Protecting Children and Young People from Online Dangers:

The Internet has become the new schoolyard for child molesters seeking girls or boys to victimize. For 2005, the VIRTUS® programs present an intensive one-day training seminar that illustrates the growing problem of sexual predators who target children via the Internet. The seminar will identify and then discuss the methodologies and seduction techniques employed by the child molester in the various chat rooms and on the World Wide Web. Additionally, the seminar examines the topics of child erotica, child pornography, and their use by the child molester. Lastly, the seminar explores safety techniques and software that can be used to protect children.

Robert Hugh Farley, M.S., a 30-year veteran of the Cook County Sheriff's Police Department in Chicago, Illinois, presents this eye-opening seminar. As a highly decorated detective and deputy United States Marshal, Detective Farley has had over 28 years experience conducting and supervising all aspects of child abuse investigations—from sexual abuse to child homicide.

Specific topics addressed at the seminar:

- Historical background of child exploitation.
- The evolution of the online problem that began in 1997.
- The progression of child pornography from Polaroid photos, to camcorders, to digital cameras, and beyond.
- The use of the computer, text messaging and the Internet in child sexual exploitation.
- Web-cams, chat rooms, file servers, and the Internet Relay Chat (IRC).
- Strategies for developing an online child friendly/child safe atmosphere in a religious and/or school environment.
- Awareness of fundamental computer hardware, technology and terminology.
- Techniques for interviewing the victim of online child abuse.
- Identification, disclosure, and the special needs of the victim of online child abuse.
- The situational child molester, the preferential child molester and the online child sexual predator.
- The child molester’s online seduction techniques.
- Child molester collections: child pornography, trophies, and child erotica.
- Law enforcement’s reactive and proactive response to the online problem.

About the presenter:

In 1997, Detective Farley created the Cook County Sheriff’s Police Department Child Exploitation Unit in order to combat the online Internet solicitation and sexual abuse of children. At that time, no other law enforcement agency in the United States (or the world) had a Unit working these specific types of crimes. Because of the unique crimes involved in the online sexual abuse of children, Detective Farley proposed new legislation and testified before the legislature in order to ensure his proposals would be signed into law. The Cook County Sheriff’s Police Child Exploitation Unit became and remains an international law enforcement model, which boasts a 100 percent court conviction rate.

As an internationally recognized expert, consultant, author, and instructor in child abuse investigative techniques, Robert Hugh Farley has trained thousands of police officers, attorneys, teachers, social workers, and other professionals. Since 1980 he has conducted hundreds of training seminars for the United States Department of Justice in 49 of the 50 states. In 2002, as a consultant to INTERPOL, he began conducting child abuse training seminars for police agencies throughout the world. Detective Farley recently became a consultant in crimes against children for the VIRTUS programs.

For more information:

For information regarding the scheduling and cost of this seminar, please contact Pat Neal, director of the VIRTUS programs, at 1-888-847-8870.