

THE FBI MAINTAINED PAUL MANAFORT'S EMAIL ACCOUNT

Yesterday, the government released redacted dockets showing the work of Mueller's grand jury (warrants, d-orders, PRTTs; h/t to CNN's Katelyn Polantz, who liberated these). They're not all that useful, though I'm cross referencing them with the known warrants or events. That said, one detail in the list explains something that happened last year. In March 2018, Manafort asked for unredacted copies of seven warrants against him. In April the government responded. They provided a list of the affidavits they had already given Manafort by then:

- November 17, 2017: Affidavits for searches of his storage facility and condo
- By December 8, 2017: Affidavits for 11 other search and/or seizure warrants
- March 26, 2018: Six affidavits (including less redacted versions of those earlier provided)
- April 4, 2018: March 9, 2018 affidavit for 5 AT&T phones

The government explained in that response that most of what Manafort was still trying to unseal involved names of people who had provided information to the government, other targets of the affidavits, or information on other investigations into Manafort. On May 29, 2018, Amy Berman Jackson refused Manafort's request for any further unsealing.

The DC-based warrants that Manafort was trying to further unseal were (I've put links where the affidavits have been unsealed):

- In the Matter of the Search of Information Associated with Email Account pmanafort@dmpint.com (D.D.C.) (17-mj-00611)
- In the Matter of the Search of Information Associated with email accounts rgates@dmpint.com and kkilimnik@dmpint.com (D.D.C.) (17-mj-00612)
- In the Matter of the Search of Hard Drive with Serial Number WXB1AA006666 (D.D.C.) (17-mj-496)
- In the Matter of the Seizure of Funds from Accounts at Three Banks (D.D.C.) (17-mj-00783, 17-mj-00784, 17-mj-00785)
- In the Matter of the Search of Information Associated with Five Telephone Numbers Controlled by AT&T (D.D.C.) (18-sc-609)

Ultimately, ABJ refused any further unsealing of the pmanafort or the 5 AT&T warrant affidavits.

Which means (as far as I know) we've never seen the full pmanafort warrant. Which is interesting, because here's what that looks like in the docket:

1:17-mj-00611-BAH *SEALED* USA v. INFORMATION ASSOCIATED WITH THE EMAIL ACCOUNT [REDACTED] MAINTAINED BY THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	Entered: 08/17/2017	Category: misc-cr
	14:57:44	Event: Application and Affidavit for Search/Seizure Warrant under Rule 41 by USA Document: 1
Application and Affidavit for Search Warrant by USA as to INFORMATION ASSOCIATED WITH THE EMAIL ACCOUNT [REDACTED] MAINTAINED BY THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION. (Attachments: # 1 Affidavit, # 2 Search and Seizure warrant)		

The docket entry for the Gates and Kilimnik email is unremarkable, showing that Rackspace hosted the email.

1:17-mj-00612-BAH *SEALED* USA v. INFORMATION ASSOCIATED WITH THE EMAIL ACCOUNTS [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] THAT ARE STORED AT PREMISES CONTROLLED BY RACKSPACE US, INC.	Entered: 08/17/2017	Category: misc-cr Event: Application and Affidavit for
	15:03:48	Search/Seizure Warrant under Rule 41 by USA
Application and Affidavit for Search Warrant by USA as to INFORMATION ASSOCIATED WITH THE EMAIL ACCOUNTS [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] THAT ARE STORED AT PREMISES CONTROLLED BY RACKSPACE US, INC. (Attachments: # 1 Affidavit, # 2 Search and Seizure Warrant)		

But for some reason, in the DC docket, the Manafort entry shows that the FBI maintained Manafort's email. FBI may have done that (and possibly done it via a VA court, where the earlier parts of this investigation were) to manage the foldering communication that Manafort and Kilimnik used, in which Kilimnik would draft an email but not send it as a way to communicate with Manafort while making the email harder to intercept.

Among the things the FBI discovered by thwarting that foldering technique is that Manafort continued to work with Kilimnik on a plan to carve up Ukraine into 2018.

As I disclosed last July, I provided information to the FBI on issues related to the Mueller investigation, so I'm going to include disclosure statements on Mueller investigation posts from here on out. I will include the disclosure whether or not the stuff I shared with the FBI pertains to the subject of the post.