

Former Astoria-based OSP trooper arrested on child pornography charges

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David Charles Corkett served in the Astoria area about 12 years

A former Oregon State Police trooper has been arrested and jailed on child pornography charges.

David Charles Corkett, 52, who served as a senior trooper until his resignation Jan. 23, 2013, was arrested Monday for 27 counts of second-degree encouraging child sex abuse.

His court date has been set for Clatsop County Circuit Court at 9 a.m. May 27.

Lt. Gregg Hastings, the public information officer for Oregon State Police, said the investigation was coordinated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and assisted by the Mono County Sheriff's Office of California.

According to a statement by Mono County Sheriff's Public Information Officer Jennifer M. Hansen, posted on the Sheriff's Office Facebook Page, Corkett was wanted on the felony child pornography charges and was believed to be living in the Bridgeport, Calif., area when postal inspectors contacted the sheriff April 22 to assist with serving the warrant.

Corkett was located and arrested without incident. He was transported to the Mono County Jail and extradited to Clatsop County. He is currently out on bail.

Corkett joined Oregon State Police in December 2001, serving his career in the Astoria Area Command Office. He was placed on administrative leave pending the investigation Oct. 12, 2012. On Jan. 23, 2013, Corkett submitted his resignation.

One week later, according to Hansen's statement, Corkett was contacted by the Mono County Sheriff's Office at the Mono Basin Visitor's Center with a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the chest in what officials believe was an attempted suicide. Corkett was transported to the Renown Medical Center in Reno for treatment and recovery. He later relocated to the Bridgeport Area.

In November, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service conducted "Operation Spade," an international child exploitation investigation resulting in 339 arrests and 386 children rescued.

A three-year investigation, Operation Spade began when the Toronto Police contacted the Postal Inspection Service after identifying an online company, Azoz Films, selling videos of child exploitation through the U.S. mail. According to the Postal Inspector's press release at the time of the arrests, the investigation spanned all segments of society, including school employees, attorneys, law enforcement officials and registered sex offenders. It involved Ryan Loskarn, the 35-year-old chief of staff at the time to U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander.

Loskarn committed suicide Jan. 23, 2013.

During the media coverage of the Operation Spade arrests, one unnamed suspect was said to be an Oregon State Police trooper. But OSP released a statement mid-November, acknowledging that a former trooper was being investigated but denying he had been arrested.

Although the trooper was unnamed at the time of the release, and his indictment is sealed until his May 27 arraignment, the statement read, "The person worked for OSP for about 12 years as a patrol trooper and was placed on administrative leave 13 months ago on Oct. 12, 2012."

It continues, "This person resigned from employment Jan. 31, 2013. OSP has no knowledge of any criminal activity associated with the investigation occurring on duty."

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