

innocuous or misleading filenames and extensions. For example, files with the extension “.jpg” often are image files; however, a user can easily change the extension to “.txt” to conceal the image and make it appear that the file contains text. Computer users can also attempt to conceal data by using encryption, which means that a password or device, such as a “dongle” or “keycard” is necessary to decrypt the data into readable form. Computer users also can conceal data within another seemingly unrelated and innocuous file in a process called “steganography.” For example, by using steganography, a computer user can conceal text in an image file, which cannot be viewed when the image file is opened. Therefore, a substantial amount of time is necessary to extract and sort through data that is concealed or encrypted to determine whether it is evidence, contraband or instrumentalities of a crime.

**BACKGROUND OF INVESTIGATION AND
FACTS SUPPORTING PROBABLE CAUSE**

8. I make this affidavit in support of a search warrant for a residence located at 1795 Scarlet Oak Trail, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, 54904 and currently believed to be occupied by MASON SECKAR (date of birth: [REDACTED]/1990) and JAMES SECKAR (date of birth: [REDACTED]/1961). As part of this investigation, I spoke to Special Agent Nicholas F. Massey in the Milwaukee Division, Green Bay Resident Agency (GBRA) of the FBI. SA Massey personally observed the residence and provided a thorough description and photographic image to me. Based on the information provided by SA Massey, the residence is as set forth in Attachment A.

9. The FBI is investigating MASON SECKAR as a suspect for using a computer / telephone at this residence to commit violations of Title 47, United States Code, Sections 223(a)(1)(C) (Use of Telephone Calls to Annoy, Abuse, Harass or Threaten), 223(a)(1)(E) (Repeated Telephone Calls or Use of Telecommunications Device to Harass), and Title 18, United States Code, Section 875(c) (Extortion and Threats, Interstate Communications).

10. On January, 26, 2011, I received a call from Detective ("Det") Steve Gazdick, St. Johns County Sheriffs Office, Florida ("SJSO"), who was calling to request the assistance of the FBI in the investigation of an individual making numerous prank calls to their emergency services number, from telephone numbers 559-470-0900, 661-478-0900, and 510-984-2666. According to Det. Gazdick, many of the calls resulted in officers responding to false reports of individuals in danger, some of whom purportedly suffered life threatening injuries. Further, on at least one occasion the individual repeatedly called, approximately every minute, for several minutes causing a disruption in the normal operation of the telephone switching system.

11. On January 27, 2011, I attended a meeting at the SJSO regarding the investigation of these prank calls. At this meeting, Det. Gazdick provided me with a copy of several of the recorded prank calls, which I have subsequently reviewed. I also reviewed a copy of the call detail records ("CDR"), which were provided by ITC Deltacom², for the period surrounding the prank telephone calls. From my review of the

²ITC Deltacom is a voice and data communications provider serving companies in the Southeast United States. ITC Deltacom provides the telephone services for SJSO, as such they are able to provide the Call Detail Records (CDR) for telephone calls made from and received by the SJSO.

CDR, I learned that the SJSO received approximately 180 prank phone calls for the time frame of 01/01/2011 to 01/27/2011. I also learned from the CDR's and from Det. Gazdick that the prank caller was calling into SJSO's toll free telephone number, 1-800-346-7596. As part of my investigation, I reviewed the prank telephone calls received by SJSO that occurred between January 7, 2011 and January 25, 2011.

12. In a telephone call received on January 7, 2011, the caller was reporting that his daughter passed out. The caller said in substance he was in his car on Interstate 95 and his daughter was not breathing. He said he was in a "Green Chevrolet" and that his telephone number was "(904) 475-7411." Fire Rescue Units and SJSO deputies were dispatched, at code three (response with lights and sirens), in an attempt to locate the reported victim. The caller went on to say he was on "Interstate 95" stopped at mile marker "325." The dispatcher then verbally walked the caller through the steps of administering CPR to the alleged six year old child. The caller followed the dispatcher's instructions and eventually stated the child was breathing again. The sound of sirens was heard on the telephone and the dispatcher asked "is that police or rescue?" The caller responded "it's rescue." The caller then stated "somebody just came," to which the dispatcher replied "who is it? Is it a police man?" The caller replied "I think so, yea, it's the police". The dispatcher then asked "are you in a semi?" The caller replied "yea." The dispatcher asked again, "are you with a deputy now" to which the caller replied "yes." The call was then disconnected mutually by both parties. As part of my investigation, I reviewed the police report of the actions taken by SJSO deputies in response to this call. I learned that deputies made contact with the driver of a semi-truck

that was stopped in the area of mile marker 325. Deputies determined that the semi-truck was a disabled vehicle, and that the driver was not the caller. Deputies then issued a be-on-the-lookout (bolo) for the green Chevrolet, as described in the call. In addition, the report indicated dispatchers spoke with Charge Nurse Brian Emerson of Flagler Hospital and determined the caller had not made contact with the Emergency Room. SJSO then decided the call was a hoax.

13. In a January 14, 2011 telephone call the caller reported in substance a naked, black male, "peeing outside." When asked where, the caller said "do you have an interstate 90?" The dispatcher asked if the caller meant interstate 95 and the caller responded "Oh, I-95, I was close." The dispatcher then asked "can you give me a mile marker that you passed?" The caller replied "325." The caller then said his name was "Matthew Xiong" and his phone number was "431-7422." He said in substance he was from Georgia and was given the SJSO non-emergency telephone number from his friend, who looked it up on the Internet. The caller said in substance he would meet a SJSO deputy at the scene of the alleged crime in 20 minutes. The call was then disconnected mutually by both parties. As part of my investigation, I reviewed the police report of the actions taken by SJSO deputies in response to this call. I learned that a SJSO deputy responded to the scene and the caller failed to show up. The SJSO deputy determined the call was a hoax.

14. A telephone call was received on January 24, 2011 in which the caller stated in substance that his name was "Tom Michaels" and that he wanted to be arrested. The caller stated he was at a McDonald's in the downtown area. Because this fell within

the Saint Augustine Police Department, Florida ("SAPD") jurisdiction, the call was transferred to SAPD. A short time later, SAPD contacted SJSO, in a telephone call that I have reviewed, and reported they were currently on the telephone with an individual who was stating in substance he was at a local McDonald's restaurant, in the bathroom with his "five year old girlfriend." As part of my investigation, I reviewed the police report of the actions taken by SJSO deputies in response to this call. I learned that because the caller would not pinpoint his location, deputies were forced to respond to every McDonalds in the area. The report indicated that seven (7) deputies responded to eight (8) different McDonald's restaurants throughout the county. In addition, five (5) dispatchers worked for approximately two (2) hours in an attempt to resolve the incident. After the extensive response by numerous officers from various agencies, no caller or victim was located and the call was considered a hoax.

15. In the January 25, 2011 telephone call to the SJSO the caller told dispatchers "my girl is puking." The dispatcher then asked where he was and the caller, using a computerized voice, said "I-95." Again using a computerized voice, the caller said in substance he was at mile marker 300 and needed CPR. The dispatcher asked what kind of vehicle he was driving and the computerized voice responded "green chevy". A SJSO deputy then took over the call and asked "what state is your tag out of?" The caller replied, in a computerized voice, "I don't know." The deputy responded "you don't know which state you came from" to which the computerized voice responded "Minnesota." The deputy then advised the caller in substance that he was trying to help him, but if he found out the call was a hoax, the caller would face criminal charges. The computerized

voice responded that he understood. The computerized voice then stated his first name was "Mike" and his middle name was "this is a stupid asshole." Finally, the computerized voice said "I love white little girls," that "I have a gun," and that "I am going to kill you all." The call was terminated by a supervisor, as the supervisor deemed it a hoax. As part of my investigation, I reviewed the police report of the actions taken by SJSO deputies in response to this call. I learned deputies from SJSO responded to the reported location at mile marker 300, but could not find a green Chevy, which confirmed the call as being a hoax.

16. As part of my investigation I obtained a copy of the prank telephone call involving the SAPD, as referenced in paragraph #14. The call that I reviewed occurred on January 24, 2011. I also reviewed the CAD Event Report³ of the incident.

17. In the telephone call the caller begins by asking the dispatcher "can you arrest me?" The caller then tells the dispatcher in substance that his name is "Tom J. Michaels", he is at a McDonalds, and that he is with his five (5) year old girlfriend, "Alana." The dispatcher asks to speak to Alana, to which the caller responds "She's too nervous." The caller then tells the dispatcher in substance that he was "babysitting" the girl, who was from Athens, Georgia, and that she thought he was cute. The caller further explains to the dispatcher in substance he is from California and that he and his five (5) year old girlfriend are staying in an unnamed hotel in Saint Augustine, Florida.

³Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) is a software application that aids in the dispatching of emergency calls. The CAD software is used to record the events of an incident, both for organizational and memorialization purposes. A CAD Event Report can be created for each incident and can be reviewed electronically or printed as a hard copy.

18. The dispatcher then connects the caller to a SAPD officer. The caller begins by telling the officer that "I have a problem, I am taking medication that makes me say stuff that I don't mean to say." The officer asks where he is and the caller replies, in substance, that he is inside, and that he is blacking out. The caller also says to the officer that he is taking "really little (white) pills" that "help me when I am antsy." A short time later the caller begins moaning and crying on the phone. The SAPD officer asks if he is ok, and the caller replies, in substance, his head hurts and he cannot breathe. After a long period of silence, the caller begins pushing buttons and responds to further questions only by knocking once for yes and twice for no. When asked if he had a teardrop tattoo, he knocked once, indicating a "yes" response. The caller also replied with one knock, again indicating a "yes" response, to the question "Are you in Clay County?" Finally, the caller began knocking wildly and pressing buttons, until the call was disconnected by the caller.

19. As part of my investigation, I reviewed the police report of the actions taken by SAPD officers in response to this call. I learned that the SAPD contacted the Clay County Sheriff's Office ("CCSO") to request they make contact with an individual, thought to be the caller. The address in Clay County was determined by cross-checking the caller-id telephone number from the call, with a local database. Detective Fred Eckert provided me with the report from CCSO, which I personally reviewed, and learned that two deputies made contact with an individual at the address. After approximately 20 minutes, they determined this address was not involved with the call, and it was considered a hoax.

20. Also as part of the incident, because the caller stated he was “in the hospital,” dispatchers contacted Flagler Hospital. During the telephone call, of which I have personally reviewed, the dispatcher spoke with an individual in the Behavioral Health Unit, who confirmed that patients were not allowed to have any telephones in the ward.

21. Additionally, SJSO deputies responded to an apartment complex, which was connected to the caller-id telephone number. During the telephone call, of which I have personally reviewed, deputies reported to dispatchers that the apartment in question was currently vacant, and not pertinent to the call.

22. As part of my investigation, I reviewed the CDR's provided by ITC Deltacom. Based on my review of the CDR's, I determined that on January 25, 2011 the SJSO received a series of repeated telephone calls, most of which lasted less than one minute, and consisted of little to no voice conversation. A further review of the CDR determined the following:

a. On January 25, 2011 at 7:43 PM EST a call was received to 1-800-346-7596 from 1-510-984-2666, which was later verified, through subpoena results from Neutral Tandem, as a number belonging to Skype.

b. Immediately following the 7:43 PM telephone call, were 89 more telephone calls, received approximately 90 seconds apart, ending at 9:42 PM EST.

c. The telephone calls generally lasted less than one minute each.

23. Based on the information found in the review of CDRs, Det. Gazdick caused a subpoena to be served on Neutral Tandem Switching, requesting the subscriber

information and connection logs for the time period surrounding the prank calls. In response to the aforementioned subpoena, Neutral Tandem provided the following, via email, which I have personally reviewed. Neutral Tandem logging showed that there were numerous calls to 1-800-346-7596, made using Skype software, from a user "mseckar." They also confirmed that the telephone number 1-510-984-2666 belonged to Skype.

24. Det. Gazdick then caused a subpoena to be served on Skype, requesting subscriber information and connection logs for the username "mseckar". In response to the aforementioned subpoena, Skype provided the following, which I have personally reviewed:

- a. The username "mseckar" was registered as an account with Skype on September 9, 2009 from IP address 99.164.110.140.
- b. The Skype user "mseckar" registered with the email address "mseckar@yahoo.com".

c. The Skype user "mseckar" connected from IP address 66.168.70.234 to telephone number 1-800-346-7596 at, among others, 00:58:18 UTC⁴ on January 8, 2011 and disconnected at 01:11:05 UTC on January 8, 2011⁵.

d. The Skype user "mseckar" connected from IP address 66.168.70.234 to telephone number 1-800-346-7596 at, among others, 02:23:58 UTC on January 15, 2011 and disconnected at 02:31:34 UTC on January 15, 2011⁶.

e. The Skype user "mseckar" connected from IP address 66.168.70.234 to telephone number 1-800-346-7596 at, among others, 20:55:54 UTC on January 24, 2011 and disconnected at 21:52:02 UTC on January 24, 2011⁷.

⁴Computer systems can be configured to record log transactions using various timezone settings, either based on geographical location, or system administrator preference. The log files for Skype were recorded in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) time, whereas the Call Detail Records (CDR) were logged in Eastern Standard Time (EST). The time difference between UTC and EST is minus (-) five (5) hours, and can often create confusion when comparing log results that occur around the midnight hour. For example, the call that is explained paragraph 18(a) was logged by Skype as 00:58:UTC on January 8, 2011 which, when converted to EST used in the CDR by subtracting five (5) hours, correlates to the previous day, January 7, 2011 at 7:58 PM EST. Because the call occurred near the midnight hour, when the date changed from January 7 to January 8, the logs reflect the date difference.

⁵This corresponds to the prank phone call received by the SJSO on January 7, 2011, as outlined in paragraph 12.

⁶This corresponds to the prank phone call received by the SJSO on January 14, 2011, as outlined in paragraph 13.

⁷This corresponds to the prank phone call received by the SJSO on January 24, 2011, as outlined in paragraph 14.

f. The Skype user "mseckar" connected from IP address 66.168.70.234 to telephone number 1-800-346-7596 at, among others, 01:03:34 UTC on January 26, 2011 and disconnected at 01:36:38 UTC on January 26, 2011⁸.

g. On January 26, 2011, approximately 90 telephone calls were made by the Skype user "mseckar" between 01:37:07 UTC and 04:26:04 UTC, to telephone number 1-800-346-7596.

25. Based on information received from Skype, Det. Gazdick caused a subpoena to be served on Yahoo! requesting subscriber information and connection logs for the account "mseckar@yahoo.com". On February 14, 2011, Yahoo! provided a return to the aforementioned subpoena with the following, which I have personally reviewed:

a. The email address "mseckar@yahoo.com" was registered on February 15, 2008 from IP address 75.47.77.244 and was currently listed as active.

b. The Yahoo! login name associated with the email account is "mseckar".

c. The full name associated with the email account is Mr. Mason Seckar.

d. The "mseckar" Yahoo! account was accessed on January 5, 2011, January 8, 2011, and January 26-30, 2011 from IP address 66.168.70.234.

26. Det. Gazdick also caused a subpoena to be served on Charter Communications requesting subscriber information and connection logs for the IP

⁸This corresponds to the prank phone calls received by the SJSO on January 25, 2011, as outlined in paragraph 15.

address 66.168.70.234. On February 11, 2011 Charter communications provided a return to the aforementioned subpoena, which I have personally reviewed. The IP address 66.168.70.234 was assigned to James Seckar, 1795 Scarlet Oak Trail, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, 54904 from January 25, 2011 at 03:56:18 GMT through January 30, 2011 at 16:26:21 GMT.

27. On February 7, 2011 I received a package from Investigator ("Inv.") Nathan Budin with the Rice County Sheriff's Office ("RCSO"), Minnesota. The package contained several records of recent prank telephone calls received by dispatchers who were answering RCSO's toll free number, 1-866-727-5299. Included in the folder was an incident report, which I have personally reviewed that explained the RCSO received numerous prank telephone calls from telephone numbers 559-470-0900, 661 -748-0900, 530-776-4500, 510-984-2666, and 507-334-4306⁹ for the time frame of 01/25/2011 to 01/27/2011. RCSO dispatchers received telephone calls, similar to those received by SJSO, and opened an investigation on the prank calls. In addition, on at least one occasion RCSO dispatchers were connected to SJSO dispatchers, wherein neither party physically called the other. My review of Skype logs from "mseckar" showed a telephone call made to the SJSO telephone number on January 28, 2011 at 03:53:20 that lasted approximately 15 minutes. In the call, a recording of which I have personally reviewed, the dispatchers on both ends answer what they believe to be an incoming call. The RCSO dispatcher then hangs up, but SJSO remains on the line. After a brief pause, the

⁹At least three of these numbers were previously identified by your affiant as having been used to make prank calls to the SJSO.

prank caller began to talk and stated in substance that he knew who was making all of the prank calls. The caller identified the subject as "Tom" and asked the SJSO dispatcher to remain on the line while he reconnected to the RCSO. The caller stated in substance that he wanted the SJSO to tell the RCSO that "Tom" was making the prank calls. The prank caller then dialed the RCSO, connecting them as a three-way call. The dispatchers talked about the recent rash of prank calls, and then RCSO disconnected again. SJSO dispatch and the prank caller remained on the line for several minutes, wherein the prank caller stated in substance that he was afraid of getting in trouble. The call was then disconnected mutually by both parties. As part of his investigation, Inv. Budin contacted Det. Gazdick at the SJSO. They discussed the issue of both departments receiving prank calls. I also personally reviewed the included RCSO CDR's, wherein during one call the caller stated in substance he wanted to become a police officer and wanted to know what it felt like to be "tased." In addition, the caller stated in substance he was interested in airplane aerobatics and the basketball team for Syracuse University. The caller also stated in substance that he wanted to become a school teacher, but was afraid that he would make inappropriate advances toward the young girls. Finally, the caller stated he was using Skype to make the telephone call.

28. On February 7, 2011, I logged onto the website <http://www.skype.com>, downloaded the Skype software, and installed it on my FBI computer. One function of the Skype software is the ability to search for other Skype subscribers from within the software. This is accomplished by opening the software, clicking on the "contacts" area, and typing a search request text, such as a first name, last name, or username. A user can

also add contacts to their personal Skype address book, by searching and then choosing “add contact.” I then opened the Skype software and searched for the user “mseckar,” which returned one result. The name “Mason Seckar” was listed as the user’s name. There was no picture or any further details available without adding the user as a contact, so I captured a screen print of the search result and then logged out of the Skype software.

29. On February 9, 2011, I conducted a database check for the individual Mason Seckar, and determined he was a 20 year old male whose address was 1795 Scarlet Oak Trail, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, 54904. Also listed as living at the address was James Seckar.

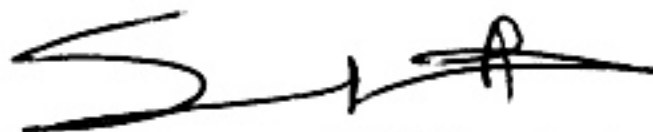
30. On February 9, 2011, I conducted a database check for the individual James Seckar, and determined he was a 49 year old male whose address was 1795 Scarlet Oak Trail, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, 54904.

CONCLUSION

31. Based on the foregoing, I have probable cause to believe that an individual at the residence located at 1795 Scarlet Oak Trail, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, more fully described in Attachment A to this affidavit, is using a computer / telephone at this residence to annoy, abuse, or threaten the recipient of the calls and also to transmit threats to injure the person of another. Therefore, I have probable cause to believe that an individual using the residence described above has violated Title 47, United States Code, Sections 223(a)(1)(C) and 223(a)(1)(E) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 875(c). Additionally, I have probable cause to believe that fruits, evidence, and instrumentalities of violations of Title 47, United

States Code, Sections 223(a)(1)(C) and 223(a)(1)(E) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 875(c), including one or more computers and other electronic storage media, and the items more fully described in Attachment B to this affidavit (which is incorporated by reference herein), will be located in this residence or within outbuildings located upon the curtilage.

32. Accordingly, I respectfully request a search warrant be issued by this Court authorizing the search of the premises listed in Attachment A and the search and seizure of the items listed in Attachment B.



Sean N. Pruitt, Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
21 day of March 2011, at Green Bay, Wisconsin



HONORABLE ALEXANDER J. SICKEL
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE