

TO: SA K. Logins HSI SAC Nashville

FROM: SA JP Jones, HSI SAC New Orleans

DATE: 1/26/2025

CASE: 123D-NO-394874

**Synopsis:** SAC New Orleans requests digital forensic support from SAC Nashville to reduce backlog of outstanding examinations. Captioned investigation requires examination of 128 GB SSD Serial Number UB202411170774 for contraband images and other evidentiary artifacts associated with municipal, state and federal violations.

**Details:** The City of New Orleans enacted a law in 2004 making possession of nine or more unique Rhinoceros images a 1st Degree Felony. The network administrator at the University of New Orleans (UNO) recently alerted campus police when his instance of RHINOVORE flagged illegal rhino traffic. On 1/24/2025, Detective Judy Hopps of the University of New Orlean Police Department responded and was administratively/consensually provided evidence by authorized UNO administrators that includes a computer seized from one of the University’s labs. While the computer’s primary HD had been previously removed by unknown parties, a secondary SSD was recovered, possibly overlooked and/or subjected to failed destruction/overwriting attempt. In addition to the SSD image, Det Hopps was able to secure three network traces provided by the UNO network administrator that involve the machine with the missing hard drive. The suspect is the primary user of this machine, who has been pursuing his Ph.D. at the University since 1972.

As UNOPD does not have digital forensics personnel nor assets, Det Hopps initiated liaison between UNOPD and HSI SAC New Orleans. Further discussion conducted between NO Parish District Attorney and United States Attorney’s Office (USAO) New Orleans resulted in biparty consent for federal adoption due to potential interstate nature of network traces in violation various federal laws to be determined. Assistant US Attorney (AUSA) Steven Jennings has been assigned to this matter. As SAC New Orleans is currently backlogged and prioritizing the recent terrorist attack, SAC Nashville is requested to perform a forensic examination of captioned SSD utilizing best practices and conduct logical investigation appropriately.

On 1/26/2025, a WriteProtect test was performed by SAC New Orleans on captioned SSD using Ultradock with passing results, copy of which will be provided to SAC Nashville under separate cover. SAC New Orleans is regrettably unable to provide further details or key word list, however, is forwarding Wiebetech Forensic Ultradock v 5.5 and associated cables to SAC Nashville to facilitate detailed examination.

**LEAD 1:** SAC Nashville is requested to perform best practices forensic examination of 128 GB SSD Serial Number UB202411170774 and associated network traces to identify any present contraband images and other evidentiary artifacts associated with municipal, state and federal violations. SSD and Network Trace Logs will be sent under separate cover with appropriate Chain of Custody documentation for Nashville to complete and process per federal Rules of Evidence. In the interest of establishing and conveying evidentiary integrity, the following Crypto Hash Algorithm Checksums are provided:

c0d0093eb1664cd7b73f3a5225ae3f30 \*rhino.log  
cd21eaf4acfb50f71ffff857d7968341 \*rhino2.log  
7e29f9d67346df25faaf18efcd95fc30 \*rhino3.log  
80348c58eec4c328ef1f7709adc56a54 \*RHINOUSB.dd

**LEAD 2:** Per AUSA Jennings, SAC Nashville is requested to specifically determine the following:

* Who gave the accused a telnet/ftp account?
* What’s the username/password for the account?
* What relevant file transfers appear in the network traces?
* What happened to the hard drive in the computer? Where is it now?
* What happened to the SSD?
* What is recoverable from the *dd* image of the SSD?
* Is there any evidence that connects the SSD and the network traces? If so, what?

**LEAD 3:** SAC Nashville is requested to send report of forensic findings and conclusions to AUSA Jennings and prepare to deploy examiner SA K. Logins to SAC New Orleans to support grand jury, suppression and/or criminal trial appearances as necessary.