



# Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief John R. Batiste

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

**Date:** July 11, 2016  
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## 13 Arrested in Spokane Child Sex Abuse Sting

**Spokane County** -- The Washington State Patrol's (WSP) Missing and Exploited Children Task Force (MECTF), arrested 13 people during a five-day operation that targeted individuals who wanted to sexually exploit children.

Law enforcement officers acting in an undercover capacity, communicated on the internet with individuals interested in the sexual exploitation of children. The operation generated hundreds of responses. The thirteen individuals arrested agreed to travel to various locations and engage in sexual activity with children ages six through thirteen years old.

Assistant Chief Randy Drake is the commander for the Washington State Patrol Investigative Services Bureau and was in Spokane for this operation.

"Children are some of the most vulnerable members in our society", said Chief Drake. "It is not only our sworn duty to protect them, it's our moral obligation" "I am very proud of the men and women who work tirelessly to identify and arrest these dangerous child predators".

This operation was a collaborative effort involving the following agencies:

- Washington State Patrol's (WSP) Missing and Exploited Children Task Force (MECTF)
- Spokane County Sheriff's Office
- Spokane Police Department
- Spokane Valley Police Department
- Spokane Regional Auto Theft Task Force
- Washington State Patrol Criminal Investigation Division
- Spokane Regional Safe Streets Task Force
- Pierce County Sheriff's Office
- Tacoma Police Department
- United States Postal Inspection Service
- Homeland Security Investigations
- Federal Bureau of Investigations Child Exploitation Task Force
- Washington State Office of the Attorney General
- Spokane County Prosecutors Office
- United States Attorneys Office.

The funding for this operation was possible due to donations from the public as well as a generous donation from Operation Underground Railroad (O.U.R.).

**O.U.R.** is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to rescuing children around the world who are victims of sex slavery and assisting law enforcement in the prosecution of trafficking offenders. O.U.R. provides assistance to law enforcement in various ways across the world. O.U.R. is comprised of men and women who are internationally recognized experts in human trafficking and violence against women.

**MECTF** is a state law enforcement agency governed by RCW 13.60.110, and not designated as a 501 (c)(3) charity. Please consult with your tax professional or the Internal Revenue Service to determine if your donation is tax exempt.

Washington State Patrol's MECTF just recently rolled out a new donation page that allows the public to give monetary gifts online. All proceeds go directly to the identification and safe recovery of exploited children, the investigation of those that sexually exploit children, and successful apprehension and prosecution thereof.

To donate now, please visit: <http://www.wsp.wa.gov/mectf/donate.php>.

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

Operation Underground Railroad	Washington State Patrol - MECTF
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	<a href="http://www.wsp.wa.gov/crime/mectf.htm">www.wsp.wa.gov/crime/mectf.htm</a>
	<a href="http://www.wsp.wa.gov/mectf/donate.php">http://www.wsp.wa.gov/mectf/donate.php</a> .

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children  
[www.ncmec.org](http://www.ncmec.org)

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