Computer Crime Training Leads to Arrests, Prosecutions

RICHMOND, VA – October 3, 2001 – In this computer-literate age, sophisticated criminals use computers in their illegal activities. Advances in computer technology have provided criminals with a powerful tool. Reported incidents of high-technology theft and computer-related crime are increasing dramatically and successful investigations and prosecutions will be dependent on investigators' computer skills. The National Cybercrime Training Partnership (NCTP), a leader in the nation's law enforcement cybercrime training initiative, taught more than 4,200 law enforcement officials in five years the basics in data recovery and analysis, and are seeing positive results through arrests and prosecutions of today's cybercriminals.

The Pueblo County Sheriff's Department was recently asked by Delaware police in Newark to arrest a 20-year-old man from Pueblo West, Colo., who traveled with his father to Newark, where he raped a 13-year-old girl on the Internet. "Delaware police asked our help in not only arresting the man, but also in seizing his computer," said Commander Dave Pettinari. "I removed the hard drive and prepared it to send to Delaware police, using the skills I learned from the NCTP's courses."

The Metropolitan D.C. Police Department arrested several individuals in the last year for e-bay related fraud schemes locally. Last year, the department handled a felony threats case via AOL Instant Messenger Service against a college student in Washington, D.C., and was able to trace the suspect down to an address outside Houston, Texas. The local authorities were notified and took over and handled the situation in Texas appropriately. "We have used some of those skills to successfully close many Internet Fraud cases," said Investigator Tim Milloff of the Metropolitan D.C. Police Department.

Those are just a few success stories as a result of NCTP's Basic Data Recover and Analysis (BDRA) course, which was offered over 60 times in nearly 25 states in the U.S in 2001 alone. This class trains participants in the unique skills and methodologies necessary to assist in the investigation and prosecution of computer crime. The course includes hands-on instruction and discussion about such topics as evidence identification and extraction, hardware and software needed to do a seizure, how to recover erased files, how to overcome encryption, high-tech legal issues, and more. BDRA teaches criminal investigators and prosecutors, whose duties include the investigation and prosecution of high-tech crimes and seizure of electronic evidence.

"I honestly think that BDRA should be the backbone to all computer forensic training for members that are entering the field and plan to become either Computer Forensic Examiners or Internet Crime Investigators," said Milloff. "Many people entering this field have a background in computers or detective

skills, but do not know all the great things there are to learn from the NCTP classes."

In addition to the information, attendees express their appreciation of the contacts made with other law enforcement officers. The Metropolitan D.C. Police Department has at least 30 contacts from other jurisdictions' computer crime units that came from the BDRA courses its officers attended.

"This has been used quite a bit when we get calls from citizens that reside here in D.C., but have been victimized by suspects in other cities via the Internet," Milloff said. "We like to call this networking, and it is an invaluable source for investigators of crimes such as these, where your victim and suspect are in two totally different areas of the country."

About the National Cybercrime Training Partnership (NCTP)

Developed by the U.S. Department of Justice and managed by the National White Collar Crime Center, the NCTP provides guidance and assistance to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in an effort to ensure that the law enforcement community is properly trained to address electronic and high technology crime. More information on the NCTP and its initiatives is available on-line at www.nctp.org