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**D.A. BROWN: FORMER WEST POINT MILITARY POLICE SERGEANT
SENTENCED TO JAIL IN UNDERCOVER INTERNET CHILD SEX STING OPERATION**

Alleged 12-Year-Old Victim Was Actually NYPD Detective

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that an Orange County man who, at the time of his arrest, was a United States Army Military Police Sergeant assigned to duty at the United States Military Academy at West Point, has been sentenced to jail for attempting to arrange a sexual tryst with an individual whom he believed to be a 12-year-old girl but, in fact, was a New York City Police Department detective.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant has admitted to being a sexual predator who lurked behind a computer monitor and trolled the Internet looking to prey upon underage and vulnerable victims. Under the circumstances, the sentence is more than warranted. This case should serve as a wake up call to parents that they need to closely monitor their children's Internet access and activities."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Nelson Pardo, Jr., 41, of 5 Church Street in Highland Falls, New York. The defendant pleaded guilty on April 11, 2006 to ten counts of Attempted Dissemination of Indecent Material to Minors in the First Degree, one count of Attempted Sexual Abuse in the Second Degree and two counts Attempted Endangering the Welfare of a Child before Queens Supreme Court Justice Ronald D. Hollie who imposed today's sentence of six months in jail and five years' probation and is will be required to register as a sex offender.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, the defendant, using the screen name "Hardlawman" entered an AOL chat room entitled "I Love Older Men" on July 17, 2003 and made contact through AOL's instant message service with a detective from the NYPD's Computer Crimes Squad. The detective was acting the part of 12- and 13-year-old sisters and was using the screen names he had created for both girls. Following subsequent computer conversations he had with whom he thought was the 12-year-old, the defendant sent the detective several obscene pictures of himself that depicted his exposed private parts, as well as instant messages describing sex acts he wished to perform with the supposed preteen. After repeatedly indicating his desire to meet, the defendant sent an e-mail message to the detective on August 11, 2003 and arranged for a meeting the following day at the Burger King restaurant at 221st Street and Northern Boulevard in Bayside, Queens.

The District Attorney said that the defendant was met the following day by an NYPD detective and arrested after he was observed getting out of a silver-colored Chevrolet Blazer and walking into the Burger King restaurant.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Kateri A. Gasper of the District Attorney's Special Proceedings Bureau prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Robert D. Alexander, Chief of the District Attorney's Computer Crimes Unit, and Anthony M. Communiello, Bureau Chief, and Oscar W. Ruiz, Deputy Bureau Chief, of the Special Proceedings Bureau, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Linda M. Cantoni.

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Note to Editor: E-version of this press release posted at www.queensda.org.