



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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TSA Employee Sentenced for Distribution of Child Pornography

(Alexandria, VA) - Cody Penny, age 32, of Alexandria, Virginia, was sentenced today to 70 months in prison after being convicted of distributing child pornography. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced the sentence after Penny was sentenced by United States District Judge Claude M. Hilton. Statements made in court revealed that Penny was employed by the Transportation Security Administration.

According to court documents, Penny distributed child pornography from his home in Alexandria. Penny conducted Internet instant messenger conversations with an undercover special agent, and distributed multiple images and movies depicting minor girls, some as young as six years-old, being molested and having intercourse with adult males. Penny was arrested on August 30, 2006, and pleaded guilty to distributing child pornography in violation of federal law. In addition to the 70 months of incarceration, Judge Hilton sentenced Penny to serve five years of supervised release following his release from prison.

United States Attorney Rosenberg stated, "We will continue to do whatever we can to protect our children, including the vigorous prosecution of child predators."

In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created 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 <http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov>.

The case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Assistant United States Attorney Edmund P. Power prosecuted the case for the United States.

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