

Remarks of David J. Hickton
August 15, 2012

Good afternoon.

Joining me today are Mark Nordenberg, Chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh and Doug Perdue, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Pittsburgh Office.

Today, in 2012, confronting the cyber threat is a top priority of the Department of Justice, including all of its components and all of cooperating law enforcement around the world. This threat has many dimensions, it is perpetrated by many different actors and groups and the harm and injury inflicted by cyber criminals can be wide and deep.

The cyber threats to the University community here last Spring represent this threat. It is a 21st Century crime requiring a 21st Century solution, including new thinking, new tools and firm resolve.

I am grateful for the support we receive from Attorney General Eric Holder and the leadership team at the Department of Justice. FBI director Bob Mueller and his team and all of Federal law enforcement are working to meet this threat. The U.S. Attorney community, as we have here in Western Pennsylvania, has been encouraged and assisted to be active in this effort.

I am here to tell you that we have great resources here - in my view some of the best people in the world working on this problem. This includes law enforcement specialists, prosecutors and allied experts for the private sector and community stakeholders. We have the talent and commitment available to meet this threat.

Today we announce the indictment of Adam Stuart Busby of Dublin, Ireland. Busby has been charged with emailing numerous, anonymous bomb threats targeting the University of Pittsburgh this past Spring. The bomb threats caused more than 100 evacuations at Pitt, greatly disrupting the personal and professional lives of students, faculty and employees.

The first indictment charges Busby with 17 counts of wire fraud, 16 counts of maliciously conveying false information in the form of bomb threats, and two counts of international extortion. The indictment alleges that between March 30th and April 21st, Busby sent bomb threats over email targeting the University of Pittsburgh campus. These emails were sent to news media, employees and associates of the University, and to others in the Pittsburgh area. The indictment further alleges that Busby committed international extortion - first, on April 10th when he emailed a threat through a computer server in Austria claiming that the threats against Pitt would end if the Chancellor would withdraw the \$50,000 reward, and again, on April 20th, when he emailed a threat through the Netherlands again saying the threats would end upon withdrawal of the reward.

A separate, but related, indictment charges that on June 20th and 21st, Busby used the internet to maliciously convey false information claiming bombs had been placed at the federal courthouses located in Pittsburgh, Erie and Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and threatened to assault or murder a federal officer while he was engaged in the performance of his official duties.

A third indictment returned by the grand jury charges Alexander Waterland of Loveland, Ohio, and Brett Hudson, of Hillsboro, Ohio, who claimed to be associates of the computer hacking group Anonymous. Waterland and Hudson are charged with engaging in a conspiracy targeting the computer system of the University of Pittsburgh. The indictment alleges they were

responsible for internet posts threatening the release of confidential student, employee and alumni information in exchange for a public apology by the University Chancellor.

Adam Stuart Busby is currently in custody in Ireland on unrelated charges. An arrest warrant has been issued for Busby which will be lodged with Interpol. The maximum penalty for wire fraud is 20 years in prison. The maximum penalty for maliciously conveying false information is 10 years in prison. The maximum penalty for extortionate threats is two years in prison. Because all counts charged are felonies, the maximum fine on each count is \$250,000. Alexander Waterland and Brett Hudson will be arraigned in federal court in Pittsburgh later this month. The law provides for a maximum sentence of five years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, or both, for Waterland and Hudson.

While I cannot discuss the details of this extensive investigation, I will say that Busby has been a suspect since mid-April. It took painstaking efforts to trace the origin of these anonymous email threats. The investigation involved the service of search warrants upon various entities providing internet services both within the United States and Europe. The cooperation of our international partners, in particular the Metropolitan Police Service, Counter Terrorism Command, was crucial to our ability to obtain information from overseas. The analysis of the information so obtained consumed thousands of hours and involved detailed, meticulous work. We will not be more specific as revealing further details might jeopardize our ability to solve future cases of this nature.

There are many agencies and individuals to acknowledge.

First, I want to recognize the extraordinary work of:

- the FBI Cyber Squad, led by Supervisory Special Agent Keith Mularski;
- the Joint Terrorism Task Force, including the Pittsburgh Police, local police, the Secret Service, and all members who work every day to keep us safe;
- FBI Domestic Terror Squad, led by FBI Supervisory Special Agent Tim Williams;
- the University of Pittsburgh Police Department, under the direction of Chief Tim Delaney;
- University of Pittsburgh Chief Information Officer Jinx Walton;
- Assistant United States Attorney Jimmy Kitchen, who is prosecuting this case; and
- our many international partners, whose efforts are greatly appreciated.

This was a true partnership that allowed information to be shared in real time and therefore the cases to proceed more efficiently. We are grateful for their work and proud of this result.

I also want to commend the entire University of Pittsburgh community, starting at the top with Chancellor Mark Nordenberg and his leadership team. The Pitt community across the board responded to this threat in an exemplary fashion. We could not have solved the crime without their help. The stories of the way the Pitt community came together, from the students helping each other to the tips and assistance we received, have moved me deeply. More importantly, the cyber threat we face every day cannot be solved without community awareness and assistance, and all community members and stakeholders can learn through the example of the University of Pittsburgh.

You will hear first from Chancellor Nordenberg, next from Special Agent in Charge Perdue, and then we will be happy to take your questions.