



Washington State Patrol Media Release

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***** For Immediate Release*****

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Six Arrested and Charged for Sexual Crimes Against Children

Snohomish County -- Washington State Patrol's (WSP) Missing and Exploited Children Task Force (MECTF), arrested six people during a four-day operation that targeted individuals who sexually exploit children.

The Snohomish County operation concluded on February 21, 2016, with the arrest and charging of six people for crimes including, commercial sexual abuse of a minor, rape of a child, sexual abuse of a minor, and child pornography.

Law enforcement officers, acting in an undercover capacity, communicated on the internet with individuals interested in sexual exploitation of children. The operation generated hundreds of responses. Six individuals agreed to meet with undercover investigators and were subsequently arrested. Investigators discovered evidence of three victim children with others possible. The investigation is ongoing.

This was a collaborative effort involving the Washington State Patrol's (WSP) Missing and Exploited Children Task Force (MECTF), Snohomish County Sheriff's Office, Washington State Department of Corrections, United States Department of Homeland Security Investigations, United States Postal Inspection Service, Federal Bureau of Investigations, Snohomish County Prosecutor, and The Washington State Attorney General's Office.

This is the third similar law enforcement operation held in Washington State in the past two years. Since the operations started, 27 people have been arrested and charged with crimes relating to the sexual exploitation of children.

Sexual exploitation and trafficking of children is a serious and increasing problem in our country. Without the dedication and passion of organizations and task forces such as the Missing and Exploited Children Task Force (MECTF), Missing and Unidentified Person's Unit, (MUPU) The Federal Bureau of Investigations Child Exploitation Task Force and the High Tech Crimes Unit, these arrests may not have been possible.

Operations such as these are supported in part by private donations and contributors. All donations to MECTF will be used exclusively to support the work of the task force. If you would like to donate to help support future MECTF operations, please contact Lieutenant Michael Eggleston of the Investigative Assistance Division at Mike.Eggleston@wsp.wa.gov or by phone 360-704-2422.

The WSP is very proud of all the men and women involved in bringing these individuals to justice.

More information about the various groups and task forces involved can be found online or call:

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