

Greene County sheriff never suspected his own deputy... before he arrested him Wednesday

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[2016 Cop Pedophile Child Porn](#) Juan T. Jones

A Greene County sheriff's deputy at the center of a federal child porn investigation was fired and arrested Wednesday by Sheriff Jim Arnott.

Juan T. Jones, 27, a patrol deputy employed by the sheriff's office since September 2013, was charged in a federal complaint Wednesday with possession of child pornography.

Arnott said at a press conference Wednesday afternoon that he was "disappointed" with and "ashamed" of Jones' conduct.

The case was investigated by the Southwest Missouri Cyber Crimes Task Force, and Arnott said it was brought to his attention on Tuesday.

The sheriff's office is conducting an internal investigation of Jones in addition to the criminal investigation being carried out by the task force, according to Arnott.

A criminal complaint filed Wednesday afternoon says authorities started investigating Jones in September when a tip came in from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children that someone was storing child porn on a Dropbox account.

Authorities tracked the account to Jones, according to the complaint.

In October, authorities received a warrant to search Jones' Dropbox account. The search turned up 168 videos and about 1,500 images of child porn, according to the complaint.

The images depicted children as young as infants engaged in sexual acts, the complaint says.

Greene County deputy sheriff Juan Jones.

Jones allegedly told investigators during an interview Wednesday that he has looked at child porn for about 10 years. He allegedly told investigators he had stored child porn on his Dropbox and Tumblr accounts.

He told investigators he exchanged child porn with other people over the Internet, the complaint says.

The complaint says Jones lives in the 2600 block of East Atlantic Street, and investigators served a federal search warrant Wednesday at Jones' residence.



(Photo: News-Leader file photo)

Sheriff Arnott said Jones is in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

The complaint also says Jones was an employee of the Springfield Cardinals.

Jones was the subject of a December 2014 feature story in the News-Leader saying he was the county's only black patrol deputy.

In the story, Jones said he grew up poor in St. Louis in and out of 21 foster homes. He said he was homeless in Springfield as recently as 2007.

"I grew up around drugs and alcohol and domestic abuse," he said. "Crack was the main choice of drug. I didn't meet my dad until 2013."

The story said Jones was married and has two young daughters.

Arnott said at the press conference Wednesday his main concern now is getting justice for the victims in this case. He said he was not aware of any local victims, but he asks anyone with information on this case to contact the sheriff's office at 868-4040.

"I'm so disappointed, but at the same time proud of the job well done seeking justice for child victims who are exploited on the Internet," Arnott said.

Arnott said he hadn't noticed any questionable behavior on Jones' part in his time with the sheriff's office.

The attorney listed for Jones in online court records did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment on Wednesday afternoon.