

THE SHIELD

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
ARMY CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION



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OF THE SHIELD

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THE SHIELD

SPECIAL AGENT GREGORY D. FORD

Director, Army Criminal Investigation Division

The Shield is an official professional publication published quarterly by Army CID Public Affairs Office. We aim to provide our stakeholders with the latest in investigative, organizational and trends within the Division. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Army CID or Department of Defense.

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Russell Knox Building | 27130 Telegraph Road | Quantico, VA 22134-2253 | www.cid.army.mil



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DIRECTOR'S CORNER



It is my pleasure to introduce the new iteration of "The Shield." This publication is designed to educate our audiences on the new techniques, programs, the latest happenings in Army CID and how we serve the Army and local community. We will be highlighting CID's capabilities, updates on our transformation, talent management and our commitment to strengthening partnerships with law enforcement agencies.

Transformation update: First and foremost, we are a law enforcement agency and our agents are federal law enforcement officers dedicated to preventing and investigating crime impacting the Army and the readiness of the total force. That said, collectively all agency personnel and the work they do enables the safe and efficient execution of the mission, making them an integral part of this law enforcement team.

Directed by the Secretary of the Army, CID has been working hard on transformation initiatives focusing on four complementary lines of effort, operational excellence, talent management, modernization and partnerships. Part of CID's transformation is to further define the Army nexus and the point when CID becomes involved in investigations. To properly support the Army, the concern should not be where the crime occurs, but rather the impact the crime has on the Army and its community. The end result will provide greater insight for Army senior leaders and mission commanders as to what is happening off-post, from a crime standpoint, and how it may impact Army personnel or installations.

The Division established the Investigations and Operations Directorate to enhance leadership visibility for ongoing investigations and allow for programmatic oversight designed to identify and share lessons learned and best practices. The IOD will also centralize oversight responsibility of investigations, leading to increased standardization of investigative processes across the organization.

The Cyber Directorate is also being enhanced. It will control CID's entire digital forensic enterprise, creating efficiencies in turnaround time for exams and overall better investigative response to active investigations. The Cyber Directorate will optimize the efficiency of the digital forensic examiner workforce, increase digital literacy across the organization and procure standardized cyber investigative tools for the agency. The former Major Cybercrime Unit is now a Cyber Field Office under the Cyber Directorate.

This has been a team effort by CID personnel and others within the Department of the Army. We have seen great strides and advancements, but there is a lot more to come. Going forward, my focus will remain on building the CID necessary to provide superior criminal investigative support to the Army now and into the future.

Gregory D. Ford
Director, Department of the Army CID

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION
MISSION

CID is an independent federal law enforcement agency consisting of nearly 3,000 personnel assigned to 124 world-wide locations, responsible for felony criminal investigations and operations; war crimes and terrorism investigations, criminal intelligence collection and analysis; cybercrime investigations and operations; multi-dimensional forensic support; and protective service operations for the Secretary of Defense, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other high risk personnel.

ABOUT ARMY CID

WHO WE ARE

CID is in the process of transforming from a military command into an independent civilian led federal law enforcement organization enabling the Department of the Army's mission, and supporting active duty, Reserve, Guard and Civilian workforce and their families.

During this transformation, CID strategic lines of effort include four main points – Operational Excellence, Talent Management, Modernization and Partnerships. Our efforts are focused on how to increase investigative support functions and investigative capability and capacity, increase collaborative efforts with local, state, and federal law enforcement partners, meet our wartime requirements and exercise investigative independence.

As the Army's primary criminal investigative organization, CID is responsible for conducting felony-level criminal investigations in which the Army is, or may be, a party of interest.

CID is an independent Federal Law Enforcement Agency that employs military and civilian, credentialed federal Special Agents. CID directly supports the Army world-wide, through its protective services for High-Risk Personnel; as well as its expeditionary capability to support wartime requirements. Additionally, the agency is led by a civilian Director, a law enforcement professional who reports to the Secretary of the Army via the Under Secretary of the Army.

Headquartered at Quantico, Virginia and operating throughout the world, CID Special Agents conduct criminal investigations that range from death to fraud, on and off military reservations and when appropriate, with local, state and other federal investigative agencies.

CID supports the Army through the deployment, in peace and war, of highly trained Special Agents and support personnel, the operation of a certified forensic laboratory, a protective services unit, computer crimes specialists, polygraph services, criminal intelligence collection and analysis and a variety of other services normally associated with law enforcement activities.





ABOUT CID

WHAT WE DO

CID investigates and provides intelligence while working to proactively prevent crimes which impact the operational readiness of the Army. CID investigates felony crimes of serious, sensitive, or special interest matters to support commanders and preserve the Army's resources in peacetime, combat, and contingency operations.

CID also conducts worldwide investigations of classified Army programs and sensitive activities; acquisition fraud affecting Army programs and systems, major construction, and Soldier safety; intrusions, related malicious activities, and insider threats involving U.S. Army computers; and terrorism activities.

Primary Mission Requirements:

- Investigate serious crime
- Conduct sensitive/serious investigations
- Collect, analyze and disseminate criminal intelligence
- Conduct protective service operations
- Provide forensic laboratory support
- Maintain Army criminal records

Additional Mission Requirements:

- Logistics security (From the manufacturer to the Soldier on the battlefield)
- Criminal intelligence (Develop countermeasures to combat subversive activities on the battlefield)
- Criminal investigations (Expanded to include war crimes and in some cases crimes against coalition forces and host nation personnel)
- Protective service operations (Protects key personnel on and off the battlefield)



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Procurement Fraud Investigation Training Program

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center's Deputy Director Kai J. Munshi honored CID Special Agents Mark Mansfield and Brett Villanueva, as well as teammate Special Agent Brian Liebelt, for their outstanding problem-solving and development of quick, adaptable training. All three Special Agents are members of the Financial Fraud and Investigative Analysis Branch, Technical Training Operations Directorate, at FLETC in Glynco, Ga.

In only three hours, the team organized the online lab at FLETC, built up a virtual classroom using Microsoft Teams, and worked with the Office of Special Investigations, Staff Sergeant Micah Roller to serve as a go-between for the OSI students and the CID instructors.

The team won the "Tactical Technology Office Directorates' Team Award" for Fiscal Year 2022-Quarter four "because of their swift action, inventiveness, and teamwork, which enabled the students to complete the course," the award stated. CID encourages agency-to-agency collaborations and values partnerships like that of co-awardee SA Brian Liebelt and OSI's SSG Micah Roller.



Photo (left to right): Special Agents Mark Mansfield, Brian Liebelt, FFI Chief John Stamp, and Special Agent Brett Villanueva



About Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers: FLETC provides career-long training to law enforcement professionals to help them fulfill their responsibilities safely and proficiently. Over the past 46 years, FLETC has grown into the Nation's largest provider of law enforcement training. Under a collaborative training model, FLETC's federal partner organizations deliver training unique to their missions, while FLETC provides training in areas common to all law enforcement officers, such as firearms, driving, tactics, investigations, and legal training. (www.fleetc.gov/)

Procurement Fraud Investigation Training Program: PFITP provides specialized training to personnel who will be involved with a procurement fraud investigation. Emphasis is placed on investigative skills related topics to include: Financial Data Analysis, Cost Mischarging, Anti-Trust and Anti-Kickback Violations, Bribery, Fraud in Contract Negotiation, Procurement Integrity Act, Defective Pricing, False Claims/Statements, False Claims Act/Parallel Proceeding, Audit Considerations, and Effective Case Presentations. The PFITP is opened to law enforcement investigators, auditors, analysts, attorneys, and individuals serving as direct law enforcement support personnel. (<https://www.fleetc.gov/procurement-fraud-investigation-training-program>)

CID's Major Procurement Fraud Office, conducts and directs worldwide major procurement fraud and contingency contracting related investigations.

To learn more visit <https://www.cid.army.mil/Our-Capabilities/#MPFFO>



CID EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Highlighting the hardworking force necessary to provide superior criminal investigative support to the Army



Join our team! Search CID opportunities at USAJobs.gov

Interview with Shane Watts

Special Agent-in-Charge, Carolinas Field Office



QUANTICO, Va. - As a part of the Department of the Army Criminal Investigation Division's transformation, a civilian Special Agent-in-Charge is being appointed to each of the 17 Field Offices worldwide to increase CID's ability to effectively investigate and deter felony level crimes across the U.S. Army.

Shane Watts, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Carolinas

Field Office, was one of the first to be appointed.

Hailing from San Antonio, Texas, Watts knew when he was young that he wanted to be in law enforcement. He started his journey as a deputy sheriff in his hometown and after two years decided to begin a federal service career. He served with the U.S. Border Control for eight years and then U.S. Customs/Homeland Security Investigations for 18 years.

The attacks on September 11, 2001, brought about a restructuring and combining of the U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Customs, and other agencies. These agencies now form the Department of Homeland Security. Following the restructuring, Watts was assigned as a Special Agent for Homeland Security Investigations, the principal investigative arm of the DHS.

Watts became the Special Agent-in-Charge of the Carolinas Field Office in May 2022. Watts brought his experience and knowledge of the civilian and federal legal systems to help meet the Army CID Director's intent of expanding the field offices' footprint of jurisdiction and integration with local and federal entities.

Watts has spent a lot of time in this new position building relationships with state, local, and federal agencies. "As CID expands its civilian footprint, we maximize our jurisdiction. This gives CID the ability to investigate a crime and follow leads anywhere in the world," Watts said.

An important relationship that Watts has built is with the local U.S. Attorney's office. The Carolinas Field Office assists the U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of North Carolina, by assigning a military attorney when appropriate as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, so they may assist in prosecuting in a civilian court. After assisting the U.S. Attorney, they return and if necessary, work as a trial attorney in the military court. This partnership not only helps the U.S. Attorney's office by providing it with a military subject matter expert, it also gives that participating attorney the opportunity, experience and resources they would otherwise not be

afforded. As an added benefit, this partnership gives the Army a more rounded, more experienced attorney.

Although Watts never served in the military, he knows the differences in the Uniform Code of Military Justice and civilian/federal statutes. "[Special agents and attorneys] need to know both systems equally as well and to understand that application of them can happen simultaneously. You can do a criminal prosecution in civilian court and apply a separation from service at the same time as a courts-martial and be able to navigate both worlds. Investigators have the ability to provide the same evidence in both courts."

Since he has been in this position, and with the restructuring and increase in personnel and resources, Watts has seen that agents are now able to respond quicker to incidents and be more proactive with investigations. They now have greater ability and capability to proactively perform operations that can expose and deter criminal activity, which in turn keeps our Soldiers, civilians and family members safe in our military communities worldwide.

"It is a complete honor and privilege [working at the Carolinas Field Office,] I am working with true American heroes, and I feel like I'm a part of something really special."

The Army CID transformation is ongoing, and Shane Watts knows this transformation can affect the career progression and retirement of those in the organization.

Despite this, Watts says: "Everyone here is all rowing in the same direction, were all working to make it a better agency. [The] work ethic and the cooperation from agents on the ground have been phenomenal, there is no way we could be as successful without all their support. It is a complete honor and privilege [working at the Carolinas Field Office,] I am working with true American heroes, and I feel like I'm a part of something really special."

Thomas B. Hamilton III
CID Public Affairs Office

Combating Online Sexual Exploitation of Children

QUANTICO, Va. - The Department of the Army Criminal Investigation Division is reminding parents to safeguard their children and teenagers against invasions of privacy, cyberbullying, sexting, and other forms of harassment found online.

Online sexual exploitation of minors is a vastly underreported crime. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children received more than 29 million tips of suspected child sexual exploitation during 2021, 7.5 million more than NCMEC received during 2020.

“Child predators have always found ways to target children,” said Edward LaBarge, then Assistant Director of CID’s Cyber Directorate, now CID Chief of Staff. “The Internet has just made it extremely easy for these predators to find, chat with, and meet their victims.”

Minors, having access to internet-connected devices at early ages, are easily accessible through social media, email, texting, video game platforms, online forums, chat rooms, message boards, and dating applications; the child sexual predators are aware of this.

“Any device connected to the Internet has the potential to be used by these predators to engage in conversations with your child,” he warned.

“Smartphones, gaming consoles, computers, tablets, etc. all provide an avenue for these predators to engage with children.”

CID remains committed to preventing child exploitation and crimes against children, educating the greater Army family about child exploitation, and investigating child exploitation and other crimes impacting children.

“The best tactic is to routinely discuss online safety with your child,” said LaBarge. “More and more children are starting to have cellular telephones and access to Internet connected devices at very young ages. It is very important to discuss and reinforce safety. Parents should start talking about safety in general as early as possible.”

CID also recommends laying out “ground rules and boundaries” prior to children gaining access to electronic devices connected to the Internet.

“Never let your child have free rein on any electronic device,” said LaBarge. “It is important to discuss safety and boundaries before giving access and lay out the consequences for not adhering to them.”

Many cybercriminals use the anonymity offered by the Internet to prey on vulnerable children and teenagers. This allows criminals to mask their real identities and leverage the curiosity of children when seeking victims.

According to NCMEC, the number of data files, to include images and videos, received containing child sexual abuse material exceeded 84 million files, with 44 million of those files being videos.

Cyber predators and criminals continue to use a variety of tactics and platforms to prey on unsuspecting children. The information below briefly describes categories of online sexual exploitation, indicators to look for, ways to protect children, and how to report and get help.

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL (CSAM) :

CSAM includes any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct involving a minor.

ONLINE ENTICEMENT OF A CHILD :

Online Enticement includes communication online with a suspected minor with the intent to abduct or sexually exploit the minor, establish a meet-up with the minor for a sexual encounter, solicit sexually explicit photos from the minor, or engage in child grooming, building trust, with the minor to later manipulate, exploit, or abuse.

SEXTORTION :

Sextortion, frequently beginning as a form of online enticement, is a type of sexual exploitation that typically comes in the form of blackmail or a threat of sharing the victim’s sexually explicit images to the public, friends, and/or family. It can also include trying to obtain money or additional sexually explicit images from the victim. (continued on next page)

SEXTING :

Sexting includes sharing and/or receiving sexually explicit messages, images, or videos through text messaging.

CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING :

Child Sex Trafficking is the exploitation of a minor through a sexual activity. The minor may be exchanged for a sexual activity by payment of money, drugs, or anything of value.

ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION INDICATORS :

The following list includes some common indicators minor children who are victims of online sexual exploitation may exhibit.

- Spending an increasing amount of time online, especially at night.
- Not being able to speak about what is being viewed online.
- Becoming possessive, secretive, and attempting to hide the screen of an electronic device.
- Showing signs of anger and irritation when asked about online content being viewed.
- Unexplained personality changes or mood swings when discussing the use of electronic devices or online activity.
- Self-harm or mentioning self-harm or suicide.
- Not sharing names of online friends.
- Sharing inappropriate images with others.

WAYS TO PROTECT CHILDREN ONLINE :

A perfect platform or application for preventing online sexual exploitation of minors does not exist. Parental involvement is critical to help children use the internet safely and reduce the risk of a minor becoming a victim.

- Talk to minors about appropriate online activities and behavior. NetSmartz Resources has excellent age-appropriate resources for parents, educators, and communities.
- Become familiar with the technology platforms minors use.
- Keep game consoles and other electronic devices in an easy to supervise location.
- Be aware of internet-connected devices accessible to minors.

- Use privacy controls when setting up accounts.
- Have minors choose appropriate screen names or online monikers. Avoid using a minor's real name, do not use meaningful numbers, avoid including location information, keep the moniker nonsexual and not vulgar, to avoid attracting sexual predators, and do not use the same moniker across multiple platforms.
- Set rules for minors about what can be shared online.
- Discuss with minors to never give out information online to include passwords, home address, location, phone number, or email address.
- Educate minors about the risks of communicating with and responding to strangers online.
- Discuss with minors the need to be cautious about meeting someone in person who they met online.

GETTING HELP :

Victims of online sexual exploitation may feel hopeless and, in some cases, commit suicide. If a minor is showing signs of suicidal ideation or emotional distress, reach out to the [National Suicide Hotline](#) by phone at 988 or online.



If you suspect a minor has been victimized, contact your local CID office or law enforcement agency and report the incident to the NCMEC at [CyberTipline.org](#). If you have access to the devices used to exploit the minor, do not delete any communication or content shared between the minor and the suspected exploiter.

As a reminder, criminal or suspicious activity can be reported anonymously at <https://www.cid.army.mil/report-a-crime.html>.

Ronna Weyland
CID Public Affairs Office

Army CID and Seattle Federal Air Marshal Special Agents Train Together

RENTON, Wash. - Special Agents from the Department of the Army Criminal Investigation Division's Western Field Office were invited by the Seattle Federal Air Marshal Field Office to attend the Federal Air Marshal Service law enforcement In-Flight Tactical Familiarization Course in Renton, Washington.

The course is designed to provide law enforcement officers, who fly armed, with an overview of the type of security incidents they may encounter while onboard an aircraft.

“Getting different aspects of CID into one room for the day and focusing on unique training like this course is always a great opportunity,”

- Army CID Resident Agent-in-Charge Heidi Hoter

Christopher Schubert, training officer for the Seattle Field Office, said “We at the Seattle Field Office really enjoyed hosting U.S. Army CID for the Law enforcement In-Flight Tactical Familiarization Course. They were an enthusiastic group of professionals that gave the training their all and made it a pleasure to instruct. The Law enforcement In-Flight Tactical Familiarization Course is designed to open the student’s minds to the tactical possibilities and considerations that are unique in the linear aircraft environment. It highlights the concepts of decisive action, passenger/ crowd management, and de-escalation that are relevant in all arenas.”

Working with and learning from peer agencies like the Federal Air Marshal service gives Army CID

Special Agents the opportunity to expand their law enforcement skills and maximize their jurisdictions.

“Getting different aspects of CID into one room for the day and focusing on unique training like this course is always a great opportunity,” said Army CID Resident Agent-in-Charge Heidi Hoter. “The relaxed and rare training environment allowed for cooperative ease, enhancing team building efforts. It was fun day for everyone.”

Combined agency training and education opportunities such as this also improves agency interoperability and increases effectiveness when conducting joint investigations.

Army CID’s mission is to identify and defeat criminal threats to Army affiliated personnel, installations, procurement efforts, and other assets by providing unparalleled criminal investigative support to the total force.



Special Agents from the Department of the Army Criminal Investigation Division's Western Field Office

Learn more about Army CID and how to become an agent by visiting www.cid.army.mil.

Thomas B. Hamilton III
CID Public Affairs Office

LAB REPORTS

Cannabinoid Craze Leads to Confusion in the Cannabis Industry

The identification of marijuana, also known as marihuana, has shifted from being one of the simplest to one of the most complicated laboratory analyses since the legalization of hemp. This is compounded by the recent explosive expansion of the cannabis industry to explore other cannabinoids beyond delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol. The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory, the Department of Defense's only full-service criminal forensic laboratory, has adapted procedures to stay current and provide relevant reporting information to investigative agent(s) regarding these cannabis products.

BACKGROUND :

Hemp was removed from control and made separate from marijuana when the term 'hemp' was defined in the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (nicknamed the "Farm Bill") as follows:

"the plant *Cannabis sativa L* and any part of that plant, including the seeds thereof and all derivatives, extract, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers, whether growing or not, with a delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis"

In other words, hemp and any cannabinoids extracted directly from the hemp plant are now considered federally legal. This began a transition of rising amounts of cannabis products containing high amounts of cannabidiol. As the cannabis industry has matured, many dispensaries and independent sellers have also begun to explore selling products with active ingredients other than CBD and the traditional delta-9-THC.

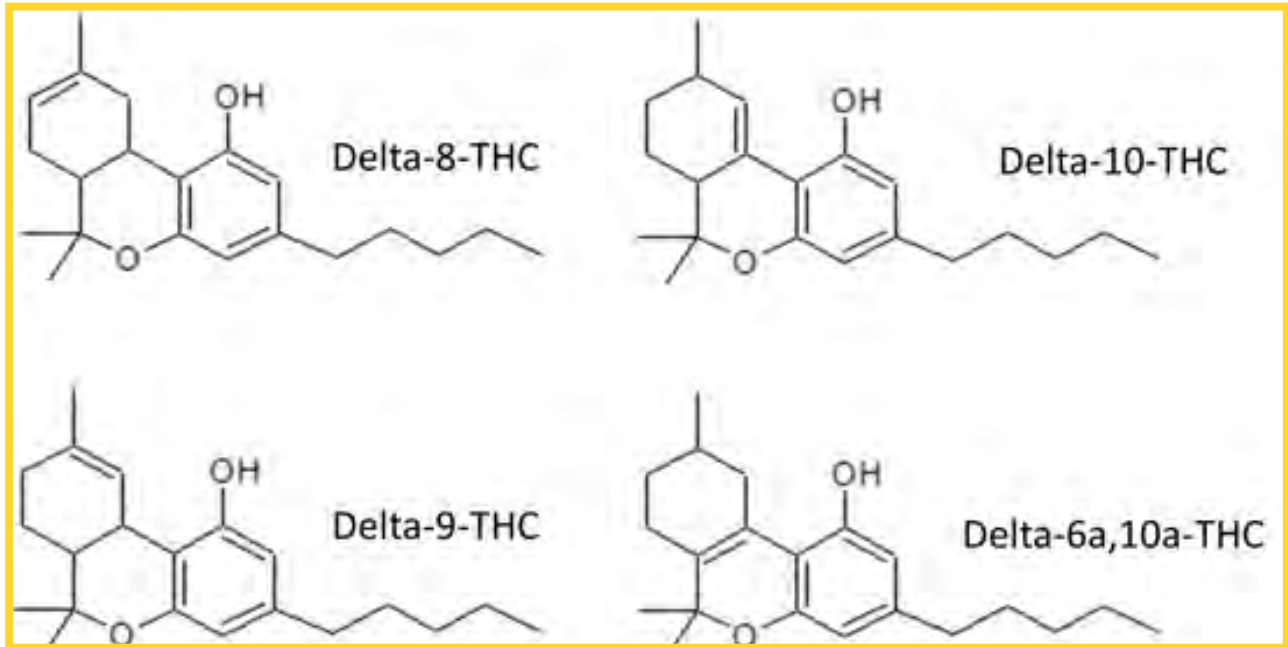


Figure 1: Structural Comparison of Popular Cannabinoids in Cannabis Plants

CANNABINOIDS CRAZE :

One of the cannabinoids rising in popularity is delta-8-tetrahydrocannabinol (delta-8-THC). It is a close cousin to delta-9-THC with a slightly less euphoric effect. Found in edibles, vape cartridges, plant material, tinctures, and other products, delta-8-THC is popping up in head shops, gas stations, and dispensaries. It is not naturally found in large amounts in cannabis plants but has typically been chemically converted from CBD extracted from hemp.

Delta-10-tetrahydrocannabinol (delta-10-THC) and delta-6a,10a-tetrahydrocannabinol (delta-6a,10a-THC) are other examples of rising cannabinoids. These cannabinoids are found in vape liquids and devices, edibles, and plant materials. Both delta-10-THC compounds are reportedly psychoactive, but with milder effects than that of delta-8-THC.

If a product contained a large amount of delta-8-THC and less than 0.3 % delta-9-THC, then the product could be considered federally legal.

Many of these cannabis products are advertised to contain mixtures of cannabinoids, including delta-9-THC, and bring into question the legality of the substance as a whole. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, products that contain chemicals that are extracted from a cannabis plant that does not have more than a 0.3 percent delta-9-THC content meet the definition of 'hemp'. Otherwise, the products may be controlled by schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act as 'tetrahydrocannabinols'. Consequently, if a product contained a large amount of delta-8-THC and less than 0.3 percent delta-9-THC, then the product could be considered federally legal. However, most branches of the military have published their own general orders prohibiting the use or possession of hemp products and derivatives thereof.

REPORTING UPDATES:

With the expansion of the cannabis industry beyond the use of delta-9-THC, the USACIL has updated its procedures to now identify and report cannabinoids other than the traditional three of cannabitol, cannabidiol, and delta-9-THC. These cannabinoids will now include delta-8-THC, delta-10-THC, and delta-6a,10a-THC. For unburned plant material samples, USACIL will continue to report "Marijuana identified" when the delta-9-THC is greater than 0.3 percent. Direct extracts greater than 0.3 percent delta-9-THC will also continue to be reported as 'delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinols' with a clarifying statement 'quantitation: greater than 0.3 percent delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol'.

When unable to determine if the delta-9-THC in plant material samples and direct extract samples is greater than 0.3 percent, the result will be reported as 'delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinols' with a clarifying statement that reads like the following: "The concentration of the delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol was not determined." Plant material samples will have an additional statement of "the plant material could not be identified as marijuana."

If delta-8-THC, delta-10-THC, or delta-6a-10-THC are identified in a sample, they will also be reported. Non-plant material preparations such as vape liquids, edibles, tinctures, and other products will be analyzed for the presence of the above cannabinoids and other cannabimimetic agents (as known as synthetic cannabinoids or "Spice") without determining the percent purity.

Kimberly Westberry, Forensic Chemist
U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory

DID YOU KNOW?

Hemp and any Cannabinoids extracted directly from the hemp plant are now considered federally legal. Hemp and its derivatives are still considered prohibited substances for military members.



Figure 2: Cannabis Plants at a Hemp Farm
(U.S. Government Photo)

CID IN THE NEWS

FIVE SUSPECTS IDENTIFIED IN FORT CARSON CHILD EXPLOITATION JOINT OPERATION

QUANTICO, Va. (March 22, 2023) – The Department of the Army Criminal Investigation Division’s Rocky Mountain Field Office conducted an online child exploitation operation in the Fort Carson, Colorado, area between March 17 and 18 resulting in five suspects being fully identified.

During the two-day operation, CID special agents, along with agents from Homeland Security Investigations, gained contact information and identification while the suspects were allegedly attempting to meet with an underage juvenile for sexual services.

During the online conversations, the suspects agreed to meet the minor at a predetermined location. Four civilians and one active-duty military member assigned to the 10th Special Forces Command were identified.

“These predators exist in the community, and we want to send the message that we will do whatever it takes to bring them to justice,” said Special Agent-in-Charge Ryan O’Connor, Rocky Mountain Field Office.

The one military member was apprehended by Army CID and is being referred to the Department of the Army for prosecution. The civilian suspects were referred for civilian prosecution.

“CID, along with unit commanders, are committed to working together to protect our community from predators,” said O’Connor. “I would like to send my gratitude and appreciation to our partner agencies, who continue to work with us to protect our communities.”

To protect the integrity of operations, no further information will be released at this time.

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For more information about CID or to report a crime, visit www.cid.army.mil.

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CID IN THE NEWS

FORMER CONTRACTING OFFICER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PLEADS GUILTY IN CONSPIRACY TO DEFRAUD THE GOVERNMENT

BOSTON, Ma. (April 26, 2023) - U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Massachusetts

An Uxbridge man pleaded guilty today in federal court in Boston to his role in a conspiracy to defraud the government of thousands of dollars from 2014 to 2018.

Thomas Bouchard, 60, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy and 10 counts of theft of government funds. U.S. Senior District Court Judge Mark L. Wolf scheduled sentencing for June 26, 2023. Bouchard was arrested and charged in July 2020 along with co-defendant Chantelle Boyd.

Bouchard was the Contracting Officer in charge of the U.S. Army Natick Contracting Division, a full-service contracting organization for the Department of Defense. In 2014, Bouchard used his long-standing relationship with Evolution Enterprise, Inc., a government contractor, to allegedly have Boyd hired for a "no show" job as an assistant that specifically supported Bouchard. Boyd's position cost the Department of Defense more than \$490,000 during her time at Evolution from 2014 to 2018, during which Boyd performed little if any useful function.

Bouchard and Boyd took numerous government-funded trips, ranging in duration from two to 15 days, under the guise that they were work related. This included 31 trips to Orlando, Fla., among other locations such as Clearwater Beach, Fla., and Stafford, Va., during which Boyd allegedly performed little if any work. For many of the trips, Bouchard and Boyd stayed in the same hotel room and spent time at the pool and Disney parks – all during business hours. In order to conceal the personal nature of the trips, Bouchard altered, created and approved false travel to reimburse the Boyd for out-of-pocket expenses.

On April 3, 2023, Boyd pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy, 10 counts of theft of government funds and false declarations before the grand jury. She is scheduled to be sentenced on June 26, 2023.

The charge of conspiracy provides a sentence of up to five years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. The charges of theft of government funds each provide for a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

United States Attorney Rachael S. Rollins; Joseph Dattoria, Special Agent in Charge of the General Services Administration Office of Inspector General; Patrick Hegarty, Special Agent in Charge of the Defense Criminal Investigative Service; and Scott Moreland, Special Agent in Charge of the Army Criminal Investigation Division Major Procurement Fraud Field Office made the announcement. Assistant U.S. Attorney Neil J. Gallagher, Jr. of Rollins' Public Corruption & Special Prosecutions Unit is prosecuting the case.

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For more information visit <https://www.cid.army.mil/Our-Capabilities/#MPFFO>

