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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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FORMER SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES EMPLOYEE PLEADS GUILTY TO STALKING AND OTHER CRIMES

Devon Lynn Townsend, of Albuquerque, New Mexico pled guilty today to three felony crimes before the Honorable Robert Scott, United States Magistrate Judge. Townsend pled guilty to Stalking, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2261A(2)(A), Unlawful access to stored communications, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2701(a)(1) and (2) and (b)(1)(A), and Unauthorized fixation of and trafficking in sound recordings of live musical performances, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2319A. Townsend is a former employee of Sandia National Laboratories who, over the course of several months, used computers to illegally access private information, including private e-mail accounts, of Chester and Talinda Bennington. Townsend then used the private information in conjunction with her stalking activities. Chester Bennington is the lead singer for the musical group Linkin Park.

The factual allegations underlying the charges are contained within the plea agreement, and the Information formally charging Townsend, are both available online at the U.S. Attorney's Office website at http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nm/pr/index.html.

-30-