

# **Exploding The Phone**

db908

www.explodingthephone.com Bibliographic Cover Sheet

Title FBI file 87-WF-22106, Unknown Subject, Attempted Use of Blue

**Box** 

Date 1976-05-00

Author(s) FBI

Abstract Investigation into use of blue box in the Washington, DC area.

Prosecution declined but subject made restitution to phone company.

Keywords blue box; Washington, DC; Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone

Source FBI via FOIA

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### Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

April 30, 2009

Subject: CHESAPEAKE AND POTOMAC TELEPHONE

COMPANY (1950-1980) FOIPA No. 1125195-000

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Deletions have been made to protect information which is exempt from disclosure, with the appropriate exemptions noted on the page next to the excision. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted in the file to indicate where pages were withheld entirely. The exemptions used to withhold information are marked below and explained on the enclosed Form OPCA-16a:

Section 552		Section 552a				
□(b)(1)	□(b)(7)(A)	□(d)(5)				
□(b)(2)	□(b)(7)(B)	□(j)(2)				
□(b)(3)	⊠(b)(7)(C) ·	□(k)(1)				
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	□(b)(7)(F)	□(k)(4)				
□(b)(4)	□(b)(8)	□(k)(5)				
□(b)(5)	□(b)(9)	□(k)(6)				
⊠(b)(6)		□(k)(7)				
26 page(s) were reviewed and 26 p	age(s) are being released.					
<ul> <li>Document(s) were located which Government agency(ies) [OGA].</li> </ul>		nformation concerning other				
□ referred to the OGA for review	and direct response to you.					
referred to the OGA for consultation. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is finished.						
	nation Policy, U.S. Departmer ashington, D.C. 20530-0001. f this letter in order to be cons dom of Information Appeal."	nt of Justice,1425 Your appeal must be received by OIP sidered timely. The envelope and the Please cite the FOIPA Request				
☐ The enclosed material is from the main investigative file(s) in which the subject(s) of your request was						

the focus of the investigation. Our search located additional references, in files relating to other individuals, or matters, which may or may not be about your subject(s). Our experience has shown, when ident, references usually contain information similar to the information processed in the main file(s). Because of our significant backlog, we have given priority to processing only the main investigative file(s). If you want the references, you must submit a separate request for them in writing, and they will be

reviewed at a later date, as time and resources permit.

Sincerely yours,

David M. Hardy Section Chief

Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

### Enclosure(s)

The enclosed documents were processed in response to your specific FOIA request to FBI Headquarters (FBIHQ), and were contained in FBIHQ files 87-WF-22106 and 139-HQ-1797.

Please be advised that records that may or may not be responsive to your Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request has been destroyed. (Files 95-142136,95-157467,95-172840,95-135372, 95-140831,95-160600,95-159739,95-1577711,95-144940,95-116529, 95-132057, 95-167707, 95-122467, 95-164310, 95-133985, 95-14722, 15-40109, 95-96171, 25-413265, 95-58301, 95-164221, 95-169688, 15-31051, 15-29915, 95-139970, 92-7179, 92-6675, 92-6700). The records destruction practices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are conducted in full compliance with Title 44, United States Code, Chapter 33 and the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Chapter 12, subpart 1228. The FBI Record Retention Plan and Disposition Schedules have been approved by the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D. C..

FBI files (99-612, 99-1384 and 173-7929) which are responsive to your request has been transmitted to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) pursuant to the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (the Act). Transmission of these records was mandated by the Act and public access to them is available through NARA. If you wish to access these records through NARA, we ask that you send your request directly to NARA at the following address: National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740.

#### EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute(A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could be reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could be reasonably expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/heridentity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

31-A-10 WF087-049B

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# THE CHESAPEAKE AND POTOMAC TELEPHONE COMPANY

1825 K STREET, NORTHWEST, ROOM 915 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

EARL A. CONNOR
STAFF SUPERVISOR—SECURITY

AREA CODE 202 TELEPHONE 392-3866

May 17, 1976

Mr. Nick Stames
Special Agent-in-Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington Field Office
Old Post Office Building
12th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Stames:

This will serve to inform you that The Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company has reason to believe that instances of interstate electronic toll fraud have been committed against it in Washington, D. C., through the use of an electronic toll fraud device commonly known as a "Blue Box" which appears to violate Section 1343 of Title 18 U. S. Code and other applicable laws.

We are prepared to disclose evidence of such criminal activities in our possession upon receipt of a subpoena issued by a court of competent jurisdiction or on demand of other lawful authority within the meaning of Section 605 of Title 47 U. S. Code.

The specific evidence is in the possession of in our office. It is requested that the subpoena or other demand be served on me at The Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company Security Office, 1825 K Street, N. W., Room 715, Washington, D. C.

The assistance of your office in the prosecution of this case is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,

Security

Security

Sincerely,

Security

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ATTEMPT TO DEFRAUD C&P TELEPHONE COMPANY, WASHINGTON D.C. USE OF (Title) A "BLUE BOX"

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# THE CHESAPEAKE AND POTOMAC TELEPHONE COMPANY

# SECURITY CASE REPORT

				F	LE NO. 23-	-387				
	Fraudulent Use of Toll S	Service								
SUBJECT _	- Blue Box -	LOCATION	<u>Washing</u>	gton, D. C.						
N/3@/0\		ADDRESS								
name(s)		rDDREGOO								
Admill**	N.			*						
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SYNOPSIS	During the normal course of reviewing long duration calls made to In-Wats (800) numbers, it was observed that during the period from March 25, 1976 to April 22, 1976, sixteen (16) calls originated from to In-Wats numbers 800-523-5720 and 800-325-3535. (See Attachment A). The listings for these In-Wats numbers are as follows: 800-523-5720 - Amtrak; 800-325-3535 - Sheraton Inn Reservations.									
70. 77.000 A 2000 an										
DETAILS	A check of Business Office records for 543-5742 revealed service was established in August, 1975; in the name of Credit information has social security number employed Long distance calls from the October 10, 1975 through April 10, 1976 billing period showed an average of four (4) calls a month. (See Attachment B).									
	alls origin Recorder wa rom April 3 ing applied he followin I Departmen f gathering	s con- 30, 1976 to the g tele- at re- g evidence								
	Approval to attach a tape recorder was received on May 12, 1976.									
	On May 13, 1976, the tape recorder was attached to the Dial Number Recorder, connected to telephone number The tape recorder was arranged to be activated for a period of one (1) minute upon receipt of 2600 cycle tone through the Dial Number Recorder.									
REFERRED					TEL					
ВҮ	TITI			DATE						
ASSIGNED TO		DATE OPENED 4-29-76	DATE	)	MAN- HOURS					
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POLICE REPORT		VALUE LOST			VALUE RECOVERED					
	(Officer's Name, Precinct and Case No.)			PERS	-					
	CONVIC				RES	CL.				
AKKESTS_	CONVIC									
DISTRIBU	TION	BONDING REPORT		VIEWED						

FILE NO. 23-387

On May 17, 1976, a letter was sent to Mr. Nick Stames, Special Agent-In-Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington Field Office, requesting assistance.

The tape recorder was removed from the line on May 18, 1976, at which time the first minute of seven completed calls was recorded. (See Attachment G and  $\rm H.$ )

Bulk FD-1	sy Exhibit - Inventory of 1 192 (Rev. 10-6-65)	Propert Acquir	ed as Evidenc		Date	5/2	3,/76	
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Field File # 87-22106-1B1

#### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 5/24/76

Department, The Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company, 1825 K Street, N.W., Room 115, furnished the following information concerning the process of bypassing normal toll call billing procedures through the use of an electronic device commonly referred to as a "blue box":

By dialing 800 and then seven subsequent numbers, an individual is able to call from his local area to a toll office in a distant city, however, since 800 is a toll free number, he would not incurr any cost. Technically speaking, when the call begins on the local level, single frequency tones are emitted per digit, but once in the toll network, there is a conversion of the tones to multi frequency digits. Multi frequency tones cannot be produced by the caller's telephone but only in a toll office.

Should an individual come into possession of a "blue box", he would use it in the following manner:

Once in the toll network by dialing ten digits, he would then disconnect the call by emitting a 2600 cycle tone from the box. He would still be in the toll network, and although the telephone company would only have a record of the original call, he would be able to redial anywhere through the use of the blue box which utilizes a multi frequency tone. Noted by was the fact that since the blue box is used to save money, most users use the 800 network.

It is through the repeated use of the 800 network that unusual patters are discovered, which brings the caller into suspicion, and computers are programmed to kick out any phone call lasting over 8 minutes on this In-Wats system.

Interviewed on 5/21/76	a_ Washington,	D.C.	File #	WFO 87-22	106-2
SAs	and		,"	-	
Ďу	HBA:dtl	Date dictated_		5/24/76	<u> </u>

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

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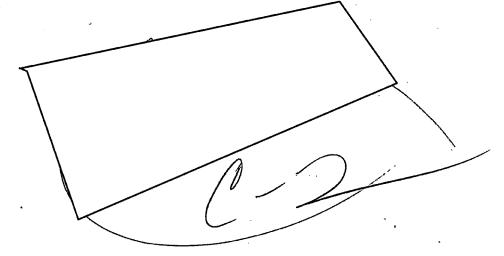
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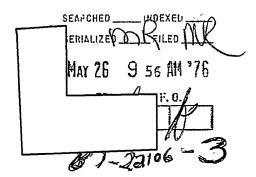
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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Potomac Telephone Company, 1825 K Street, N.W., Room 715, furnished the following information:  During the normal course of reviewing long duration calls made to In-Wats (800) numbers, it was observed that during the period from March 25, 1976 to April 26, 1976, 16 calls originated from telephone number to In-Wats mumbers 800-523-5720 (Amtrak), and 800-325-3535 (Sheraton Inm Reservations). Inasmuch as these telephone calls lasted from 9 minutes to 47 minutes, there was probable cause to believe that the individual calling from was engaged in Interstate Electronic Toll Fraud through the use of an electronic toll fraud device commonly referred to as a "blue box", and thereafter the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company conducted an investigation into this matter.  A check of business records for telephone number revealed service was established in August of 1075 in the name of Long distance calls from October 10, 1975 through April 10, 1976 billing period showed an average of 4 calls a month.  Based on the large number of long duration In-Wats calls originating from telephone number a dial number recorder was connected to the service on April 30, 1976. During the period from April 30, 1976 to May 3, 1976, 30 occurrences of the 2600 cycle tone being applied to the line were recorded, which would indicate the use of the "blue box". In addition, multi-frequency tones, indigenous to the use of a "blue box" and unable to be applied by a regular telephone, were applied for the following telephone numbers:
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Telephone Number Date of Time of Called Call Call Subscriber
305- 4/30/76 3:21 p.m. Sun Transmission, Homestead, Florida
wed on 5/21/76 of Washington, D.C. File # WFO 87-22106 $-4$
SAs and HBA: pja Dole dictated 5/27/76

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

WFO'87-22106

Telephone Number Called	Date of Call	Time of Call	Subscriber
305- 248-0912	4/30/76	3:22 p.m.	Sun Transmission, Homestead, Florida
	4/30/76	3:23 p.m.	b6 b7c
	4/30/76	3:23 p.m. (lasted until 3:31	
	4/31/76	2:29 p.m.	
	4/3 <u>1</u> /76	2:30 p.m.	
; ; ;	4/3 <u>1</u> /76 4/3 <u>1</u> /76	5:06 p.m. 5:06 p.m.	
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		5:08 p.m.	
	4/3 <u>1</u> /76 4/3 <u>1</u> /76	5:09 p.m. 5:10 p.m.	-
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	Telephone Number Called	Date of Call	Time of Call		Subscriber		,	ı. E
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		4/3 <u>1</u> /76	6:46 p.m.					
_	-	4/3 <u>1</u> /76	6:46 p.m. (lasted until 6:51 p	p.m.)				ē.
		4/3 <u>2</u> /76	11:59 a.m.				-	
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	······································	5/3/76	12:44 a.m.	HT 75:50	₽•III• )			
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WFO 87-22106

Telephone Number Called	Date of Call	Time of	Subscriber	k
312- 440-1732	5/3/76	12:45 a.m.	Non-published	
	5/3/76	12:45 a.m.		
	5/3/76	12:46 a.m. (lasted until 12:52	a.m.)	
month, this reading Apr	not progr has to be il 31, 197 reading A	ammed to auto done manuall 6 should, in pril 32, 1976	much as the dial number matically change with the y and therefore those dates fact, be May 1, 1976, while should, in fact, be May 2,	
a tape recogathering ethe Fraud be Approval to 1976, and of to the dial for a period through the removed frof first minutoriginal tasion of his	order to the vidence for y Wire State that the following mumber red of one mand the line of 7 comperced of the contract of the	l department e dial number r prosecution tute, Title l e tape record owing day a t corder connect pe recorder v inute upon re er recorder. on May 18, 1 pleted phone ng of these r	may 5, 1976, a request was regarding approval to attach recorder for the purpose of relative to violation of 8, U.S. Code, Section 1343. Ler was received on May 12, sape recorder was attached ted to telephone number was arranged to be activated eccipt of the 2600 cycle tone. The tape recorder was 1976, at which time the calls were recorded. The phone calls are in the posses-	
items were			interview, the following	
number 800-325-353	t	cards reflect to In-Wats num	ing phone calls from telephone and	

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2. A list of subscribers to individuals called through the use of a "blue box" between the period of April 30, 1976 to May 3, 1976.

3. The dial number recorder tape connected to

4. The dial number recorder tape connected to number between May 13, 1976 and May 18, 1976.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

	Date of transcription 5/2(//6
	The Chesapeake
	and Potomac Telephone Company, 1825 K Street, N. W., Room 715,
	made available for listening purposes, tape recordings of
,	conversations on telephone number , which were
· .	recorded for one minute each after the Dial Number Recorder,
,	to which the tape recorder was attached, was activated upon receipt of a 2600 cycle tone.
·	receipt of a 2000 cycle tone.
	The tape recording covered a period of telephone
	calls between May 13, 1976 and May 17, 1976, and a total of
	seven completed calls were recorded.
	It was determined through listening to the calls,
•	that the caller was an individual named who was
,	apparently enrolled in
	stated that after listening to the
	tape recordings, he learned that one of the residents of
3	where the telephone number
	is in service is This individual is
	presently
. ,	Accordingly, he suspected that this individual was using the "blue box" at telephone number
•	
> <b>*</b>	
* '.	
Intervie	wed on 5/21/76 of Washington, D. C. File # WFO 87-22106
. ,	do la companya de la
t	SAS and Date distrated 5/25/76

This document contains neither recommendations not conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

HBA:1gm

Washington Field Office, Room 506 Old Post Office Building Washington, D. C. 20535 WFO 87-22106 July 13, 1976

United States Attorney Washington, D. C. 20001

> Assistant United States Attorney Attention:

Donald Campbell

Dear Sir:

Re:

Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property - Fraud by Wire

This letter serves to confirm conversations between Special Agent and Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) Donald Campbell on May 25, 1976 and June 10, 1976.

On May 25, 1976, AUSA Campbell was advised that captioned individual was identified by the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company as operating "blue box" from a District of Columbia telephone number and this appeared to be in violation of Fraud by Wire statute. Investigation conducted by the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company identified

At that time, AUSA Campbell advised that based upon preliminary investigation conducted by the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company, he would not entertain any prosecution in this matter since it has been the policy of his office not to prosecute "blue box" cases when there is an absence of phone calls being used for ilegitimate businesses. AUSA Campbell requested the FBI to continue their investigation in an attempt to return the blue box to the phone company.

Addressee WFO

CONSOLIDATED

Searched

On June 11, 1976, AUSA Campbell advised that the FBI should discontinue their investigation in this matter, in the presence of an attorney returned the "blue box" to his office and promised to make a full restitution to the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company.

In view of the above, the Washington Field Office is conducting no further investigation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Nick F. Stames, Special Agent in Charge

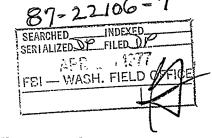
# Memorandum

returned on 4/12/77.



то	:	SAC, WFO (87-22106)(C)	DATE:	,	4/2/7
FROM	:	SA			
SUBJECT	r:[	ITSP - FRAUD BY WIRE (OO:WFO)			
		On 3/31/77 telephonic contact v C & Company, 1825 K Street, N.W., Washington telephone 392-3861.	P Tel	epho:	ne
		requested that items current maintained by the WFO as evidentiary items to the C & P Telephone Company in view of were no longer needed at WFO. explain materials could be used for training purpose Telephone Company.	s be r the f ined t	etur. act hat	ned that these
		In view of request these	a item	S WA	ra

1 - WFO





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