



# Department of Justice

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## **DEFENSE DEPARTMENT TEACHER SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

Tampa, FL - U.S. Attorney A. Brian Albritton announces that United States District Judge Virginia M. Covington today sentenced Robert Clarke (age 45, of Chapel Hill, North Carolina) to six years and six months in federal prison on a charge of possessing child pornography. Clarke had pleaded guilty on February 11, 2009.

Clarke was a civilian employee of the United States Department of Defense and worked as a teacher at the Kadena Middle School located at the Kadena Air Force Base in Japan. According to court documents, agents of the United States Air Force Office of Special Investigations discovered that Clarke had possessed numerous images of child pornography on his home computer at his residence near Okinawa, Japan. Many of the images depicted children engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, and to identify and rescue

victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

This case was investigated by agents of the United States Air Force Office of Special Investigations. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jay L. Hoffer of the Tampa Division.