



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRIA NEWPORT NEWS NORFOLK RICHMOND

CHUCK ROSENBERG, UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 15, 2006

Jim Rybicki
Public Information Officer
Phone: (703)842-4050 Fax: (703)549-5202
E-Mail: usavae.press@usdoj.gov
Website: www.usdoj.gov/usao/vae

Further Information Contact:
Ann Helms (804) 819-5400

CHESTER MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

(Richmond, VA) – Joshua Michael Ward, age 23, of Chester, Virginia, pled guilty today in federal court to possession of child pornography. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; and Bob McDonnell, Attorney General of Virginia, announced the guilty plea.

In September of 2004, the FBI's Oklahoma Field Office initiated an investigation after discovering that someone had hacked into the website for the Great Plains Child Care Resource and Referral Center (GCCRRC) and created a repository of child pornography on the site. During that investigation, the FBI determined that a computer located at Ward's address had accessed 50 pornographic images on the GCCRRC website, and had also accessed several other sites containing images of child pornography. On November 16, 2005, the FBI executed a federal search warrant at Ward's residence. During the search, agents seized three computers. A forensic examination uncovered 15 images of child pornography that had been stored on one of the computers. During his guilty plea, Ward acknowledged that he had used the computers to access the Internet and purchase child pornography. In addition to the images the agents recovered, Ward admitted that he had downloaded and viewed at least six videos containing images of child pornography.

Ward faces up to 20 years' imprisonment when he is sentenced on December 15, 2006 by U.S. District Judge Robert E. Payne.

The case was investigated by the Virginia Cyber Crimes Strike Force, an investigative partnership between the Eastern District of Virginia U.S. Attorney's Office, the Virginia Attorney General's Office, the FBI, Postal Inspection Service, and the Virginia State Police. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Brian R. Hood and Matthew D. Nelson, Special Assistant United States Attorney and Virginia Assistant Attorney General.

###