

(b)(2); (b)(7)(E)

Success Stories from Electronic Media Searches

DHS has broad authority to conduct searches at the border to prevent the entry of dangerous people and goods. Often, the most dangerous contraband is contained in laptop computers or other electronic devices. This includes terrorist materials and images of child pornography.

Laptop searches have proven essential to detecting people engaged in trans-border violations of illicit trade, travel and finance. Officers have discovered video clips of improvised explosive devices being detonated, a martyrdom video and other violent jihadist materials. In addition, these searches have uncovered scores of child pornography, including a home movie of children being sexually assaulted.

The following examples are representative of (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) that are predicated upon searches of electronic media at the border:

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

- On July 3, 2006, at approximately 1630 hours, an adult male traveler entered the (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) driving a 1992 white/gray Ford Econoline van. Accompanying the adult male traveler in the van was a five year-old Hispanic boy. As the adult male traveler was unable to establish immigration and familial status of the child, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers referred the adult male traveler and the child to the secondary lot for further examination. In the secondary lot, a video camera and videotapes were discovered in the van. One of the videotapes contained footage of a prepubescent child being molested by a man who appeared to be the adult male traveler. The adult male traveler was subsequently arrested for violation of 18 USC 2422(a): Transportation and Possession of Child Pornography.
- On June 12, 2007, an adult male traveler arrived at (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) The adult male traveler told CBP that he had traveled to San Isidro, Philippines to visit an orphanage named "House of Joy" (HOJ). The adult male traveler said that he entertained the orphans at HOJ through his work as a clown. (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) CBP deemed it appropriate to review the images on the adult male traveler's digital media devices to ensure they did not contain any images of child pornography. During a secondary inspection by CBP officers, in excess of sixty (60) images exposed minor Filipino boys were discovered saved on the adult male traveler's laptop computer and digital camera memory card. After further review at the (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) it was determined that the images of the exposed minor Filipino boys on the adult male traveler's laptop and digital camera constituted images of child pornography.

- On December 17, 2006, an adult male traveler made entry into the United States along with his father. CBP received a negative verbal declaration from both and subsequently referred the subjects and the vehicle for an enforcement examination. CBP conducted the secondary examination of the subjects and the vehicle, during which a laptop computer was observed in the back seat. An initial search of the laptop revealed thousands of images, several of which were pornographic in nature. When questioned, the adult male traveler claimed ownership of the laptop and its contents. When asked if the laptop contained images of child pornography, the adult male traveler stated that he was not sure because he had not been able to check his temporary Internet files. At that point, a further examination of the laptop was conducted which resulted in the discovery of Internet Explorer files with explicit title referencing minors. After discovering those file titles, CBP terminated his examination of the laptop computer and notified the reporting agent of his findings.
- On September 12, 2008, an adult male traveler entered the United States at the (b)(2); (b)(7)(E). The adult male traveler was selected by CBP for a secondary enforcement exam. During the examination, CBP discovered an image on the adult male traveler's laptop computer of a young female (approximately 5 yrs old) blindfolded and posing in the nude. CBP contacted an (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) who responded and viewed the image. The (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) also found an image of that same child engaged in sexual acts with an adult male.

FINANCIAL

- On November 14, 2006, CBP at the (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) received information from (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) that an identified adult male traveler would be flying into (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) with a large amount of cash. When the identified adult male traveler arrived at (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) CBP explained the US currency reporting requirements to the identified adult male traveler who declared \$18,000. A search of the identified adult male traveler's luggage yielded a total of \$78,883. CBP contacted (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) interviewed the identified adult male traveler. CBP (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) also inspected the Toshiba laptop that was found in identified adult male traveler's possession, which contained files regarding cyanide and nuclear materials. The (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) accepted prosecution, and the identified adult male traveler was arrested for violations of 31 USC 5316 and 5332. The identified adult male traveler was not charged with terrorism related offenses.

NATIONAL SECURITY

- On September 26, 2006, an adult male traveler arrived at (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) (b)(2); (b)(7)(E). During a search of his luggage, CBP discovered a computer memory stick containing a document stating the adult male traveler's opposition to the war in Iraq. The adult male traveler voluntarily logged-in to his laptop computer at the request of CBP. A review of the laptop computer revealed numerous video files depicting

Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) being detonated against U.S. soldiers and vehicles, U.S. Marines under mortar attack, martyrdom training, and a possible terrorist training camp. In addition, a search of an external hard drive found in the adult male traveler's luggage revealed additional IED video files and a document written in Arabic containing the term "H₂O₂." H₂O₂ is the molecular compound for Hydrogen Peroxide. A complete translation of the document revealed instructions for producing concentrated Hydrogen Peroxide, a highly volatile explosive element that was associated with the Summer 2006 London plot to destroy airliners over the Atlantic Ocean using liquid explosives.

On this same date, (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) arrested an adult male traveler for providing false statements to government officials (CBP) in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001. Additionally, (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) seized the adult male traveler's laptop computer, external hard drive, and computer memory stick. A subsequent search of these items by (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) revealed additional files related to IEDs, bomb-making, and terrorist recruitment. Additionally, (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) discovered that the adult male traveler had located an Iraqi Special Weapons Facility and a coalition airbase utilizing Google Earth software.

On December 20, 2006, the adult male traveler pleaded guilty in the (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) to violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 1546 – Fraud and misuse of visas, permits, and other documents. The adult male traveler was sentenced to time served and agreed to expedited removal to (b)(2); (b)(7)(E). On January 29, 2007, the (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) removed the adult male traveler from the United States under escort to (b)(2); (b)(7)(E).

- On February 18, 2007, an adult male traveler arrived at (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) (b)(2); (b)(7)(E). The adult male traveler sought admission as permanent resident based on an approved immigrant visa for being the immediate relative of a United States citizen and presented CBP Officers with a valid (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) passport and immigrant visa (IR2). During an initial inspection and a subsequent deferred inspection, CBP officers discovered a laptop computer and external hard drive. A preliminary search of the laptop computer revealed open-source jihadist and anti-American publications that were downloaded from the Internet. A search of the external hard drive revealed martyrdom videos of Palestinian suicide bombers. These files included an audio file of an individual stating, "I am going to take part in a suicide mission; I will blow myself up because of what Israel has done to Palestine."

Between February 21, 2007 and February 23, 2007, (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) interviewed the adult male traveler. During the interviews, the adult male traveler stated that he had been recruited by Hamas, donated money to Hamas, and that his first cousin was a suicide bomber who detonated himself. The adult male traveler further stated that while studying at (b)(2); (b)(7)(E) he resided with three Hamas members who participated in the Second Intifada.

Subsequently, ^{(b)(2); (b)(7)(E)} conducted extensive forensic analysis of the adult male traveler's computer, revealing hundreds of meticulously-organized pro-jihadi and pro-al Qaeda files. On May 28, 2007, the ^{(b)(2); (b)(7)(E)} filed an additional charged under Section 212(a)(3)(B)(i) of the Act, an alien who has engaged in terrorist activity. Currently, the adult male traveler is under removal proceedings.