

Department of Justice

United States Attorney Gregory K. Davis Southern District of Mississippi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2013 www.usdoj.gov/usao/mss

FORMER BORDER PATROL AGENT SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY ON GOVERNMENT ISSUED COMPUTER

CONTACT: SHEILA WILBANKS

FAX: (601) 965-4409

PHONE: (601) 965-4480

Gulfport, Miss - Nicholas Bolden, 40, of Ocean Springs, was sentenced today by U. S. District Judge Walter J. Gex III to serve 78 months in federal prison followed by eight years of supervised release for possession of child pornography on his government issued computer and possession of material involving the sexual exploitation of minors, announced U.S. Attorney Gregory K. Davis and Special Agent in Charge James E. Ward, Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General (DHS OIG) Atlanta Field Office. Bolden was also ordered to pay a \$7,000 fine. He appeared for his sentencing hearing in federal custody, and was remanded back into federal custody at the conclusion of the hearing.

"The defendant in this case contributed to the abuse and sexual exploitation of innocent children while working as a trusted federal employee," said U.S. Attorney Gregory K. Davis. "This sentencing represents the ongoing efforts of the U.S. Attorney's Office and our law enforcement partners to protect children and hold accountable those who exploit or endanger them."

"There is no place among the dedicated professionals of DHS for anyone who so brazenly defies federal law. DHS employees should be held to the highest standards and this office will remain vigilant in seeking prosecution when employees cross the line into criminal activity," stated James E. Ward, DHS OIG, Special Agent in Charge, Atlanta Field Office.

This case was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security OIG and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Glenda R. Haynes.

Project Safe Childhood is a nationwide initiative launched by the Department of Justice in May, 2006, to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Through Project Safe Childhood, federal, state and local law enforcement officials have formed partnerships to 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.