



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: October 14, 2008 REPORT NO. 08-153

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of October 22, 2008

SUBJECT: Informational Report from the San Diego Police Department
Regarding the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE COMMITTEE OR THE CITY COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND

Pedophiles and others who wish to harm our children have quickly learned that the Internet is a very effective tool through which to prey on children. The victimization of children has grown exponentially since its advent. For the first time in history, pedophiles can easily find one another through cyberspace, encourage each other to commit crimes, teach one another how to do so, and share strategies on how to effectively evade law enforcement and justice.

With so many children online, predators no longer need to incur public suspicion by stalking schoolyards, playgrounds, and shopping malls. The predator may initiate an online friendship and secure the trust of a young person that may lead to an exchange of gifts and pictures.

Child pornography production and distribution has exploded in recent years due to the Internet and the ability to easily acquire camera phones, digital still and video cameras, webcams and broadband Internet access. The aforementioned technologies have quickly integrated into society's daily activities at an overwhelming rate. It is not unusual for law enforcement to find predator's with child pornography collections of images of young children being abused numbering in the tens even hundreds of thousands. Once traded or posted on the Internet, these images can never be completely eradicated. Victims suffer with this knowledge their entire lives.

Due to the proliferation of the Internet, these crimes are not confined to one city or neighborhood and lack jurisdictional or state boundaries. The victim may live in San Diego and the suspect could be located anywhere in the world. It is very common for multiple law enforcement agencies to be working together, across the country to solve and prosecute these cases.

In 1998, the Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) recognized the Internet's dangers and the real risk of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation, and developed the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Program. The purpose of ICAC is to help local, state and federal law enforcement agencies acquire the knowledge, equipment and personnel resources needed to prevent, investigate and stop sexual crimes against children.

In May 2000, the San Diego ICAC Task Force was established. ICAC Task Forces have developed an effective response to cyber enticement and child pornography cases, which encompasses forensic and investigative components, training and technical assistance, victim services, and community outreach and educational programs. To date, a total of 59 ICAC Task Forces have been established throughout the United States.

STAFFING

The San Diego Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (SDICAC) is composed of part and full-time force members representing a total of 50 federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. Table 1 below identifies the SDICAC full-time staff, by agency:

Table 1. SDICAC Staff Composition

<u>Law Enforcement Agency</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Total Number of Headcount</u>
San Diego Police Department	Police Sergeant	1
	Police Detectives	2
	Word Processor	1
San Diego County Sherriff's Department	Detective	1
Chula Vista Police Department	Detective	1
San Diego County District Attorney	Investigator	1

In addition to the above full-time staff, SDICAC representation includes part-time staff members from the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), US Postal Inspector, Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), United States Attorney's Office, Regional Computer Forensics Lab (RCFL), Department of Defense (DOD) and the United States Marshall Service.

The FBI sponsors the SDICAC office in a centrally located facility within the city of San Diego. The SDICAC is the only ICAC Task Force in the nation to have Regional Computer Forensic Lab (RCFL) examiners embedded in the unit, giving priority to ICAC cases. This is very significant because the computer forensics is a known choke point across the country, for ICAC cases. SDICAC has 4 forensic examiners giving priority to our cases. This has greatly reduced the turn-around time, from 4 to 8 months to weeks.

The San Diego Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force is recognized across the country as a cutting edge, model task force. SDICAC has continuously receives calls from other task forces with inquiries and on how we operate, both in our investigations and as a team. SDICAC has

received awards for outstanding investigations, like the San Diego Children's Hospital's respiratory therapist Wayne Bleyle, who molested comatose children in his care and posted pictures of his crimes on the Internet.

J. Robert Flores, Director of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), has invited our ICAC Unit Commander, Sergeant Chuck Arnold, to sit on the newly formed ICAC Advisory Committee. The committee will advise the new President's OJJDP Director Appointee, who is responsible for the oversight of the ICAC Program.

FUNDING

The SDICAC is currently funded by two grants totaling \$800,000.00. The OJJDP, which is the original grantor, and the State of California Governor's, Office of Emergency Services (OES).

The OJJDP grant is for a renewing term of 24 months, from January 2007 to December 2008, in the amount of \$550,000.00. The grant funds 50% of the salaries minus benefits for the five full-time detectives who work on the task force. It also funds all the equipment, supplies, and services, like networking, cable and phoning charges used by the task force. It also funds all travel and training costs incurred by the task force and its affiliates.

In 2007, the State of California realizing the enormous problems the internet poses to our children awarded the four ICAC's in California, \$250,000.00 each, for the calendar year of 2008. This grant is funding a Search Warrant/Surveillance van to be used by the task force. The van will enable members to conduct surveillance in residential and business neighborhoods. It will also offer a safe, clean and forensically sound environment during search warrants, to preview computers, search for and review evidence and interview suspects.

The grant also allows the task force to provide training classes in San Diego, such as the Exploring the Sexual Offender training ICAC hosted in September. The training was attended by law enforcement from San Diego police and several local and federal departments, thus bringing more expertise to our region at no cost to the agencies. The grant also pays for overtime and investigative travel for ICAC cases.

INVESTIGATIONS

The SDICAC is on the front line addressing computer facilitated child sexual exploitation through aggressive investigations, prosecutions, computer forensics and community outreach.

The task force receives cases from a variety of sources. One source is the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). They currently receive 15 to 35 Cybertips each month. These numbers are expected to rise because of the work NCMEC is doing with the Internet Service Providers (ISP).

Currently, the ISPs are filtering their sites in search for illegal images and video with the use of limited images they found in the past. These images are only a fraction of the child pornography images know to NCMEC. Starting in 2009, NCMEC will provide the ISPs with the digital fingerprints of its library of identified child pornography. This will allow the ISPs to identify and locate the images on their servers and report them to NCMEC.

In addition, ICAC receives cases and requests for assistance from other ICAC Task Forces and their affiliates, such as; local law enforcement agencies, computer service repair shops, social service agencies and citizens who have visited their web site, www.sdicac.org.

SDICAC is also proactive in their investigations in both undercover chat, where they pose as children in chat rooms or on social networking sites and peer 2 peer file sharing cases, where suspects post and share their child pornography videos and images with others.

From January 2006, through August, 2008 the SDICAC Task Force has been assigned over 670 cases resulting in 472 administrative subpoenas, 203 search warrants and 94 arrests. We have assisted agencies with investigations across the country, in Canada and in Europe.

Since the inception of the ICAC program in 1998, the task forces, nationwide, have reviewed nearly 200,000 complaints, resulting in the arrest of almost 11,000 individuals across the country intent on sexually abusing children. In fiscal year 2007 alone, ICAC investigations led to more than 2,350 arrests and more than 10,500 forensic examinations.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Today's children must learn to use the Internet safely to compete in the world tomorrow. As children we were taught to look both ways before we cross the street and to stay away from strangers, which we passed on to our children. Today's parents were never taught how to navigate the Internet safely and therefore most don't have the knowledge to pass to their children. In fact, the youth of today are much more knowledgeable and comfortable in this digital age, and often intimidate parents with their knowledge.

An alarming trend is our children, and posting personal information and even self-producing child pornography images and videos of themselves. The results often are devastating when the relationship ends and they find what they thought were private, personal photos and videos are posted on social networking sites for everybody to see.

The public education component is an essential part of SDICAC's mission to protect children. Investigations and arrests alone will not solve the problem. SDICAC must reach out to students, parents, teachers, faith-based organizations and social groups to teach the safe use of the Internet and consequences of other uses. The SDICAC Task Force has teamed up with the San Diego Police Foundation to promote a comprehensive education campaign, SafetyNet.

The Internet Crimes Against Children Public Education Campaign, SafetyNet, seeks to bolster the San Diego law enforcement's efforts to foil child sex predators by providing a broad public education outreach effort. SafetyNet will reduce the number of victims vulnerable to the techniques of online child predators. It will empower youth to protect themselves, and it will provide resources and information, helping parents and educators to protect their children. The campaign will provide prevention tools for children and their caretakers

CONCLUSION

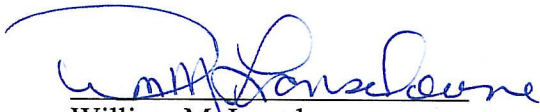
The San Diego Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force has been in existence for 8 ½ years. It is a true task force, creating a work environment where local, state and federal law enforcement and prosecution work together, and share resources. They work towards a unified


goal of protecting and educating our children and parents to safely navigate, in this ever-changing digital world.

The Internet offers our children a world of knowledge and learning opportunities they must experience to give them a bright future and compete in tomorrow's world. However; the Internet also has a dark underbelly; which left unchecked can lead them to emotional and physical devastation.

The San Diego Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force is on the front line protecting our children by both investigating and arresting persons who intend to harm them and by educating children and parents to use the magnificent power of the Internet safely.

Respectfully submitted,


William M. Lansdowne
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