



# Department of Justice

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Eastern District of California

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## **FORMER MILITARY POLICEMAN SENTENCED TO 17 ½ YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR TRAFFICKING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

FRESNO – United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced that MICHAEL DONALD MAIER Jr., 27, of West Salem, Wisconsin, was sentenced yesterday evening by Chief United States District Judge Anthony W. Ishii, for his conviction of one count of receipt and distribution of images of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. The sentence imposed includes a prison term of 210 months to be followed by a lifetime term of supervised release during which his access to minors, computers, and the Internet will be restricted. Two victims have filed a claim for restitution, and the court has scheduled a further hearing on that issue for October 5, 2009.

The case was the result of an investigation by the Fresno Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, specifically the Fresno Office of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service at the Lemoore Naval Station, and the Fresno County Sheriff's Office.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who is prosecuting the case, Yahoo! reported to law enforcement that an account controlled by MAIER had been used to upload images of child pornography to the FLICKR photosharing site. When a federal search warrant was executed on March 13, 2008 at MAIER'S residence on the Lemoore Naval Air Station, agents located a laptop computer which belonged to MAIER. At the time, MAIER was employed as Master at Arms, Second Class, and assigned as a base police officer. Forensic analysis of that computer revealed numerous images of child pornography as well as evidence that MAIER had used the Google Hello program to exchange images of child pornography. Evidence introduced at the sentencing hearing revealed that MAIER distributed and received thousands of images of child pornography with approximately 75 other people throughout the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia. Many of those individuals have been arrested and face criminal charges for child exploitation offenses. When he exchanged images of child pornography, MAIER often made graphic comments about his sexual interest in the children depicted in the images, many of whom were infants and toddlers. In sentencing MAIER, the judge noted that MAIER was among the worst offenders seen by law enforcement and the court based on the nature and number of images involved in the offense. His sentence was enhanced to account for images depicting violence, sadistic or masochistic conduct, and images of prepubescent children. MAIER had engaged in this conduct for approximately eight years.

MAIER pleaded guilty without a plea agreement on June 29, 2009, and was remanded into custody at that time.

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