



## Information/Training Bulletin

DOJ SAFE Sex Offender Task Force / San Diego

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# A Seemingly Innocent Menace

## An Introduction to “PEDO BEAR”

*Icon of the 21st Century Sexual Predator*



One of the unwritten rules of discussing casework I learned early on in my investigative career was; *“Never Tell A Story Without Having Pictures To Show”*. So, first, some pictures of our subject matter, “Pedo Bear”, Pedo being a shortened version of Pedophile.

### What’s a Pedo Bear?

Pedo Bear started as an “internet meme”. An "internet meme" refers to a image, catchphrase or concept that spreads rapidly from person to person via the internet, largely through internet-based email, blogs, forums, imageboards, social networking sites and instant messaging.

Pedo Bear originated in Japan as a meme associated with a popular image board, known for his lecherous nature. Pedo Bear grew famous for his “Seal of Approval” towards

prepubescent girls and his catchphrase "is dat sum loli" in referring to these girls in a sexually provocative manner. His cute face and non-threatening appearance negate the truth of his sinister, much darker side.

In fact, one of the things that make him so popular is the controversy surrounding his love of little girls. While most people do not advocate





this behavior, and some justify it as “black humor”, the truth is that he should be associated with the Internet and pedophiles/sexually-preferential offenders who reportedly use him to communicate their interests in young children.

In our brief experience with Pedo Bear, it appears that his image is used as a way for pedophiles and sexually-preferential offenders to identify each other. Pedo Bear’s image may also be a means of identifying locations on the internet, a type of computer “bread crumb trail”.

Pedo Bear has grown from that and now walks among us.

### The San Diego Comic Con 2010 Experience

In July this year, the SD SAFE Task Force worked in an undercover capacity at Comic Con, looking for those elements that might wish to exploit and/or victimize children. Pedo Bear was brought to our attention by a member of security staff who knew what he represented. At the time, no one on SAFE had ever heard of Pedo Bear, but upon learning, we contacted the young man walking around the convention center in the very distinctive costume. He was carrying a large bag imprinted “FREE CANDY”, and was giving away the candy inside. He was accompanied by several other individuals who were photographing him in the act of giving away candy and walking around Comic Con. Bottom line, the young man was identified and Pedo Bear was immediately excluded from Comic Con.



### SINCE THEN

Having now been introduced to Pedo Bear, some research was in order. Pedo Bear was found to be the internet phenomenon earlier described. Of significant concern, documented in photography on the internet (just Google-Images “Pedo Bear”), was the use of an otherwise family-friendly event for malignant means. Note the pictures in this Bulletin from Comic Con; Pedo Bear posing with a father and young toddler; in front of the Comic Con signage wearing his entry badge; with a young woman standing outside the Child Care rooms; with his “Free Candy” bag; and with an unsuspecting, costumed girl.





It became obvious, looking at the pictures and their context, what the intent is. The dark tentacles of this underground community, those that would make victims of our children, teasingly reaching out into the world, disguised as innocence, getting some perverse kick out of their disgusting joke on unsuspecting society.

Just before the release of this Bulletin, I had occasion to make a home visit to one of the sex offenders under my jurisdiction. His conviction offense involves sexually assaultive behavior on a child. He lives in a roommate situation with several other young, single men in an otherwise normal, Mira Mesa neighborhood. After completing my contact with him, I noticed, on the lower, front windshield of one of his roommate's cars, a familiar image. Pedo Bear out in the open.

The intention of this bulletin is to make all law enforcement aware of a possible indicator of individuals who might have a predilection to sexually inappropriate, or even, assaultive behavior. While not an absolute, the image of Pedo Bear should be a sign that you should take a closer look at the individual(s) or situation you are dealing with, and perhaps his presence will act as a building block towards developing probable cause, or even a case.



And from photos on the internet, Comic Con is just one of the events Pedo Bear attends. Be aware of your community events and who might be lurking.



The SD SAFE Task Force is very interested in any contacts you may have that involve Pedo Bear. My contact information is below, and we would appreciate copies of any documentation that comes from contacts in which Pedo Bear was a factor.

I am also willing to share specific details of the individuals referenced in this bulletin, if you contact me directly.

**Remember, the SAFE Sex Offender TF is available to you.**

Thanks to Fred Baclagan, Special Agent Supervisor, California DOJ/CATCH-ID Theft Suppression for his contributions about the history of Pedo Bear that he provided to the SD SAFE Task Force for this Training Bulletin.

If you would like additional information, or have additional experience or input with the subject matter, please contact;

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