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PRODUCER OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY SENTENCED TO OVER 10 YEARS

Investigation Was Hindered By Wife Who Was Police Sergeant

Atlanta, GA - TERRILL MARION CRANE, 47, of Atlanta, Georgia, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Thomas W. Thrash, Jr. to serve over 10 years in federal prison for producing child pornography.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said, "This defendant sexually exploited many young girls in Atlanta over the course of almost a decade. His crimes are unforgivable, as is the fact that when a citizen provided strong evidence of the crimes to the Atlanta Police in 2003, the investigation was squelched and the defendant's police-sergeant wife was tipped off and destroyed evidence. We commend the Atlanta Police officers who later advised the FBI about the case, and the FBI for promptly bringing to justice this serial sexual exploiter of children. He is off the streets and where he belongs - in federal prison for many years."

CRANE was sentenced to 10 years, 1 month in prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release. There is no parole in the federal system. CRANE pleaded guilty to charge of producing child pornography on January 22, 2009.

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: Beginning in 1999, CRANE approached numerous young girls in the Atlanta area and attempted to solicit them for sexual favors in exchange for cash. In most cases, CRANE took photos or directed photos to be taken of the sexual activity. In 2003, CRANE's wife, who was then a Sergeant with the Atlanta Police Department, got a call from an unidentified person at APD Headquarters advising that APD had photographs of her husband in the sexual activity. CRANE's wife said she found and burned some of the photographs. Even after that, CRANE's sexual activity with young females, continued. In October 2007, APD officers advised the FBI of photographic evidence involving 11 girls, most of them middle school age, which had been provided to APD by a film development store in 2000.

After the FBI agents began investigating the case, and with the assistance of the APD, on November 20, 2007, FBI agents executed a federal search warrant for CRANE's Atlanta residence on Beecher Road. Agents found undeveloped film, including some from disposable cameras, later shown to be CRANE engaged in sexual activity with the girls, including two additional girls, and nude photos of some of the girls alone. Some of the girls in the photos found at CRANE's residence have still not been identified. CRANE claimed to agents that some of the girls in the photographs were 20 years old, but several of the identified victims were minors at the time of the sexual activity and photographs and others appear to be minors. Some of the photos depicting young girls seized from CRANE's residence are identical to some of the photographs initially provided to APD in 2000.

Anyone with victim information is asked to call the FBI at 404-679-9000.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the Attorney General launched Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorney's Offices around the country, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the FBI with assistance from the Atlanta Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey A. Brown prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.