

U.S. Department of Justice 2008 National Missing Children's Day Awards

Attorney General's Special Commendation Award

Florida and Michigan Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces

Detective Justin Spence, South Florida ICAC Task Force, Clewiston Police Department, Clewiston, Florida, and **Detective Sergeant Jay Poupard**, Michigan ICAC Task Force, Michigan State Police, East Lansing, Michigan.



In May 2007, while conducting an undercover online operation, Detective Spence was contacted by a Michigan resident who was manufacturing and distributing pornographic images of children. Throughout the investigation, the suspect encouraged Detective Spence to travel to Michigan and engage in a plot to abduct, rape, and murder an 8-year-old girl. Detective Spence contacted Detective Sergeant Poupard, who then joined the investigation. The two investigators confirmed the child's identity and that she was in imminent danger. The Michigan ICAC Task Force quickly apprehended the suspect, who was the child's uncle. Investigators found numerous pornographic videos and images in his possession. The prompt actions of Det. Spence and Det. Sgt. Poupard and the joint information sharing between ICAC Task Forces directly saved the life of an 8-year-old child and prevented further manufacture and distribution of child pornographic images.

2008 AMBER Alert Law Enforcement Award

Lieutenant. Jessica Farnsworth, Utah Attorney General's Office of Investigations, Murray, Utah

In 2007, Lt. Farnsworth, who is currently supervising the Utah Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC), created the Utah Attorney General's Child Abduction Response Team (CART). This team was created with the primary purpose of bringing together a group of experienced investigators, who could pool their knowledge and resources to respond statewide to an AMBER Alert or missing-endangered child alert. Lt. Farnsworth successfully recruited talented, experienced Federal, State and local investigators and support personnel who share her dedication to bringing missing children home safely.



2008 AMBER Alert Citizen Award

Lisa Ahlbrandt, a radiological technician, and **Sue Midgett**, a radiological assistant, both from Sentara Leigh Hospital, Norfolk, Virginia.

On December 18, 2007, a family acquaintance who had offered to provide temporary daycare abducted a 1-month-old infant girl. On December 19, Virginia State Police issued an AMBER Alert on behalf of the Portsmouth Police Department and broadcast the Alert to media outlets statewide. The hospital's radio station broadcast the Alert throughout its campus. The abductor and child came to Sentara Leigh Hospital's Emergency Department when the abductor needed medical treatment. Upon hearing the broadcast, Ms. Ahlbrandt and Ms. Midgett realized they had just treated the abductor and decided to take action. They verified the abductor's name and other identifying information and hurried to the Emergency Department. Without regard for their safety, Ms. Ahlbrandt and Ms. Midgett were careful not to draw attention to their discovery. Occupying the abductor, Ms. Midgett heaped attention upon the infant and asked to hold the baby while she noted the child's clothing as it had been described in the Alert. Meanwhile, Ms. Ahlbrandt discreetly alerted the nurse assigned to the abductor and had other hospital staff notify security to lock down the hospital and notify local authorities. Security and law enforcement arrived at the Emergency Room and apprehended the suspect. Due to the decisive actions of Ms. Ahlbrandt and Ms. Midgett, the child was safely recovered and returned to her family unharmed.



Child Protection Award

Trooper First Class Becky North, Maryland State Police, Easton, Maryland

In September 2006, Trooper North began investigating a child sexual abuse case in coordination with the Talbot County Department of Social Services. During her investigation, Trooper North discovered that the suspect had abused children in three counties dating back to 1973, with identified victims ranging in age at the time of their abuse from 7 to 15 years of age. Trooper North spent more than 1,200 hours investigating this case. In the summer of 2007, search warrants were served on the suspect's residence, computers, and vehicles. The suspect confessed, pled guilty, and was charged with more than 100 counts, including rape; sex offenses of the second, third, and fourth degree; perverted practices; assault; sexual abuse of a minor; continuing course of conduct in the sexual abuse of a minor; sodomy; and incest. As a result of Trooper North's thorough investigation and tenacity, the suspect received a 99-year prison sentence.



2008 National Missing Children's Day Art Contest Winner

Doyoun Park, Quail Hollow Elementary School, Sandy, Utah

Doyoun Park, a fifth grade student, was selected from hundreds of entrants. The artist's winning drawing will be on display at the National Missing Children's Day ceremony and will be featured in missing children-related publications and conferences.

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