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County of Warren

PRESS RELEASE

INCIDENT: Hackettstown High School Threat
March 26, 2012
911 Calls

On March 26, 2012, the Warren County 911 Center received two calls from an individual identifying himself as Kevin McGowan, 19. The caller indicated that he was in the vicinity of the high school with an AK-47 and was threatening to kill students including one particular student.

For the protection of their students, the Hackettstown School District initiated a lock down of the high school and nearby schools. The Hackettstown Police Department immediately responded to the threat. Other law enforcement agencies including the Warren County Prosecutor's office, the Warren County Tactical Response Team, New Jersey State Police, Independence Township Police Department and Mansfield Township Police Department quickly responded to assist the Hackettstown Police Department to ensure the safety of the students at Hackettstown High School as well as students at surrounding schools. Eventually, law enforcement determined that there was no imminent threat to any students, the lock down was lifted and the students were released for the day.

However, law enforcement response at the schools that day was just the beginning of a very man-power intensive, lengthy investigation into this threat against children in our community. Recognizing that the investigation would be complicated and require specialized computer and technical knowledge, the Warren County Prosecutor's Office sought assistance from the New Jersey State Police – Electronic Surveillance Unit and the Attorney General's Office – Division of Criminal Justice – Electronic Surveillance Unit.

The investigators followed up on leads inside and outside New Jersey, including enlisting the assistance of MAGLOCEN (Middle Atlantic-Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network).

As the investigation proceeded, various federal law enforcement agencies provided investigative and technical assistance including the U.S. Marshall Service, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the FBI and the United States Attorneys Office.

Based upon the combined efforts of all the law enforcement agencies, it was determined that the target of the investigation was outside of the United States, specifically located in South Korea. U.S. Department of Homeland Security was able to further the investigation through its contacts in South Korea. Eventually, SMPA (Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency) was able to locate and interview a suspect. He was interviewed on January 27, 2013.

On June 3, 2013 HSI Seoul Special Agents reported the arrest of a Korean National, Dae Woong Lee, (DOB 2/20/1993), who is a member of the Korean military. Mr. Lee was charged with a violation of Korean Criminal Act, Article 314-1 (obstruction of business) which provides for a term of imprisonment up to 5 years and a fine up to 15,000,000 Korean Won (equivalent to approximately \$15,000.00 USD).

Attached is a list of all agencies that assisted in the investigation.

Approved by:

Dated: July 2, 2013



RICHARD T. BURKE
Warren County Prosecutor

LISTING OF ASSISTING LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Warren County Prosecutor's Office
Hackettstown Police Department
Independence Township Police Department
Lopatcong Township Police Department
Mansfield Township Police Department
Phillipsburg Police Department
Pohatcong Township Police Department
Washington Township Police Department (Warren County, NJ)
Warren County Sheriff's Office
Warren County Communications Center
NJSP High Tech Crimes Unit
NJSP Electronic Surveillance Unit (ESU)
NJSP Special Operations Section (Aviation Bureau)
NJSP Field Operations
State of New Jersey Department of Homeland Security
State of New Jersey Attorney General's Office
Division of Criminal Justice
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Marshals Service
Federal Bureau of Investigations
MAGLOCLLEN
Middlesex County Sheriff's Office
Union County Prosecutor's Office
Washington Township Police Department (Morris County, NJ)
New York City Police Department
Easton Police Department (PA)
Buffalo County Sheriff's Department (Wisconsin)
Mondovi Police Department (Wisconsin)
Madison County Sheriff's Department (NY)