

For Immediate Release  
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**ALBUQUERQUE MAN DETAINED PENDING TRIAL ON  
CHILD ENTICEMENT AND PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES**

ALBUQUERQUE – Earlier this week, a United States District Judge issued an order detaining Albuquerque resident **James Carney Ritterhoff**, 38, pending trial on child enticement and child pornography charges. The 14-page order concluded that Ritterhoff, a former Aurora, Missouri police officer, who was employed as an armed money courier in Albuquerque when he was arrested on June 17, 2011, should be detained because he poses a danger to the community and a risk of flight.

Ritterhoff was arrested on a criminal complaint charging him with using the Internet to entice a minor to engage in sexual activity. On July 20, 2011, a federal grand jury returned a seven-count indictment charging Ritterhoff with using the Internet to entice a minor to engage in sexual activity (Count 1); soliciting child pornography (Counts 2 and 3); sending apparent child pornography (Count 4); receiving child pornography (Counts 5 and 6); and possession of child pornography (Count 7). If convicted on Count 1, the enticement offense, Ritterhoff faces a maximum penalty of imprisonment for at least ten years to life. A conviction on each of Counts 2 through 6 carries a maximum penalty of not less than five years but not more than 20 years' imprisonment. A conviction on Count 7 carries a maximum penalty of ten years' imprisonment.

Ritterhoff was arraigned on the indictment on July 22, 2011 and entered a not guilty plea to all counts of the indictment.

According to court records, Ritterhoff was charged as a result of his online conversations with undercover officers that began in February 2011 and continued through June 2011.

Ritterhoff allegedly had these conversations with an undercover New York Police Department

detective, posing as a mother (Undercover Mom) and a 13-year-old child (Undercover Child), and with a Special Agent from the New Mexico Attorney General's Office posing as an additional participant in a child-sex ring. During conversations with Undercover Mom, Ritterhoff allegedly admitted being a pedophile, and expressed an interest in raping the Undercover Child, and discussed performing services for Undercover Mom in exchange for raping Undercover Child.

During conversations with Undercover Child, Ritterhoff allegedly asked Undercover Child to have sex with him and sent her a series of links to pornographic videos of what appeared to be minors engaged in sexual acts with adults. Ritterhoff also allegedly instructed Undercover Child to view the videos to prepare her to perform sexual acts with him and described in graphic details the sex acts that he wanted Undercover Child would perform on him.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that the case was investigated by Homeland Securities Investigations, the Bronx District Attorney's NYPD Squad, and the New Mexico Attorney General's Office with assistance from the Las Cruces Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Stephen H. Wong and Ravi Sinha.

The case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, 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 to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

The case also was brought as part of the New Mexico Internet Crimes Against Children

Task Force whose mission it is to locate, track, and capture Internet child sexual predators and Internet child pornographers in New Mexico. There are 61 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies associated with the Task Force, which is funded by a grant administered by the New Mexico Attorney General's Office. Anyone with information relating to suspected child predators and suspected child abuse is encouraged to contact federal or local law enforcement.

Charges in criminal complaints and indictments are only accusations. All criminal defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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