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For Immediate Release:
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Arrest made following investigation into sex offenses involving underage victims

Port Orchard, Wash. -- A U. S. Army sergeant has been arrested following an investigation into allegations of illegal sexual contact with underage female victims.

A Sheriff's detective took Kevin Robert Winkler, age 30, into custody at approximately 6:00 p.m. last night. Winkler was booked into Kitsap County Jail on three counts of rape of a child, 3rd degree; three counts of child molestation and a single charge of communicating with a minor for immoral purposes. Bail was set initially at \$200,000.

Winkler is on active duty stationed at Fort Lewis.

The allegations were first reported to the Sheriff's Office by Child Protective Services on Sept. 3.

Winkler is alleged to have had multiple instances of sexual intercourse, inappropriate touching, and verbal & e-mail exchanges asking for, or discussing, sexual contact with at least three girls -- two 14 years of age and one aged 15. The offenses were reported to have occurred in North Kitsap, Central Kitsap, on the military reservation at Fort Lewis and in Oregon, between July 5 and Aug. 31.

Winkler came into initial contact with his first victim through an acquaintance. He was subsequently introduced to the other two girls by the first victim.

The investigation did not indicate that the use of force, or the threat of force, was used on any of the victims; however the investigation did reveal that alcoholic intoxicants were provided to some of the girls by Winkler.

Sheriff's detectives are working with investigators from the U. S. Army Criminal Investigation Division at Fort Lewis.

Winkler is expected to make an initial appearance in Kitsap County Superior Court at 3:00 p.m. today.

The investigation continues. Detectives believe that there may be additional victims, not yet identified, who may have been afraid to report illegal contact by the suspect.

Anyone with information concerning underage sexual contact situations involving Winkler is asked to contact Detective Chad Birkenfeld at (360) 337-5619 or (360) 337-7101.

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