

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, June 26, 2018

CONTACT: Sergeant Dale Flamand (619) 715-7100

ICAC Unit will be available for on camera interviews on Thursday, June 28, 2018, 10:00 AM at Police Headquarters, 1401 Broadway, at the Broadway street entrance.

San Diego Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC)

The National Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Program, established by the Protect our Children Act of 2008, consists of state and local task forces. These Task Forces are dedicated to developing effective responses to online enticement of children by sexual predators, child exploitation, child obscenity, and pornography cases. Currently, there are 61 ICAC task forces throughout the United States.

The San Diego Police Department is the recipient of the San Diego Region ICAC Task Force Grant which allows us to train and equip the Task Force and its affiliate agency members in San Diego, Riverside and Imperial County.

Every year, the National ICAC Program conducts Operation Broken Heart. This year's operation targeted those individuals using Peer to Peer file sharing networks to receive and distribute child pornography and those persons who would exploit our children via the internet.

The ICAC Task Force and its local affiliate agencies rescued or identified (11) eleven children suffering ongoing abuse and intercepted (4) four males attempting to meet with minors to commit a felony.

ICAC investigators arrested two registered sex offenders for possession of child pornography.

The Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement Task Force (SAFE) Investigators arrested a registered sex offender for contacting a minor and sending sexually explicit images.

Three members in the US Military were convicted of internet crimes related to children in military proceedings.

The United States Attorney's Office reported three convictions for child pornography and child exploitation during this operation. One included a conviction for a male paying a female to produce child pornography by molesting young children related to her.

The San Diego District Attorney is currently prosecuting ten defendants arrested as part of the operation. Two other defendants have been convicted for child pornography and child exploitation which included a case of a registered sex offender for contacting a minor to commit a felony.

In all, there were (20) twenty arrests for internet related crimes against our children and (54) fifty-four residential and electronic service provider search warrants served in San Diego County.

The operation also focused on Internet Safety Community Outreach and Presentations. With the internet growing within our homes, schools and children's lives, the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force believes it important to inform and empower our children, teachers and community members to the dangers on the Internet. To assist in this outreach, the San Diego ICAC partners with the San Diego Police Foundation's Safety-Net Program. During this operation, together they presented at (33) events with over 11,000 attendees.

The San Diego Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force encourages parents to remain vigilant of their children's computers and cellular phones. Information on Internet Safety can be found at the below listed Websites.

The City of San Diego launched a new website dedicated to providing information regarding Internet safety. The website can be found at www.sandiego.gov/sdicac. The Task Force also launched a Facebook page, San Diego Internet Crimes Against Children.

Other helpful websites include:

San Diego Police Foundation
WWW.SMARTCYBERCHOICES.ORG

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
WWW.MISSINGKIDS.COM

Agencies on the San Diego Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force: San Diego Police, San Diego Sheriff, Chula Vista Police, San Diego County District Attorney's Office, San Diego Unified School Police, FBI, Homeland Security Investigations, and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

Affiliate agencies that contributed to Operation Broken Heart:

Escondido Police
La Mesa Police
El Cajon Police
National City Police
Oceanside Police
Carlsbad Police

FBI, Violent Crimes Against Children Unit (VCAC)
Homeland Security's, Child Exploitation Group (CEG)
Regional Computer Forensics Lab (RCFL)
United States Attorney's Office, Southern District of California
United States Marshal's Office

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