

FBI DIRECTOR MUELLER BOASTS OF FBI'S CYBER EXPERTISE BEFORE ANONYMOUS HACKS CYBER CALL

As you may have heard, Anonymous hacked into and released a conference call between the FBI and Scotland Yard discussing their efforts to crack down on the hackers' group.

What makes the hack all the more ironic is its release comes just days after Robert Mueller bragged of the FBI's cyber expertise at the Threat Assessment hearing on Tuesday (the actual call took place on January 17, which makes me wonder whether they have gotten subsequent calls as well). In response to MD (and therefore NSA's) Senator Barbara Mikulski's suggestion that the NSA was the only entity able to investigate cybercrime, Mueller insisted (after 2:01) the FBI can match the expertise of NSA. He even bragged about how important partnering with counterparts in other countries—like Scotland Yard—was to the FBI's expertise.

Mueller: If I may interject, we have built up a substantial bit of expertise in this arena over a period of time, not only domestically but internationally. We have agents that are positioned overseas to work closely with—embedded with—our counterparts in a number of countries, and so we have, over a period of time, built up an expertise. That is not to say that NSA doesn't have a substantial bit of expertise also, understanding where it's located.

Mikulski: But it's a different kind.

Mueller: Well, no, much of it is the same kind, much of it is the same kind,

in terms of power, I think NSA has more power, in the sense of capabilities, but in terms of expertise, I would not sell ourselves short.

I don't want to sell the FBI short or anything. But regardless of their expertise in investigating cybercrimes, it sure seems like they've got the same crappy security the rest of the Federal government has.