



*** For Immediate Release ***

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Tri-Cities Net Nanny Operation Leads to 26 Arrests

Tri-Cities – Multi-agency law enforcement and prosecuting attorney task force arrested 26 suspects during a multi-day operation in the Tri-Cities. The operation led by the Washington State Patrol's (WSP) Missing and Exploited Children Task Force (MECTF) targeted individuals who wanted to sexually assault children.

"Children are becoming increasingly vulnerable to sexual predators due to the growth of the internet," says WSP Chief John R. Batiste. "Thanks to the hard work by our law enforcement and prosecutor partners we are able to make Washington communities safer for our families."

Law enforcement officers acting in an undercover capacity, communicated on the internet through various websites with individuals interested in having sex with children. The operation generated hundreds of responses. The would-be perpetrators who were arrested in the operation traveled to meet with undercover detectives posing as young girls and boys with the intent to engage in sexual activity with them.

In addition to the 26 suspects that were arrested, 5 suspects have been identified as having access to children at risk of being abused. Additional follow-up investigations are currently underway to identify those children and arrange the appropriate assistance for any abuse they may have been exposed to.

The crimes investigated are:

- *RCW 9A.44.073 – Rape of a child in the first/second degree – attempt*
- *RCW 69.50.406 – Distribution to persons under age of eighteen*
- *RCW 9.68A.100 – Commercial sexual abuse of a minor*
- *RCW 9.68A.070 – Possession of depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct*
- *RCW 9.68A.050 – Dealing in depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct*
- *RCW 9.68A.090 – Communication with a minor for immoral purposes*

This is the eighth similar operation in Washington State since August 2015. WSP Missing and Exploited Children Task Force (MECTF), an Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) affiliate, spearheads the multi-agency operation that includes partners in federal, state, and local law enforcement. The "Net Nanny" series, conducted throughout the State of Washington, has netted a total of 115 arrests and rescued 21 identified victims throughout the state.



The names of the individuals arrested during the operation are:

1. Ryan D. Harris, 32, Pendleton, OR
2. Douglas Arbogast, 70, Pasco, WA
3. Marco A. Celis-Hernandez, 21, Richland, WA
4. Andrew L. Sanders, 33, Pasco, WA
5. John M. Sheline, 40, Pasco, WA
6. Gabriel Saenz, 41, Kennewick, WA
7. William J. Barrett, 47, Kennewick, WA
8. Darren J. Kerbyson, 50, West Richland, WA
9. James C. Doty, 34, Richland, WA
10. Yasir M. Majeed, 35, Kennewick, WA
11. Gregory B. Taber, 75, Pasco, WA
12. John N. Schouviller, 31, Pasco, WA
13. Antonio C. Garcia, 21, Richland, WA
14. Lucas F. Beach, 38, Pasco, WA
15. Stephen C. Perez, 45, Pasco, WA
16. Ali Al Mahfood, 35, Kennewick, WA
17. Kyle R. Sickels, 25, Kennewick, WA
18. Jesus G. Contreras Salgado, 29, Tieton, WA
19. Dewayne L. Hetrick, 42, Kennewick, WA
20. Thomas A. Swarers, 69, Kennewick, WA
21. Jerome G. Williams, 24, Kennewick, WA
22. James C. Escobeda, 20, Kennewick, WA
23. Yuriy L. Gulchuk, 35, Kennewick, WA
24. Jairo Lopez, 20, Yakima, WA
25. Aaron D. Hagerty, 42, Kennewick, WA
26. Daniel A. Medina, 20, Pendleton, OR

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

- Washington State Patrol Missing and Exploited Children's Task Force
- Southeast Region Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force
- U.S. Homeland Security Investigations
- Richland Police Department
- Kennewick Police Department
- Benton County Sheriff Office
- Benton County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- Washington State Attorney General Office
- U.S. Attorney General Office
- Washington State Patrol High-Tech Crime Unit
- Washington State Patrol Criminal Investigations Division



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- Washington State Patrol Field Operations Bureau – District 3

The funding for this operation was made possible due in part to support 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) *shares the mission of law enforcement agencies to save children and see that child predators are arrested and prosecuted.* O.U.R. is privileged and honored to partner with our nation's law enforcement heroes in this important cause to combat the sexual exploitation of children in our nation's communities.

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

Any information related to the suspects listed, or information leading to the identity of victims potentially involved in these cases can contact:

- Washington State Patrol, MECTF
 - o mectf@wsp.wa.gov
 - o Sergeant Carlos Rodriguez at 360-704-2395
- Richland Police Department
 - o 509-942-7340

All proceeds go directly to MECTF and are used explicitly in the identification and safe recovery of exploited children, the investigation of those sexually exploiting children, and successful apprehension and prosecution thereof.

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