

NEWS

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East Greenwich Man Charged with Possession of Child Pornography

(More)

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CAMDEN – An East Greenwich man was arrested today on a one-count criminal Complaint that charges him with possession of child pornography, Acting U.S. Attorney Ralph J. Marra, Jr. announced.

Robert J. Paratore, 45, was arrested this morning by Special Agents with the FBI's South Jersey Resident Agency while at his employer's place of business in West Deptford. The defendant had an initial appearance in federal court before U.S. Magistrate Ann Marie Donio, who ordered the defendant be detained.

The Complaint, which was filed today, alleges that from at least as early as May 29, 2009, Paratore used his work computer to download computer files that contained child pornography, which included images of prepubescent children and infants engaged in sexually explicit conduct. According to the complaint, Paratore then shared the images of child pornography with others over the Internet utilizing "peer-to-peer file-sharing" ("P2P").

P2P is a method of communication available to Internet users through the use of special software which makes it possible for computers to link together over the Internet to form a network that allows for the sharing of digital files between users on the network.

According to the Complaint, law enforcement officials executed a search warrant at Paratore's employer this morning and were met by the defendant. After Paratore learned that the purpose of the search warrant was to search the premises for evidence of child pornography contained on a computer, Paratore initially denied any knowledge that such material would be found, according to the Complaint. Shortly thereafter, however, Paratore informed the agents that the child pornography would be found on his computer in his office, according to the complaint.

According to the Complaint, following a waiver of his Miranda rights, Paratore again voluntarily agreed to speak with the agents and admitted that he used his work computer to connect to the Internet and utilized P2P software to view the child pornography.

Furthermore, Paratore admitted that he had images of child pornography, which had been downloaded onto disks, in his truck parked outside, according to the Complaint. Paratore explained that occasionally during breaks from work, he would take these disks to his home to view the child pornography. According to the Complaint, after Paratore voluntarily consented to a search of his vehicle, the agents found approximately 100 compact disks and/or digital video disks in the defendant's truck.

Despite the charges set forth in the complaint, every defendant is presumed innocent, unless and until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, following a trial at which the defendant has all of the trial rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and federal law.

Paratore faces a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years in prison with a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

In determining an actual sentence, the judge to whom the case is assigned would, upon a conviction, consult the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Marra credited Special Agents of the FBI's South Jersey Resident Agency, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Janice K. Fedarczyk in Philadelphia, Investigators with the Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Sean Dalton, and Police Officers with the Police Departments of West Deptford and Monroe Township, with the investigation leading to the criminal Complaint.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney R. Stephen Stigall of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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