

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Karen P. Hewitt***

For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U.S. Attorney William A. Hall, Jr. (619) 557-7046

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - December 8, 2008

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Michael Berton Laughead was sentenced today in federal court in San Diego before United States District Court Judge M. James Lorenz to serve 51 months in federal prison and six years of supervised release based upon his conviction for one count of possession of child pornography, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(4)(B). Judge Lorenz also required Laughead to register as a sex offender. Laughead had previously tendered his guilty plea on March 4, 2008.

According to court documents, Laughead admitted that on or about June 5, 2007, he possessed at least thirteen videos on his computer which contained images of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct with adults. According to the documents, Laughead admitted to law enforcement agents that he had downloaded child pornography and had viewed videos of children younger than ten years of age engaging in sexual activity.

This case stems from an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which is a member of the San Diego Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force; other members include the Immigration and

Customs Enforcement, the San Diego Police Department, the San Diego Sheriff's Department, the Chula Vista Police Department, the United States Attorney's Office, the San Diego County District Attorney's Office, the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the United States Marshals Service, the Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory, the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, and the El Cajon Police Department.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide Department of Justice initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. 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 about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov

DEFENDANT

Case Number: 08CR0451-L

MICHAEL BERTON LAUGHEAD

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 18, United States Code, Section and 2252(a)(4)(B) (Possession of Child Pornography)

AGENCY

Federal Bureau of Investigation