



The Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT) is an international partnership of law enforcement agencies created to fight online child abuse. The Taskforce comprises the Australian High Tech Crime Centre, the UK's Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Interpol.



The Second International Virtual Global Taskforce Conference 21-22 February 2007 - Renaissance Mayflower Hotel, Washington D.C.

The Virtual Global Taskforce is to host its second international conference in Washington D.C. on the 21 and 22 February 2007.

The first VGT conference in Belfast, Northern Ireland in November 2005 was a great success. This year's conference will be another opportunity for those from across the public, private and voluntary sectors to come together to hear about the latest international efforts to tackle child sexual exploitation - both online and offline. Speakers will include senior law enforcement officers, academics and representatives from industry and media.

This year's conference will again bring together specialists from across the public, private and voluntary sectors. They will be given the opportunity to hear about the latest international efforts to tackle the sexual exploitation of children both online and offline and to engage with these developments, provide feedback and make positive recommendations.

The VGT is committed to protecting children and bringing child sex offenders to account. If you support these aims, and are interested in learning more about the VGT and about the international nature of child sexual exploitation, this conference is for you. You can find further information and register at www.vgtconference.com



...how to stay safe online?

Think U Know Launched in Australia

The Think U Know education project was launched in Australia on 24 October 2006.

The project is a joint venture with the VGT, NetAlert and Microsoft. It involves volunteers from industry, charities and law enforcement delivering Internet safety messages to children of primary school age. The project is being piloted in three states - New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland - commencing in May 2007, with national implementation planned for later in the year.

The aim of this innovative project is to empower teachers, parents and children alike, to raise awareness of the risks that young people face online and to arm them with the information they need to stay safe.

For further information visit the website at www.thinkuknow.com.au

The VGT website received more than 25 million hits in 2006. Visit the website at www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com





Launch of the Virtual Global Taskforce Commercial

The first ever VGT commercial is to be launched at the VGT conference in Washington D.C. in February.

All VGT members have worked together to produce a powerful, 60 second commercial highlighting how the VGT is making the Internet a safer place. The film highlights the global nature of the Internet, reinforces the message that people online aren't always who they say they are and shows how law enforcement are working together to protect children on the Internet.

Following the launch, the commercial will be shown in a variety of formats in Australia, Canada, the UK and the US. This is the first time that different law enforcement agencies from around the world have worked together to produce an awareness-raising campaign. The film will have a potential audience of over 450 million people across three continents.



Providing a 24/7 response

The VGT has launched a new 24/7 initiative to enable it to respond anytime day or night to reports of a child at serious risk.

The system - which comprises a secure infrastructure for sharing information, new processes for alerting child protection police officers worldwide and a public reporting mechanism shared by all VGT members - was launched in Washington D.C. in November 2006 and has already produced early successes.

In one case, information provided in a chat room and reported to US authorities indicated that a man in the UK planned to rape his children within the next few hours. Investigators in both countries sprang into immediate action working through a team comprised of ICE and US Postal Inspection Service in the US and the CEOP Centre and the relevant local police force in the UK. Within 120 minutes of the first report, local police officers were at the individual's door. The individual was arrested. The resulting investigation is ongoing.

Online predators pose serious risks to children when they go looking for instant gratification. Through the Virtual Global Taskforce, we are creating an instant response.

Julie Myers, Department of Homeland Security, Assistant Secretary for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

Are you a law enforcement agency and interested in joining the VGT?
Visit: www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com/pdfs/New%20Members%20Leaflet.pdf

