



Department of Justice

United States Attorney John L. Ratcliffe
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2007
WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/TXE/

CONTACT: DAVILYN WALSTON
(409) 839-2538
(409) 553-9881

VIDOR MAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

BEAUMONT, Texas – U.S. Attorney John L. Ratcliffe announced today that a 39-year-old Vidor man has been sentenced to 21 months in federal prison for possession of child pornography.

Robert Toutcheque pleaded guilty to possession of child pornography on May 24, 2007, and was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Marcia Crone.

According to information presented in court, on July 20, 2006, U.S. Army personnel discovered a thumb drive or media storage unit on the ground while on routine security patrol at a base in Iraq. A subsequent review of materials on the thumb drive to determine its owner revealed child pornography. The thumb drive belonged to Toutcheque, a civilian contractor.

After receiving this information from Army CID, special agents with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), seized and searched two laptop computers from Toutcheque's residence in Vidor, Texas, on July 28, 2006. The two computers were submitted for forensic examination which revealed at least 26 images and one video containing child pornography.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the Department of Justice launched Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. 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/.

This case was investigated by the United States Army, Criminal Investigations Division and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert L. Rawls.

#####