

(Investigations)

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DEFENSE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE SYRACUSE POST OF DUTY 441 S. SALINA ST, STE 602 SYRACUSE, NY 13202-2400

INSPECTOR GENERAL

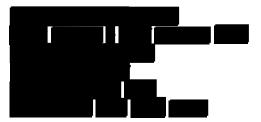
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

200701512S-24-JUL-2007-10SY-W1/F

09-MAY-2008

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Headquarters, Investigative Operations Directorate Northeast Field Office Pittsburgh Resident Agency

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NARRATIVE

- 1. On July 11, 2007, the reporting agent received a lead referral from Special Agent DCIS Mid-Atlantic Field Office regarding the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) initiated Operation Flicker. Operation Flicker is a nationwide investigation that has identified over 5,000 individuals that have subscribed to predicated child pornography websites. DCIS Mid-Mathematic Section Section
- 2. On May 17, 2007, **Construction** attended a briefing at ICE, Fairfax, Virginia regarding Operation Flicker. The briefing included the following background information:
- 3. In April 2006, the ICE/Cyber Crimes Center/Child Exploitation Section (ICE/C3/CES) initiated an investigation into a criminal organization operating a commercial child pornography website known as "Home Collection." The investigation has revealed that the same organization is operating numerous commercial child pornography websites. In addition, the organization utilizes various Pay Pal accounts to process the payments for access to the member restricted areas of these websites. The investigation is being worked jointly with ICE/C3/CES, ICE/RAC/Birmingham, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the U.S. Department of Justice/Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, and the USAO for the Northern District of Alabama. ICE has designated this operation as PROJECT FLICKER.
- 4. ICE/C3/CES has conducted over 60 undercover transactions at the advertising websites associated with this investigation. The investigation has identified that a specific criminal organization is operating approximately 18 different commercial child pornography advertising websites which provide access to approximately 18 child pornography member restricted websites. This criminal organization has utilized a specific and identifiable payment website known as "iWest." The information developed during the course of the investigation has identified that the organization (1) uses various Pay Pal accounts to facilitate the customer payments; (2) uses specific subject identifiers within the Pay Pal accounts to identify purchases into the various member restricted websites; and (3) uses specific administrative e-mail accounts that are used to distribute access to the member restricted websites.
- 5. Among the 5,000 names ICE identified under Project Flicker, several individuals used their .mil e-mail address, Fleet Post Office (FPO), or Army Post Office (APO) military zip codes. **Several individuals** advised the U.S. Attorney's Office and ICE that the DCIS will assist in identifying any additional Department of Defense (DoD) affiliated individuals and provide any investigative assistance.

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- 6. Consideration and conducted queried DoD databases to identify individuals that may be in possession of child pornographic material or access, and has forwarded the results of his queries to the respective DCIS office for consideration for possible DCIS case initiations.
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- 7. The reporting agent queried the Defense Employee Interactive Data Systems (DEIDS), and obtained the following information regarding the second state of the second

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DEIDS report will be attached.

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- 8. The reporting agent also queried the Re-Enlistment Eligibility Data Display (REDD) database for the second and obtained the following information second and obtained the following information second and second and a second and s
- 9. The reporting agent contacted Special Agent **Sectors** ICE Alexandria Bay, NY regarding Operation Flicker. **Sectors** subsequently forwarded the reporting agent a spreadsheet that identifies all New York subjects of Operation Flicker, and pertinent information regarding subscriber information related to the child exploitation websites. **Sectors** advised that he would be reviewing the list of subjects for possible investigation. The reporting agent advised that the DCIS would review the list, and initiate an investigation of DoD related personnel in the Syracuse Post of Duty area of responsibility. **Sectors** advised that another ICE agent would be assigned to specific investigation, but he would assist in the computer forensics part of the cases.
- 10. Upon review of the spreadsheet sent by **Sector**, the reporting agent determined that made four payments utilizing PayPal to the restricted access websites. The payments were for \$79.95 each, and occurred on the following dates: November 7, 2006, November 21, 2007 (2 transactions), and December 16, 2006. The "trans.Item Title" was either listed as an invoice number or for "TV-2 collection 30 Days access." (Agent Note: this is the subject line identifier which indicates which member restricted site a specific customer purchased. In the Project Flicker Overview report, it stated that in November 2006, the criminal organization dropped the subject line identifiers, and began using Invoice numbers. The ICE agent stated that the Pay Pal accounts still identify the specific member restricted sites an individual purchased).

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11. This investigation was anticipated to be conducted jointly with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Massena, NY. As ICE was determined to be the lead agency, and the fact that there was only a loose affiliation between the subject and the DoD, this investigation was deferred to ICE Massena for any action they deemed appropriate.

12. This investigation is closed.

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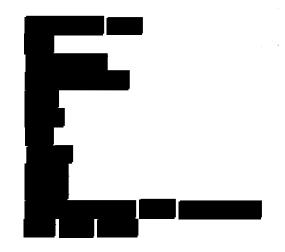
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IDENTITY OF SUBJECTS

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EXHIBITS

1 - Excel Spreadsheet titled "Flicker New York" – identifies as a subject. .

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