

Ex-cop pleads guilty in child porn case

By Michael Perlstein, The Times-Picayune on June 18, 1998 at 6:57 PM

nola.com

1998 Cop Pedophile Stanley Burkhardt

The former commander of the New Orleans Police Department's pedophile unit pleaded guilty to child pornography charges Wednesday and faces a minimum of seven years in prison as a repeat offender.

Stanley Burkhardt, 47, pleaded guilty to two counts: accepting delivery of a pornographic videotape and possessing child pornography at his home. With his court-appointed attorney at his side, Burkhardt entered the plea Wednesday morning before U.S. District Judge Peter Beer.

U.S. Attorney Eddie Jordan said Burkhardt faces up to 40 years behind bars and a \$500,000 fine.

"He is clearly subject to very severe penalties, including a lengthy prison term, " Jordan said. "I don't think he'll be in a position to hurt any more children for some time to come."

Burkhardt was arrested at his Port Street home on April 9 when he accepted a video from a postal inspector posing as a mail carrier. When officers searched Burkhardt's home, they found a 12-year-old boy inside, in addition to magazines and another video showing children in sexual poses.

Jordan said the investigation has been completed and no charges will be lodged regarding the boy.

The sting was carried out after Burkhardt struck up a correspondence with an undercover Los Angeles detective who posed as a fellow pedophile. Early in the investigation, Burkhardt, using the alias "Jack DiCaprio, " told the detective he had a "sexual preference for boys between the ages of 9 and 13 years old."

The federal sting was nearly identical to a 1987 case when Burkhardt, then a decorated police officer who specialized in sex crimes, pleaded guilty to five counts of trafficking in child pornography. Despite facing a maximum of 50 years in that case, Burkhardt was sentenced to 10 years. He served five years and four months.

Upon his release in 1992, Burkhardt pleaded guilty in state court to molesting his 9-year-old niece a decade earlier. The crime surfaced when Burkhardt mentioned the incident while undergoing therapy in prison for pedophilia. Despite a presentence report that recommended more time behind bars, then-Judge Jerome Winsberg released Burkhardt, sentencing him to the time he already served in the federal case.

"He will not be eligible for the lenient treatment he received earlier, " said Jordan, who after

Burkhardt's recent arrest referred to him as "a predator and an abomination."

Burkhardt had just completed his federal probation when he began corresponding with the Los Angeles detective. In calls and letters to the detective, Burkhardt said he had performed oral sex on an adolescent boy and had been taking photographs of boys in their underwear.

He told the detective he owned "one videotape in which sexually explicit footage of teen-age boys is hidden between normal video movies, " according to a criminal complaint filed in the case.

Burkhardt's attorney, public defender John Craft, did not return calls for comment. The defendant's brother, Alan Burkhardt, said he thinks federal agents entrapped his brother by exploiting a psychological illness.

"We really don't want to see him locked up again because it will be harder to get him help, " he said. "But maybe we'll be able to work on that now that we have this part behind us."

Burkhardt, who was being held without bond, is to be sentenced by Beer Sept. 2.

Michael Perlstein wrote this report.