is the federal law enforcement arm of the U.S. Postal Service with responsibility for investigating crimes involving the U.S. Mail, including all child pornography and child sexual exploitation offenses. Postal Inspectors, specially trained to conduct child exploitation investigations, are assigned to each of its field divisions nationwide. As federal law enforcement agents, U.S. Postal Inspectors carry firearms, serve warrants and subpoenas, and possess the power of arrest.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service has a long-standing reputation as a true leader in the battle against child sexual exploitation. Recognizing that child molesters and pornographers often seek to communicate with one another through what they perceive as the security and anonymity provided by the U.S. Mail, Postal Inspectors have been involved extensively in child sexual exploitation and pornography investigations since 1977. Since the enactment of the Federal Child Protection Act of 1984, Postal Inspectors have conducted investigations resulting in the arrests of more than 3,200 child molesters and pornographers.

Use of the mail to traffic in child pornography, or otherwise sexually exploit children, continues to be a significant problem in our society. To add to the problem, more and more child molesters and pornographers are becoming computer-literate and turning to "cyberspace" to seek out potential victims, communicate with like-minded individuals, and, locate sources of child pornography. Over the last several years, there has been an increase in the number of unlawful computer transmissions and ads for child pornography on the Internet that occur hand-in-hand with child pornography trafficking of videotapes and computer disks through the mail. During fiscal year 1997, 33 percent of child exploitation cases investigated by Postal Inspectors also involved computers. During fiscal year 1998, 42 percent of our child exploitation cases involved computers, in addition to postal violations. Most recently, in fiscal year 2000, 77 percent of the child exploitation cases investigated by Postal Inspectors involved computers.

Postal Inspectors have established a nationwide network of intelligence incorporating a wide variety of undercover programs designed to identify suspects and develop prosecutable cases. These undercover operations recognize the clandestine nature of their targets and the inherent need of many offenders to validate their behavior. The investigative techniques used in these operations include placement of contact advertisements in sexually oriented publications, written contact and correspondence with the subject of the investigation, development of confidential sources, and more recently, undercover contact with suspects via the Internet. The computer has proven itself to be an invaluable investigative tool in identifying individuals who are using the mail to traffic in child pornography and exploit children.

During fiscal year 1997, the Postal Inspection Service began compiling statistical information on the number of child pornography suspects that were also child molesters. Additionally, we began to collect data on the number of child victims identified and rescued from further sexual abuse as a result of investigations conducted by Postal Inspectors. Since 1997, 299 child molesters were identified and stopped, and 370 children that were victimized by these offenders were rescued. Of the 828 individuals arrested by Postal Inspectors since 1997 for using the mail and the internet to sexually exploit children, actual child molesters were identified in 36 percent of those cases. Had it not been for the pro-active investigative techniques used to identify these offenders, the child victims may have never been identified and the offenders could still be at large in our communities, victimizing more children.

Internationally, the Postal Inspection Service has played an important role in Interpol's Specialist Group on Crimes Against Children since the group's founding in 1991. Postal Inspectors regularly make presentations and provide training on child sexual exploitation issues to delegates from other countries. In August 1996, the Postal Inspection Service's delegate to the Specialist Group on Crimes Against Children conducted workshops for other delegates from more than 120 countries at the first World Congress on the Commercial Exploitation of Children, held in Stockholm, Sweden.

In carrying out its mission, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service works closely with the United States Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Customs Service, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and other national and international law enforcement agencies.

COMMERCIAL DISTRIBUTORS

Operation Special Delivery

In May 1996, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service announced the results of Operation Special Delivery, a highly successful, pro-active undercover operation. The operation not only shut down the largest known commercial child pornography business ever encountered in the history of the United States at that time, but identified and targeted a large number of mail-order customers who knowingly purchased the illegal material.

The ring-leader of the criminal enterprise, Troy Anthony Frank, doing business as Overseas Male, produced the child pornography using young Mexican males, as young as 7-years of age, in Mexico City and Acapulco, Mexico. The original videotapes were then smuggled into the United States and distributed by mail from San Diego, California, to customers throughout the country. Business records seized during the investigation revealed the company made as much as \$500,000 per year. Troy Frank fled the United States in 1991 as a fugitive from justice, wanted for child molestation. After a brief time in the Netherlands, and after becoming the subject of a child pornography investigation there, he traveled to Mexico and began his child pornography business. Troy Frank committed suicide during the course of the Operation Special Delivery investigation while in Acapulco.

As a result of Operation Special Delivery, Postal Inspectors conducted over 130 searches in 36 states, identifying numerous child molesters, pornographers and child victims and recovering large quantities of child pornography material. More than 95 suspects have been prosecuted. Among the individuals identified during the course of this undercover operation were members of the clergy, youth leaders, school teachers, police officers, an attorney, a history professor, a medical doctor and a school counselor.

Child Sex Ring - Aquilla, Texas

In Aquilla, Texas, four individuals were indicted by a federal grand jury for crimes related to sexual abuse and exploitation of children. The four individuals were part of a child sex ring that recruited minor males to produce child pornography videotapes, which were sold by mail using post office boxes throughout the country. Sixteen child victims

were identified. Four other suspects were charged by the local district attorney for the aggravated sexual assault of minors. One child victim lost his life as a result of this ring. The four federal defendants were convicted in June 1998, and received substantial prison sentences.

Postal Inspector Robert C. Adams, Ft. Worth, Texas field office, was recognized for his investigative excellence in this case. Inspector Adams was the recipient of a 1999 National Missing and Exploited Children's Award at the 4th Congressional Breakfast Awards Ceremony and named "Officer of the Year".

Landslide Investigation - Guilty Verdicts on 87-Count Federal Indictment

On December 1, 2000, following a one-week jury trial in federal district court, guilty verdicts were returned against Thomas and Janice Reedy and Landslide Productions, Inc., of Ft. Worth, Texas. For their involvement in what is believed to be the largest case of commercialized child exploitation in the history of U.S. law enforcement, the Reedys and Landslide Productions, Inc., were convicted on 87 counts of conspiring with international Webmasters to distribute child pornography and possession of child pornography. The indicted Webmasters, who reside in Russia and Indonesia, are still at large. The Reedys are scheduled to be sentenced during April, 2001, and face sentences of 20 years to life imprisonment.

The charges stem from a multi-agency investigation led by the Postal Inspection Service into the unlawful commercial advertising and distribution of child pornography via the Internet. Landslide Productions, Inc., "customers" with an interest in child pornography could subscribe to multiple child pornography Internet sites via computer or the mail for \$29.95 per month, per site. The company used Webmasters from around the world to provide the child pornography. In essence, the company acted as a gatekeeper, by assigning screen names and using subscriber selected passwords, to allow access to only those sites paid for. The company collected in excess of \$1 million.

The company was first identified by a Postal Inspector in St. Paul, Minnesota. During the course of the investigation, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's Cyber Tipline received over 250 complaints from citizens around the country. The company's child pornography business ended on September 8, 1999, when a multi-agency federal/state task force led by Postal Inspectors executed federal search warrants on the premises of the company and its owners.

NON-COMMERCIAL TRAFFICKERS

Waterford, Michigan - A 34-year old man was sentenced on February 3, 1999, to 60 months in federal prison on child pornography charges. This suspect came to the attention of Postal Inspectors after he placed an advertisement on the Internet seeking child pornography by mail. The offender had been convicted on two prior occasions for molesting girls as young as 4-years old and was on parole when we arrested him in June 1998. This man has admitted to molesting more than 90 child victims in the past.

Honolulu, Hawaii - On November 24, 1999, a man pled guilty in federal district court to receiving child pornography through the mail and via the Internet. When Postal Inspectors executed a search warrant at the man's home, a number of homemade videotapes were discovered depicting the former school teacher, counselor, and baseball coach engaged in sexual activity with six different male children.

Tulsa, Oklahoma - On December 9, 1999, four individuals involved in a child pornography ring were charged with violations relating to the production, distribution, and possession of child pornography. The initial suspect was identified through an undercover operation conducted by a Postal Inspector in Memphis, Tennessee. Search warrants were subsequently obtained and executed at locations in three different Oklahoma counties. Videotapes and photographs depicting the sexual abuse of two children were seized. The suspects include the parents of these children. State charges have also been filed against the four individuals charged federally and two others. One defendant has recently been sentenced to 4-consecutive life terms.

South Bend, Indiana - A substantial prison sentence of 24 years and five months was handed down on December 8, 1999 to a convicted child molester and pornographer in federal court. Postal Inspectors initiated an investigation after the man mailed film depicting the sexual abuse of minor females to a commercial film processor. Working with local law enforcement, Postal Inspectors determined the man sexually abused, photographed, and videotaped a number of young girls, including his own daughter and stepdaughter.

Butler, Pennsylvania - A man who was convicted in 1981 for molesting eight and ten-year old girls, and who most recently was suspected of attempting to lure young neighborhood children into his car, was arrested on January 11, 2000 by Postal Inspectors and local law enforcement officers. After the offender was observed retrieving child pornography from his post office box and taking it to his residence, a federal search warrant was executed and resulted in the recovery of that child pornography as well as other photographs of minor females believed to have been taken by the suspect.

Warren, Michigan - On March 24, 2000, Postal Inspectors and FBI agents arrested a man for possession, production, and distribution of child pornography. The man used an eBay auction site to sell pornographic photographs of his former girlfriend (who was a minor at the time the photos were taken). Posing as a 14-year old female on Internet newsgroups, this man also sold sexually explicit photographs of her through a post office box address. The investigation began following a complaint from the former girlfriend and an independent complaint received through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's Cyber Tipline.

Oak Park, Illinois - A prominent gynecologist was sentenced on March 24, 2000 in federal district court to a 30-month term of imprisonment for using the computer and the mail in his attempts to entice and engage young girls in sexual conduct. The physician's license to practice medicine has been revoked by the Illinois State Board of Licensing and the Drug Enforcement Administration revoked his ability to dispense controlled substances, effectively ending his medical career.

Albany, Oregon - On October 26, 2000, a husband and wife were both sentenced to 70 months in prison following an investigation conducted by Postal Inspectors and local police. The investigation began after the couple mailed film to a commercial film developer for processing. The film depicted minor females being sexually abused. Postal Inspectors were contacted by the film developer and subsequently executed a federal search warrant on their home. The search warrant resulted in the seizure of quantities of child pornography and the identification of children.