

# Hunting GPS Jammers

Vlad Gostomelsky

Do Good, Know Evil

BLACKHAT USA 2017



DO GOOD *KNOW* EVIL

Vlad Gostomelsky  
SecurityLabs

# Hunting GPS Jammers

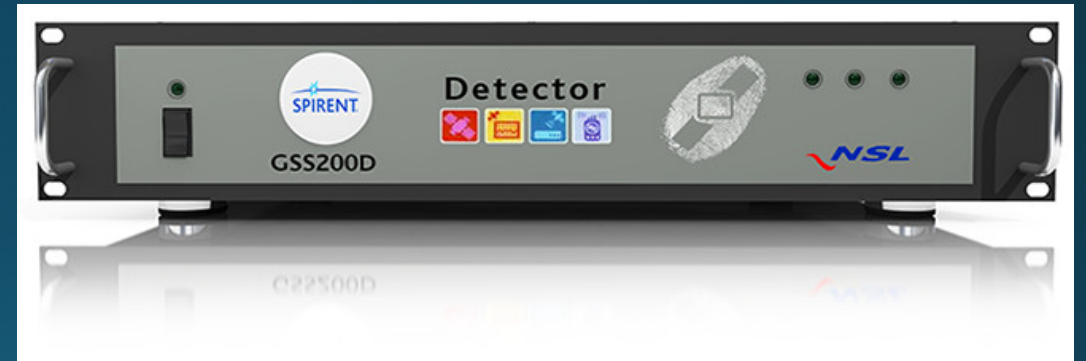


# Vlad Gostomelsky

- Security Researcher
- Penetration Tester
- Radio
- Satellite
- SCADA
- Weapons Systems
- Mass Casualty

# Beginning

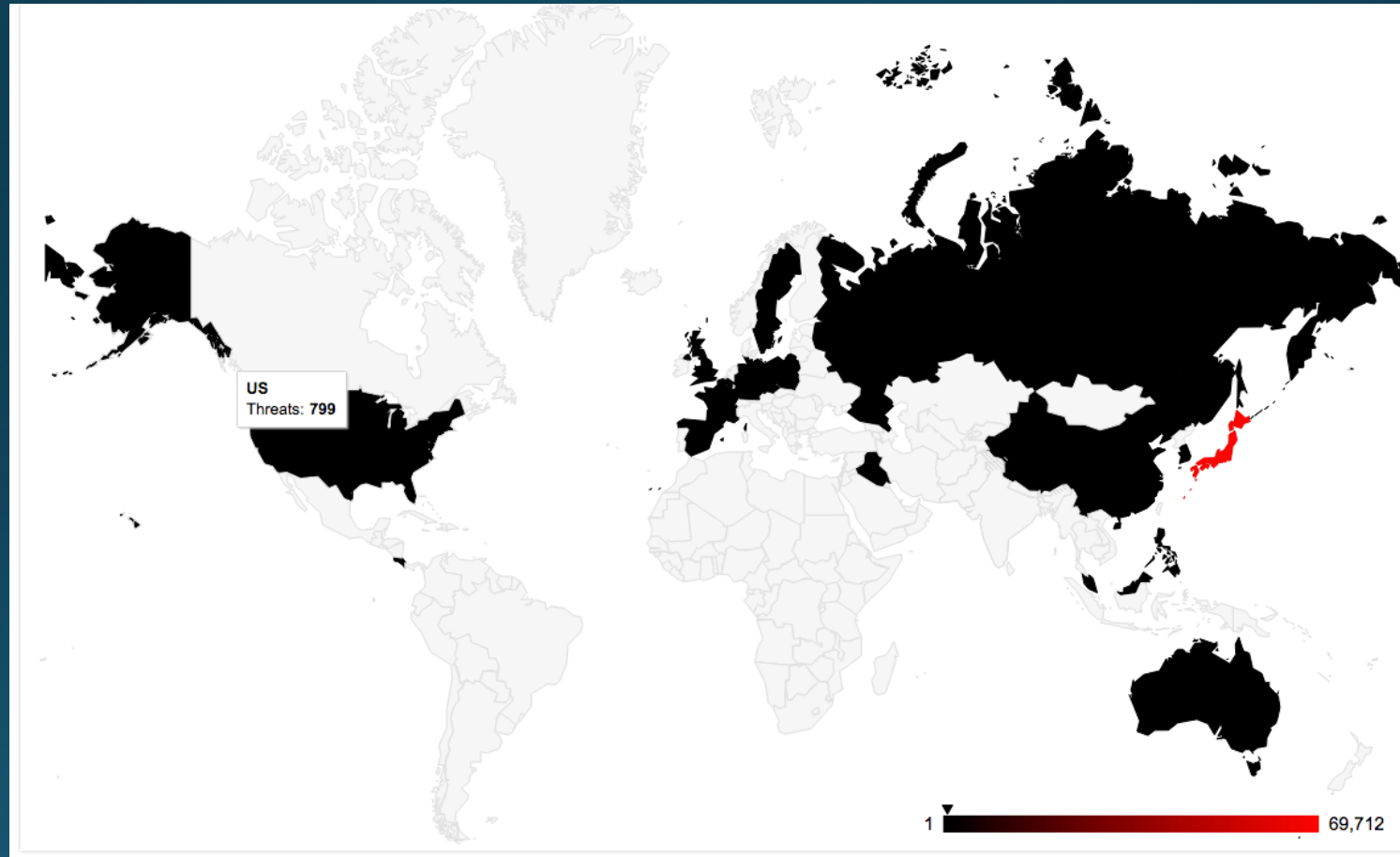
- GPS Jamming detector demo





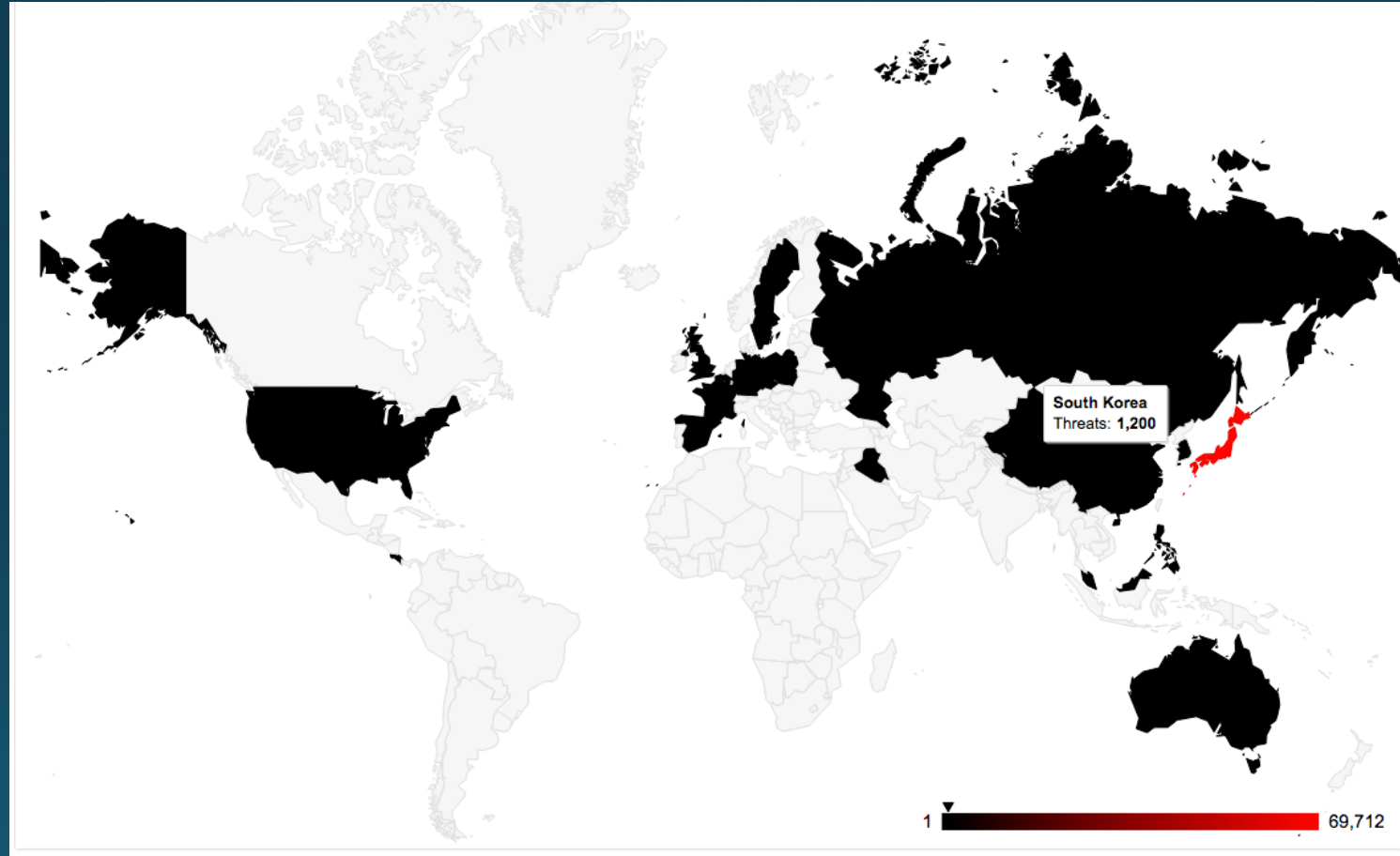
- Data highly sanitized
- Limited sensor placement
- Data from highly sensitive installations not included

# US Threats





# Global Threats



# Jamming Types

- RF Jamming
  - L1 (1575.42 MHz)
  - L2 (1227.60 MHz)
- Protocol Jamming
  - Accuracy Degradation
  - Enhanced Accuracy
  - Location Spoofing



# Top Offenders

- Employer Vehicles
  - Off-hours
- Quad Flyers
  - Location Restrictions
- Advanced Threats
  - Sensitive Locations
  - L1 spoofing
  - L2 jamming
- Truckers
  - Toll Fraud
- A\*holes
  - High Power
  - Wideband
- law enforcement

# Laws

- **Federal law** prohibits the marketing, sale, or use of a transmitter (e.g., a jammer) designed to block, jam, or interfere with wireless communications. See Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 301, 302a(b), 333.
- Section 301 of the Communications Act: “No person shall use or operate any apparatus for the transmission of energy or communications or signals by radio...except under and in accordance with [the Communications] Act and with a license in that behalf granted under the provisions of this Act.” 47 U.S.C. § 301.
- Section 302(b) of the Communications Act: “No person shall manufacture, import, sell, offer for sale, or ship devices or home electronic equipment and systems, or use devices, which fail to comply with regulations promulgated pursuant to this section.” 47 U.S.C. § 302a(b).
- Section 333 of the Communications Act: “No person shall willfully or maliciously interfere with or cause interference to any radio communications of any station licensed or authorized by or under [the Communications] Act or operated by the United States Government.” 47 U.S.C. § 333.
- **Jammers cannot be marketed or operated in the United States except in the very limited context of authorized, official use by the federal government.**



# Consequences

- The unlawful use of a jammer is a criminal offense and can result in various sanctions, including a jail sentence. More specifically, the unlawful marketing, sale, or operation of cell phone, GPS, or other signal jammers in the U.S. can result in:
- significant fines (we call them “monetary forfeitures”) – up to \$16,000 for each violation or each day of a continuing violation, and as high as \$112,500 for any single act;
- government seizure of the illegal equipment; and
- criminal penalties including imprisonment. See 47 U.S.C. §§ 401, 501, 503, 510; 47 C.F.R. § 1.80(b)(3).
- The FCC has taken action against various individuals and business entities for unlawfully operating and marketing jammers. You can find more information on jammer enforcement at [www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/jammer-enforcement](http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/jammer-enforcement).

# Tools of the Trade

- GPS Jamming Detector
- Stalker

# GPS Jamming Detector

- GSS100D
- GNSS Multi-Frequency Interference Detection and Analysis



# Stalker 1.0

- 4 Microcomputers
  - Power Distribution Board
  - Ubertooth
  - Cheap SDR x2
  - WiFi dongle x2
  - BladeRF
  - GPS
  - GoogleFi USB Dongle\*
  - Golf Cart Batteries
  - Switch
- Host 1
    - Ubertooth
    - GPS
  - Host 2
    - SDR
    - WiFi 2.4GHz
    - 4G Dongle
  - Host 3
    - SDR
    - WiFi 5.8GHz
  - Host 4
    - BladeRF

# Cheap SDR

SDR<sub>1</sub>

- TPMS

SDR<sub>2</sub>

- VHF

# Ubertooth

- BD\_ADDR of the vehicle headunit
- BD\_ADDR of the cellphone(s)
- Accessories
- Health wearables ;-)

# WiFi Dongle

- 2.4Ghz
- 5.8Ghz
- Sniffing WiFi Association Frames
- Jagger/yes-man proxy (modified)



# BladeRF

- Cellphone tower associations
- Cellphone EINs
- Similar concept to CreepyDOL but a lot of improvements
- It's not eavesdropping, it's just metadata 😊



# Stalker 2.0

- 4 Microcomputers
- Power Distribution Board
- Ubertooth
- Cheap SDR x3
- WiFi dongle
- HackRF
- GPS x2
- Encrypted Storage
- GoogleFi USB Dongle\*
- Golf Cart Batteries

- Host 1
  - Ubertooth
  - GPS
- Host 2
  - SDR
  - WiFi 2.4GHz and 5.8ghz
- Host 3
  - SDR
  - Encrypted Storage
  - 4G Dongle
- Host 4
  - HackRF
  - GPS

# Switch Elimination

- Heat
- Size
- Power
- Needless complications

# BladeRF to HackRF

- Power considerations
- \$ of loss
- Overkill for listen only



# Encrypted Storage

- Selective Logging
- Rolling buffer
- ~2min in memory
- GSS100D trips alert write to USB
- FIPS 140-3



# 1 GPS -> 2 GPS

- Better measurement of GPS drift
- Data Integrity

# GPS Drift



# Other Improvements

- RF Chokes on every cable
- RF Shielding
- RF Shielding
- Bandpass filters
- Amphenol connectors
- Better antennas

# Quadcopters in a Gym

- Washington DC
- stop calling them drones



# Work Van

- Cigarette lighter plug unit

# Apartment Building

- GPS Jammer
- Cellphone Jammer
- 4 antennas observed
- Intentions unknown
- \*Investigation continues

# Undercover officer

# NSA Playset!

- Github

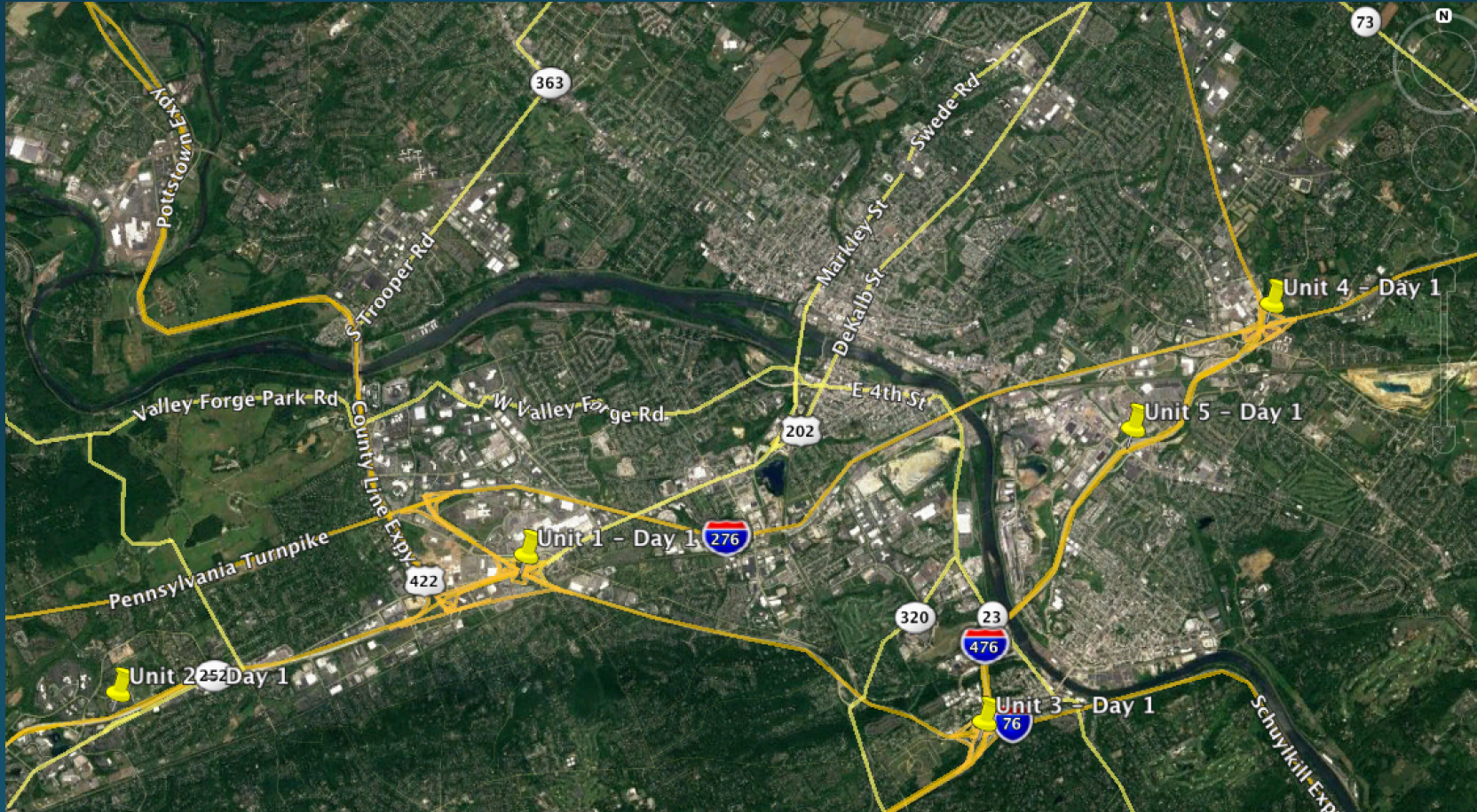
# Lets Go Hunting!



# Inventory

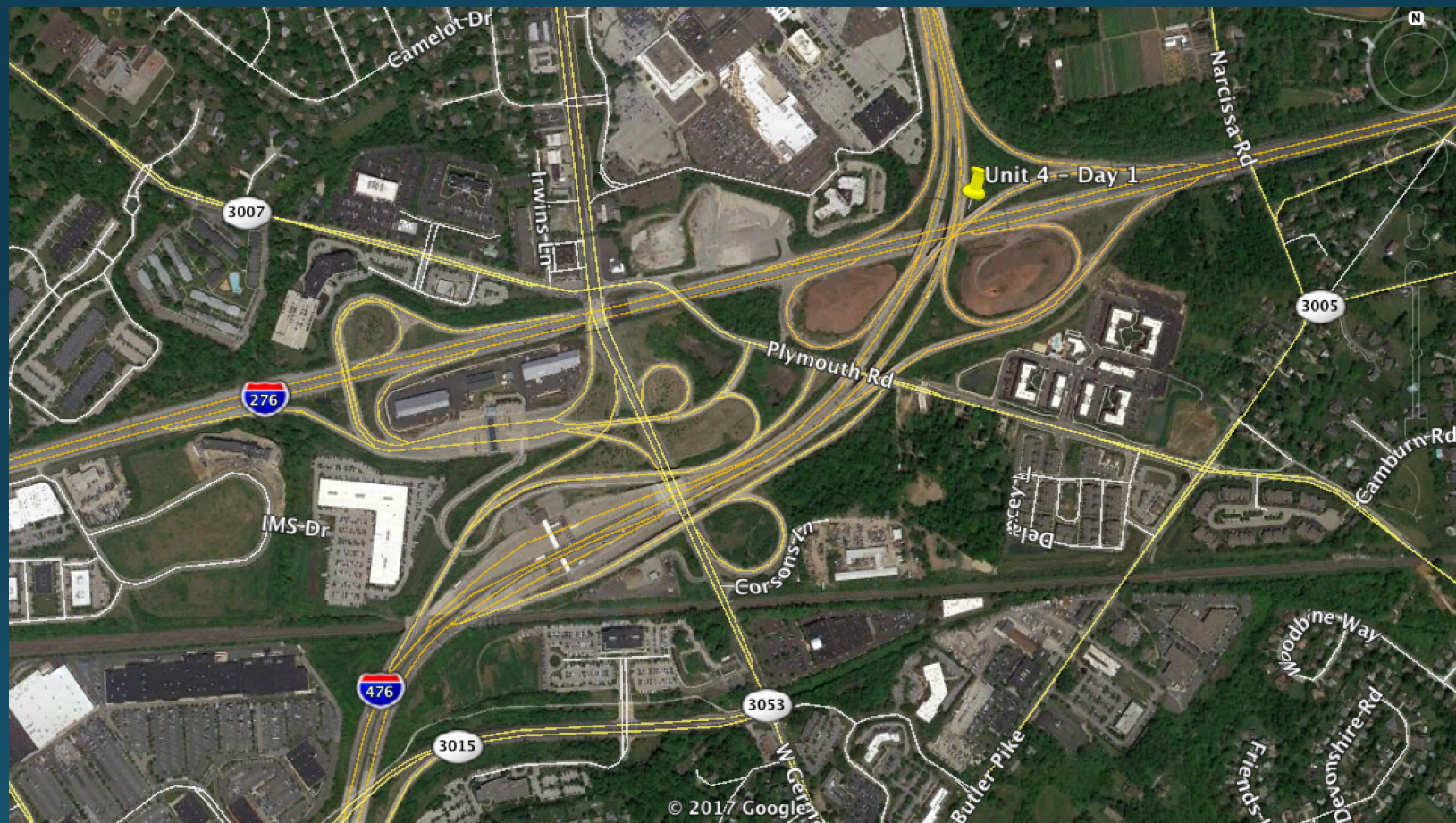
- 5 Units
- Targeting 1 geographic area at a time
- Caterpillar search

# Day 1



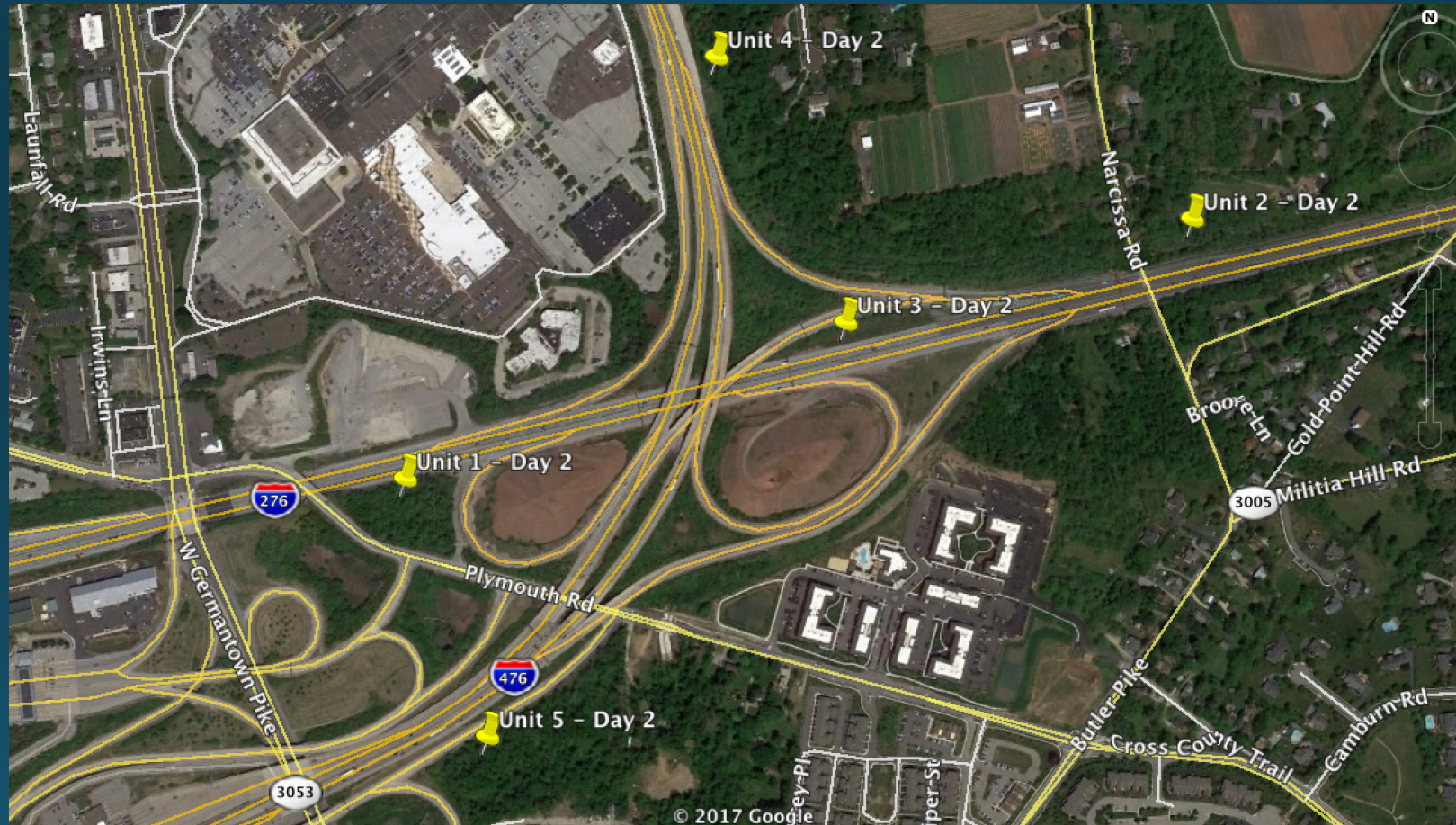


# Success!



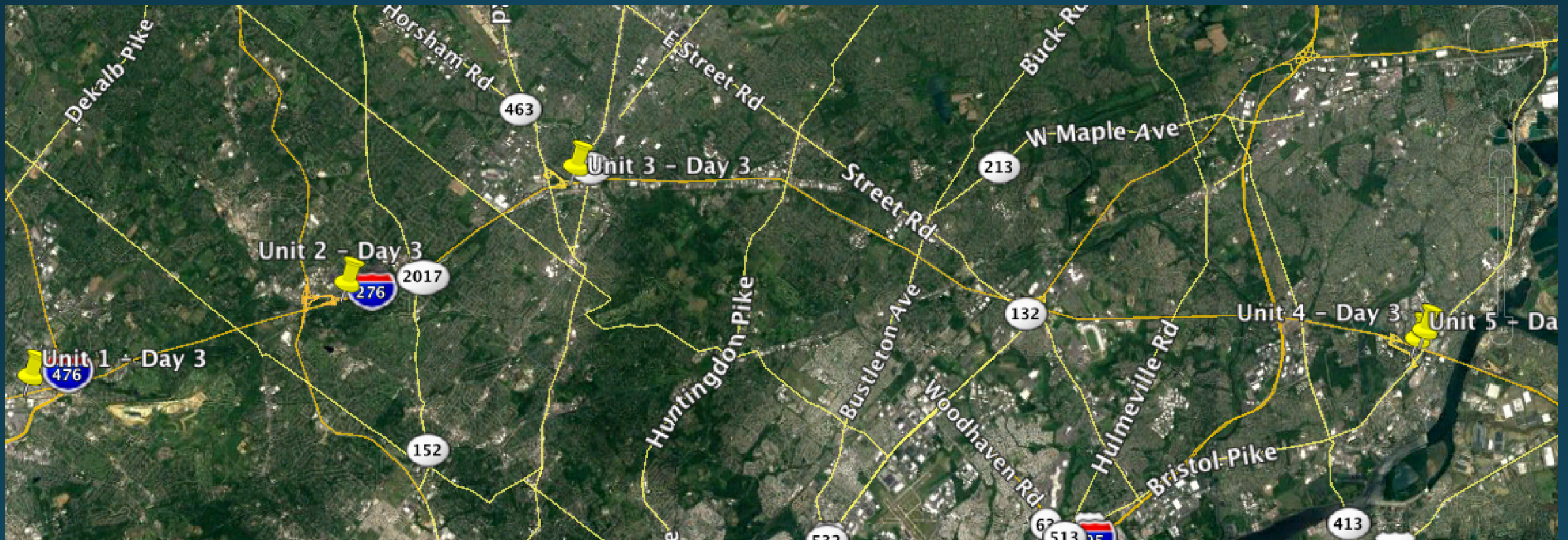


# Day 2



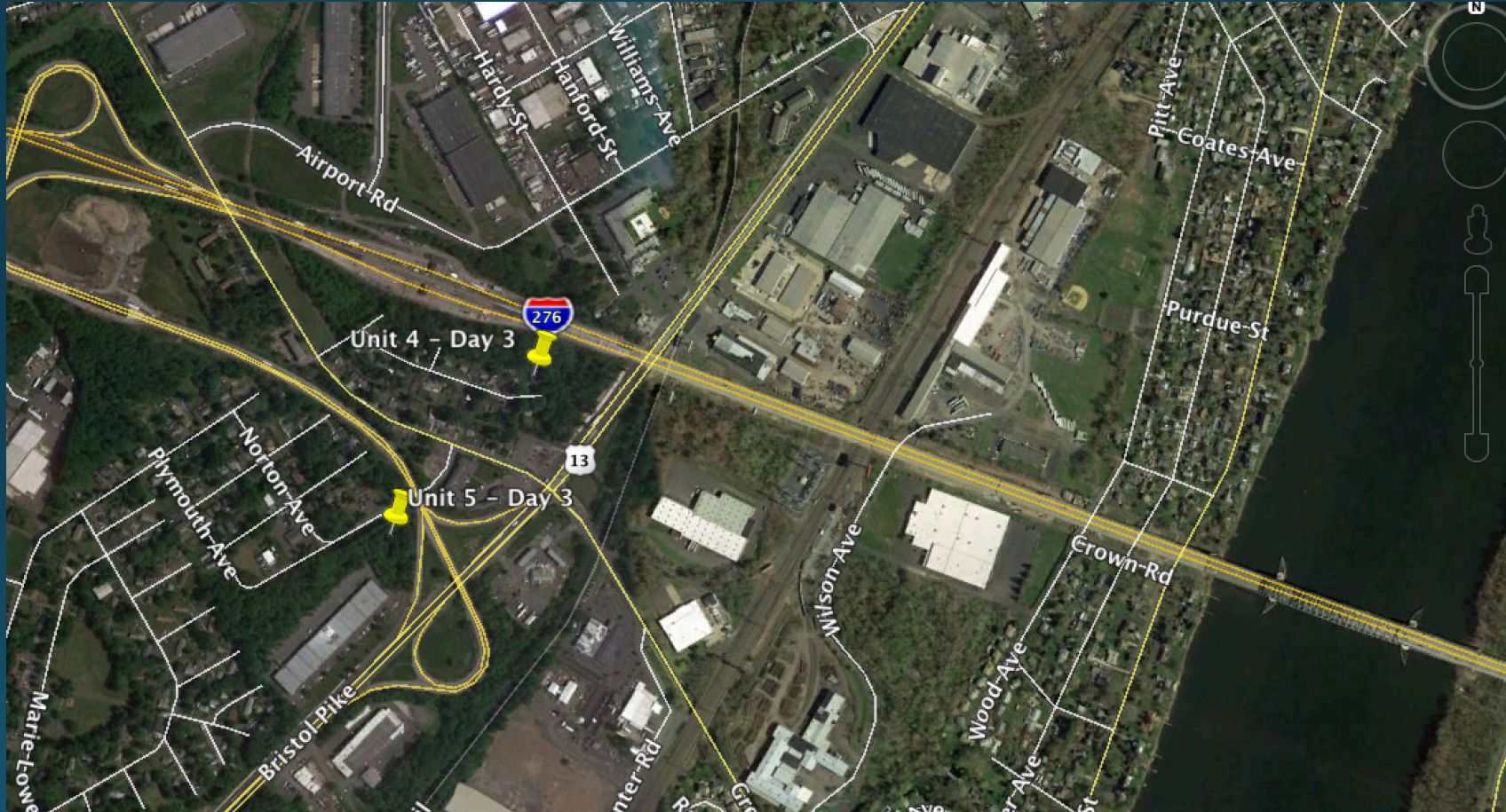


# Day 3



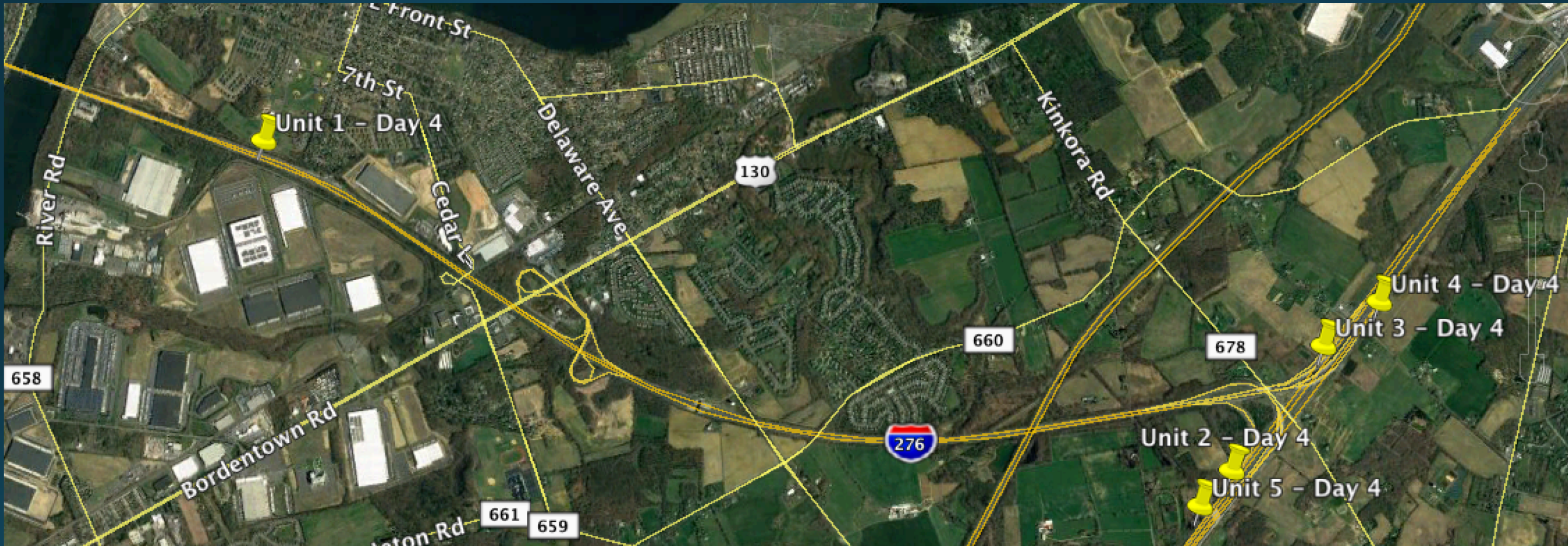


# Don't go to jersey





# Day 4





# Closeup









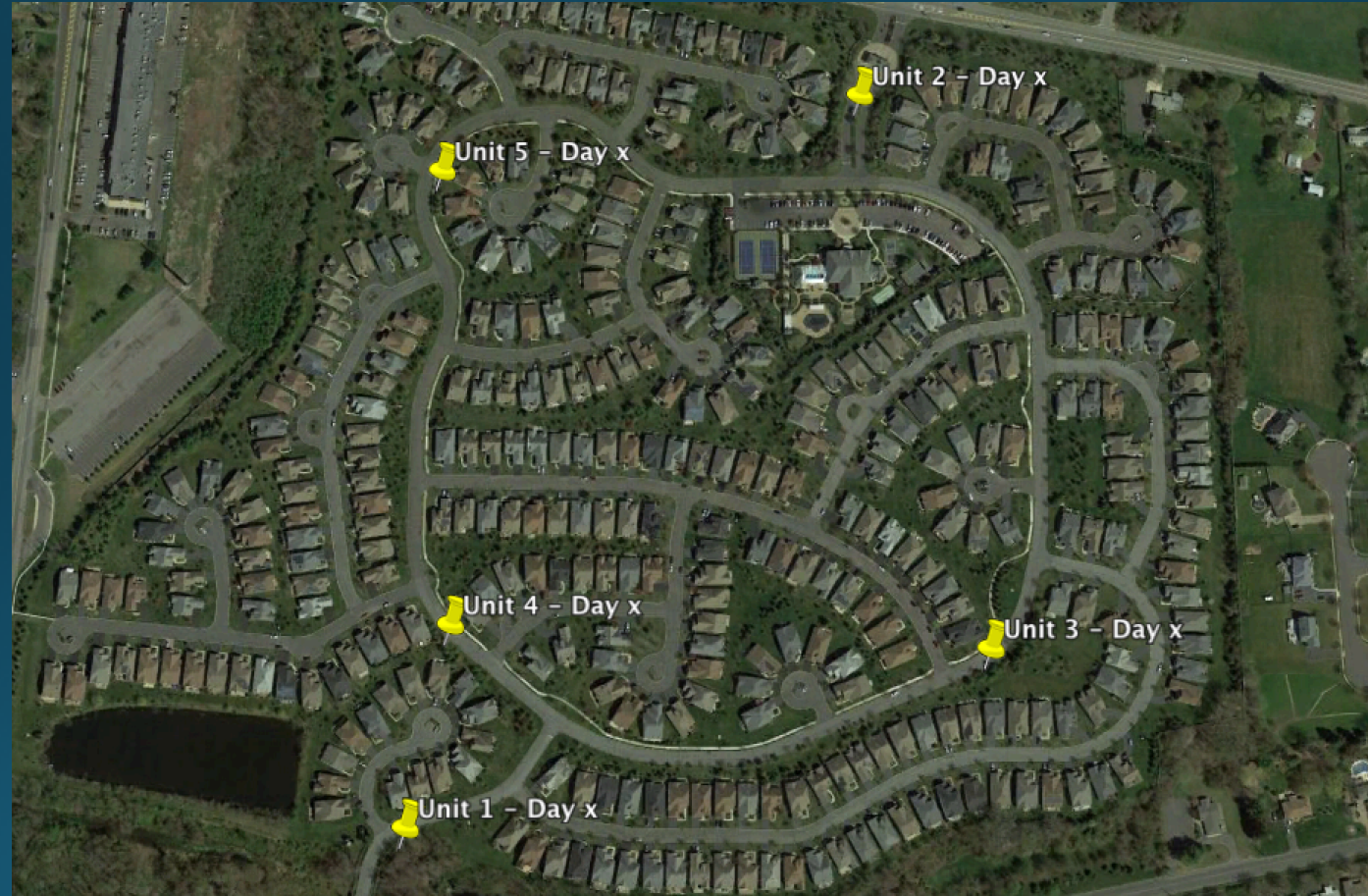


# No



- Dirty vest
- Dirty helmet
- Clipboard
- Pen
- camera

# Day x



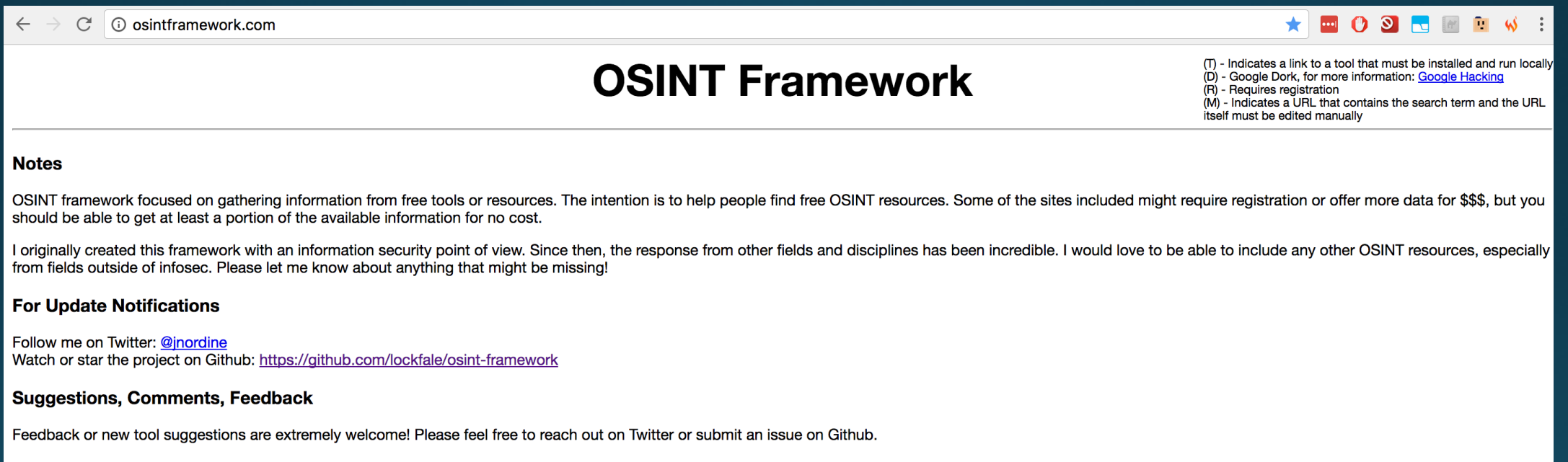


# Gotcha



# What We know

- TPMS IDs of tires
- Vehicle type (tire pressure between 62PSI and 65PSI) – truck or SUV
- Hardware addresses of 2 cellphones
- Possibly SSID for the house
- Bluetooth mac address



# Break!

- House tax records indicate a woman
- No public information on any males at the residence
- No public hits on marriages
- Photo time
- Google image hit!
- Agency photo from family day!

# Observed OpSec

- GPS Jammer always on when engine is on
- Low end phone on until the bridge
- Stops pinging (hard off)
- iPhone 6s pinging ~30min until at the house
- Presumably off
- Onstar and Sirius xm
- Surveillance Detection Route



# Next Version of Stalker

- Hardware with less crappy USB bus
- More powerful
- More RAM
- Ability to read EZ pass IDs
- V<sub>2</sub>V/V<sub>2</sub>X



# Lessons Learned

- RF noise gets in everywhere
- Unlocked cases > locked cases
- \$30 golf cart batteries > \$700 SDR
- Clean helmet vs dirty helmet
- Google has you

# Housekeeping

- All work done on dedicated laptops/hardware
- Wiped with a rag
- Wiped (FIPS 199)
- Wiped with 4lbs of tannerite

# Future Work

- Investigate more locations
- Find advanced jamming sources
- pokemon gyms/portal locations?\*

- Thank you!

## Questions?

Demos at booth #754

[blackhatgps@gmail.com](mailto:blackhatgps@gmail.com)

Related Civilian Projects

[securitylabs@spirent.com](mailto:securitylabs@spirent.com)

Related .mil/.gov projects

[projects@spirentfederal.com](mailto:projects@spirentfederal.com)

