



SOUTHERN VIRGINIA

INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE



PRESS RELEASE

October 19, 2011

Bedford, VA – Eric James Porter, 31, of Ranger, WV, was arrested on October 18, 2011, on charges involving computer solicitation of a child, in violation of Virginia statute 18.2-374.3

Between August and October 2011, Porter made contact with what he believed to be a minor female, via the internet, and proceeded to engage in sexually explicit communications. In addition, he attempted to make arrangements to meet the minor female in person. The female was actually an undercover investigator with the Bedford County Sheriff's Office, working through the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (SOVA-ICAC).

After several weeks trying to locate the suspect, who was traveling across the Central Virginia area as part of a work crew, living out of various motels, Porter was positively identified, and his current location was confirmed to be in the Farmville area. SOVA-ICAC investigators contacted officers with the Farmville Police Department, and together they served arrest warrants on Porter, and executed search warrants to seize evidence in his possession, related to this case. Items seized include a smartphone, a laptop computer, and digital storage media devices. ICAC investigators in West Virginia, with the WV State Police, are also assisting in trying to locate potential evidence at Porter's residence.

Upon arrest, Porter was immediately held without bond at the Piedmont Regional Jail, in Farmville.