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PRESS RELEASE

**JOHN DAVID WAGGONER PLEADS GUILTY TO
RECEIPT AND POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES
UNDER FEDERAL LAW**

U.S. Attorney Anthony J. Jenkins, and Special Agent in Charge Manuel Oyola-Torres of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency ("ICE"), announced today that John David Waggoner, a 64 year old resident of Bugby Hole, Christiansted, St. Croix pled guilty in District Court, St. Croix Division of receiving and possessing child pornography.

According to the Superseding Indictment, from in or around June, 2005 to in or around December, 2006 on St. Croix, in the District of the Virgin Islands, John Waggoner knowingly received and possessed, and attempted to receive and possess, child pornography, including over 100 images and 3 videos which showed minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct. The videos, as well as the other sexually explicit depictions of minors were found in John Waggoner's computer. The images

and videotapes, had been transported in interstate and foreign commerce by any means, including by computer.

Waggoner agreed that some of those images depicted minors under the age of 12 and sadistic or masochistic conduct or other depictions of violence, and that he engaged in a pattern of activity involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a minor. Additionally, Waggoner admitted that he knew the production of such depictions involved the use of one or more actual minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct and that such visual depictions were of such conduct.

The penalty for the receipt of child pornography in violation of Title 18, United States Code Section 2252(a)(2) is a term of imprisonment of not less than 5 years and not more than 20 years (assuming John Waggoner has no prior convictions), a \$250,000 fine, a term of supervised release of up to life following the term of imprisonment, and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.

The penalty for possession of child pornography in violation of Title 18, United States Code Section 2252(a)(4)(B) include a term of imprisonment of not more than 10 years (assuming John Waggoner has no prior convictions), a \$250,000 fine, a term of supervised release

of up to life following the term of imprisonment, and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.

Waggoner is currently being held in the custody of the U.S. Marshals pending sentencing. The sentencing date has been set for July 16, 2007.

This case was investigated by ICE agents in St. Croix as part of their "Operation Predator" initiative. This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Denise Hinds and trial attorney Jill Trumbull-Harris of the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the Criminal Division.

This case was prosecuted as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. 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/."