



U.S. Department of Justice

JEFFREY A. TAYLOR
United States Attorney for the
District of Columbia

Judiciary Center
555 Fourth Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

PRESS RELEASE

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For Information Contact:

Public Affairs

Channing Phillips (202) 514-6933

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Navy Chief Petty Officer indicted and arraigned on **Interstate Transportation of Child Pornography charge**

Washington, D.C. - A Navy Chief Petty Officer, David Maisenhelder, 37, has been indicted by a federal grand jury and arraigned on the charge of interstate transportation of child pornography via the internet, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor and Metropolitan Police Chief Cathy L. Lanier announced today.

Maisenhelder was arraigned on Friday, February 16, 2007, before U.S. Magistrate Judge Alan Kay on a one count-indictment that charged him with the transportation of visual depictions of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct, in violation 18 U.S. § 2252. The indictment, which was returned on February 13, 2007, was unsealed today during a court hearing before U.S. Magistrate Judge Kay.

Maisenhelder was arrested on February 8, 2007, in Norfolk, Virginia, where he is stationed. On that same day, a search warrant was executed at the defendant's home in Chesapeake, Virginia, where over 350 pieces of evidence was confiscated, including several computers, DVDs, DVD player, videotapes and numerous data storage devices. On February 9th, the defendant waived extradition and was ordered sent to Washington, D.C.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorney's 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/.

The indictment in this case is based upon an incident in

which on February 5, 2007, the defendant was in an online chat room, chatting with someone whom he believed was a pedophile. In actuality, the defendant was chatting with an undercover Metropolitan Police detective. During the on-line conversation, the defendant allegedly sent to the detective via the Internet seven still images and three videos in which prepubescent females and infants were depicted engaging in sex acts and posing in a suggestive manner so as to expose their genitalia. Account information obtained from the Internet service provider gave the identity of the defendant.

In announcing the indictment and arraignment, U.S. Attorney Taylor and Chief Lanier commended the collaborative efforts of the Northern Virginia Regional Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and the Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhood. The case will be prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Debra Long-Doyle and Angela Hart-Edwards.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of criminal laws. Every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless found guilty.

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