

## **More Guilty Pleas and Sentencings in Software Piracy Case**

On November 9, 2006, four defendants each pled guilty in U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada to a charge of criminal infringement of a copyright. On February 20, 2007, a fifth defendant pled guilty to the same charge. The defendants were members of a computer software piracy group known as the "Rogue Warriorz," a secretive underground organization that illegally altered and distributed copyrighted software, movies, and games over the Internet.

The 5 defendants were among 21 persons indicted in June 2002 and subsequently convicted as part of "Operation Bandwidth," a 2-year-long, multi-agency undercover operation to identify and prosecute entities and individuals involved with illegal access to computer systems and the piracy of proprietary software utilizing storage sites in the Internet.

At least 18 members of the group were hackers who had illegally accessed EPA computer systems to further the reproduction and distribution scheme. Four defendants were each sentenced to 12 months probation with credit for time served and ordered to pay a \$25 special assessment. The fifth defendant was sentenced to 36 months probation with credit for time served and ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment.

*This investigation is being conducted jointly with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Defense Criminal Investigative Service. (Case Cost: \$566,483)*