



OFFICE OF  
Steve Boyer

# KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF

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For Immediate Release:  
KCSO Press Release #04-035/125

Thursday, Oct. 7, 2004

## **Arrest made following investigation into sexual contact involving underage victim**

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

A Kitsap County Sheriff's detective arrested a 33 year-old male suspect at approximately 3:00 p.m. this afternoon. The man was booked into Kitsap County Jail on two counts of rape of a child, 2nd degree. Bail was set initially at \$200,000.

The soldier is on active duty stationed at Fort Lewis.

The suspect is alleged to have had two instances of sexual intercourse with a 13 year-old South Kitsap girl. The offenses were reported to have occurred in South Kitsap between Sept. 5 and Sept. 13.

The suspect initially contacted the victim via a chat room on the internet. After several months, internet chat room communication turned into telephone conversations and, eventually, into personal contact.

The allegations were reported to the Sheriff's Office by a South Kitsap School District guidance counselor on Sept. 28, after the counselor received information about the sexual contact from a concerned friend of the victim.

The investigation did not indicate that the use of force, or the threat of force, was used on the victim. According to investigators, the suspect knew the age of the victim at the time of the offenses.

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

"This situation illustrates a very real concern involving underage victimization," said Sheriff Steve Boyer. "I urge parents to be wary of possible dangers lurking on the internet. Talk with your children and know whom they're communicating with, whether through internet chat rooms or by e-mail. Be aware, be cautious and be informed."

The suspect is expected to make an initial appearance in Kitsap County Superior Court at 3:00 p.m. tomorrow (Friday, 10/08/2004).

The investigation continues. Sheriff's detectives believe that there may be other underage victims, not yet identified, who may be afraid to report similar situations involving sexual contact by adults via the internet and/or in person. Anyone with such concerns or information is asked to contact Detective Chad Birkenfeld at (360) 337-5619 or (360) 337-7101.

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