MOBILE FORENSICS BEHIND BARS

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WHAT WORKS IN MOBILE FORENSICS BEHIND THE BARS

- PRISON STATISTICS
- SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM
- FORENSIC TOOL OVERVIEW
- VALUE OF MOBILE FORENSICS TO CORRECTIONAL INVESTIGATORS
- FORECAST FOR THE FUTURE
Prison Statistics

- There are more than 2.3 million prisoners incarcerated in the US today
- The numbers grow at an alarming rate each year.
Federal Bureau of Prisons

- 115 geographic locations throughout the continental US, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico
- 35,000 staff
- 205,000 inmates
- FBOP has five security levels: Minimum, Low, Medium, High and Administrative.
SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

- Unable to prevent the flow of illegal cell phones into prisons
- Inadequate laws to deal with this security threat
- Finding hidden phones inside a 500,000 sq ft. facility is extremely challenging
- Inmates are able to carry on criminal activity
- Unmonitored communications with those on the outside and with fellow gang members in other prisons
- Prison employees are recruited to smuggle cell phones and other contraband into prisons.
- Dealing with the criminal creativity of inmates
Prison Facts

- Thousands of cell phones are seized throughout America’s prisons each year.
- Prison cell phones are prepaid and pin locked
- Deal with all cellular service providers
- Staff shakedowns are the most effective method of finding cell phones, inmates are not usually caught in the act.
- Recovered devices are handled by numerous staff before reaching forensic technicians
- Data recovered is used to link the device to other inmates within the Bureau
- Criminal cases are investigated by outside law enforcement agencies
- Most correctional agencies are ill-equipped to deal with this institution security threat.
This is a picture of more than 2,000 cell phones confiscated from inmates at a California State Prison.
Another death row inmate caught with cell phone

Cell phones plague prisons
A smuggled phone can fetch $500

Inmates Smuggle In Cell Phones with Ease

Seven Prisoners Hospitalized After Hiding Mobile Phones in Their Bodies

Smart-Jamming for Mobile Phones in US Prison

Former Prisoner Sues Over Confiscated Mobile Phone

Calif. mulls criminalizing cell phones in prison

Report. Smuggled Cell Phones Helping NJ Prisoners Commit Crimes from Jail

Poor staffing and surveillance lead to influx of cell phones in Texas jails

Death Row inmate makes threatening call to Senator

Nun the wiser: mobile phone found in jail birthday cake

Trying to Keep Cell Phones Out of Prison

Remote control helicopters deliver cell phones to inmates

Texas: A jail sentence of 60 years was handed down to an inmate caught with cell phone
Criminal Creativity of Inmates

- Inmates have 24/7 to engineer new ways to get contraband inside of prisons and capitalize on its use for underground inmate economy
- Inmates design concealed wall chargers
- Inmates use one phone & multiple SIM cards
- Inmates build covert devices, such as the Walkman phone
- Inmates are masters of concealed transportation of contraband throughout prisons
Methods of smuggling contraband

- Inmate Visitors
- Inmate Mail
- Prison Supplies
- Carrier Pigeons
- RC Helicopters
- Launched over Perimeter Fence
- Toad Frogs
- Corruption
Methods of Concealment
Methods of Concealment II
Cell phones in cereal boxes
Contraband Cell Phones that were confiscated prior to being launched over perimeter fence
Illegal cell phones smuggled inside of religious books
More Illegal cell phones smuggled inside of religious books II
Cell Phones come in many forms
Walkman radio that was modified using a Cell phone motherboard. Two of these devices were recently confiscated in a Florida prison.
Criminal Minds can be very creative. Electrical outlets become phone chargers and hiding places.
Cell phone and three SIM cards and calendar with concealed pocket.
Cell phone watch confiscated inside a Federal Penitentiary
FORENSIC TOOL OVERVIEW

- Paraben-Device Seizure
- Cellebrite-UFED
- BitPim
- Micro Systemation XRY/XACT
- Final Data- Final Mobile Forensics
- PROJECT-A-PHONE
- RTL-Aceso
- Susteen-Secure View
- Direct Hit-Threads Link Analysis Software
- Mobile Edit Forensics
- ZRT SCREEN CAPTURE
WE HAVE FOUND VALUE IN EVERY FORENSIC TOOL THAT WE HAVE EVALUATED

BREAKING LOCK CODES IS ESSENTIAL

PHYSICAL ACQUISITIONS HAVE PROVEN TO PROVIDE VALUABLE DATA

WE WORK WITH ALL FORENSIC TOOL MANUFACTURERS TO IMPROVE FORENSIC PRODUCTS FOR THE PRISON INDUSTRY

PRISON PHONES ARE GENERATIONS BEHIND THE STREET PHONES

PLANS AND DEVICES ARE PAID FOR IN CASH. FICTITIOUS IDENTITY USED FOR SERVICE CONTRACTS

SOME PROPRIETARY DEVICES NOT WIDELY SUPPORTED BY FORENSIC SOLUTIONS. (THIS IS CHANGING)
The Value of Mobile Forensics to Correctional Investigators

- Mobile forensics is the only technology that is readily available to Bureau investigators.
- Mobile forensics provides valuable intelligence and has proven to be extremely useful to prison administrators.
- Mobile forensic technology facilitates administrative rather than criminal investigations.
- Phone numbers recovered from illegal cell phones are entered into Link Analysis programs. New data Bases are produced connecting inmate associates across the nation.
CORRECTIONAL INVESTIGATOR CONCERNS

- Different legal threshold requirements, chain of custody and very different uses of real-time intelligence gleaned from cell phones.
- Cell phones enable criminals inside walls to continue being criminals by making unmonitored calls to maintain gang networks, foment unrest, plan assaults on staff or inmates and plan escapes.
- Correctional forensics focuses on preventing institution disturbances, assaults on staff or inmate, introduction of other contraband or acts of violence within prison walls.
Mobile devices such as the Blackberry Storm, and Apple iPhone, have become miniature computers.

Future devices will not look like a cell phone and correctional staff will need constant training to ensure detection and seizure of this sophisticated contraband.

It will require new policies, investigative procedures and financial resources to meet the challenges created by this new criminal enterprise.

Cell Phones inside of prisons will only become more common and inmates will find more ways to leverage this technology.
Terrorist will use intimidation tactics to create a state of chaos using devices like the Mail bomb
Opinions expressed in this presentation are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the position of the Federal Bureau of Prisons or the U.S. Department of Justice.
Thank you

QUESTIONS?