



Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief John R. Batiste

Captain Monica Alexander
Government and Media Relations
(360) 596-4010 – office
(360) 596-4015 – fax
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

*** For Immediate Release***

Date: September 20, 2016
Contact: Kyle Moore
Phone: (360) 596-4013
E-mail: Kyle.Moore@wsp.wa.gov
Twitter: [@wastatepatrol](https://twitter.com/wastatepatrol)

21 Arrested in Thurston County Child Sex Abuse Sting

Olympia -- The Washington State Patrol's (WSP) Missing and Exploited Children Task Force (MECTF), arrested 20 males and one female during a multi-day operation that targeted individuals who wanted to sexually exploit children.

"It's vital we take these child predators off the streets and keep our children safe," says Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste. "Through collaboration with our partners, we are making the internet safer for kids and are also able to protect the most vulnerable community members from abuse."

"Law Enforcement Officers acting in an undercover capacity, communicated on the internet through various websites with individuals interested in the sexual exploitation of children. The operation generated hundreds of responses. The would-be perpetrators arrested agreed to travel to meet with undercover detectives posing as young girls and boys to engage in sexual activity with them.

"The significant investigative, surveillance and computer forensics support from our Homeland Security Investigations special agents proves that we leave no stone unturned when it comes to removing these predators from our communities" said Steve Cagen, acting special agent in charge of HSI Seattle. "The staggering number of arrests achieved through interagency cooperation are a testament to our combined passion to prevent future harm to innocent children."

As a result of the operation, detectives were able to rescue four children who were at risk of being abused.

Arrestees	Arrested For
1. Leslie Joe Vopat	Probable cause of commercial sexual abuse of a minor and attempted rape of a child in the second degree.
2. John Stephen Moore	Probable cause of commercial sexual abuse of a minor and attempted rape of a child in the second degree.
3. Michael Paul Haxton	Probable cause for attempted rape of a child in the first degree and attempted rape of a child in the second degree.
4. Steve Wayne Wolsieffer	Probable cause for attempted rape of a child in the first degree, communication with a minor for immoral purposes.
5. Adam Joseph Persell	Probably cause for attempted rape of a child in the first degree - 2 counts, and attempted rape of a child in the second degree.
6. Ezra Danilo Wright	Probable cause of attempted rape of a child in the first degree.
7. Arthur David Fowler	Probable cause of attempted rape of a child in the second degree.
8. Dale Maurice Olea	Probable cause for attempted rape of a child in the third degree.
9. Nathan Bill Wiggs	Probable cause for attempted rape of a child in the first degree.

10. Joseph Michael Schonek	Probable cause for attempted rape of a child in the first degree, attempted rape of a child in the second degree and unlawful possession of a controlled substance-methamphetamine.
11. Nathan Ahman Vahanian	Probable cause of attempted rape of child in the first degree-2 counts, and possession of depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct.
12. Jennifer Graen	Grays Harbor case - She's being held on \$150,000 for dealing in depictions, possession of depictions and sexual exploitation of a minor.
13. Antaeus Laurent Clark	Probable cause for attempted rape of a child in the first degree, attempted rape of a child in the second degree and commercial sexual abuse of a minor.
14. Troy Eugene Dubes	Probable cause of attempted rape of a child in the first degree, attempted rape of a child in the second degree, and commercial sexual abuse of a minor.
15. Bryant Earle Glant	Probable cause of attempted rape of a child in the first degree -2 counts.
16. Kyle Jackson	Probable cause of attempted rape of a child first degree and attempted rape of a child second degree.
17. Douglas D Pressley	Probable cause of attempted rape of a child in the first degree- 2counts and attempted rape of a child in the second degree.
18. Daniel John Masters	Probable cause of attempted rape of a child in the first degree.
19. Gabriel Augusto Garcia	Probable cause of attempted rape of a child in the first degree, and attempted communication with a minor for immoral purposes.
20. Michael Sifre	Apprehension of soldier, Army CID.
21. Kris K. Bennett	Arrested for attempt of rape of a child first degree and attempt rape of a child second degree.

The success of this operation was a collaborative effort involving the following agencies:

- Washington State Patrol's (WSP) Missing and Exploited Children Task Force (MECTF)
- Thurston County Sheriff's Office
- Olympia Police Department
- Tumwater Police Department
- Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- Washington State Department of Corrections
- Lacey Police Department
- Kitsap County Sheriff's Office
- Shelton Police Department
- United States Postal Inspection Service
- U.S. Homeland Security Investigations
- Federal Bureau of Investigations Child Exploitation Task Force
- Washington State Office of the Attorney General
- Thurston County Narcotic Task Force
- United States Attorneys Office.
- United States Army – Criminal Investigation Division

Washington State Patrol - MECTF
Investigative Assistance Division
PO Box 2347
Olympia, WA 98507-2347
Phone: (360) 704-2410
Fax: (360) 704-2973

MECTF@wsp.wa.gov

[Missing and Exploited Children Task Force Donate](#)

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

www.ncmec.org

###