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PONTE VEDRA BEACH MAN SENTENCED TO 17½ YEARS IN PRISON FOR INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Jacksonville, FL - U.S. District Judge Virginia M. Hernandez Covington today sentenced Raymond Benjamin Holt, Jr., age 37 and a resident of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, to a term of imprisonment of 17½ years and a life term of supervised release for transportation of child pornography. On October 10, 2007, Holt pled guilty to the federal charge of transportation of child pornography by computer in interstate commerce.

According to court documents, in early 2007, agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") in California began an investigation which targeted individuals trading images of child pornography using a particular Internet file sharing program. Computer users around the world who were engaged in trading images of child pornography were identified through, among other things, documents obtained from telecommunications and internet service providers. Raymond Benjamin Holt, Jr. was one of these identified users. According to court documents, on June 27, 2007, agents made contact with Holt at his residence in Ponte Vedra Beach and obtained his computer. Subsequent forensic analysis of Holt's computer revealed that it contained over 3,700 images and at least 23 videos depicting child pornography. This examination also showed logs from the Internet file sharing program ("chat logs") of the online electronic communications between Holt and other individuals in other states and other countries indicating that Holt actively and

knowingly sent and received images of child pornography and other pornographic images over the Internet.

This case is part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the Department of Justice created Project Safe Childhood, a national initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information on Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Child Predator CyberCrime Unit of the State of Florida Attorney General's Office. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys D. Rodney Brown and Kevin C. Frein.