

May 23, 2012

CYBERCRIME AGENT RECEIVES NATIONAL COMMENDATION

BISMARCK, ND – A BCI cybercrime agent has been honored by the US Department of Justice for his role in the investigation and breakup of an international child pornography distribution ring.

Special Agent Tim Erickson is a member of the state Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force, which works cooperatively with the Justice Department, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Project Safe Childhood and local, federal and international law enforcement agencies to bring down internet child pornography rings.

The six-month investigation for which Erickson received the award began with a 2009 child molestation case in Australia and resulted in the rescue of eight young children in the US and Canada. Erickson's investigation helped federal authorities arrest seven individuals in the United States, including Christian R. Webb of Minot. North Dakota US Attorney Tim Purdon's office prosecuted Webb, who was convicted in May 2011 and sentenced to 12 years in federal prison.

Special Agent Erickson said that he was honored to receive the award, and commented, "ICAC is such a great program. Everyone does what they do for the right reasons. It's not about us, it's all about saving the kids."

Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem said, "Internet crimes are among the most difficult to investigate, but because of Tim and the network of dedicated ICAC investigators across the country, online predators are no longer able to evade law enforcement."

Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole presented Erickson with the Attorney General's Special Commendation today in Washington, at the Justice Department's annual National Missing Children's Day ceremony honoring missing children, their families, child advocates and those dedicated to the well-being and safety of children.

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