



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRIA NEWPORT NEWS NORFOLK RICHMOND

CHUCK ROSENBERG, UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 18, 2006

James Rybicki
Phone: (703) 842-4050
E-Mail: usavae.press@usdoj.gov
Website: www.usdoj.gov/usao/vae

Former NASA Official Pleads Guilty to Distribution of Child Pornography

(Alexandria, VA) - James Ross Robinson, of Sterling, pleaded guilty yesterday to a charge of distribution of visual depictions of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct, in violation federal law. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, also announced that sentencing has been set for October 13, 2006, before United States District Judge Gerald Bruce Lee. Robinson can be sentenced to a minimum of five years, and up to twenty years, in prison and can be placed on supervised release for life.

According to court documents, Robinson used his Yahoo! e-mail account and the name "Jim Saron," to send digital movies of children engaging in sexual acts with adults to three different undercover U.S. Postal Inspectors in March 2005. Robinson, who had been the Program Executive for the In Space Propulsion, Mission and Systems Management Division at NASA Headquarters in Washington, distributed the movies from his office computer as well as from his home computer in Sterling.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and special agents of the NASA Office of Inspector General. The prosecution of the case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Jerry Smagala.

###