

STOP PEER-TO-PEER USE BY
PAEDOPHILES

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD:

[From the Guardian, Nov. 4, 2003]

SPECIAL INVESTIGATION—RACE TO SAVE NEW
VICTIMS OF CHILD PORN

(By Audrey Gillan)

Paedophiles are swapping thousands of hardcore images of child sex abuse in a new form of computer child pornography that police believe is feeding a demand for more real-time victims of abuse.

The Guardian has established that the demand for child porn through the use of file-sharing technology—normally associated with swapping music and movies—has grown so rapidly that law enforcement agencies are now employed in a global race to track down the children who are being abused. Some of the children, police believe, are being abused on a daily basis to provide a constant supply of new computerised material.

Senior officers have revealed that the scale of peer-to-peer traffic in illegal images of children now dwarfs almost any other paedophile network they have encountered. The images are generally more extreme and at least 20% of the users are what police class as Category One, meaning that the suspect is "of significant risk to children".

But resources available to police to tackle peer-to-peer child porn are limited and though they are catching some offenders, it may take months or even years to track down the location of some victims. In such cases, officers monitoring the images can only watch as the children grow older and continue to be abused.

Many of those addicted to child porn have flocked to peer-to-peer file sharing software such as KaZaA, Morpheus and Grokster because they are free so, crucially, users do not have to leave any credit card details, leading them to believe that they cannot be traced. The explosion in file sharing, driven by the demand for music files, has also made the technology readily accessible, quick and easy to use.

It also has the attraction of not requiring the users to be part of a traditional organised paedophile ring using password-protected, covert means to distribute images; rather peer-to-peer technology allows them direct access into the hard drives of other paedophiles' computers with no third party authority monitoring content as is the case with chat rooms and news groups.

Scotland Yard officers have told the Guardian that they stumbled across this phenomenon by accident during another inquiry and say they have been stunned by its exponential growth. They believe the phenomenon is more alarming than previous internet-related cases, such as the high-profile Operation Ore.

The Met's child protection hi-tech crime unit has already built a list of 800 suspects involved in file swapping illegal images in the UK alone. While most are involved only in sharing or downloading the images, a significant proportion are active abusers producing the material themselves, often using their own children, their neighbour's children or—in rarer cases—by luring strangers. At least 30 peer-to-peer cases in the UK so far involved hands-on abuse in which the children in the images were real-time victims.

Police found one man who had wired webcams into his daughter's bedroom so that he could share video images of his abuse with other peer-to-peer file sharers.

Detective Superintendent Peter Spindler, who heads Scotland Yard's paedophile unit, said: "We are finding real-time live abusers. These people are able to get brand new images straight up on the net." His officers have found that when new images appear, the children involved are often related to or live nearby the person distributing the material.

But the sheer volume of new material, combined with the fact that it could have been produced anywhere in the world, has meant that police have often been unable to pinpoint the child's location.

Detectives rely on two methods of tracing location: electronic footprints left by the user while online and forensic analysis of the images to find clues pointing to the country of origin, such as telephone books in the background or the style of furnishings. In some cases, often where the child is being held prisoner and abused in a completely blank room, there are not enough leads for police to chase.

One case being investigated involves a pre-pubescent girl who is being held prisoner in a room and repeatedly abused. International law enforcement agencies know only that she is in the United States and the FBI is trying to pinpoint her exact location. New images of the child are shared through KaZaA and other services but police have been unable to find her.

Gemma Holland, victim identification project manager at the University of Cork's Combating Paedophile Information Networks in Europe (Copine) which has a database of more than 600,000 child porn images, said: "This is a global problem. The abuse could be in the next village or somewhere near you but the problem is the images are being shown globally. Identifying the kids in these images should be our prime concern and of the greatest importance."

The decentralised nature of the internet and peer-to-peer specifically make it difficult to define numbers of images in circulation or children involved but experts says it is growing daily. Washington's national centre for missing and exploited children, which acts as a clearing house for child porn tip-offs, said that reports of such images in shared files had increased by 400% this year.

David Wilson, professor of criminology at the University of Central England in Birmingham, said: "Peer-to-peer facilitates the most extreme, aggressive and reprehensible types of behaviour that the internet will allow."

The Guardian understands that the National Crime Squad is considering coordinating all of this work, rather than leaving it to small groups working within the country's various forces; so far the leading forces have been the Met, West Midlands and Greater Manchester.

Peer-to-peer has become more attractive for paedophiles in the wake of Operation Ore, the high-profile British police operation which was launched after US authorities handed over the names of 7,200 people suspected of subscribing to websites offering paedophilic images. While Ore has grabbed headlines, many senior officers and child abuse experts believe that targeting people at the lower end of the paedophile spectrum has been a distraction in terms of child protection.

Prof Wilson believes Ore showed how the criminal justice system concentrated on the wrong type of offender, the people who downloaded the material rather than produced them. It needed to refocus on activities such as peer-to-peer file sharing and the producers of child pornography.

He said: "Police operations have not been getting to the type of paedophile that we need to get to. It's in their interests to keep the debate moving towards the kind of people they should be spending time and resources on."

"The achilles heel of peer-to-peer is that it makes something that is secret and furtive into something that is public and when it is public that offers the police a window of opportunity to police it."

In a room on the fifth floor at Scotland Yard, officers in the hi-tech crime unit are trying to do exactly that, sitting at computers, monitoring activity on the peer-to-peer boards. They are part of a team working on Operation Pilesey which started as a smalltime inquiry in March 2001 by the Met's clubs and vice unit and burgeoned with the number of people posting images via file sharing. The detectives working here are now inundated.

They explain that they can use technology to detect the location of those who download the images and sometimes that of the abusers. If there is a child immediately in danger, officers will conduct a raid as soon as they have a location.

Paedophiles believe it is harder for them to be detected through peer-to-peer software but investigators are able to access their shared folders and quickly discover if they contain illegal images of child abuse. They are then able to establish the location of the owner of the shared folder.

VETERANS' DAY SPEECH BY MG
ROBERT SHIRKEY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, Major General Robert Shirkey, USA, Retired, delivered the following address at a Veterans' Day Memorial Service at the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, MO. This is an excellent address by a highly decorated veteran of World War II and the Korean War. His speech is set forth as follows:

MAJOR GENERAL SHIRKEY, USA, RET., VETERANS' DAY OBSERVANCE, LIBERTY MEMORIAL KANSAS CITY, MO—NOVEMBER 11, 2003

I am an American—Let me tell you why:

Years ago persons from Ireland, Norway, Poland, Germany, and other locations, hugged their families for the last time and left their ancestral homes. These people boarded old, crowded ships to sail to America, leaving behind everything and everyone they knew in search of only one thing: Freedom.

These people crossed the ocean with the determination to stand firm in their new home and fight for the freedom which had been denied them for centuries. America was born from a union of courage and passion for freedom. This is my heritage.

My ancestors, under a new flag, represented a country that came to be known as the United States of America.

One Irishman, O'Sharkey, went through the Revolutionary War. As indentured servants from Norway, my grandmother's family worked out the \$36.00 passage to become Americans. A Polish girl in Poznan, Poland, saved the life of a Prussian soldier being chased by Germans by hiding him in a haystack during the Prussian Revolution of 1848. He returned after peace was declared, married her and together with his parents migrated to the United States. He also then

served with the 27th Wisconsin Cavalry during the Civil War. Another part of my heritage who served with the South during that long war was General Wade Hampton. These men were the Privates, Captains, Majors, Colonels and Generals. When the Revolutionary and Civil Wars were over, they were once again free.

They had paid the price with their lives, bloodshed, hardship and poverty. One of my ancestors, a second cousin, still lies in France, having paid the supreme sacrifice on September 27, 1918, for such freedom.

I am an American—Let me tell you why:

My patriotism can neither be contained nor displayed within the span of four (4) designated days every year. When I look at my country's flag, I see not only the Revolutionary War and Civil War, but ancestors who fought against injustice. I also see my ancestors who were on opposite sides of the Battle of the Wilderness, Chickamauga, and others. They smelled the gunpowder and heard the roar of musketry. Some of these men would never see another beautiful sunset, yet in each of their eyes were these same dreams of freedom and independence and a willingness to fight to the death for what they believed in.

Lest we forget: For those who have fought for it, freedom has a taste the protected will never know. As General Pershing said at this Memorial dedication:

“. . . there are many forces trying to destroy this freedom, so band together and dedicate yourselves to protecting that freedom you have so valiantly won on the battlefield.”

Never forget that the Ancient Romans sought freedom from responsibility and, as a consequence, lost all freedom.

My flag has flown over ancestors and fellow soldiers in distant parts of the world who were slain giving all their tomorrows for our todays. My flag flew over my best friend's hastily dug grave at Legaspi, Luzon, following his untimely death April 15, 1945. He gave his life to save five wounded comrades by crawling up under machine gun fire. An attempt to save a sixth man was rewarded with death. For my symbolic flag he knew he was expected to die. Like many others, my life was spared by the controversial atomic bomb. I came home carrying my flag. My best friend came wrapped in my country's flag. My flag went to Viet Nam and returned with some of my dear friends wrapped in it. My flag is the same flag that belongs to victims of the Bataan Death March as well as survivors. The attitude of those men is epitomized in the gallows humor of war correspondent Frank Hewlett which still echos amongst the jungle foliage:

“We're the battling bastards of Bataan.

No mamma, no papa, no Uncle Sam.

No uncles, no aunts, no nephews.

No nieces, no pills, no planes, no artillery pieces.

And nobody gives a damn.”

These are the men who have carried my flag. Later, in fighting on Luzon, I walked that hallowed ground on Bataan. I saw the refuse of war and the fox holes—many of which had been dug with bayonets. In the words of William Lindsay White, author of *They Were Expendable*, “Where do we get such men?”

Tribute on this day is paid to those fellow Americans who served in the Korean War, which ended fifty years ago. Over one hundred thousand men were wounded; fifty-six thousand two hundred forty six killed; nine thousand were captured; three thousand five hundred eight were repatriated; six thousand died as a result of criminal acts of the enemy. By the peace agreement in 1953, not one of the enemy was prosecuted. The odds

of death of those of us in the front lines in Korea were one in nine. By contrast the odds were one in eighteen in World War II and in Viet Nam the odds were one in twenty-three, a striking example of the dangers in Korea.

I fought through the Pacific War with one of the more noted Infantry Units the 158th RCT “Bushmasters.” We were comprised of twenty-two Indian tribes, Hispanics, Chinese, Japanese and men from thirty-eight different states. General MacArthur opined that “no greater combat team has ever deployed for battle.” Little known is the fact that Indians were finally given the right to vote in 1946. Strangely enough, not one black soldier was in our Infantry units!

I am an American—Let me tell you why:

To those Korean Veterans present and those of you who may read or hear what I have to say today, I want you to know as one soldier to another, we fought not for glory, for there was none, not for loot, for there was none. No crusading zeal drove us on. Our homeland was not threatened. Our countrymen at home made no comparable sacrifice. We fought and endured, while not understanding the geopolitics of that distant war and at a time when thousands of our fellow countrymen said we were engaged in a senseless war. We kept on much as we did in World War II. The real answer as to why we—the living and the dead—did this lies deep in the tissue of the substance which keeps America from becoming unstuck. It has to do with our parents, teachers, 4-H Clubs, Scouts, neighborhood centers, and belonging to a team; an implicit, unreasoned belief in our country and a natural belief in ourselves. To those present, to those now living, I bow to your patriotism. Many like myself were asked to again serve our country. I left behind two sons, one six months old and one three years old. Forty-eight hours after leaving Kansas City, I was again in the Korean front-lines.

Let me say now, for all to hear and know, as a rifle company commander of one hundred fifty to two hundred men, I personally led one of the first integrated companies in Korea. The twenty to twenty-five black soldiers I led served with honor, distinction and bravery. We cry the same salty tears and bleed the same red blood. Equally important, in our hour of need on the battle field, we do not care who rescues us or carries our stretcher. I shall never forget Lovell Page who gave his life at the Inje River. His beautiful smile is etched in my memory and will be throughout eternity.

These are the men who have carried my flag.

That same flag gave comfort and hope to those who endured horrors including war camp. It is the same flag the men and women carry who came home crippled and maimed so that the social class into which I was born would not determine the limits of my potential.

It is the flag that is seared into my memory as it lay draped over my dearest friends coffins while the echos of Taps were carried Heavenward on a windy day. It is the same flag that will someday drape over my coffin. I trust that you are as proud of that flag as I am. Protect it well. Protect it as I have.

Forty-Five million of us have served our Nation since 1776. We have never, ever, let our nation down. We took the Hill!

I quote the last stanza of the poem by Billy Rose, which reflects the dedication of every American in their commitment to serve their country.

“I am the unknown soldier and maybe I died in vain, but if I were alive and my country called, I'd do it all over again. While I fought with and along side of the elite American Army troops, lest we forget, I should like to pay tribute to the troops of the twen-

ty-one nations that comprised the United Nations forces in Korea. The undaunted courage and bravery of the Turks, British and Ethiopians, to mention a few that I witnessed, shall forever be with me. Likewise, the bravery of Republic of Korea soldiers like Chung Mun Joe, who served in my company, will never be forgotten as they fought for the freedom we Americans almost take for granted. To those who have not served and to those who never will, I quote Prophet Micah, as is etched in stone on the North side of this Monument, that all God requires of us is that “we should do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with thy God.”

You now see that:

I am an American—I have told you why.

In closing, I quote the Unknown Confederate Soldier's words:

“I asked God for strength that I might achieve; I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.

I asked for health that I might do great things; I was given infirmity that I might do better things.

I asked for riches that I might be happy; I was given poverty that I might be wise.

I asked for power that I might have the praise of men; I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.

I asked for all things that I might enjoy life; I was given life that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing I asked for, but everything that I had hoped for, almost despite myself.

My unspoken prayers were answered. I am, among all men, richly blessed.”

I am indeed an American.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SOUTHEAST MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable non-profit organization located in my district. Southeast Mental Health Services was recently awarded the Silver Achievement Award from the American Psychiatric Association for being among the top mental health programs in the nation. I am proud to call the attention of my colleagues and this nation to all that Southeast Mental Health Services has done for those suffering from mental illness.

Southeast Mental Health Services has developed a revolutionary approach to treating the mentally ill. Their program focuses on helping each individual patient to live the happiest and most fulfilling life possible. Southeast Mental Health Services has found great success with this program. The dedication and selflessness of the program's administrators and staff set a fine example to all mental health care professionals.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to call the attention of this body of Congress and our nation to the many contributions of Southeast Mental Health Services. The organization's programs have made a significant contribution to the quality of life of numerous Coloradans suffering from mental illness. It is with great pride that I rise before you to recognize Southeast Mental Health Services and the notable contributions they have made to the community.