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## Former Upstate trooper sentenced in child porn case

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Written by  
**David Dykes**  
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A former Highway Patrol officer from Seneca was sentenced to three years in prison for possessing child pornography, according to government prosecutors and federal court records.

Randy L. Quinn Jr., 34, was sentenced in federal court in Greenville by U.S. District Judge J. Michelle Childs, according to U.S. Attorney Bill Nettles and court records.

The government said evidence established that in May 2011 agents with the Department of Homeland Security were conducting an Internet investigation to identify individuals possessing and sharing child pornography in the Upstate.

Prosecutors said agents located a computer on the network sharing

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approximately 49 files, and of those files, several had names that indicated they might contain child pornography. Agents initiated a download from the files listed for sharing and discovered the files contained child pornography, according to Nettles and court records.

Based on the computer's IP address, agents traced the computer to Quinn's home, prosecutors said.

They said agents executed a warrant at the house on June 7, 2011. Quinn was indicted by a grand jury and pleaded guilty to possessing child pornography, court records show.

Agents seized a laptop computer and found thousands of images of



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child pornography, prosecutors said. Agents also discovered that Quinn, while on duty at Bike Week in Myrtle Beach, photographed unsuspecting minor girls in swimsuits as they played on the beach, Nettles said.

"The actions of this former trooper are indefensible and we swiftly terminated him," Col. Mike Oliver, commander of the Highway Patrol, said in a statement. "We will not allow reprehensible acts such as this to undermine or reflect on the hard work and sacrifice of the 800 dedicated troopers who serve our state."

Nettles said Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Watkins of Greenville handled the case.

"Unfortunately, the way things are right now this child pornography is so widespread with our Internet age that we live in and file-sharing software where you can share files and download files from other pedophiles throughout the world," Watkins told GreenvilleOnline.com.

It's a major problem in the Upstate "and our agents are working very hard, making as many cases as we can," he said.

The case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse, Nettles said.

Led by U.S. attorneys' offices, the project combines federal, state and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims.

For more information, go to [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

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