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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FORMER ARAPAHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY INDICTED BY
FEDERAL GRAND JURY FOR DISTRIBUTING, POSSESSING AND
RECEIVING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

DENVER -- Troy A. Eid, United States Attorney for the District of Colorado, and Richard C. Powers, Special Agent in Charge of the Denver Division of the FBI, announced that **DOUGLAS MORRILL PEEK**, age 53, of Centennial, Colorado, was indicted by a federal grand jury late yesterday on charges of transportation, possession, distribution and receipt of child pornography.

PEEK, an Arapahoe County Sheriff's Deputy at the time of the alleged crimes, was arrested without incident this morning by the FBI. He made his initial appearance in US District Court in Denver this afternoon.

Count one of the indictment alleges that **PEEK**, using a computer, transported via the Internet a movie containing child pornography. If convicted of this count, the defendant faces not less than 5 years, and not more than 20 years in federal prison, and up to a \$250,000 fine.

Count two of the indictment charges **PEEK** with possession of child pornography, including a desktop computer containing numerous images of child pornography, including images of toddlers being forced to engage in sexual activity. If convicted of this count, the defendant faces not more than 10 years incarceration, and up to a \$250,000 fine.

Count three of the indictment alleges that the defendant used his computer to distribute an image containing child pornography via the Internet. If convicted of this count, **PEEK** faces not less than 5 years, and not more than 20 years in federal prison, and up to a \$250,000 fine.

Count four of the indictment charges **PEEK** with knowingly receiving an e-mail containing child pornography. If convicted of this count, the defendant faces not less than 5 years, and not more than 20 years in federal prison, and up to a \$250,000 fine.

"The Department of Justice will pursue and prosecute those who commit crimes involving the exploitation of children, no matter who they are, or what position they hold," said United States Attorney Troy Eid.

“Children should be protected through the investigation and prosecution of any alleged child predator, especially from those individuals who are held to a higher standard of trust to protect and serve the public,” said FBI Special Agent in Charge Richard Powers. “The FBI is committed to investigate and apprehend those who violate the law through the production and distribution of child pornography in order to ensure the safety of our communities.”

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. **PEEK** is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Habib Nasrullah and Patricia Davies.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales launched Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

The charges are only allegations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless or until proven guilty.

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