

Operation Cardea Arrestees - 01/18/2013

A list of subjects arrested during Operation Cardea can be found in the attached spreadsheet.

Online child exploitation operation nets 50 arrests - 01/14/2013

SEMINOLE CO. (Jan. 14, 2013) -- The Seminole County Sheriff's Office today announced the results of a multi-agency, undercover operation targeting individuals who use the internet to sexually exploit children. Law enforcement from 16 Central Florida agencies joined forces to arrest 50 individuals who traveled to and within Seminole County intending to engage in sexual activity with what they believed to be a child. "Operation Cardea," was named after the Roman Goddess Cardea, who serves as protector of the home.

During the operation, undercover law enforcement officers chatted online, emailed, and spoke on the phone with subjects who believed they were communicating with a minor, or with an adult who had a minor available for sexual activity. Individuals arrested ranged from age 19 to 60 and included a teacher, a tourist visiting from Turkey, school employees, college students, and a man on business from North Carolina. The majority of the offenders travelled from neighboring cities and counties, one coming from as far away as Pasco County. The weeklong operation began on Jan. 6 and concluded earlier this morning. A list of the individuals arrested is attached.

Participating agencies included: the Casselberry, Longwood, Orlando, Oviedo, and Sanford Police Departments, the Brevard, Orange, Lake, Manatee, Osceola, Polk, Sarasota and Volusia County Sheriff's Offices, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

All of the individuals arrested were booked into the John E. Polk Correctional Facility. The subjects arrested last night will have first appearance today at 1:30 p.m. at the Correctional Facility.

Law enforcement officials recommend the following safety tips for parents:

- Communicate with your child. Talk with them about the potential dangers online and the reasons why they should be careful.
- Spend time with your child online and learn their favorite online destinations.
- Keep the computer in an area of the house where online activity can be monitored, not in your child's bedroom.
- Use parental controls and/or blocking software.

- Instruct children not to give out personal information such as their home address, school name or telephone number, and never to arrange a meeting with someone they met online without your permission.

Additional safety information can be found in the FBI's "Parent's Guide to Internet Safety" at: <http://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/parent-guide>