

U.S. suspects cellphone spying devices in D.C.

By FRANK BAJAK
AP Technology Writer

For the first time, the U.S. government has publicly acknowledged the existence in Washington of what appear to be rogue devices that foreign spies and criminals could be using to track individual cellphones and intercept calls and messages.

The use of what are known as cellphone-site simulators by foreign powers has long been a concern, but American intelligence and law enforcement agencies — which use such eavesdropping equipment themselves — have been silent on the issue until now.

In a March 26 letter to Sen. Ron Wyden, the Department of Homeland Security acknowledged that last year it identified suspected unauthorized cell-site simulators in the nation's capital. The agency said it had not determined the type of devices in use or who might have been operating them. Nor did it say how many it detected or where.

The agency's response, obtained by *The Associated Press* from Wyden's office, suggests little has been done about such equipment, known popularly as Stingrays after a brand common among U.S. police departments. The Federal Communications Commission, which regulates the nation's airwaves, formed a task force on the subject four years ago, but it never produced a report and no longer meets regularly.

The devices work by tricking mobile devices

into locking onto them instead of legitimate cell towers, revealing the exact location of a particular cellphone. More sophisticated versions can eavesdrop on calls by forcing phones to step down to older, unencrypted 2G wireless technology. Some attempt to plant malware.

They can cost anywhere from \$1,000 to about \$200,000. They are commonly the size of a briefcase; some are as small as a cellphone. They can be placed in a car next to a government building. The most powerful can be deployed in low-flying aircraft.

Thousands of members of the military, the NSA, the CIA, the FBI and the rest of the national-security apparatus live and work in the Washington area. The surveillance-savvy among them encrypt their phone and data communications and employ electronic countermeasures. But unsuspecting citizens could fall prey.

Wyden wrote DHS in November requesting information about unauthorized use of the cell-site simulators.

The reply from DHS official Christopher Krebs noted that DHS had observed "anomalous activity" consistent with Stingrays in the Washington area. A DHS official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the letter has not been publicly released added that the devices were detected in a 90-day trial that began in January 2017 with equipment from a Las Vegas-based DHS contractor, ESD America.



Officers walk near a YouTube office in San Bruno, Calif., Tuesday. Police in Northern California are responding to reports of a shooting at YouTube headquarters in the city of San Bruno.

Woman opens fire at YouTube, wounds 3 before killing herself

SAN BRUNO, Calif. (AP) — A woman opened fire Tuesday at YouTube headquarters, wounding three people before fatally shooting herself as terrified employees huddled inside, police and witnesses said.

A law enforcement official identified the suspect as Nasim Aghdam of Southern California.

The official who was briefed on the investigation spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss it.

San Bruno Police Chief Ed Barberini says a woman opened fire with a handgun in an outdoor courtyard Tuesday, then killed herself. Police provided no motive or other details about her.

Hospital officials have said a man is in critical condition and two women are in serious and fair condition.

After receiving multiple 911 calls reporting gunfire, officers and federal agents swarmed the company's suburban campus sandwiched



Workers walk down a street near the YouTube complex in San Bruno, Calif., Tuesday.

between two interstates in the San Francisco Bay Area city of San Bruno.

YouTube employee Dianna Arnsperger said she was on the building's second floor when she heard gun shots, ran to a window and saw the shooter on a patio outside.

She said the woman wore glasses and a scarf and was using a "big huge pistol."

"It was a woman and she was firing her gun. And I just said, 'Shooter,' and everybody started running," Arnsperger said.

She and others hid in a conference room for an hour while a male employee repeatedly called 911 for updates.

"It was terrifying," she said.

Television news footage showed people leaving the building in a line, holding their arms in the air. Officers patted them down to make sure none had weapons.

Officers discovered one victim with a gunshot wound when they arrived and then found the shooter with what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound several minutes later, San Bruno Police Chief Ed Barberini said.

He said two additional gunshot victims were later located at an adjacent business and that a fourth injured person suffered an ankle injury.

The headquarters has more than a thousand engineers and other employees in several buildings.

Trump wants troops to secure the border

WASHINGTON (AP) — Frustrated by slow action on a major campaign promise, President Donald Trump said Tuesday he wants to use the military to secure the U.S.-Mexico border until his promised border wall is built.

Trump told reporters he's been discussing the idea with Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

"We're going to be doing things militarily. Until we can have a wall and proper security, we're going to be guarding our border with the military," Trump said, calling the move a "big step."

It wasn't immediately clear exactly how the proposal would work or what kind of troops Trump wanted to deploy. But the White House later said Trump wanted to mobilize the National Guard.

Federal law prohibits the use of active-duty service members for law enforcement inside the U.S., unless specifically authorized by Congress. But over the past 12 years, presidents have twice sent National Guard troops to the border to bolster security and assist with surveillance and other support. The White House counsel's office has been working on the idea for several weeks, according to a senior official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal plans.

Trump has been annoyed by the lack of progress on building what was the signature promise of his campaign: a "big, beautiful wall" along the Mexican border.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON & EVENING

		12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
FOX	11	11	12	1	2	3	3:30	4	4:30	5	5:30	6	6:30	7	7:30	8	8:30	9	9:30	10	10:30	11	11:30		
	11	12	1	2	3	3:30	4	4:30	5	5:30	6	6:30	7	7:30	8	8:30	9	9:30	10	10:30	11	11:30			
	11	12	1	2	3	3:30	4	4:30	5	5:30	6	6:30	7	7:30	8	8:30	9	9:30	10	10:30	11	11:30			

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WEDNESDAY LATE NIGHT & THURSDAY MORNING

		12 AM	12:30	1 AM	1:30	2 AM	2:30	3 AM	3:30	4 AM	4:30	5 AM	5:30	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
FOX	11	12	1	2	3	3:30	4	4:30	5	5:30	6	6:30	7	7:30	8	8:30	9	9:30	10	10:30	11	11:30			
	11	12	1	2	3	3:30	4	4:30	5	5:30	6	6:30	7	7:30	8	8:30	9	9:30	10	10:30	11	11:30			