



*U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Southern District of Mississippi*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Vicksburg Man Sentenced to 35 Years on Child Sexual Exploitation Charges

Natchez, Miss - Bryan Blake Neihaus, 22, of Vicksburg, was sentenced in federal court on Tuesday, August 17th, to serve 35 years in federal prison, followed by a lifetime of supervised release, for production and distribution of child pornography, U.S. Attorney Donald R. Burkhalter announced. U.S. District Judge David Bramlette also ordered Neihaus to participate in a treatment program for sex offenders during incarceration and upon release, to register as a sex offender. Neihaus was also ordered to pay a \$1500 fine and a restitution amount to be determined at a later date.

Neihaus' illegal activities were discovered during an FBI investigation of individuals distributing and sharing child pornographic images and videos via an Internet online file sharing service. Users of the service believed that the service was hidden from law enforcement because they are able to share images directly from computer to computer, also known as "Peer to Peer", and accessed each other's files on an invite-only basis. The investigation determined that Neihaus was discovered sharing child pornographic images and videos, many involving infants. On January 28, 2010, Agents from the FBI and investigators from the Warren County Sheriff's Office located the source of the Internet connections and interviewed Neihaus who denied involvement and consented to examination of his computers. During examination of his computers, Neihaus, who was on house arrest for an unrelated local conviction, fled the Vicksburg area. Examination of Neihaus' computers confirmed his involvement on the Peer to Peer service and disclosed thousands of images and videos of child pornography. Forensic review of the computers further disclosed videos of Neihaus sexually abusing an underage male. He was subsequently located and arrested in Tunica, Mississippi. Eight victims were identified and rescued from further abuse.

This case was the result of a joint investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Warren County Sheriff's Office.