

St. Louis airport police officer faces child porn charge : News

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ST. LOUIS COUNTY • A Lambert-St. Louis International Airport police officer faces a child pornography charge.

William A. Cowley, 39, of the 4500 block of Laclede Avenue in St. Louis, was charged Tuesday in St. Louis County Circuit Court with felony conspiracy to commit possession of child pornography.

Court documents say Cowley, between Nov. 22 and Monday, "conspired to possess child pornography ... consisting of images and videos of minor children engaged in rape scenes."

Cowley was released Wednesday from the St. Louis County Jail after posting \$20,000 cash-only bail. He could not be reached

for comment Wednesday.

St. Louis police Maj. Ed Kuntz, who oversees the airport police force, said Wednesday that Cowley had worked for the airport police force since last February, and has been suspended without pay. Kuntz said all of the alleged crimes occurred while Cowley was off-duty.

"It's a disappointment, to say the least," Kuntz said. "It's one of those crimes that you would never think a police officer would be involved in."

The city announced last February that airport police would be brought under the umbrella of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department and has been running under a memo of understanding while the merger is finalized. The airport police department, which has about 95 officers, had been independent of the city police force and was responsible for traffic control, criminal investigations, airport-based community-oriented policing and general airport security for the traveling public, according to city officials.