

Ex Savannah-Chatham police officer to serve 18 months in child porn case

By Jan Skutch

savannahnow.com

[2013 updated 2014](#)

Veteran retired Savannah-Chatham police officer Douglas Burkhalter on Tuesday was sentenced to 10 years in prison with 18 months to serve on a open-ended guilty plea to sexual exploitation of children.

As part of the sentence before Chatham County Superior Court Chief Judge Michael Karpf, Burkhalter must register as a sex offender. He will also be governed by some 19 special conditions recommended by Assistant District Attorney Emily Puhala.

Burkhalter, represented by attorney Tom Withers, was scheduled for trial on Tuesday.

Burkhalter, 71, was captured as part of a Georgia Bureau of Investigation statewide probe of child pornography in January 2013.

Savannah-Chatham police officers executing a search warrant headed by Detective Nichole Khaalis of Burkhalter's Wilimington Island home on April 10, 2013 captured incriminating statements from Burkhalter as well as numerous pictures of alleged child pornography.

"I had 40 years in law enforcement. I never did anything else stupid like this," Burkhalter told offices at his home.

Copyright Savannah Morning News, Morris Publishing Group