

U.S. Postal Inspection Service

Bulletin

November 2005

New York Postal
Inspectors and
Southern District
Prosecutors Expose
Rigas Family Fraud

Case Agent
Postal Inspector
Thomas F. Feeney



The Adelphia

INVESTIGATION



U.S. Postal Inspection Service

Bulletin

Chief Postal Inspector • Washington, DC 20260-2100

November 2005



2

2 The Adelphia Investigation: New York Postal Inspectors and Southern District Prosecutors Expose Rigas Family Fraud



11

8 Postal Inspectors Use Team Approach to Keep Sexual Predators Out of the U.S. Mail

11 Inspectors Investigate Yellow Pages Scam

13 Serving America with Pride: Employees of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service Serving in the Reserves and the National Guard

21 Ode to ISIIS—the Inspection Service Integrated Information System

23 An Introduction to the Office of Counsel



13

25 The Fabulous Riches of the Bankruptcy Court: A Guide for U.S. Postal Inspectors

28 A History of Badges Worn by U.S. Postal Inspectors

30 The Forgotten Murder: The Death of Post Office Inspector Elbert P. Lamberth



25

37 In Memoriam: U.S. Post Office Inspector Ernest M. Harkins

38 NARPI Corner

39 Awards



30

41 Booked Up With Postal Inspectors

Cover photos: Postal Inspector Thomas F. Feeney offers a riveting account of the Adelphia Communications Corporation investigation. The prosecutive team, comprising members of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, successfully brought the Rigas family to justice. Photos by Larry Ghiorisi, Technical Surveillance Specialist, New York Division, U.S. Postal Inspection Service.



The Adelfphia

INVESTIGATION

New York Postal Inspectors and Southern District Prosecutors Expose Rigas Family Fraud

By Postal Inspector Thomas F. Feeney
Church Street Domicile, New York Division

In March 2002, Assistant U.S. Attorney (AUSA) Richard Owens, Chief of the Securities and Commodities Fraud Unit of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, referred the investigation of Adelfphia Communications Corporation, the nation's sixth largest cable television company, to New York Division Postal Inspectors. The investigation was initiated in the wake of revelations the company had

guaranteed more than \$2.3 billion worth of borrowings by the Rigas family—the founders of Adelfphia.

The Inspectors' investigation ended three years later, when Rigas family members arranged to pay victim shareholders \$715 million in cash and stock, the company's auditors agreed to pay \$50 million in civil penalties, and two family members received sentences of 15 years and 20 years in prison.

At 10 o'clock on the morning of March 27, 2002, top officers of Adelphia Communications Corporation hosted a conference call. The topic was Adelphia's projected year-end results, and the officers fielded questions from financial analysts. Representing investment banks and rating agencies such as Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's, the analysts would go on to publish reports rating the investment value of Adelphia's stock and bonds. Investors used the ratings to gauge Adelphia's ability to meet its financial obligations. As of December 2001, Adelphia operated cable systems in 29 states, with approximately 5 million subscribers.

The call was timed to occur before the filing of one of four required reports Adelphia submitted yearly to the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC). Like many public companies, Adelphia previewed its report by issuing a press release announcing preliminary financial results and hosting a conference call with industry analysts. During the call, company officers gave context to press release statements, quoted numbers on company operations and finances, and answered analyst queries. While only analysts linked to the call could pose questions, any member of the public could listen in, and many small investors did so.

Chief Financial Officer Timothy J. Rigas and Vice President of Finance James R. Brown hosted the call from Adelphia's headquarters in Coudersport, Pennsylvania. After outlining the company's results and announcing its plans for expansion, Tim Rigas and Jim Brown took questions from the analysts. About an hour into the call, Brown asked for one or two final questions. Merrill Lynch analyst Oren Cohen responded.

Cohen's question was brief: Could the officers explain Footnote 6 of the press release, the one mentioning the company's liability for a \$5 billion line of credit?

Following Enron's collapse six months earlier, off-balance-sheet entities invited new scrutiny in the financial world. SEC rules now required public companies to disclose such information—hence Footnote 6.

Footnote 6 described Adelphia's liabilities related to \$5 billion co-borrowing arrangements that listed Adelphia subsidiaries and Rigas family-owned entities as beneficiaries. The set-up was similar to a joint credit card account, with an Adelphia subsidiary getting a credit card and a Rigas-owned entity getting a card. Each "card" or, in this case, line of credit, was tied to the same account and could be charged up to the credit limit, and both parties were responsible for the bill. The problem was that, while key financial information for Adelphia was public knowledge, the finances of privately held Rigas entities were not. Analysts lacked data to judge the accuracy of the claim in Footnote 6 that Adelphia did not "expect that it [would] need to re-pay the amounts borrowed" by Rigas entities.

Jim Brown failed to answer the question, instead describing how the money

U.S. Postal Inspectors: Investigators of Choice

Shortly after the call, AUSA Richard Owens, Chief of the Securities Unit in the Southern District of New York, dropped a newspaper article on AUSA Tim Coleman's desk. The article described the conference call's effect on Adelphia's stock price. Owens saw the possibility of a criminal fraud case with a nexus to New York—Adelphia's stock traded there, and the banks that funded its co-borrowing deals were there as well.

Coleman was a natural selection to head an investigation of Adelphia, having handled legal matters related to cable television companies while in private practice. Coleman turned to Postal Inspectors as the investigators of choice for corporate fraud. He called Inspector John G. Feiter, Fraud Team Leader at the New York Division's Church Street Domicile. Inspector Feiter



(l to r) AUSA R. D. Owens, Paralegal Jill Ottenberg, AUSA C. J. Clark, Postal Inspector Kurt Roinestad, Paralegal Margaret Lee, and Postal Inspector Thomas Feeney formed an effective prosecutive team against Adelphia Communications Corporation.

was spent. Then Tim Rigas stepped in with a discussion of cash flow, ending with: "We have ... a very strong ability to, kind of, repay."

It was the wrong answer to a \$5 billion question. Adelphia's stock lost more than a quarter of its value in the hours following the conference call. Less than three months later, the company was in bankruptcy.

assigned Inspector Pankaj Sharma to the case. Though Sharma had been with the Inspection Service less than a year, his previous work as a lawyer in private practice made him a good match for what would undoubtedly be a complex investigation.

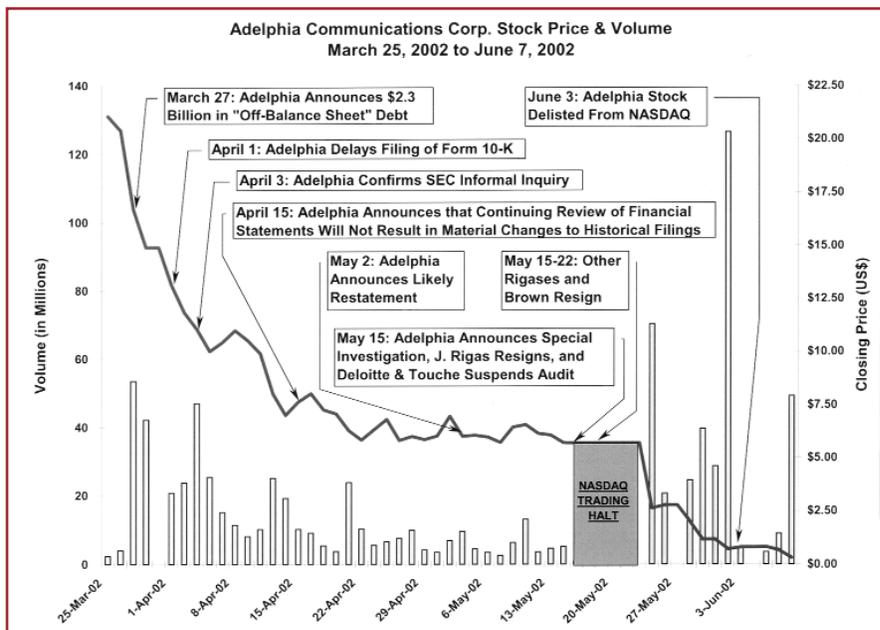
At first, Inspector Sharma found the Adelphia case no different from other fraud investigations. He identified and

began a surveillance of defendants' homes and prepared to execute the arrests. Inspectors Thomas Boyle and David Bannan, accompanied by Public Information Officer Debra Whyte, traveled to the Williamsport courthouse to handle anticipated media attention.

Inspector Feeney swore to a 61-page criminal complaint that afternoon, which detailed the criminal scheme and charged the defendants with wire fraud, bank fraud, securities fraud, and conspiracy. While mail fraud charges were an early option, they were quickly supplanted by stronger counts of bank and securities fraud. The defendants allegedly failed to disclose billions of dollars in off-balance-sheet debt for which Adelphia was liable, inflated Adelphia's operational and financial statistics, and used Adelphia assets—including cash, real estate, and corporate jets—for their personal benefit. One count accused the Rigases of using Adelphia funds to repay \$250 million worth of margin loans.

Investigations of large businesses invariably attract a slew of investigative agencies. In part due to its corporate fraud status in a post-Enron world, and in part due to Adelphia's huge subscriber base, media interest was high. Despite offers of assistance from numerous criminal investigative agencies, including the FBI, U.S. Attorney James B. Comey chose to work exclusively with the Postal Inspection Service. Agreeing with the advice of AUSAs Owens and Coleman, Comey registered his vote of confidence in the Inspection Service by politely declining requests for inclusion, some of which were repeated as it became evident arrests were in the offing.

The surveillances continued, with Inspectors following Tim Rigas to a Greenwich, Connecticut, repair shop where he picked up his car and drove back to New York. Inspectors tracked John and Michael Rigas' car on Interstate 80 and across New Jersey. When they made a U-turn and headed back to New York, Postal Inspectors did too. Bill Hessle and Lou LaFleur, among other Inspectors, kept watch outside a Manhattan apartment building throughout the night to ensure the defendants would be around when the time came for their arrests.



Shortly after six o'clock on the morning of July 24, Postal Inspectors entered the Rigas' apartment and arrested John, Tim, and Michael. In Port Allegany, Pennsylvania, Inspectors took Mulcahey into custody. Inspectors knocked on the door of Jim Brown's Coudersport home that morning and were surprised when Brown, dressed in khaki pants and a polo shirt, answered the door mid-knock and informed Inspectors he had his passport and was ready to accompany them to jail.

Four hours later, Inspector in Charge of the New York Division William E. Kezer and Deputy Attorney General of the United States Larry D. Thompson announced the arrests at a Washington, DC, press conference. The event became a historic one for the Postal Inspection Service, when Thompson named Chief Postal Inspector Lee R. Heath to the Corporate Fraud Task Force, created by Executive Order of President George W. Bush 15 days earlier. Following the Director of the FBI, Chief Heath became the second head of a criminal investigative agency assigned to the President's Corporate Fraud Task Force.

The stock market responded quickly to news of the arrests. By the close of trading on July 24, the Dow Jones Industrial Average had jumped 488 points, the second largest single-day increase in the history of the index. It was also the highest volume day ever on the New York Stock

Exchange. By the closing bell, more than 2.8 billion shares had changed hands.

The national media was on the story. From the *Chicago Tribune's* banner headline, "Crackdown Sparks Rebound," to the "Buy & Bust" headline in the *New York Daily News*, newspapers and magazines across the country ran articles on the arrests. Special-interest magazines, from *Broadcast & Cable* and *Variety* to *People* and—because of John's purchase of the Buffalo Sabres professional hockey team—the *Hockey News*, also covered the events. References appeared in unlikely venues, including the *National Enquirer*. On the *Tonight Show*, Jay Leno joked about the "cable guy" being arrested by the "mailman." Some reporters rushed to print without checking the facts and failed to recognize the Postal Inspection Service as the arresting agency. *Time* magazine credited the FBI, and *Hockey Digest* believed U.S. Marshals hauled in the Adelphia crew.

Between the arrests and the indictment, Postal Inspectors continued their work, interviewing some 30 more witnesses and arranging for grand jury testimony. While preparing for the indictment of the five suspects, they pursued various leads, including allegations of financial improprieties at a former Adelphia subsidiary and of illegal transactions between Adelphia and two of its major suppliers. After hearing the testimony of various witnesses, from company pilots to finan-

cial analysts to Inspector Feeney, a grand jury indicted the five defendants in late September.

Gearing Up for Trial

When trial preparation began in earnest, in early autumn 2003, several things had changed. AUSA Tim Coleman was promoted to Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General in Washington, DC. Inspector Sharma left the Adelphia investigation to pursue a \$20 million investment fraud and blackmail case. Coleman was replaced by AUSA Owens, who joined Clark to lead the trial team. Owens recruited a third prosecutor, Assistant U.S. Attorney Judd C. Lawler, who had litigated and won a stay in Adelphia's multi-district civil litigation. Two full-time paralegals, Margaret Lee and Jill Ottenberg, were brought in. Inspector Sharma was replaced by rookie Inspector Kurtis S. Roinestad. Finally, the government found its key trial witness, someone who had so far avoided being interviewed: Adelphia's former Vice President of Finance Jim Brown.

Trial preparation for Adelphia was routine—except for the scale of the work. Witnesses were interviewed, documents reviewed, and exhibits identified, marked, and organized. An early witness list for the prosecution named 53 people. Roughly six million pages had to be scanned by a contractor into a searchable Intranet database. By the start of trial, paralegals Lee and Ottenberg had prepared and turned over to the defense more than 10,000 exhibits.

In January 2004, Inspector James Bachman went to Coudersport to preserve key digital evidence on defendants' computers. Because not every witness could travel to New York, Inspectors and AUSAs from the trial team found themselves driving through a snowstorm to interview potential witnesses in Coudersport, and later flying to Washington, DC, to accommodate another witness' schedule. Witness preparation, during which witnesses review documents and practice answering questions clearly, sometimes took place by phone. One witness working in Bosnia could only be contacted via pre-arranged, weekly phone calls.



Chief Postal Inspector Heath Presents Awards to AUSAs for Adelphia Case

Postal Inspectors working with the U.S. Attorney's Office of the Southern District of New York arrested the founder and executive officers of Adelphia Communications Corporation in July 2002 for massive corporate fraud. Adelphia officers took funds from the corporation by disguising personal loans as corporate loans, then failed to disclose their actions to regulators and shareholders. Adelphia

shareholders lost more than \$252 million in what was revealed as the biggest corporate fraud of its time and which illuminated the shady business dealings of other corporate entities throughout the United States. On March 23, 2005, Chief Postal Inspector Lee R. Heath presented the highest award offered by the Postal Inspection Service, the Chief Postal Inspector's Award, to Assistant U.S. Attorneys

Judd Lawler (back row, to the right of Chief Heath), Chris Clark (holding a plaque, at left), and Richard Owens (holding a plaque, at right) for their tireless efforts in prosecuting this especially complex case. U.S. Attorney Dave Kelly (far right) praised New York Division Postal Inspectors for their extensive work investigating the case and for helping to bring those responsible to justice.

After Jim Brown decided to plead guilty, Inspectors and AUSAs spent hundreds of hours debriefing him about the 18 years he worked for Adelphia. Brown's testimony lasted through the entire month of May 2004.

Each of the 600 potential jurors summoned to the courthouse in late January completed a 26-page questionnaire, and Postal Inspectors evaluated every one. At the end of each of the four days of *voir dire* ("to speak the truth," a process in which prospective jurors are questioned under oath to determine their suitability to serve as jurors), Inspectors sat with Owens, Clark, and Lawler to rank the candidates according to their perceived favorability to the prosecution.

In response to the defense's strategy of prolonged cross-examination, the prosecution witness list was pared down to fewer than 20. Nonetheless, the trial

lasted 18 weeks. The jury heard testimony from more than 25 witnesses, including former and current Adelphia employees, a professional golfer, a financial analyst, an actress, a billionaire investor, a pilot, a securities lawyer, an amateur investor, and John Rigas' personal accountant. There were eight former employees and seven Coudersport residents, one of whom was a high school classmate of Tim Rigas.

Witnesses testified about the Rigas family's use of company money for more than \$50 million worth of cash advances, \$1.6 billion in securities purchases, and the repayment of more than \$250 million in margin loans. Jurors heard about the personal use of Adelphia's corporate jets, John Rigas' practice of drawing up to \$1 million a month from the company, a \$25 million purchase of timber rights on land across the street from John's home, and funding used to construct a golf course on family

land. Adelphia money also paid for Tim's \$700,000 membership at The Golf Club in South Carolina, his \$125,000 membership at a Hilton Head golf course, and a \$7,000 weekend golf trip to Pebble Beach.

Among more than 1,000 exhibits entered into the trial record were charts of complex financial transactions and the records on which the charts were based. While reviewing the 95-page indictment and completing the 293 questions on a special verdict form, the jury asked to see about 100 exhibits and to be given at least 20 transcript excerpts.

Paying the Price

John and Tim Rigas were convicted on July 8, 2004, of conspiracy and on multiple counts of securities fraud and bank fraud. Former Assistant Treasurer Michael Mulcahey was acquitted of all charges. Michael Rigas was acquitted of some charges, but the jury deadlocked on others. After nine days, the Honorable Leonard B. Sand dismissed the jury and set a date for Michael's securities fraud retrial in January 2006.

In all trials, the prosecution team works long hours for long stretches. In this case, AUSAs Richard Owens, Christopher Clark, and Judd Lawler; paralegals Margaret Lee and Jill Ottenberg; and Inspectors Feeney and Roines-tad—guided by Fraud Team Leader John Feiter—worked from October 2003 through July 2004. It can be difficult to quantify the work of a prosecutive team, but it can be compared to the cost of the defense. Defense lawyers spent more than \$35 million on the case.

On April 27, 2005, following months of negotiations led by AUSAs Owens and Clark, agreements between the Rigas family, Adelphia, the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the SEC were executed. The Rigas family agreed to forfeit to the United States more than 95 percent of its family assets, including privately owned cable systems worth \$700 to \$900 million, all Adelphia securities owned by the Rigas family and its affiliated entities—such as notes with a face value of nearly \$567 million and approximately 44.7 million shares of common stock—and real estate worth about

\$10 million. The forfeiture was larger than what might have been imposed by the trial court because it included cable companies, land, and assets owned jointly by other members of the Rigas family, not just property owned by felons John and Tim Rigas.

The government agreed to return to Adelphia the Rigas family securities and to transfer to Adelphia the privately owned Rigas cable systems. Evidence introduced at trial proved the Rigas family never paid for a substantial portion of the Adelphia securities they held. In return for the cable systems, Adelphia will provide \$715 million in cash and stock to a fund for victim shareholders.

In April 2005, Adelphia's former auditing firm, Deloitte & Touche, executed an agreement with the SEC to pay \$50 million to settle civil charges that they should have detected the fraudulent bookkeeping at Adelphia. The settlement was the largest ever by an accounting firm and included a record penalty of \$25 million. Deloitte, the country's third-biggest accounting firm, neither admitted nor denied misconduct. The \$50 million will be paid into the Adelphia victim fund.

'Were it not for your age and health...'

In a packed Manhattan courtroom, Judge Sand sentenced John and Tim Rigas on June 20, 2005. The press corps filled the jury box to overflowing, while three sketch artists captured the proceedings for the benefit of a television audience.

John Rigas failed to acknowledge his guilt. In remarks made prior to his sentencing, he instead apologized to Adelphia shareholders for "this whole thing [which] has happened to all of us" and added, "I may be convicted and sentenced, but in my heart and my conscience, I'll go to my grave truly believing that I did nothing but try to improve conditions for my employees, for my company, and for my family."

"Were it not for your age and health, I would impose a sentence far greater than I do today," Judge Sand told the 80-year-old founder of Adelphia before pronouncing a sentence of five years for the conspiracy charge, 10 years for each of 15 counts of securities fraud, and 15 years for

each of two bank fraud charges. The sentencing structure calls for John Rigas to serve 15 years in prison.

If after Rigas serves at least two years in prison his doctors determine he has less than three months to live, the director of the Bureau of Prisons can petition the court to allow him to die at home. The judge promised to give "careful and sympathetic consideration" to such a request.

Tim Rigas, who claimed, "Our intentions were good. The results were not," was sentenced to five years for conspiracy, 10 years for each of 15 counts of securities fraud, and 20 years for each of two bank fraud charges. Tim Rigas will serve 20 years in prison.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service was the sole criminal investigative agency assigned to the case.

About the author

Postal Inspector Thomas F. Feeney began his Inspection Service career in 1996 on the External Crimes Team in Manhattan. He moved to a fraud assignment at New York Division Headquarters and then to the Church Street Domicile's Fraud Team, where he began working

closely with Assistant U.S. Attorneys assigned to the Southern District of New York's Commodities and Securities Fraud Unit. Inspector Feeney's notable cases include the investigation of commercial bribery in the mortgage-backed securities industry, which resulted in the conviction of four suspects and served as the basis for SEC action against eight individuals and one firm; the fraudulent sale of an unregistered stock, which led to three convictions, a \$4.2 million order of restitution, and media attention in the *New York Times* and several national magazines; and the first fraudulent Internet press release case to go to trial in the United States. Inspector Feeney received the Chief Postal Inspector's Award for his role as case agent for the Adelphia Communications Corporation investigation.



Postal Inspectors Use Team Approach to Keep **SEXUAL PREDATORS** Out of the U.S. Mail

By Postal Inspector Daniel L. Hennemann
Cincinnati Field Office, Pittsburgh Division

Child pornography and the sexual exploitation of children are tragic, heart-rending crimes that plague law enforcement agencies worldwide. Those who abuse children and assume (incorrectly) that the U.S. Mail will provide a safe, reliable, and anonymous vehicle for exchanging illicit, pornographic material are aggressively targeted by U.S. Postal Inspectors, who are regarded internationally as leaders in the fight against child exploitation.

The vast majority of child exploitation cases investigated by Postal Inspectors involve computers as well as postal violations. In FY 2004, Postal Inspectors arrested 329 suspects for child sexual exploitation offenses and reported 338 convictions in such cases (which may have originated in prior reporting periods).

Incident to a search of a suspect's property, Postal Inspectors

may find evidence that the target of the investigation is also a child molester. As a result of Inspectors' casework this past fiscal year, 97 child molesters were identified, and Inspectors rescued 229 child victims from further abuse and exploitation.

In 1977, the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation Act became the first federal law specifically designed to protect children from commercialized sexual exploitation. In 1984, the Child Protection Act was passed to take the profit out of child pornography. Congress recognized that, to combat the sexual exploitation of children, the economic benefits had to be removed. In addition to being prosecuted, child pornographers could now be deprived of property and profits obtained as a result of their criminal acts.

Postal Inspectors use these federal statutes in their child exploitation investigations, but also rely on state statutes, working in conjunction with local and state authorities.

U.S. Postal Inspectors work hard to preserve the public's confidence in the mail. In part, they do this by ensuring the integrity of the mail—keeping illegal, dangerous, and potentially harmful items from the mailstream.

If Inspectors find that a postal worker is committing a crime, such as stealing mail, embezzling postal funds, taking or distributing drugs on postal property, or in any way undermining the Postal Service, they advise postal managers of the problem, and appropriate steps are taken to penalize the employee or terminate employment.

Postal Inspector and Child Exploitation Specialist Frank Graham of the St. Louis Division was trolling Internet newsgroups in early 2002 when a “big fish” bit: An online “chatter” was interested in buying child pornography.

After exchanging a series of e-mails, Inspector Graham identified the suspect, Phillip C. Morris, as a Postal Service employee. Morris committed a federal felony when he ordered two tapes from Graham, believing he was buying videos depicting minor males engaging in explicit sexual activity. Because Morris lived in San Antonio, Texas,

Graham acted quickly to enlist help from his counterpart there, Postal Inspector Bruce Beckham of the Houston Division.

Inspector Beckham, other Inspectors from the Houston Division, and local police officers executed a controlled delivery and a search warrant at Morris’ home. They seized a computer and four Zip storage disks. Specialists from the Postal Inspection Service’s National Forensic Laboratory analyzed data from the computer and disks and found more than 30 images of young boys being sexually exploited by an adult male.

Inspector Beckham turned to staff at the Child Victim Identification Project (CVIP), a part of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), for help. Postal Inspector Steve Lear joined the staff a little more than a year ago and works alongside four NCMEC analysts.

CVIP staff receive some 40 disks of child pornography a week from law enforcement officers nationwide. The disks are seized during the execution of search warrants served on suspected child pornographers.

When analysts at the Exploited Child Unit recognized two of the boys pictured on Morris’ disks from other child porn videos, a new clue emerged: The new photos showed the boys fully clothed, and background details provided the first clues as to where the abuse had occurred. CVIP analysts concluded the series of photos was an ideal candidate for Image Analysis.

Image Analysis is a fairly new computer program used by CVIP staff to compare “questioned,” or unknown, images to known images. The known images are those of abused children who have been positively identified and whose photos have been scanned into the program. When analysts scan in new, unknown images, the program uses an “MD-5 Hash Value”—an algorithm of

the mathematical components comprising a digitized image—to compare the new image to those in the database—currently numbering about 500 photos.

An amazing feature of Image Analysis is that, as analysts continue to load new images into the program, the computer gets “smarter” by adding additional information (new hash values) to the database. There are tens of thousands of unidentified images of abused children.

The analysts began an aggressive campaign to identify the young victims. They reviewed the images one by one and documented each clue.

The first clue emerged when an analyst picked up an image of a sheriff’s police cruiser in the background of one of the photos. After enhancing and enlarging the image, analysts traced the cruiser to the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Department in Florida. The sheriff’s office and a network of international contacts were alerted, while the analysts continued their hunt for more images of the boys. They hoped to find other photos, perhaps not as widely traded, that would yield new clues.

In November 2003, a group calling themselves “Combating Pedophile Information Networks in Europe,” or COPINE, contacted analysts with promising news. The group had numerous photos of the two boys, some of them erotic, and photos depicting the sexual abuse of another underage boy. COPINE staff concluded that the abuse of the new, unidentified child had occurred in the same bedroom as the one in which the two boys had been photographed. More children were at risk than previously believed.

The most important photo from COPINE showed the two boys, each in bathing suits, on a Yamaha WaveRunner, a personal watercraft device. A closer examination revealed that state registra-

tion numbers were visible on the tags. The tags were registered to a Florida man who lived in Hernando County, so investigators shifted their focus there in an attempt to ID the boys.

A task force of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies teamed up on the investigation. Postal Inspector Linda Walker from the Miami Division joined Special Agent Mike Jackson from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), as well as members of the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Office of the Statewide Prosecutor of Florida in Pinellas County, the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Department, the Hernando County Sheriff’s Department, and the Polk County Sheriff’s Department.

Task force members spoke with school resource officers (SROs) in Hernando County. SROs are officials from law enforcement agencies assigned to act as law-related counselors or educators for a school or school system in their area. The tactic worked: In early March 2004, they found an SRO at a high school who recognized the two boys.

The counselor told authorities the boys were brothers who lived with their mother. He knew they were close to a man who acted as their mentor. Team members obtained current photos of the children from the Florida Department of Motor Vehicles and confirmed they were the ones who appeared in the abusive images.

On March 4, 2004, the boys were



Postal Inspector Linda Walker was the case agent who led the investigation against Ostencamp and his cohorts.

brought in for an interview at the local sheriff's office. They had no problem naming their "friend": Christopher M. Rodriguez. They had met Rodriguez through a child who lived next door to them. It was Rodriguez who had taken the pictures of the boys on the WaveRunner. The owner of the watercraft had no role in the abuse.

When the boys were shown the photo of the other, unknown child, in the same bedroom where Rodriguez had attacked them, they recognized him immediately. Both shocked and angered on discovering that their abuser had harmed yet another child, they immediately gave investigators the boy's name.

The task force mobilized to secure a search warrant for the suspect's home and computers. One of the boys offered to help by placing a controlled call to Rodriguez. In a recorded conversation, Rodriguez confirmed that he had been producing illegal, pornographic pictures of the boys.

Task force members executed a consent search at the home of Christopher Rodriguez in Hernando County later that

he had recently traveled to Cincinnati, Ohio, for the express purpose of pursuing sex with underage boys.

By the time Inspectors and investigators arrested Rodriguez, it was in the early morning hours of March 5. He was taken before a federal magistrate, who refused to set bail.

Postal Inspector Linda Walker and her colleagues were quick to nail Cincinnati resident Daniel Ostenkamp as Rodriguez' "friend"—and another source of child pornography. She put in a call to Inspector Martin E. Arthur at the Cincinnati Field Office of the Pittsburgh Division for more information.

Inspectors and other task force members arrested Daniel Ostenkamp at his place of employment and, simultaneously, executed a search warrant at his parent's home where he resided. They seized four computers, assorted computer storage devices, sexually explicit artwork of young males, and an anatomically correct, life-sized sex doll of a male teenager.

successful child exploitation investigations in three states involving more than 13 local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. Most important, 13 children who had experienced the torment of sexual exploitation no longer had to live in fear of their adult abusers.

A federal grand jury in the Western District of Texas returned a three-count indictment against now-former postal employee Phillip C. Morris for receiving and possessing child pornography. He was arrested on November 24, 2003, and ultimately pled guilty to all charges

against him. On April 14, 2004, Morris was sentenced to 41 months in prison.

Christopher M. Rodriguez was indicted in the Middle District of Florida in April 2004 on seven counts of producing child pornography and one count of possessing child pornography. Rodriguez also pled guilty to all counts. He was sentenced to nearly 22 years in prison.

Daniel A. Ostenkamp was indicted in Hamilton County, Ohio, in April 2004



Child pornographer Christopher Rodriguez will spend 22 years in prison for his crimes.

“What this case shows is how much more we can accomplish, and with a very high degree of success, when we leverage the resources of local, state, and federal agencies to reach a common goal—in this case, saving children from sexual abuse. When Postal Inspectors rid the mail of child pornography, we're benefiting society as a whole. We're keeping the mail safe for all Americans, of every age.”

—Postal Inspector Daniel L. Hennemann

day. During the course of the search, Rodriguez agreed to be interviewed.

Rodriguez confessed he had photographed the three boys and distributed their images over the Internet. Team members seized his computer and data storage devices for forensic examination. They also seized some videotapes which contained even more evidence: Rodriguez had been molesting other children as well. There were now seven abused boys in Florida alone. Worse, Rodriguez admitted

Ostenkamp admitted he had been having a sexual relationship with his now-15-year-old nephew over the past three years. He had photographed sexual liaisons not only with his nephew, but also with his nephew's friends from school, and had traded the pictures with Rodriguez. Four more young victims were identified.

The case initiated by Inspector Graham in St. Louis, Missouri, more than two years earlier had ballooned into three

on 11 counts of pandering sexually oriented material involving a minor and eight counts of raping a minor. He pled guilty to all 19 counts and was sentenced in May to serve five years on each of the 11 counts and 10 years on each of the eight counts of raping a minor. Ostenkamp will serve the 19 sentences consecutively, for a total of 135 years in prison.

Inspectors Investigate

Yellow Pages



SCAM

U.S. Postal Inspectors from Atlanta and Miami, and agents from the Miami office of the U.S. Secret Service, executed three search warrants in June

2005 in connection with a false-representation scheme. Two search warrants were served at suites 201 and 203 on 611 Lincoln Road, and another at 1880 West Avenue, a storage facility that housed customer invoices. All locations were rented by Yellow Pages Directory Publishers and Charles Robert Smith.

The case began when Postal Inspector Jessica Hood of the Atlanta Division responded to a complaint from a church pastor in Hazlehurst, Georgia. The pastor informed Inspectors that he was suspicious of a Yellow Pages invoice he'd received. When he checked the phone number and address on the invoice, he discovered that the company wasn't affiliated with Bellsouth, parent company of "the *real* Yellow Pages" in his area, where he normally placed ads. Instead of mailing in his payment, he notified Postal Inspectors.

Inspector Hood tracked down the address on the pastor's invoice and determined it was a commercial mail receiving agency (CMRA). The CMRA had been instructed to forward all mail for that box rental to the Lincoln Road address.

After further footwork, Hood found that, since October 2003, Andrew Miller, who was listed as the President of

More Than 10,000 Businesses Lose More Than \$10 Million to Mail Fraud

Yellow Pages Directory Publishers, had been mailing solicitations to hundreds of businesses—including a number of churches—that were regular customers of local (and

"*real*") Yellow Pages Directories in their areas. Respondents received an invoice requesting they mail \$293 to one of five boxes rented by Miller at CMRAs in Atlanta, New York, Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, and Chicago.

Most victim businesses failed to look closely at the familiar-looking Yellow Pages invoice. If they had, they might have noticed that, in very small print, they were advised that their \$293 check would cover only a half year of ad placement and that another \$293 would be automatically debited from their accounts. Worse, "late" payments were tacked on if the checks weren't received on time.

During the execution of the search warrants, Hood and other Inspectors found that Andrew Miller, along with Charles Robert Smith, co-owned the Yellow Pages Directory Publishers. The two men did, in fact, publish a Yellow Pages directory. The difference in their directory from the *real* Yellow Pages was that their book covered the entire country and was distributed *only to businesses that paid to place their ads in it*. Also, their customers were told they'd get a free listing on the company's Web site. That would have been a good deal—except that Miller and Smith didn't have a Web site.

Inspectors and agents seized overseas wire-transfer

**By Postal Inspector
Jessica Hood
Atlanta Division**



Team Gold Digger of the Postal Inspection Service's Atlanta Division seized an estimated \$600,000 worth of gold coins from Yellow Pages Directory Publishers after determining the business fraudulently represented itself as the "real Yellow Pages." Front row seated (l to r): Forfeiture Specialist Rhonda Williams and Postal Inspector Jessica Hood. Standing (l to r): Inspectors Frank Stewart, Jeff Adkins, Kellye Winston, Eric George, and Clinton Potter.

receipts dating from January 2005 and showing that Yellow Pages Directory Publishers had wired \$3.1 million to a Swiss bank account. Because the money could be traced to victims of Miller's scheme, the Swiss government placed a temporary freeze on the account at the request of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of International Affairs. The total dollar amount in the account has not yet been determined, but one employee agreed to turn over approximately \$60,000 in gold coins that had been purchased with some of the proceeds.

Other items recovered during the search included computers, a computer server, customer invoices and checks, bank records, and overseas wire-transfer receipts for financial institutions in Africa. Andrew Miller is a South African citizen, and Charles Smith, a U.S. citizen, resides in Tanzania.

Seizure warrants were signed in the Northern District of Georgia on June 29, 2005, for four bank accounts belonging to Yellow Pages Directory Publishers and Andrew Miller. Money in those accounts totaled about \$1.4 million. More than 10,000 victims lost an estimated \$10 million to the scam. Temporary Restraining Orders were signed on all of the CMRA

rental boxes, and criminal prosecution is pending against several suspects—including Andrew Miller and Charles Smith—all connected to the Yellow Pages scam.

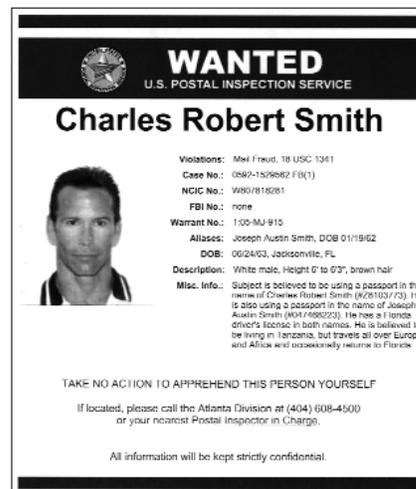
During the search, Inspectors and agents also found documents indicating that Charles Robert Smith was trying to liquidate funds in a brokerage account and several other bank accounts by purchasing one-ounce gold coins from dealers across the United States. Charles Smith had also recently placed a \$42,000 deposit on a \$1.2 million jet from Epic Air in Las Vegas, Nevada. Inspectors used information from the documents to obtain seizure warrants for the following items:

- \$323,793 from a brokerage account at Investscape.
- 690 one-ounce American Eagle gold coins valued at \$293,940.
- 545 one-ounce Austrian Philharmonic gold coins valued at \$228,900.
- \$42,000 down payment for the purchase of the jet, which had been converted into \$30,000 worth of airplane parts and \$12,000 in cash.

In July 2005, the Postal Inspection Service's Atlanta Division received a check from Bank of America for roughly \$1.3 million in response to a seizure warrant for one of three accounts belonging to Yellow Page Directory Publishers and Andrew Miller. A total of about \$1.26 million was seized from the three accounts at Bank of America and another \$18,600 from a Card-Services International Merchant account. The funds represent money seized by Inspectors and agents prior to the execution of the June search warrants at Miami Beach.

As Postal Inspectors continued their investigation, they discovered that Charles Robert Smith was the main instigator of the

Yellow Pages scam. In fact, Smith had been the subject of several fraud investigations by Inspectors beginning in the late 1980s, all involving fraudulent Yellow Pages solicitations. An arrest warrant was issued for Charles Smith, but Inspectors believe he fled the country and is likely traveling in Europe under an assumed identity. Several others who took part in the scheme have yet to be indicted, but prosecution is pending.



Postal Inspector Jessica Hood stated, "All businesses need to take the time to carefully review any solicitations and invoices they get in the mail before paying them. That simple step would reduce a lot of fraud, and take a lot of people off of our victim lists."

About the Author

Postal Inspector Jessica Hood has been assigned to the Fraud Team at the Atlanta Division since completing training in December 2004. She specializes in Internet fraud, specifically eBay fraud. Inspector Hood was in the first group of Postal Inspectors deployed to Mississippi the day after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast. During her seven days there, Hood helped provide security at sites that delivered government checks to victims of Katrina and traveled to several towns around the state to assess damage to postal facilities and provide protection until sites could be secured.



Serving America *with Pride*

Employees of the U.S.

Postal Inspection Service

Serving in the Reserves

and the National Guard

An update to the October 2003 Bulletin story.

As the war in Iraq continues, the Postal Inspection Service wishes to take this opportunity to honor its employees who, in addition to their commitment to their Inspection Service jobs, are serving with one of the branches of the U.S. military reserves or National Guard.

Approximately 19 Postal Inspection Service employees have served, or are still serving, on active duty

with the reserves since we first featured them in the October 2003

Bulletin. Following are the

responses we received

on employees'

experiences.



Atlanta Division

Postal Inspector **Robert B. Wemyss**, Mobile, AL, Domicile, was on active duty for a two-week period at Camp Parks in Dublin, CA. His duties included assisting with the training of reserve units who had recently been activated for deployment to Iraq. He served as a 1st Lieutenant with the Military Police.

Inspector Wemyss previously served on active duty from May 1995 through May 1998, and was then part of the Individual Ready Reserve from May 1998 to January 2003. He was called back to active reserve duty in January 2003 and spent two weeks on active duty during the summer of 2003. He completed his commitment and left the military in December 2003.



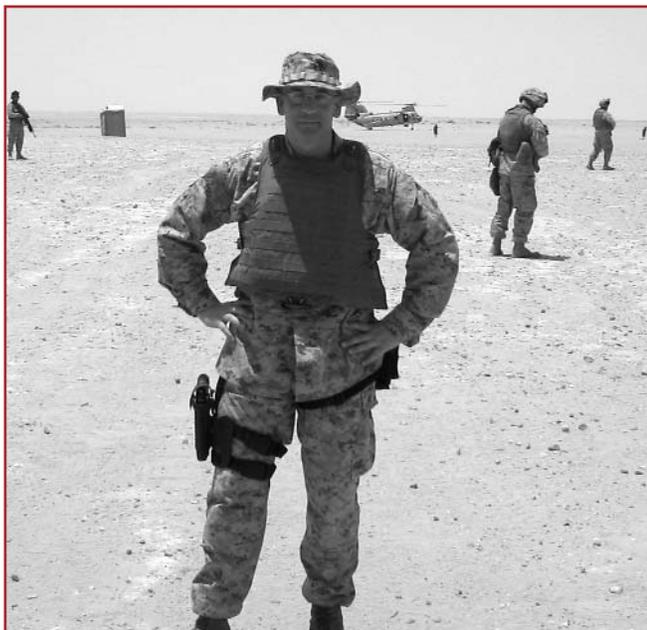
Robert B. Wemyss

Charlotte Division

Postal Inspector **Frank Charlonis** is a prohibited mail-narcotics specialist in Charlotte, NC, who has been on active duty since 2004 as a Lieutenant Colonel with the U.S. Marine Corp Reserves. He is now overseas working as the Liaison Officer for the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) Special Operations Capable (SOC) under the Commander of the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command.

Frank sent this e-mail to his co-workers in Charlotte:

“I work primarily out of our Headquarters in Bahrain, but my duties take me into all of the coun-



Frank Charlonis

tries in the region, including Iraq, Kuwait, and Qatar. I advise staff on the proper employment of the 26th MEU (SOC) while under their command. I act as ‘the voice’ of my commanding officer at this unit, as I represent the commanding officer and speak for him on operational, logistic, and other matters.

It is similar to the work I do as an Inspector, developing relationships with staff members and supporting units to ensure they understand our mission and we understand theirs. My success as an Inspector depends on developing good working relationships and being an honest ‘broker’ for the command I represent. I explain what we can and cannot do and provide operational assists as needed. I must advocate the position of my higher headquarters command at all times.

So far I’ve been involved with operational planning for several major exercises and am working on operational plans in support of the Global War on Terrorism. I have leveraged experience from the Inspection Service and my military career to serve as an advisor to ‘consequence management’ planners here. In Qatar, I assisted in the development of a new standard operating practice for the Qatari Armed Forces, Ministry of Interior. The photo of me was taken somewhere in the Kuwaiti desert.”

Frank’s friends and colleagues in Charlotte report that they are thinking of him and are grateful for his service to our country.

Fredrick W. Hosenfeld is a Technical Surveillance Specialist with the Postal Inspection Service, but was called to active duty on April 1, 2003, to serve as a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force Reserves as a Command and Control Operations Officer. He was released from duty on March 1, 2004. Fred was stationed at the Charleston Air Force Base as a Stage Operations Officer. From there he went to Headquarters at the Scott Air Force Base in Illinois and worked at the Mission Support Center for the Tanker Air Lift Control Elements in the field. He has 20 years of service in the Air Force Reserves and is looking forward to many more.



Fredrick W. Hosenfeld

Chicago Division

Postal Inspector **Andrew Kovats** is serving as Company Commander of Combat Engineers. He was originally based in Laporte, IN, but is now serving in Tal Afar, Iraq. He is the Task Force Engineer for the 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. Inspector Kovats reports that his duties include



Andrew Kovats (right) with his translator.

organizing engineers in his regiment to support combat operations in Tal Afar. They dismount patrols in and around the city, cordon off restricted areas, conduct searches, and stage interdictions at roads known to be used by terrorists. In addition, he and his troops set up flash traffic-control points (where they stop and check all vehicles), establish combat outposts, train the Iraqi Army on vehicle-search techniques, and conduct counter-improvised explosive device (IED) patrols on main supply routes.

Kovats says, "To date, my men have captured a high-value target during a major combat operation in northern Tal Afar. The photo shows me with an Iraqi soldier during the elections. It depicts the primary mission of all American soldiers: to help 'stand up' the Iraqi Army. The photo was taken at a traffic-control point."

Postal Police Officer **Bryant D. Boozer** began active duty with the U.S. Army Reserve on October 3, 2001. He has served two tours of duty in Iraq and is currently stationed in Illinois. PPO Boozer attained the rank of Sergeant E-5 and is assigned as an Aircraft Powertrain Repairman.



Bryant D. Boozer



Robert M. Kugach

Postal Inspector **Robert M. Kugach**, Carol Stream, IL, Domicile, was called to serve active duty as a Naval Reservist for Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He reported on March 5, 2003, as an Intelligence Officer (Ensign) for the U.S. Navy. Inspector Kugach served at the U.S. Commander-in-Chief, Europe, Joint Analysis Center Detachment at Ft. Sheridan, IL. His duties included Air Defense Analyst and the European Command Area of Responsibility. He produced air defense intelligence products in support of Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, and was the Command Fitness Leader for the detachment, providing fitness-training exercises and fitness education to mobilized members. He returned to work at the Carol Stream Domicile on June 2, 2003.

Inspector Kugach noted: "In a ceremony held on April 12, 2003, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service was recognized for its support of my service in the Reserves when Congressman Mark Kirk presented the agency with a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition."

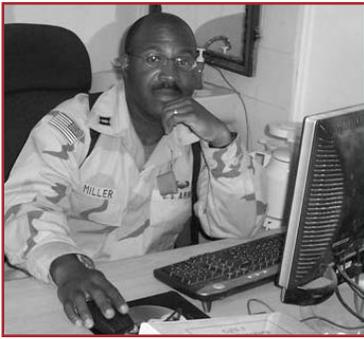
Detroit Division

Postal Inspector **Cecil A. Frink**, Gary, IN, Domicile, works on a multi-functional team that handles miscellaneous assignments. He was called to serve active duty with the Indiana National Guard in June 2004 and was assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) of the 76th Separate Infantry Brigade at the rank of Major. Inspector Frink's duties as the brigade's S-1 (Administrative) and S-3 (Operations) officer include tasks related to administrative affairs and operational planning. The unit was deployed to Afghanistan to assist the Afghan National Army as an Imbedded Training Team (ANA-ITT). Members of Major Frink's unit train and observe the ANA in its fight against terrorism. Inspector Frink hopes to be back at the Gary Domicile by October 2005.



Cecil A. Frink

Postal Inspector **Kenny Miller**, Indianapolis, IN, Domicile, is on a multi-functional team that handles financial crimes at his domicile. As part of the U.S. Army Reserves at Camp Victory in Iraq, he is Chief Postal Operations Officer for the Multi-



Kenny Miller

National Corps-Iraq (MNC-I). He wore a second hat as the C-1 Liaison Officer responsible for managing multinational force postal operations, including mail operations for coalition service members and civilians, managing postal platoons and postal headquarters,

planning postal-unit movements in Iraq, and monitoring mail volume to Army Post Offices in Iraq. He also served as a postal technical expert for postal units, obtaining accurate information in response to postal and White House inquiries for Iraq, and establishing and publishing standard operating procedures for the postal mission. Inspector Miller was awarded the Bronze Star for his service. He was deployed in December 2003 and returned to the Postal Inspection Service in April 2005.

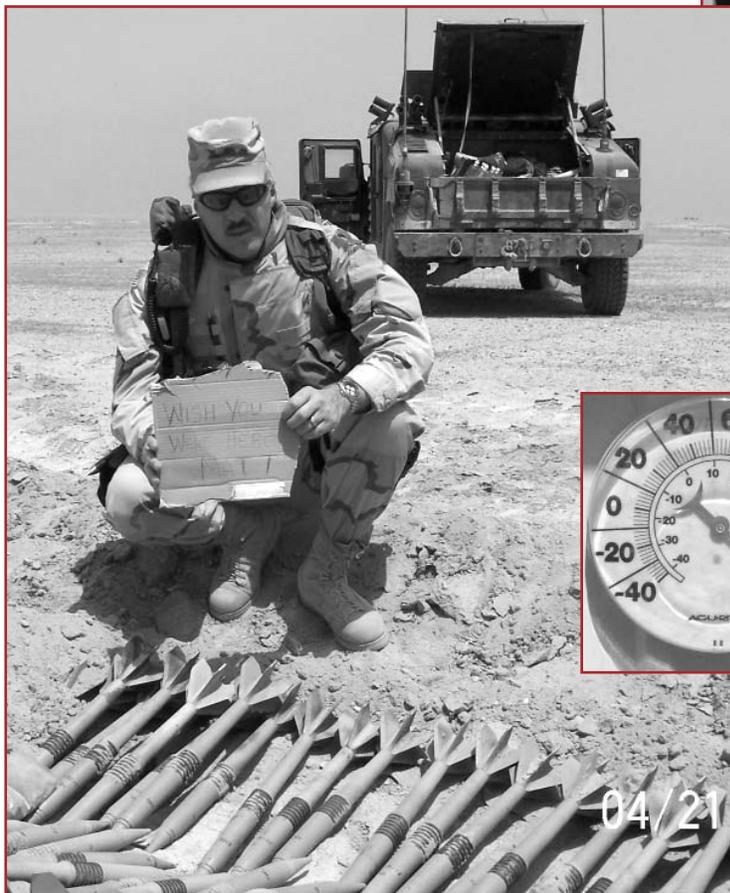
Ft. Worth Division

Postal Inspector **J. Eric Doyle**, San Antonio, TX, Domicile, worked miscellaneous external crimes cases prior to his deployment to Iraq. He is now serving as Chief Warrant Officer II in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Inspector Doyle is leader of the five-person Tactical Human Intelligence Team (THT), which collects actionable intelligence for the commander through the use of sources. Team members target insurgency and terrorist groups operating in Iraq. An e-mail from Inspector Doyle reports:

“I have met a lot of good people here in Iraq. The majority of them are thankful for what America has done for their country and don't want us to leave. They love their new freedom and democracy. Despite what you may see on the news, it isn't all bad here. Most of the problems are caused

J. Eric Doyle

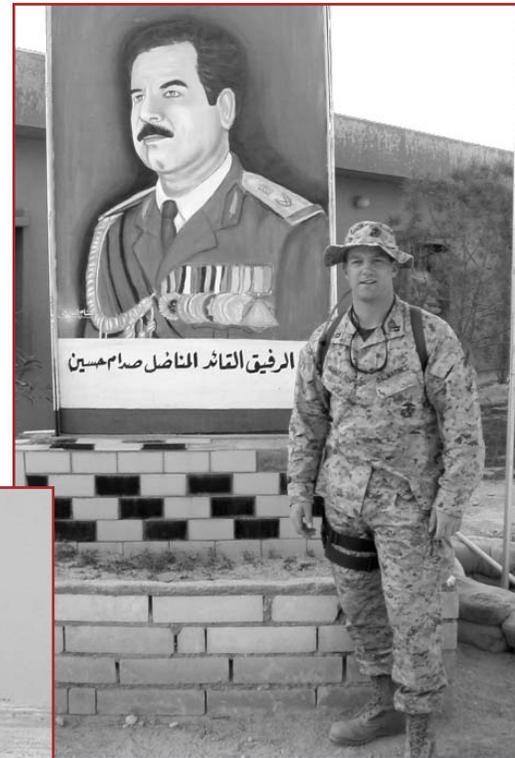


by a small minority of people, and we are doing all we can to make that number smaller everyday.

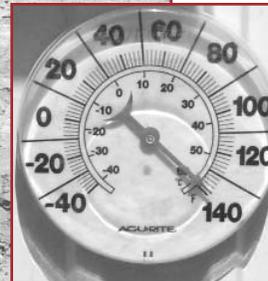
My time here has made me really appreciate what I have at home. I could not have made it through this without the support of my wonderful wife, family, and friends. I also want to thank everyone in the Inspection Service for their support. The e-mails, letters, and packages let me know that I have not been forgotten. The Inspection Service truly is a family, and they have taken care of me accordingly. I can't wait to get back. I have received a lot of letters and packages from total strangers who just wanted to show their support. One last thing, it is HOT here.”

Los Angeles Division

Postal Inspector **Travis A. Bartelson** has been serving active duty as a Judge Advocate with the U.S. Marine Corps in the Judge Advocate Group (JAG) since January 2004 and is stationed in Iraq. Inspector Bartelson sent us this photo from his tour, asking “Do you see a likeness?”



Travis A. Bartelson



Postal Inspector **Frank Ducar** is External Crimes Team Leader at the Fresno, CA, Domicile and Deputy Brigade Commander of the 1st Brigade, 91st Division of the U.S. Army Reserve. He submitted this photo showing the sizzling temperatures at LSA Anaconda, northeast of Baghdad, in September 2004. Inspector Ducar was featured in the 2003 Inspection Service *Bulletin* magazine honoring employees who were on active duty in Iraq.

Postal Inspector **David F. d'Artenay**, San Diego, CA, Domicile, was on active duty from June 27, 2003, through October 27, 2003, serving as a chief petty officer with the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve. His unit was the Harbor Defense Com-



David F. d'Artenay

mand, made up of 50 personnel, two-thirds of whom were U.S. Navy, and one-third U.S. Coast Guard personnel. Their mission was to provide a command and control structure in a foreign port near a conflict involving the U.S. Military. In August 2003, his unit was deployed to Kuwait and set up operations in the largest port in Kuwait. Their main responsibility was providing security with other subordinate U.S.

units as foreign and U.S. ships loaded and offloaded munitions and supplies for the Iraq conflict. His unit returned to the Imperial Beach, CA, headquarters in March 2004. He did not deploy in August due to an asthma condition and the poor air quality in Kuwait, but instead remained at headquarters and provided support needs from stateside operations.

Miami Division

Postal Police Officer **DeShan Bowers** is serving as a Sergeant First-Class with the U.S. Army Military Police. He was called to serve active duty as part of Operation Enduring Freedom on December 14, 2002, through April 24, 2004. During this time he served with the 724th Military Police Battalion in Iraq. Upon his return in April 2004, his activation period was extended and he was assigned to a military intelligence unit in Washington, DC. He was scheduled to return to his Inspection Service job in September 2005, but was advised that his activation period would probably be extended again for another six months.



DeShan Bowers

Postal Inspector **Johnny D. Niedzwiedzki** is a member of the Miscellaneous Team at the West Palm Beach Domicile. He was assigned to serve as a Major with the 429th Medical Battalion (Evacuation) at Camp Speicher, Iraq, as part of a headquar-

ters element managing air and ground ambulances.

In November 2003, John returned to Ft. Rucker, AL, for refresher training as a pilot of an Army medevac Blackhawk (UH-60) helicopter. He was then called to active duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II on December 7, 2003. He also served as a medevac pilot from 1990 through 1991 during Desert Shield/Desert Storm flying UH-1 Iroquois (Hueys).

On April 19, 2004, while coordinating medical support during a Muslim holy pilgrimage, John reported via e-mail:

“I spent some time in Karbala, the heart of (Moqtada) Sadr’s city of hit men. Very interesting story all around. Rode into town in an armored personnel carrier fully decked out. The base camp I was at felt like the Alamo, it seemed as if it could be overrun any minute. I finally finished my mission and was able to get back to normal operations.”

At Camp Speicher, Captain Niedzwiedzki reported, “For the most part, I am in an ops cell, keeping my finger on the pulse of the medical mission. Camp Speicher is named after Navy pilot Lieutenant Commander Michael ‘Scott’ Speicher, who was shot down while flying a combat mission over western Iraq on the first night of Operation Desert Storm. It’s where the 429th Medical Battalion managed all medical evacuations for the Army in Iraq.”

In November 2004, Captain Niedzwiedzki reported he was piloting his aircraft northwest of Baghdad when his crew announced they were taking enemy fire. Captain Niedzwiedzki performed various evasive maneuvers attempting to free his unarmed helicopter from the kill zone created by multiple points of insurgent fire. The aircraft sustained more than 80 piercings from insurgent rounds and damaged multiple systems, forcing him to bring the aircraft down. Fortunately, the aircraft’s systems survived long enough to land without incident at a coalition airfield. Captain Niedzwiedzki was awarded the Air Medal with Valor for his actions in saving eight other souls, as well as the aircraft, that day.

Inspector Niedzwiedzki completed his 15 months of active duty in February 2005.



Johnny D. Niedzwiedzki

National Headquarters

Postal Police Officer **Mauricio F. Atherly** is a member of the Internal Affairs Division at National Headquarters. He was called to serve active duty as a Staff Sergeant with the 323rd Military Intelligence Battalion at Ft. Meade, MD, from January 23, 2003, through May 2004. He served in Iraq at Camp Slayer as a member of the Iraqi Survey Group and was the night shift supervisor for the Document Exploitation Center. His duties involved scanning all documents confiscated during military raids, which resulted in numerous successful operations.



Mauricio F. Atherly

New Jersey/Caribbean Division

Postal Inspector **Steven Nardoni** of the San Juan Field Office was called to serve active duty at the rank of Captain with the U.S. Army National Guard from January 2003 through February 2005. He was assigned as an Interrogation Control Element Officer with the Joint Interrogation Group at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba. Inspector Nardoni was also a Military Intelligence Officer.



Steven Nardoni

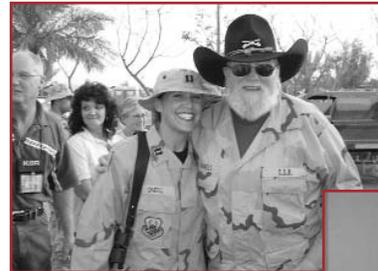
Pittsburgh Division

Postal Inspector **Karen O'Neill**, Cincinnati, OH, Field Office, was called to serve active duty from January through May 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Karen is a Captain with the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Ohio Air National Guard. She was deployed to Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq, where she worked for the Multi-National Corps-Iraq. She was the Public Affairs Liaison Officer in the

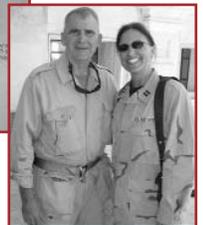


Postal Inspector Karen O'Neill on Saddam Hussein's former palace balcony.

Inspector O'Neill with members of the Ohio Army Guard at Camp Liberty, Iraq, with their Girl Scout cookies.



Captain Karen is pictured with several of the celebrities that made their way to Baghdad on United Service Organizations (USO) tours. Both Charlie Daniels and Toby Keith performed for the troops, while TV Superman Dean Cain boosted morale by signing autographs and photos.



Joint Operation Center, where she worked beside military members of all branches and countries serving in Iraq. During her deployment, Karen regularly called in to the Q102 Radio morning show in Cincinnati to report on her experiences in Iraq. Because of her participation, the radio station and the Tri-State Girl Scouts (of Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky) sponsored a cookie drive for the troops. They later mailed Inspector O'Neill more than 5,000 boxes of Girl Scout cookies to distribute to the troops in Baghdad. As a thank-you gesture when she returned home, Karen and Q102 presented the Girl Scouts with a special badge for their hard work collecting donations for the cookies and the postage.

St. Louis Division

Postal Inspector **Samuel N. Owens**, Des Moines, IA, Domicile, reported to active duty in Afghanistan as a Lieutenant Colonel with the Afghan National Army in April 2005. He was assigned as an Embedded Trainer for Intelligence and Operations, and his primary mission was to mentor, coach, and train Afghan National Army soldiers in intelligence processing and collection, and operations training management. Sam initially reported to Camp Shelby in Mississippi for Mobilization Training before heading to Afghanistan. The training including sessions in Cultural Awareness, Language, Weapons Proficiency (M9 Pistol and M4 Carbine), Small Unit Tactics, Improvised Explosive Device Recognition, and Physical Training. His tour is expected to end in August 2006,



Postal Inspector Sam Owens sent us this photo of him with his interpreter. Inspector Owens wrote, "He's an 18-year-old Afghan lad by the name of Hamayoun and is responsible for keeping my [slang for rear-end] out of trouble. Many of the interpreters we use are college students and represent Afghanistan's best and brightest hope for the future. They go where we go, accepting great personal risk, and including some of the more—and many—dangerous places in this land."

and he hopes to be home for mid-tour leave between December 2005 and February 2006.

In August 2005, Inspector Owens sent this e-mail update:

"I'm currently stationed at Camp Julian, which is a Canadian Forward Operations Base just outside of the Afghan capital, Kabul. I'm awaiting orders to head east to provide assistance during the Afghan parliamentary elections. Training Afghan soldiers has proven to be more challenging than anticipated. Fortunately for them, I'm a fairly patient fellow. Hard to believe I've got almost two months down and 10 to go.

When asked if he could provide a photo from his period of service, Inspector Owens replied, "Unfortunately my digital camera fell out of the helicopter and was lost." I asked if he went by "Sam" or "Samuel," and he e-mailed back, "I'll pretty much answer to Owens, 607, Laser, or Sam on occasion. We're pretty close to jetting off to the Badlands so I'll see what I can do about another photo."

His colleagues at the Des Moines Domicile sent this e-mail when Sam took off, "I know we're going to miss him here in Des Moines, and our thoughts and prayers will be with him and his family. While he's there—he should go ahead and find Bin Laden!"

Washington Division

Postal Inspector **John Camps** is responsible for prevention and security at the Washington Division. He was called to serve active duty from September 2002 through August 2003 with the

Iowa unit to Afghanistan is quite well-seasoned

The Guard group is the oldest bunch sent from the state.

By William Petrosk
Register Staff Writer
April 27, 2005



Some of the most senior soldiers in the Iowa Army National Guard bid farewell to families and friends Tuesday before heading toward a yearlong tour in Afghanistan.

The detachment of 16 soldiers from Camp Dodge is made up almost entirely of veteran Guard members who are at least 40 to 50 years old. Their mission will be to train soldiers in the fledgling Afghan national army, said Lt. Col. Gregory Haggood, the Iowa National Guard's public affairs officer.

They all have a minimum of 15 years of experience in infantry, artillery, military intelligence or combat engineers, and they were hand-picked by Guard commanders for their training skills.

The unit includes Lt. Col. Allen Bloemendaal, 56, a farmer from Sioux Center who is being mobilized for the first time in his 32-year career in the National Guard. **Another is Lt. Col. Samuel Owens, 42, of Urbandale, a postal inspector in civilian life who has spent more than 20 years in the military.** The detachment commander is Lt. Col. Brett Hora, 41, of Ankeny, with 24 years of Guard service.

"There are at least two grandpas that I know of. They are kind of the graybeards," Haggood said.

Other Iowa units mobilized in recent years have had some individual soldiers in their 40s and 50s, but this detachment is without a doubt the oldest as a single group that has been deployed, he said.

The detachment received a customary patriotic send-off Tuesday morning that was attended by about 300 people at Iowa National Guard headquarters in Johnston. The soldiers left soon afterward for a flight to Camp Shelby, MS, where they will spend the next 45 days getting ready to go overseas.

They will face some element of danger in Afghanistan because they will be embedded with Afghan combat troops, serving as mentors, and helping with training and planning.

Despite being more seasoned, saying goodbye wasn't easy for the Iowa soldiers, more than half of whom are commissioned officers.

"This just comes with wearing the green suit," said Owens, who tearfully hugged his wife, Melanie, and their two children, Amanda, 10, and Michael, 7. "I don't like being away from the kids, but what we are going to do within the next year or so will possibly prevent them from having to do anything similar in the years to come."

Stefanie Bloemendaal, 26, posted a cardboard sign to honor her father on the wall at the send-off ceremony. The sign included an American flag and a religious quote: "Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

She said she was sad to see her father leave, but this is his last year before he retires and he has spent his entire career training for such a mission.

"We are very, very proud of him," she said. "This is the chance of a lifetime."

Tough departure: Michael Owens, 7, of Urbandale says goodbye to his father, Lt. Col. Samuel Owens, a member of the Iowa Army National Guard's Joint Forces Headquarters unit based at Camp Dodge. Owens departed for duty training soldiers in Afghanistan.

ROBERT NANDELL/REGISTER PHOTOS



John Camps

U.S. Army Reserves as a Major at the Headquarters of the 220th Military Police (MP) Brigade. He was named Chief of Long Range Plans, responsible for all future operations of the brigade until the planning shifted to execution. He supervised two other officers and five non-commissioned and enlisted personnel.

Inspector Camps has been serving in the reserves since 1987. While serving active duty for Operation Iraqi Freedom, he was stationed at Ft. McPherson in Georgia, at Camp Doha and Camp Arifjan in Kuwait, and at Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq. Following is a description of his recent service in his own words.

“My brigade was the theater-level, combat-support Military Police Brigade responsible for daily law and order, area security, gathering police intelligence, convoy security and escort, and facility security of sites such as Camp Arifjan and Camp Victory, oil pipelines and refineries, and the confinement of U.S. military prisoners.

At the height of combat, about 6,000 soldiers were under the command and control of troops in my brigade. We were responsible for all MP operations in Kuwait, and convoy and area security along the main supply routes from the Kuwait-Iraqi border and throughout Baghdad. I was the first soldier at the 220th MP Brigade to deploy for Iraqi Freedom, and the first to arrive in Kuwait.

I was part of the team at 3rd Army Headquarters that developed the military police portion of the war plan for combat-support missions at Ft. McPherson and Camp Doha. I began developing the war plan for the 220th MP Brigade in Kuwait, until two more officers arrived to assist with the plan. When war planning shifted to the operations folks—who would execute the plan I developed—I conducted the ‘hand-off’ of operations with Military Police Brigades that later entered Iraq and prepared my brigade to transfer its missions to the brigade that would relieve us. Three months prior to leaving Iraq, I began preparing our earliest arriving units to return to the United States.”

Postal Police Officer **Raymond Singletary**, Baltimore, MD, Domicile, was stationed in Iraq for one year, from February 2003 through March 2004. He is a Staff Sergeant in the Military Police and is currently assigned to the 443rd Military Police Company.

PPO Singletary sent this note via e-mail:

“I am assigned to the 443d Military Police Company as a Staff Sergeant with direct responsibility for 12 soldiers and for their training. The U.S. Army Reserves sent me to San Antonio, TX, following 9-11, and we stayed for about one year. Our mission was to secure the base. They had 28 gates for point of entry, with main roads entering and exiting from one side of the base to the other. We also provided law enforcement functions.

A year later I returned home, but was shipped to Baghdad 90 days later. We left from Baltimore, MD, and went to Ft. Lee, VA, to train and prepare for our mission in Baghdad. There the 443d Military Police Company was responsible for a prison camp, Camp Cropper. We were responsible for maintaining high-value prisoners and common criminals, as well as law enforcement functions.

On my return from Baghdad, I attended classes in non-commissioned officers’ schools. In May 2005, I returned from a mission in Port au Prince, Haiti, again involving law enforcement duties. The mission included joint Army, Navy, Marine, and Air Force troops.

I returned from Senegal, West Africa, in July 2005 on another joint forces mission. I’m now awaiting a trip to Egypt, and from there my unit is scheduled to go to Germany to provide law enforcement assistance.

We are tasked to return to Baghdad through 2007, but things can change at any time. You know the government...”



Raymond Singletary