



# UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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## **Virginia Beach Man Sentenced for Distribution of Child Pornography**

(Norfolk, Virginia) – Joseph D. Castellano, age 25, of Virginia Beach, was sentenced today to 12 years in prison for distributing child pornography over the internet from Virginia Beach to Tulsa, Oklahoma. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; Thomas A. Betro, Director, Naval Criminal Investigative Service; and Alex J. Turner, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigations' Norfolk Field Office, made the announcement after Castellano was sentenced by United States District Judge Raymond A. Jackson. Castellano had pled guilty to one count of a twenty count criminal indictment on December 6, 2007.

According to court documents, Castellano was an active duty Navy sailor stationed aboard the Naval Air Station Oceana in March 2007. Castellano was using a personal computer that contained a peer to peer file sharing program known as "Limewire." "Limewire" permits users on the internet to access other computers running the "Limewire" program and download files that are in a shared folder. Earlier in March 2007, an undercover agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was using "Limewire" to search for users who possessed files in their "Limewire" shared folders that had file names commonly associated with child pornography. The undercover agent's search turned up nineteen files located on Castellano's computer that were suspected to be child pornography. The agent downloaded the files to his computer in Oklahoma for further analysis and contacted the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) to open an investigation. NCIS agents tracked the computer to Castellano's barracks room onboard Naval Air Station Oceana and obtained a military search warrant to conduct a search of Castellano's room and computer located on base. Castellano was interviewed and confessed to downloading and possessing child pornography using the "Limewire" program on his laptop computer.

An analysis of Castellano's computer revealed over 900 images and eleven videos of child pornography. Furthermore, at the time of this offense, Castellano was awaiting trial in

Virginia Beach District Court on a separate charge of possession of child pornography. Castellano was ultimately convicted of that child pornography offense in Virginia Beach.

The case was investigated by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Special Assistant United States Attorney Joseph L. Kosky prosecuted the case for the United States.

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