

## **UPDATED: Ex-Transport Officer Sent to Prison for Child Porn**

Duane Chavez, 27, of Los Lunas, was sentenced to three years of imprisonment to be followed by 10 years of supervised release for his conviction for access with intent to view a visual depiction of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct, the U.S. Attorney's Office said in a news release.

Chavez will be required to register as a sex offender after he completes his prison sentence.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said Chavez pleaded guilty in July to knowingly accessing child pornography with the intention of viewing it between January 2011 and March 7, 2012, in Valencia County.

At the time of the offense, Chavez was employed as a prison transport officer by the New Mexico Corrections Department.

Chavez was charged as a result of an undercover investigation initiated by the New Mexico State Police in January 2012 that was aimed at identifying those who possess, receive and distribute child pornography.

The investigation revealed that an IP address subscribed to Chavez's residence was participating in the distribution of child pornography. The New Mexico Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force executed a search warrant at Chavez's residence on March 7, and seized a computer and computer-related media.

In entering his guilty plea, Chavez admitted that, while the search warrant was executed, he voluntarily participated in a recorded interview with ICAC Task Force officers during which he admitted that he used a file-sharing program to download child pornography.

Chavez also acknowledged that a forensic examination of his computer and computer-related media revealed 15 files containing child pornography, including an image of a child who has been identified as a child pornography victim and has been rescued.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Charlyn E. Rees, and was investigated by the Los Lunas Police Department, the NMSP, Homeland Security Investigations, the Federal Bureau of

Investigation, the New Mexico Corrections Department and the New Mexico Regional Computer Forensic Laboratory.

Chavez was charged as part of Operation Artemis, an investigative effort by federal, state and local law enforcement affiliates of the New Mexico ICAC Task Force aimed at identifying individuals throughout New Mexico involved in the distribution, receipt, and possession of child pornography through peer-to-peer file sharing programs.

In March 2012, federal, state and local law enforcement officers executed 13 unrelated federal and state search warrants at residences throughout New Mexico, and seized computers and computer-related evidence related to child pornography offenses. To date, six individuals have been charged with violating federal and state child pornography laws based on the search warrants executed as part of Operation Artemis.

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7:16am 7/26/12 — Ex-Corrections Officer in Child Porn Plea

By ABQnews Staff

Former state corrections officer Duane Chavez, 27, of Los Lunas, pleaded guilty Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Albuquerque to a federal child pornography charge, U.S. Attorney Kenneth Gonzales said in a news release.

Chavez, who was employed as a prison transport officer by the New Mexico Corrections Department, was charged with knowingly accessing child pornography with the intention of viewing it between January 2011 and March 7, 2012, in Valencia County, the release said.

Following an undercover investigation by the New Mexico State Police, investigators with the New Mexico Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force executed a search warrant at Chavez's residence on March 7 and seized a computer and computer-related media that were found to have 15 files of child pornography, including an image of a child pornography victim who has since been rescued, according to the release.

Under the terms of a plea agreement, Chavez will be sentenced to 36 months in prison followed by a term of supervised release to be determined by the court, and he will have to register as a sex offender on his release, federal prosecutors said.