



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Two Inmates Charged With Making Bomb Threats

TOWSON, MD (June 11, 2009)---Two inmates---one in Hagerstown and one in Jessup--- face up to 43 years added to their sentences for allegedly calling in bomb threats from prison telephones on May 27. The phone calls, made from standard inmate pay phones inside prisons, suggested that explosives had been placed at two Division of Correction (DOC) facilities in Jessup.

Fast action by DOC intelligence officers and Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Internal Investigative Unit (IIU) detectives identified the alleged callers as inmates John McColligan, 20, who was housed that day at a prison in Jessup, and Michael Cook, 34, who was being held in a Hagerstown prison.

The court charging papers, filed in Anne Arundel County by DPSCS IIU, allege that the two men threatened to blow up two prisons in Jessup. The facilities were briefly locked down as law enforcement authorities joined DOC investigators in searching the grounds for the purported explosives.

DPSCS IIU and DOC Intelligence Coordinating Unit officials have said repeatedly that they will vigorously pursue criminal prosecution in such cases, and will not allow such threats to go unpunished. In this case, one of the inmates charged was very close to his release date; he now instead faces significant additional prison time.

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