



How FBI spy phones led to a worldwide crime sting

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A global sting in which organized crime gangs were sold encrypted phones that law enforcement officials could monitor has led to more than 800 arrests and the confiscation of drugs, weapons, cash and luxury cars, officials said on Tuesday.

ACTING U.S. ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
RANDY GROSSMAN:

"This investigation called Operation Trojan Shield shined a light into the shadowy industry of hardened encrypted devices."

1-1. The FBI on Tuesday announced details about a massive takedown _____

1-2. using customized smartphones and a messaging app called ANOM _____

GROSSMAN: "Criminal organizations and the individual defendants that we have charged purchased and distributed ANOM devices in an effort to secretly plan and execute their crimes. But the devices were actually operated by the FBI."

2-1. The operation, conceived by the FBI and Australian police in 2018, was one of the biggest infiltrations _____

2-2. involving 12,000 devices used by 300 criminal groups _____

2-3. including Italian organized crime, Asian triads, biker gangs _____

EUROPOL DEPUTY DIRECTOR JEAN-PHILIPPE LECOUFFE:

"This law enforcement operation is exceptional by its global outcomes."

3-1. The European Union's law enforcement agency, Europol, _____

3-2. along with more than 30 tons of narcotics _____

GROSSMAN: "A transnational criminal organization used ANOM devices to plan a shipment of cocaine from Costa Rica to Spain.

The cocaine was to be imported via a shipping container concealed within hollowed-out pineapples."

4-1. The massive sting began when U.S. officials paid a convicted drug trafficker _____

4-2. on which he installed _____

5. Distributors initially sold just 50 devices to organized crime networks and, over three years, ANOM's popularity _____

6-1. According to a court document, it took \$100,000 plus expenses, _____

6-2. for the drug trafficker turned smartphone developer _____

[Vocabulary]

□ **encrypt**: to put information into code (=a system of words, numbers, or symbols that hides its real meaning); If a document or piece of information is encrypted, it is written in a special code, so that only certain people can read it.

- *Account details are encrypted to protect privacy.*
- *...a program that will encrypt the information before sending.*

□ **takedown**: a police raid or arrest.

- *He said they had put a major dent in drug sales in the community with the takedown of the gang.*
- *This takedown's primary focus is on street-level narcotic sales in the target areas.*

□ **customize**: to change the way something looks or works so that it is exactly what you want or need; to build, fit, or alter according to individual specifications

- *The program can be customized to serve different purposes.*
- *You can use the control panel to customize Windows.*

□ **and counting**: with more to come; If you say and counting after a number or an amount of something, you mean that the number or amount is continuing to increase.

- *There is a 1,700-year-old tea tree still living in southern China which is more than 100 feet tall and counting.*
- *in business for 50 years and counting*

□ **ANOM**: the name of smartphone-based messaging app

*The ANOM sting operation (known as **Operation Trojan Shield** or **Operation Ironside**) is a collaboration by law enforcement agencies from several countries, running between 2018 and 2021, that intercepted millions of messages sent through the supposedly secure*

smartphone-based messaging app ANOM. The ANOM service was widely used by criminals, but instead of providing secure communication, it was actually a trojan horse covertly distributed by the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Australian Federal Police (AFP), enabling them to monitor all communications. Through collaboration with other law enforcement agencies worldwide, the operation resulted in the arrest of over 800 suspects allegedly involved in criminal activity, in 16 countries. Among the arrested people were alleged members of Australian-based Italian mafia, Albanian organised crime, outlaw motorcycle clubs, drug syndicates and other organised crime groups.

□ **execute**: to complete something that you have agreed or planned to do

- *He and his cohort executed their long-planned attack.*
- *We check that all work is being executed according to the council's guidelines.*

□ **conceive**: to think of something such as a new idea, plan, or design

- *She had conceived the idea of a series of novels.*
- *He conceived of the first truly portable computer in 1968.*

□ **infiltrate**: to secretly become part of a group in order to get information or to influence the way that group thinks or behaves

- *He has infiltrated a terrorist organization.*
- *A journalist managed to infiltrate the powerful drug cartel.*

□ **infiltration**: The act of secretly entering a physical location and/or organization.; When *infiltration* happens in a spy movie, it means that someone sneaks into a place to learn secret information.

- *Espionage, Sabotage, Infiltration, that's the business we're in, Lieutenant.*
- *Using their ability, they battle a secret alien infiltration of Earth.*

□ **takeover**: an act of taking control of a country or organization by an army, group etc., especially by force

- *The ANOM takeover was an audacious bit of intelligence work.*
- *The business is vulnerable to a hostile takeover.*

□ **triads**: a secret Chinese organization involved in illegal activities such as selling drugs; A branch of a Chinese underground criminal society, mostly based in Hong Kong.

- *...gangs, known as the Triads.*
- *The home is another ambush; Li attacks, followed by a group of Triad hitmen.*

□ **biker gang**: An *outlaw motorcycle club*, commonly referred to as a **biker gang**, is a motorcycle subculture. It is generally centered on the use of cruiser motorcycles, particularly Harley-Davidsons and choppers, and a set of ideals that purport to celebrate freedom, nonconformity to mainstream culture, and loyalty to the biker group.

- *Police have arrested a notorious outlaw biker gang known as "The Polecats".*

- *Two members of the Outlaws biker gang were shot in downtown Oslo in what police believe was the latest skirmish in the Nordic biker war.*

□ **transnational**: affecting or involving several different countries

- *This project is designed to promote transnational regional development.*
- *a transnational program to protect the environment*

□ **syndicate**: a loose affiliation of gangsters in charge of organized criminal activities

- *drug syndicate*
- *The police suspect him of fronting for a crime syndicate.*

□ **law enforcement**: Law-enforcement agencies or officials are responsible for catching people who break the law.

- *Contact a local law enforcement official for assistance.*
- *These law enforcement officers were targeted.*

□ **cryptocurrency**: crypto currency; a digital currency based on a cryptographic system;

any form of currency that only exists digitally, that usually has no central issuing or regulating authority but instead uses a decentralized system to record transactions and manage the issuance of new units, and that relies on cryptography to prevent counterfeiting and fraudulent transactions

- *As a result, there is strong evidence that cryptocurrency investors have unknowingly experienced a taxable event.*
- *My view is that there's going to be one cryptocurrency that will be the equivalent of gold.*

□ **raid**: an action by police officers in which they suddenly enter a place in order to arrest people or search for something such as illegal drugs

- *The drugs were found during a police raid **on** the house.*
- *23 people were arrested and large quantities of heroin were seized in a dawn raid.*

□ **narcotics**: an illegal drug such as heroin or cocaine; drugs such as opium or heroin which make you sleepy and stop you feeling pain. You can also use narcotics, especially in American English, to mean any kind of illegal drug.

- *He was indicted for dealing in narcotics.*
- *He faces three years in jail for selling narcotics.*

□ **Costa Rica**: a republic in Central America; one of the most politically stable countries in Latin America

□ **hollow out**: to remove the interior of

- *Unlike the woodpecker the wryneck does not hollow out its hole for itself.*
- *Still the water drip will hollow out the stone.*

□ **sting**: a trick prepared by the police to catch criminals

- *...a sting set by the FBI.*

- *The police ran a sting operation to crack down on illegal guns.*

□ **drug trafficker**: someone that trades in illegal drugs; an unlicensed dealer in illegal drugs

- *At home, we have also stepped up our action against the drug trafficker.*

- *Officials say that drug traffickers were fighting back against attempts by police to crack down on criminal activity.*

□ **word-of-mouth**: by being told by another person

- *Respondents were recruited using e-mails, word-of-mouth, and fliers.*

- *Throughout this early period, sales growth was largely dependent on word-of-mouth recommendations.*

[参照辞書: Merriam-Webster, Oxford English Dictionary, Cambridge Dictionary of American English, Collins English Dictionary, Macmillan Dictionary, the Free Dictionary, Wikipedia]