

**PREPARED STATEMENT OF
THE NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE**

**Lieutenant Colonel Frank E. Rodgers
Deputy Superintendent
Investigations Branch**

**Before the
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
of the
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
United States House of Representatives**

July 10, 2006

Good morning Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Stupak and members of the Subcommittee, I am Lieutenant Colonel Frank Rodgers, Deputy Superintendent of the Investigations Branch of the New Jersey State Police. I appreciate the opportunity to discuss with you how the State of New Jersey is Combating Predators on the Internet.

I. Introduction

I have been a member of the New Jersey State Police for the last 25 years and have been involved in criminal investigations for 21 of those 25 years. Never in my career have I seen criminal activities as far reaching or rapid in growth as Internet related crimes. Never have I witnessed crimes so egregious and so prevalent as those being committed against the youth of New Jersey and youth all across America right in their own homes.

As Deputy Superintendent of the Investigations Branch, I am privileged to command the 800 fine men and women of the Intelligence Section, the Special Investigations Section and the Office of Forensic Science of the New Jersey State Police. As commander of this Branch, under the leadership of Colonel Rick Fuentes, Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police and with oversight and endorsements from both our Attorney General Zulima Farber and Governor Jon Corzine, we are reshaping how law enforcement does business in the State of New Jersey.

II. A New Direction

Last year the New Jersey State Police operationalized an Intelligence Led Policing strategy. In doing so we adopted the processes intrinsic to that strategy, most importantly, intelligence sharing. At present we have deployed our Statewide Intelligence Management System (SIMS) to 300 of the state's 600 police departments, including the FBI. We are currently working with our law enforcement allies to network this system to others around the state and region to fill in the holes. We have also initiated a full time all crimes all hazards intelligence

fusion center at our headquarters in West Trenton. That center will expand dramatically in September when we open with our many allied law enforcement, intelligence and other public safety partners, what will be the largest and most sophisticated intelligence fusion center in the country. The 55 thousand square foot Regional Operations and Intelligence Center known as the ROIC embodies our commitment to the fundamental recommendations of both the 911 commission and the National Intelligence Sharing Plan, unity of effort and true intelligence sharing.

III. Resource Sharing

We have all heard the phrases “surfing the Internet” or “surfing the web” and I must admit it gives one the connotation of fun, freedom, adventure and excitement. Who wouldn’t want to “surf the net”? We all do it and we all enjoy it. Yet as we are all too well aware, at least those of us in this room, there are sharks in the water and riptides waiting to pull our children out to sea. We are committed to protecting our children from the dangers of the Internet and we have been very successful thus far. But like everyone else who takes the oath to protect and serve, we cannot do it alone, this is bigger than any one agency, any one state. We are a team made up of local, county, state and federal partners and we ask for your continued support.

The New Jersey State Police has been fighting Internet predators for the last ten years. We are a multi-faceted organization with a strong reputation, intense work ethic and unwavering integrity. We are proud to work with our many partners on these critical investigations. To give you an idea of our commitment over the last ten years, our team has averaged 100 Internet related investigations a year and we average 45 arrests per year for the victimization of children through the Internet.

IV. New Jersey Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force

We are proud and honored to be selected as the primary agency in New Jersey to run the New Jersey Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC). We have concentrated our mission into three main areas: training, outreach and enforcement.

A. Training

We currently have 20 cyber investigators on our task force, 10 of which hunt Internet predators full time. Thanks to ICAC funding, we have been able to send these individuals to 120 training events over the last 18 months, technical training that is key to doing the job. This would never have been possible without ICAC funding.

B. Outreach

Over the last 18 months we have conducted 310 presentations to over 30,000 students, teachers, parents and law enforcement officials across the State. We are currently working to expand cooperation and information sharing through the New Jersey Department of Education, the New Jersey Education Association, the New Jersey Parent Teacher Association and the New Jersey Association for Educational Technology. Educating the children must come from all fronts and it must come loud and often.

C. Enforcement

Finally, I would like to speak to you about enforcement. These programs are working, we are making a difference. Can we do more? Yes of course, and we ask for your support in getting us there. However, through all the challenges and horrors that we face, we have made bold accomplishments.

Case # 06-06

During the week of June 26, 2006, members of the New Jersey Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force in partnership with 20 other law enforcement agencies throughout the State, arrested seven individuals for the possession and distribution of child pornography over the Internet. The arrests were as a result of a three month undercover investigation and included an elementary school teacher, a medical intern about to begin his residency, an enlisted member of the United States Coast Guard and a resident of Bridgewater, New Jersey right here Somerset County. The techniques used to capture these individuals were provided through ICAC training.

Case # 06-24

On March 3, 2006, task force members in conjunction with members from FBI Innocent Images arrested a 33 year old man for sexually assaulting a 14 year old girl whom he had met through Myspace.com. He traveled to Florida while she was there on vacation with her family, sexually assaulted her in Florida and then traveled to New Jersey after they returned home, knocked on their front door in order to meet her parents and professed his love for their daughter.

Case #04-39

Over a nine day period in January, 2005 and as a result of leads from the Wyoming ICAC, the New Jersey ICAC task force arrested 39 individuals for possession and distribution of child pornography over the Internet. Arrests included a defense attorney, a high school teacher and a pediatric neurosurgeon.

Case # 03-08

In August 2003, as a result of leads from the Dallas ICAC and in conjunction with the FBI and the United States Attorney's Office, a former Camden County Superior Court Judge was federally charged with Endangering the Welfare of a Child as a result of the execution of search warrants on his two homes and office. During the searches, detectives uncovered a video tape recording of the judge having sex with a Russian male juvenile. He is currently serving a ten year term in federal prison.

V. Conclusion

As you can imagine these stories go on and on. Our experience shows us that these child predators will continue prey upon the most innocent and vulnerable members of our society. We ask that you continue to support our mission, as we remain committed to the children of New Jersey by identifying and arresting those who are prowling the Internet everyday for a new victim.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

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1. Introduction
 - a. 25 years law enforcement experience, 21 years in criminal investigations
 - b. Commander of 800 fine men and women
2. New Direction
 - a. Leading a Branch reorganization based on intelligence led policing
 - b. Deployed a statewide intelligence management system
 - c. Initiated a full time, all crimes intelligence fusion center
3. Resource Sharing
 - a. Must be inclusive of all local, county, state and federal law enforcement partners
4. New Jersey Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force
 - a. Training
 - 1) 20 cyber investigators on task force
 - 2) Investigators have attended 120 training events in the last 18 months
 - b. Outreach
 - 1) 310 presentations have been given in the last 18 months
 - 2) Expanding capabilities with education partners
 - c. Enforcement
 - 1) List of five case histories
5. Conclusion
 - a. Successful track record in task force leadership
 - b. Continued commitment to the ICAC mission