

MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN TASK FORCE



2008 ANNUAL REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM CHIEF BATISTE

*It gives me great pleasure to present to you the 2008
Washington State Patrol Missing and Exploited
Children Task Force Annual Report.*

In 1999 the legislature created this multi-agency task force within the WSP to focus on missing child cases through referrals, on-site assistance, case management, and training. Each year, outside agencies continue to increase their effectiveness in case investigations by drawing from the combined resources, knowledge, and technical expertise of the members of the task force.



This report summarizes many of the major cases the Missing and Exploited Children Task Force (MECTF) has investigated over the past year and highlights some of their major accomplishments.

The goal of this report is to communicate our efforts in making a difference every day to improve the quality of life for our families, friends, and children. I am very proud of the dedication and professionalism of the task force. Every success in this report can be attributed to the outstanding efforts of the members of the task force.

We are thankful for our partnerships in 2008 with the City of Lakewood Police Department and the Puyallup Police Department. These agencies have sent their finest detectives to work side by side with the WSP. As a multi-agency task force, MECTF will continue to recover missing children, protect them from sexual exploitation, and bring the perpetrators of these devastating crimes to justice to ensure a safer future for our children. To find out more information about the Missing and Exploited Children Task Force, please visit our website at: <http://www.wsp.wa.gov/crime/mpu.htm>.

Chief John R. Batiste
Washington State Patrol

MISSION STATEMENT

WASHINGTON STATE PATROL



The Washington State Patrol makes a difference every day, enhancing the safety and security of our state by providing the best in public safety services.

INVESTIGATIVE ASSISTANCE DIVISION



Provides investigative services, technical support, and training to the WSP, law enforcement agencies, and community groups to improve the quality of life in the state of Washington.

MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN TASK FORCE



Dedicated to protecting the children of Washington State by assisting and investigating missing child and exploitation cases.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 1999 the legislature passed Senate Bill 5108 (Chapter 168, Laws of 1999), sponsored by Lieutenant Governor Brad Owen, which created the Missing and Exploited Children Task Force (MECTF) within the Washington State Patrol (WSP). The focus of this multi-agency task force is to assist law enforcement, state agencies, and custodial parent(s) or legal guardian(s) by conducting investigations on missing, abducted, and exploited children.

MECTF originated in September 1999 with the selection of one WSP sergeant, one WSP detective, and one clerical support person. Initial staffing was completed in May 2000. Currently, the task force is made up of one WSP sergeant, one WSP detective, one City of Lakewood Police Department detective, one City of Puyallup Police Department detective, and one clerical support person. The MECTF is available to provide on-site assistance, case management, and training.

The passing of Senate Bill 5108 also created the MECTF Advisory Board. The 12 member Advisory Board is comprised of state, federal, and local officials. The Board meets quarterly and advises the Chief of the WSP on the management and coordination of the various activities of the task force.

The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 13.60.100, states, “The legislature finds a compelling need to address the problem of missing children, whether those children have been abducted by a stranger, are missing due to custodial interference, or are classified as runaways. Washington State ranks 12th in the nation for active cases of missing juveniles and, at any given time, more than 1800 Washington children are reported as missing. The potential for physical and psychological trauma to these children is extreme. Therefore, the legislature finds that it is paramount for the safety of these children that there be a concerted effort to resolve cases of missing and exploited children.”

This report to the legislature regarding the MECTF is mandated in Chapter 168, Laws of 1999, Section 2 (5):

“By December 1, 2001, and annually thereafter, the Chief of the State Patrol shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of the legislature. The report shall establish performance measurements and objectives for the task force and assess the accomplishments of the task force.”

This report is being produced to provide all stakeholders with an assessment of the MECTF’s current status.

HISTORY

The WSP established the Missing Children Clearinghouse (MCC) in 1985. MCC's main focus is to coordinate the exchange of information between law enforcement agencies, citizens, schools, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), and other interested groups regarding the location and recovery of missing children. Since its establishment, the MCC has played a vital role in the recovery of 61,045 missing children.

Senate Bill 5108, sponsored by Lieutenant Governor Brad Owen, was introduced and subsequently passed by the legislature during the 1999 Legislative Session. Governor Gary Locke signed this bill known as the "Teekah Lewis Bill" on May 5, 1999, establishing the MECTF into law. The need to bridge the gap between coordinating the exchange of information by the MCC and assisting with investigations of missing children was the major reason for the development of the MECTF.

The first year, MECTF funding provided for WSP personnel consisting of one sergeant, one WSP detective, one clerical support person, and two contract local law enforcement detectives. By May 2000 the addition of a detective from the City of Lacey Police Department and a detective from the Ferry County Sheriff's Office fulfilled the legislative mandate to create a multi-agency task force. Currently the task force consists of one WSP detective sergeant, one WSP detective, one City of Lakewood Police Department detective, one City of Puyallup Police Department detective, and one clerical support person. The task force is physically located within the WSP Investigative Assistance Division (IAD) Headquarters, which is located in the General Administration Building on the Capitol Campus in Olympia, Washington.

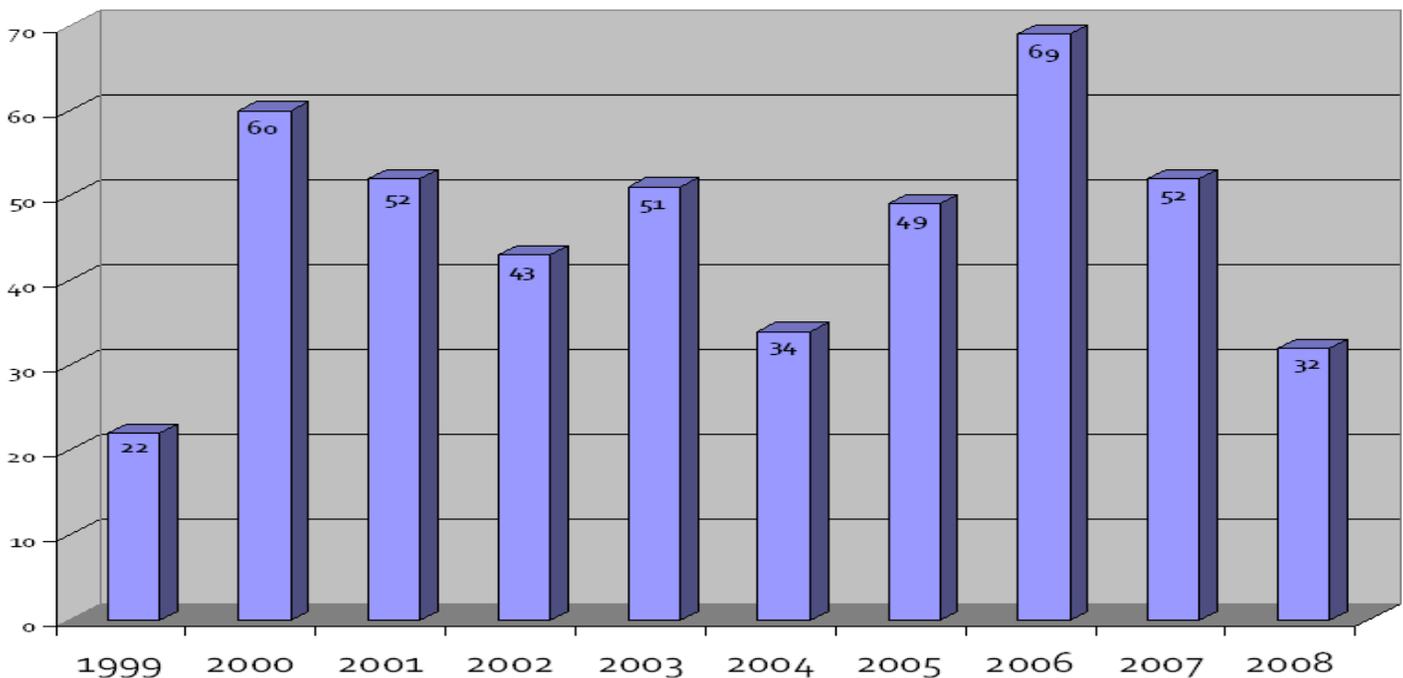
The MECTF Advisory Board was established by legislative mandate. The Advisory Board ensures the successful accomplishment of the goals and objectives of MECTF by advising the Chief of the WSP on the conduct, management, and coordination of MECTF. The Advisory Board membership reflects the diversity of the criminal justice community with representation from the following agencies: Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), King County Sheriff's Office, Office of the Attorney General, Shelton Police Department, Thurston County Prosecutor's Office, United States Attorney's Office, United States Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services.

INTRODUCTION

The MECTF was the first task force of its kind in the nation. The primary function of MECTF is to assist law enforcement, state agencies, and federal agencies by conducting investigations on missing, abducted, and exploited children. As part of the IAD, this addresses the goal to respond to requests from other criminal justice agencies for investigative assistance. The performance measures created by the unit include the following:

- ***Number of requests and responses.***

Since its inception in September of 1999, the MECTF has received 464 requests for assistance.



(Through October 2008)

- ***Response to 90 percent of calls for service.***

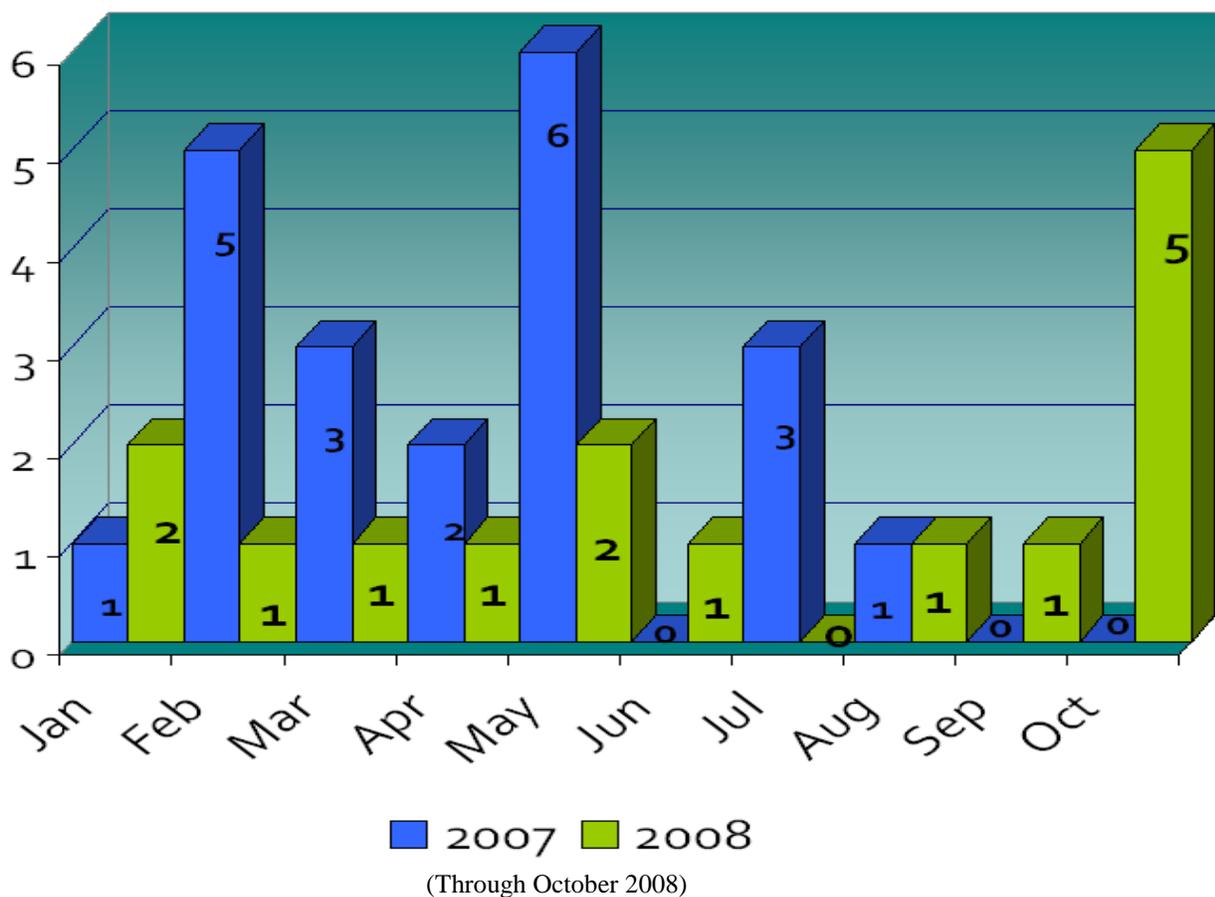
As part of the WSP Chief's Performance Agreement with the Governor for Fiscal Year 2001, a target goal for MECTF was established to respond to 90 percent of all law enforcement requests for assistance. In 2008 MECTF responded to 100 percent of the requests for assistance.

INTRODUCTION (CONTINUED)

- *Number of personnel trained and training sessions provided.*

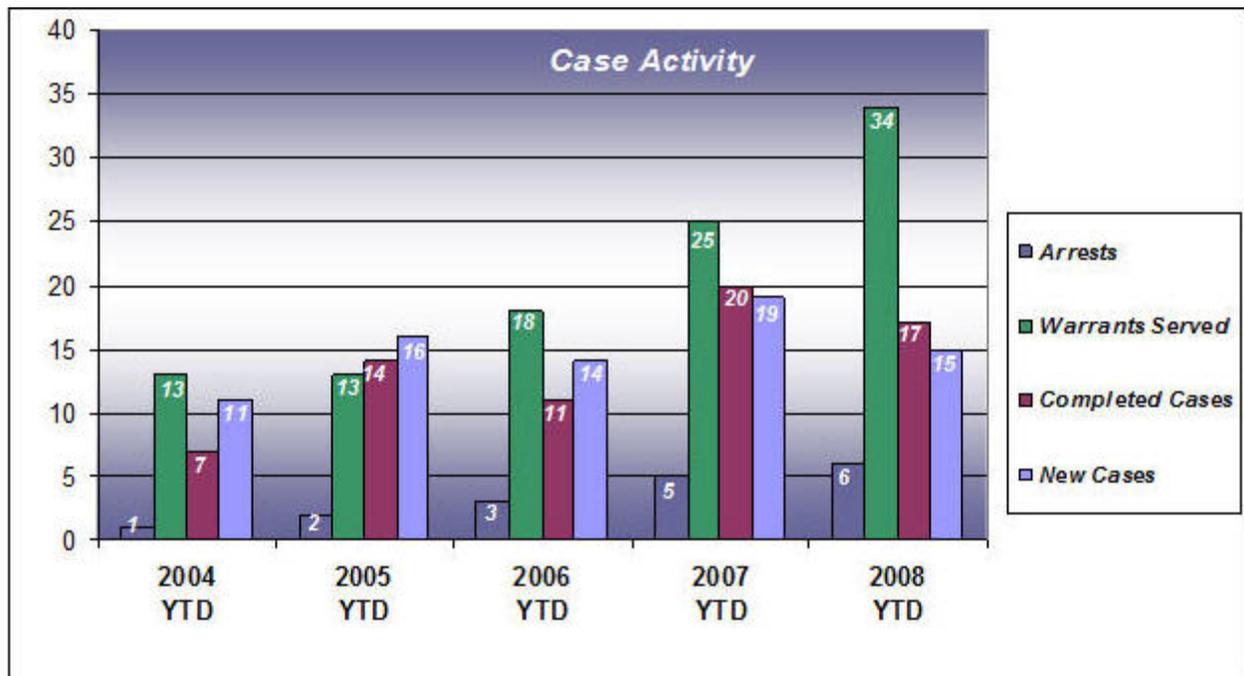
Training Received: In 2008 MECTF detectives have received approximately 348 hours of specialized training to provide them with the necessary skills to investigate crimes against children.

Training Given: MECTF has met their goal of providing training to the public and the school districts. With the rising popularity of social networking sites and potential dangers online, there have been more requests from parents and schools. During 2008 nine safety presentations were conducted with a total of 487 attendees.



CHALLENGES

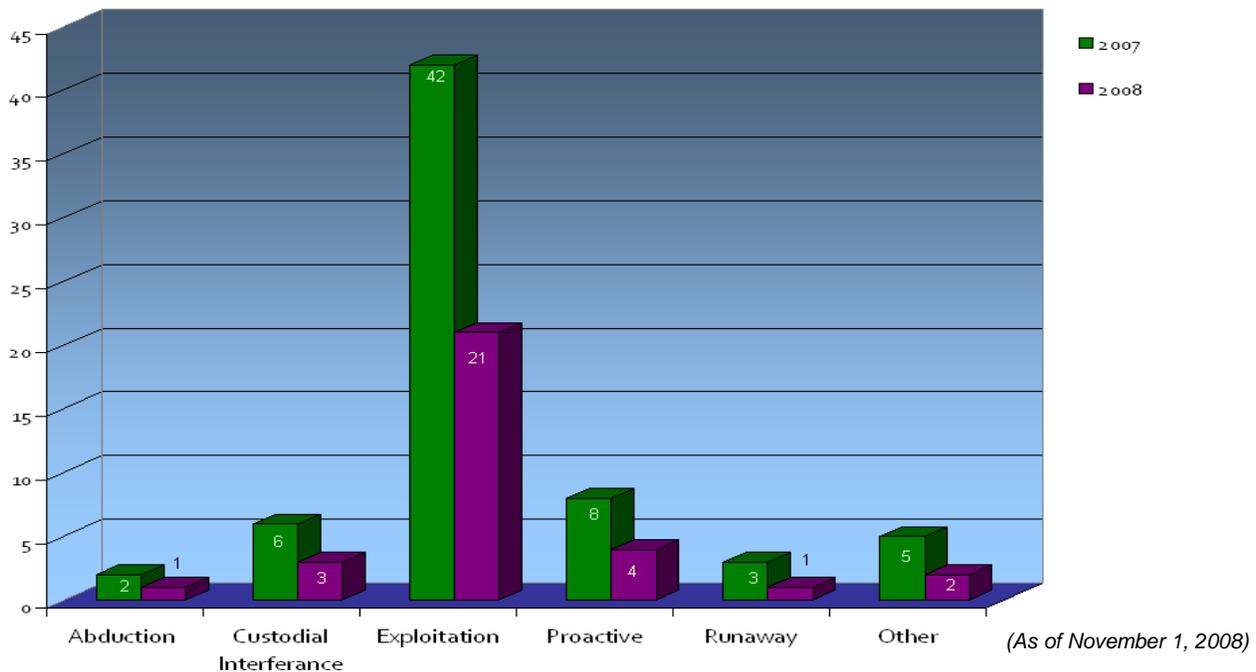
In 2008 MECTF experienced a reduction of one investigator and the transition of a new supervisor, as well as training two new detectives. Despite these challenges, 2008 was a year of accomplishment for MECTF in the areas of search warrants served, case completion, arrests, technology advancements, and partnerships.



TASK FORCE ACTIVITY

The MECTF's primary goal is to assist local, state, national, and international agencies with the investigation of missing and/or exploited children. The task force accomplishes its mission by serving as a resource and providing highly specialized investigative expertise.

Through October 2008 the MECTF assisted in 31 investigations. These cases involved a variety of circumstances, including 21 computer/exploitation cases, 4 proactive cases, 3 custodial interference cases, and 2 "other" category investigations, including attempting to locate the father of a child that was placed in protective custody by New Jersey DSHS.



MECTF continues to experience success with proactive investigations utilizing online undercover equipment. These online investigations known as "traveler cases" involve suspects who make arrangements to meet a juvenile for criminal sexual purposes. With a successful conviction, the defendants are required to register as a sex offender.

MECTF works closely with our High Tech Crimes Unit (HTCU), also part of IAD. HTCU assists MECTF with the forensic analysis of the computers used by predators to exploit children. HTCU detectives received 24 cases directly from MECTF. They assist MECTF in serving warrants and provide support and guidance with technical issues.

PEER TO PEER CASES

MECTF and the HTCUC have joined together to fight internet crimes against children by proactively investigating Peer to Peer cases (P2P). In 2007 the WSP requested and received funding for two detectives to be assigned to a Computer Crimes/Internet Crimes Against Children Detachment (CCICD). These detectives conduct forensic examinations within the HTCUC and work proactively on cases involving cyber tips and online enticement of children investigations. MECTF/HTCUC have joined in "Operation Fairplay", an undercover operation involving law enforcement officers in the US and Canada searching for individuals who are possessing, receiving, and/or distributing child sexual abuse images using P2P networks.

P2P file sharing networks, including the Gnutella Network, are frequently used to trade digital files of child pornography. These files include both image and movie files. P2P file sharing programs are a standard way to transfer files from one computer system to another while connected to a network, usually through the Internet. P2P file sharing programs allow groups of computers using the same file sharing network and protocols to connect directly to each other to share files. Many P2P file sharing networks are designed to allow users to download files and frequently provide enhanced capabilities to reward the sharing of files by providing reduced wait periods, higher user ratings, or other benefits. In some instances, users are not allowed to download files if they are not sharing files.

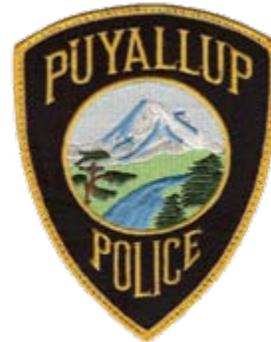
Investigators use publicly available software to search for computers in the state of Washington that are using the Gnutella Network and are possessing, receiving, and/or distributing specific and known visual depictions of child sexual abuse. HTCUC locate computers in Washington that are download candidates for child sexual abuse files by using publicly available software combined with a software program provided by the Wyoming Internet Crimes against Children Task Force. Investigators determine the Internet Protocol (IP) addresses the person sharing/possessing depictions of known victim(s) of child exploitation is using. The tracking of the IP address can lead investigators to the Internet service provider (Comcast, AOL, etc.) of the suspect. Once this information is obtained, HTCUC transfers the case to MECTF.

MECTF then serves warrants on the service provider to obtain the suspect's information, which links the suspect to the identified IP number involved in the sharing of child pornography.

In 2008 MECTF has received three Peer to Peer cases from HTCUC, resulting in multiple search warrants and arrests.

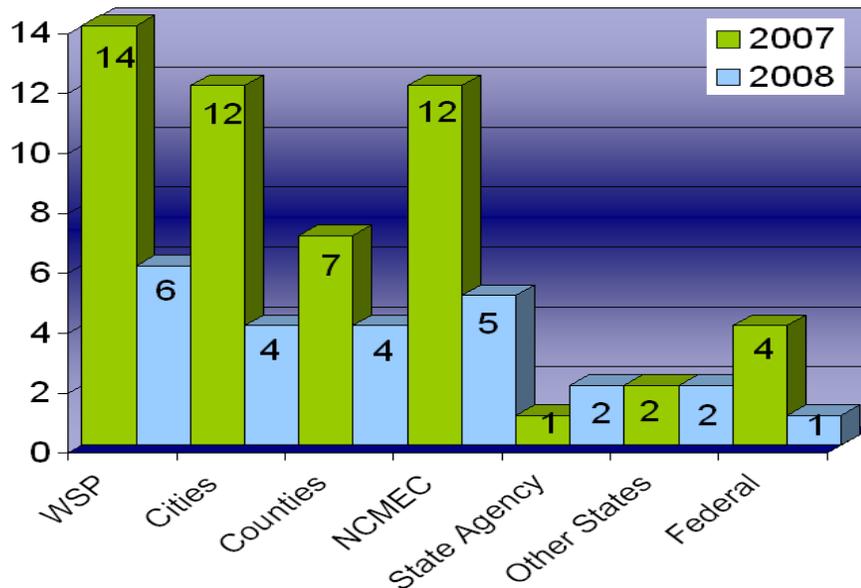
INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

As a multi-agency task force, part of MECTF's success is attributed to the partnership with outside agencies. MECTF appreciates the working relationships shared with many other law enforcement agencies. Previous partnerships have included detectives from Lacey Police Department, Ferry County Sheriff's Office, Port Orchard Police Department, Centralia Police Department and the Port of Seattle Police Department. Currently MECTF is staffed with detectives from City of Lakewood Police Department and City of Puyallup Police Department.



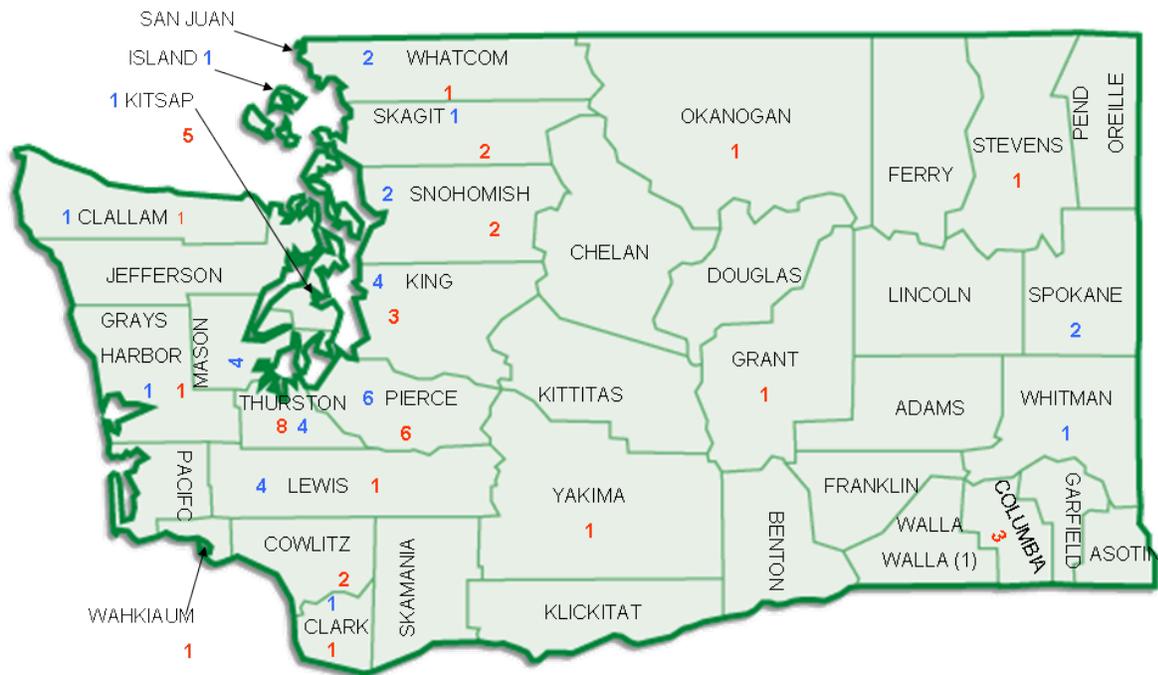
While working in MECTF, detectives receive specialized training in the investigations of missing and exploited children cases. After a two-year commitment, the detectives return to their parent agencies as experienced investigators in this sensitive and specialized field.

Since MECTF's inception in September of 1999, there has been a steady flow of requests from various agencies for assistance with the investigation of missing and exploited children cases.



INTERAGENCY COOPERATION (CONTINUED)

In 2008 the MECTF assisted multiple law enforcement agencies in the state of Washington to solve investigations of missing, abducted, and exploited children. As information about the task force continues to be shared, there is an expectation that the assistance provided to agencies will also increase. This will lead to an increasing number of children recovered and sex offenders arrested in our state, as well as law enforcement personnel trained to conduct these types of investigations.



2008 and 2007 investigations by county

2008 ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

The MECTF Advisory Board was established through legislative mandate. The board members meet quarterly to ensure the goals and objectives of the task force are being met. Their mission is to advise the WSP on the coordination, conduct, and management of the MECTF. The following members reflect the diversity of the criminal justice community:

Brian Bujdoso, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Terry Davenport, Shelton Police Department

Donald Dougherty, King County Sheriff's Office

Dani Geissinger-Rodarte, FBI Seattle Division

Kate Greenquist, US Attorney's Office

John Hillman, Criminal Justice Division Attorney General's Office

Chris Johnson, Attorney General's Office

Christen Peters, Thurston County Prosecutor's Office

Cheryl Rich, DSHS Children's Administration

Darryl Roosendaal, Criminal Justice Division Attorney General's Office

CASE HIGHLIGHTS

Peer to Peer

In July the MECTF successfully served a search warrant in Spokane County on a suspect for suspicion of Possession and Distribution of Child Pornography. This was the second proactive Peer to Peer case that originated through the HTCUC detectives. MECTF has been informed by the Spokane prosecutor the suspect could potentially be charged federally for Distribution and Possession.



Law Enforcement Agency Assist

In March the MECTF received a call from the Morton Police Department requesting assistance on a Possession of Child Pornography case. The suspect's wife called law enforcement after discovering over 30 disks she believed contained child pornography. A search warrant was issued for the home, vehicle, and the suspect's place of employment, the Department of Corrections office located in Tumwater. During the arrest interview, the suspect admitted to downloading close to a thousand images of what he believed was child pornography.

Pro-active



In July 2008 a MECTF detective was using a stand alone computer when she was contacted by a 51-year-old male. The subject then asked the detective her age, which she stated was thirteen. The suspect asked for a photo and the detective sent him an age-regressed photo from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) of a non-existent child. As chats with the suspect persisted, the suspect began calling the detective “baby girl.” The conversations became sexual in nature and the suspect invited the detective to view his webcam. He talked about meeting the girl and tried to get her to set up a date and time to meet, believing the screen name he was chatting with was only thirteen. Once all adequate evidence was obtained, a warrant was served on the internet service provider, which provided all subscriber information. On October 17, a search warrant was executed on the suspect’s residence. The suspect was subsequently interviewed and booked into the King County Jail on charges of communication with a minor for immoral purposes.

Abduction

In June 2008 the Missing Persons Unit (MPU) received a call from a subject reporting a missing child who had been taken from the home the night before. The reporting party was the child's aunt who had been granted temporary custody because the child's mother had passed away recently. The child was taken by his uncle, the caller’s brother, and his wife. Law enforcement believed the couple was headed to Wyoming.

The MPU requested the assistance of a detective from the MECTF, and the investigation was worked jointly between both units. The child was ultimately located safe and unharmed at his grandmother’s residence in Evanston, Wyoming, and reunited with his custodial aunt. On June 20, 2008, arrest warrants were issued for the suspects and both were taken into custody and charged in Whatcom County with 1st Degree Custodial Interference. This is one example of the effective partnership between the MPU and MECTF in the response to missing children and the investigation of child exploitation cases.

HISTORY

In 1984 the Washington State Legislature mandated the establishment of a Missing and Unidentified Persons Unit within the WSP. Pursuant to Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 68.50.320 and 68.50.330, the unit became operational in November 1984.

During the 1985 Legislative session, Title 13, Chapter 60 of the RCW established the Missing Children Clearinghouse within the WSP, becoming operational in October 1985.

In 2006 the Washington State Legislature passed Second Substitute House Bill 2805, amending RCW 68.50.320, which states law enforcement shall collect dental records and DNA on all persons missing for more than thirty days.

In order to better serve law enforcement and the public, the WSP combined the resources of the Missing and Unidentified Persons Unit and the Missing Children Clearinghouse into one unit, creating the Missing Persons Unit (MPU). This change streamlines our processes to allow better services to our public safety partners and the citizens of Washington State.

SERVICES

The MPU operates a 24-hour, toll-free number to report missing persons. Case managers work with law enforcement, parents, and other family members in the recovery of missing children and adults. The unit works closely with the Department of Child and Family Services and foster care providers to assist in the recovery of state dependent care juveniles who have been reported as missing.

Case managers provide support to law enforcement agencies (LEA) by conducting case analysis, gathering and sharing information, working closely with other state, national, and international LEAs, coroners, and medical examiners. DNA Family Reference Sample Collection Kits are available to LEAs upon request and the University of North Texas processes the samples free of charge.

MPU is a central repository for dental, DNA, and human remains information regarding missing persons. The specialists are trained to analyze and interpret dental charting and radiographs. All dental information is submitted to the National Dental Imaging Repository (NDIR), which is available to law enforcement and criminal justice employees, medical examiners, coroners, and forensic dentists/anthropologists working in conjunction with law enforcement to identify unidentified persons through comparison with wanted and missing person records.

Dental and x-ray analysis and interpretation are conducted by the unit's forensic odontologists. They are responsible for coding all dental records. The MPU also conducts community outreach events such as safety fairs, county fairs, town meetings, etc. The unit provides training and presentations for law enforcement, service organizations, and the general public regarding child safety, MPU services, and available assistance.

NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN DAY

In 1983 National Missing Children Day was proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan and honored by every administration since. May 25 is recognized nationally, stemming from the day 6-year-old Etan Patz disappeared from a New York City street corner on his way to school in 1979. His case remains unsolved to this day and is an annual reminder to the nation to renew efforts to reunite missing children with their families and make child protection a national priority.

This May, MECTF and MPU recognized National Missing Children Day by partnering with the Thurston County Big Brother Big Sisters organization, Chuck E. Cheese Restaurants, and Tacoma Police Department to distribute child safety literature, child ID kits, and provide fingerprinting services for children at the Capitol Mall in Olympia, WA. There were approximately 110 children who received the child ID kits.



YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY 2008

MECTF arrested a 28-year-old man who allegedly distributed images of child sexual abuse across the nation. MECTF was asked to assist the Florida Internet Crimes against Children (ICAC) Task Force regarding an exploitation case involving the distribution of illegal images. Florida ICAC made an arrest of an individual in Florida and after forensically examining his computer, found numerous e-mails from AOL members who were sending illegal images to an individual from Lacey, Washington. The suspect admitted to sending and receiving images of child sexual abuse, but stated he thought he was helping to catch the real predators by reporting the abuse to AOL. He admitted to sending an unknown amount of images of child sexual abuse to approximately 100 people. The suspect was booked into Thurston County Jail.

MECTF detectives arrested a Spokane Valley man. Since September 2007, the suspect had been aggressively chatting online with a WSP undercover detective posing as a 13-year-old female. The suspect was arrested at his place of employment and booked into the Spokane County Jail for two counts of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor (RCW 9.68A.040) and one count of Communication with a Minor for Immoral Purposes (RCW 9.68A.090). He faces charges of felony communication with a minor for immoral purposes and child exploitation.

FEBRUARY 2008

Due to a citizen inquiry, MECTF worked with the WSP Information Technology Division (ITD) to update the WSP Internet website to improve access to Internet safety information. Previously the website's "Quick Search Topics" drop-down box had the information under "Missing Children." The user was then linked to the MECTF Internet site. The public can now easily view the Internet safety information through a "Quick Search Topics" in the drop-down box which links directly to the "Online Safety" linked to the MECTF website.

The Los Angeles (LA) District Attorney's Office requested assistance from MECTF in serving a writ for two children and their non-custodial mother, who violated a court order by taking her children from California to live in Everett, Washington. The two children were picked up without incident by the LA District Attorney and Everett PD. The mother was also served without incident by Everett PD. The Court granted LA custody and the children left for California that same day.

MARCH 2008

Margo Myers from KIRO 7 News interviewed MECTF as a follow-up to a previous interview conducted in 2007.

A resolution was received from a case investigated by MECTF detectives. A suspect had been calling Wal-Mart toy departments in the Midwest posing as a radio deejay. The suspect requested the Wal-Mart employees put randomly selected children on the phone to receive a free gift card. Once the employee put the child on the phone, the suspect made explicit sexual comments to the child. Through the investigative efforts of MECTF the suspect plead to two counts of Telephone Harassment. He was sentenced to 90 days, required to receive a psychological sexual evaluation, and is required to register as a sex offender for ten years.

Members of MECTF and the HTCUC assisted the Lacey PD in serving a search warrant at a Lacey residence. The suspect is accused of using his computer to find victims through online chat rooms and e-mails. The suspect would pick up victims in a van that was equipped with a bed and "mood lighting." Evidence was discovered at the residence which indicates he was using a video camera to produce child pornography. The suspect was arrested after he made arrangements to meet a 14-year-old female. He was held on four counts of child rape and ten counts of communicating with a minor for immoral purposes.

APRIL 2008

The Morton Police Department (MPD) requested the assistance of MECTF to investigate a case which developed from a domestic violence call. The spouse discovered child pornography on the computer media left behind by the male suspect. The suspect left the Morton area and could not be found by MPD. It was believed the suspect was working for a state agency as a computer systems technician in Thurston County. A MECTF detective located the suspect working for the Department of Corrections as a computer technician. Detectives, with the assistance of HTCUC, arrested and interviewed the suspect, and he ultimately confessed to obtaining the images and to dating a minor. The suspect was immediately removed from his position within the Department of Corrections. Computers and computer storage media were seized as a result of a search of his residence.

MECTF received a report from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) CyberTipline. The tip indicated a photo sharing account contained images of children engaged in sexually explicit conduct. MECTF was able to trace the account to an e-mail address, and the registered owner of the e-mail address was arrested and booked without incident.

MAY 2008

MECTF and detectives from the Centralia Police Department served a search warrant on a suspect's residence located in Centralia, WA. The suspect was arrested and charged with one count of investigation of possession of images of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. During the service of the search warrant a computer and computer-related media were seized as evidence.

JULY 2008

MECTF and HTCUC detectives served a search warrant on the WSP's first self-initiated Peer to Peer case investigation. This case was generated from the work of two HTCUC detectives assigned to initiate Peer to Peer cases. These detectives actively search the internet for servers hosting known images of child pornography. These servers consist of home computers with software which broadcast that these images are available for downloading. The images "digital fingerprints" are compared against a list of documented known victims. By focusing investigations on images of known victims, the probability of successfully prosecuting suspects is greatly enhanced. The occupants of the homes were interviewed to identify the involvement of each occupant in the residence, and this resulted in a criminal sexual relationship in the home being disclosed. The information was forwarded to the Department of Social and Health Services, and case workers are investigating the safety of the child in the home.

MECTF detectives arrested a suspect for possession of child pornography. The suspect quickly pled to the charge before the computers could be forensically examined and is currently serving a 14-month sentence. MECTF and HTCUC detectives continued the investigation of the suspect's computers to ensure all relevant facts and evidence were discovered. Upon examination, the detectives located chat logs on the computer between the suspect and another individual detailing the events of molestations they were currently committing. They exchanged images of the victim (according to the content of the text). Images recovered and reviewed by the detectives appear to support the content of the chat log. The chat between the suspects discusses a plan to abduct a child. The detectives are working on this case as a priority to identify possible victims and pursue leads of other possible crimes.

YEAR IN REVIEW

AUGUST 2008

MECTF detectives, with the assistance of the Seattle Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, served a search warrant on a residence for evidence relating to the crime of communicating with a minor for immoral purposes. The suspect in this investigation, a 22-year-old male, contacted a MECTF undercover detective in an online chat room and believed he was chatting with a 15-year-old female. The suspect aggressively initiated sexual conversation with the minor, exposed himself, and completed sex acts on his webcam, offering to broadcast additional acts to the girl. In subsequent chats, the suspect threatened to rape the victim's 12-year-old sister. The information was obtained to trace the suspect, which led investigators to a Puyallup residence. The suspect, who lives with his parents, was not home at the time. The parents had no knowledge of their son's activities and are fully cooperating with law enforcement.

SEPTEMBER 2008

Detectives from MECTF, HTCUC, and the Washington State University Police Department served a search warrant on a student from Thurston County. The suspect was part of an ongoing investigation from Montgomery, Pennsylvania. Authorities in Pennsylvania arrested a man for distribution of child pornography. One of the suspect's regular traders used a screen name associated to a suspect in Washington State. MECTF detectives were able to identify the suspect and located his "My Space" website. He was subsequently arrested and confessed to his involvement with child pornography.

OCTOBER 2008

A MECTF detective was working undercover in an online chat room and was contacted by a male suspect who quickly began sexually explicit conversations with a person he believed to be a 15-year-old female. Investigators traced the conversations origin back to a residence. During the search warrant interview, the suspect denied involvement with the online conversation. Computer evidence was seized from the residence and the forensic examination of the computer is in process. During this time, the suspect contacted the MECTF detective using the same screen name used to communicate during the sexually explicit conversations. The investigation is ongoing.

The following are definitions used by the MECTF:

Abduction:

When a child is taken, with or without force, from their parent or guardian by a non-family member.

Assist:

Any case where the MECTF completes interviews, database checks, referrals, or provides other similar investigative resources/services.

At Risk Missing Child:

A child that is 13-years-of-age or younger or believed to be out of the zone of safety for age and developmental stage, mentally incapacitated, in a life-threatening situation, in the company of others who could endanger his/her welfare, or is absent under circumstances inconsistent with established patterns of behavior.

Chat:

Two or more individuals connected to Internet have real-time, text-based conversations by typing messages into their computer. Groups gather to chat about various subjects. Everything typed is displayed to the other members of the chat group.

Child Prostitution:

Any minor who is persuaded, encouraged, enticed, or compelled into sexual conduct for a fee in violation of state or federal statute.

Child Sexual Abuse Images:

That form of child abuse which entails making images, visual or printed, depicting a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

(See Possession of Depictions of Minor Engaged in Sexually Explicit Conduct.)

Closed:

When the originating agency deems the case closed or MECTF assistance has been completed.

Communicating with a Minor for Immoral Purposes:

Per RCW 9.68A.090, a person who communicates with a minor for immoral purposes, or a person who communicates with someone the person believes to be a minor for immoral purposes, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. If the person communicates with a minor or with someone the person believes to be a minor for immoral purposes through the sending of an electronic communication, the person is guilty of a class C felony.

Confirmed Images:

Child sexual abuse images where the child victim and age is known or have been identified through investigative techniques such as a National Victim Identification Program database.

Custodial Interference:

When a relative takes, entices, retains, detains, or conceals the location of a minor from that child’s legal parent or guardian.

Cyber Bullying:

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying means any intentional electronic, written, verbal, or physical act.

Cyber Stalking: RCW 9.61.260

With intent to harass, intimidate, torment another person using any lewd, lascivious, indecent, or obscene words, images or language anonymously or repeatedly.

Cyber Tip:

A reporting mechanism for cases of child sexual exploitation including child pornography, online enticement of children for sex acts, molestation of children outside the family, sex tourism of children, child victims of prostitution, and unsolicited obscene material sent to a child. Reports may be made 24-hours per day, 7 days per week online at www.cybertipline.com or by calling 1-800-843-5678.

Dealing or Sending Depictions of Minor Engaged in Sexually Explicit Conduct:

A person who knowingly sends, or causes to be sent, or knowingly possesses with the intent to or knowingly, develops, duplicates, publishes, prints, disseminates, exchanges, finances, or sells, any visual or printed matter that depicts a minor engaged in an act of sexually explicit conduct.

Enticement of a Child:

The unlawful solicitation of a minor by any means for unlawful sexual conduct.

Exploited Children:

Children under the age of eighteen who are employed, used, persuaded, induced, enticed, or coerced to engage in, or assist another person to engage in, sexually explicit conduct. Exploited children also means the rape, molestation, or use for prostitution of children under the age of eighteen.

Exploitation of a Child:

When a person aids, invites, employs, authorizes, causes, threatens, forces, or compels a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct knowing the child will be photographed or part of a live performance.

Known Images:

Child sexual abuse images where the victim is identified as a minor based on a physician's opinion about their age or identification is not known or has not been verified through investigative techniques such as the National Victim Identification Program.

Located:

When the location of a child is known, but the child is not in the custody of a legal guardian and the child may be a possible victim.

Luring:

When a person orders, lures, or attempts to lure a minor or a person with a developmental disability into a motor vehicle without the consent of that person's parent or guardian.

Minor:

Any person under the age of eighteen (18) years. In this report, minor and child are used interchangeably and a child may be a person under the age of sixteen (16) years.

Missing Child:

Under the age of eighteen (18) years and does not meet the "at risk" criteria.

Open:

Cases in which a request for assistance has been received and there is outstanding investigative requirements to be met.

Peer To Peer (P2P):

File sharing between Individual computer users using the Internet, without need for a central point of management, Possession of Depictions of Minor Engaged in Sexually Explicit Conduct (“Possession of Child Pornography”):

A person who knowingly possesses visual or printed matter depicting a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

Recovered:

A child that has been physically recovered by a member of MECTF, or MECTF was involved with the case investigation that leads to a physical return of the child to the proper custodial entity.

Social Networking Site:

An online place where a user can create a profile and build a personal network that connects him or her to other users.

Trafficking:

When a person recruits, harbors, transports, provides, or obtains by any means another person by fraud or coercion.

Traveler:

An investigation which involves the transport of at least one individual for the purpose of sexual conduct with a minor.



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www.wsp.wa.gov/crime/mpu.htm#mectf



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1-800-KID-LOST (1-800-543-5678)



1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP MECTF MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD?



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Washington State Patrol – MECTF**

**Mail to:
WSP Budget & Fiscal Services
Attn: Accounts Receivable MECTF
PO Box 42602
Olympia, WA 98507
1-800-KID-LOST**

***The State Patrol shall seek public and private grants and gifts to support the work of the task force.**

Pursuant to RCW 13.60.110 (4)

Keep for your records

Thank you!

**Missing and Exploited
Children Task Force**

Pursuant to RCW 13.60.110(4)

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