

Using an Off-Hook phone to your advantage

A situation might arise where a subject has his/her telephone handset off hook. It is possible to use that telephone for intelligence gathering purposes by turning it into a room monitor.

In order to do this, someone will have to have access to the telephone junction box at the point where the phone line enters the building. This may be performed by a member of the tactical team, or by somebody protected by the tactical team.

Tools Needed:

I recommend taking a set of pliers, a Philips head screwdriver and a flathead screwdriver. You may need to remove both types of screws and/or nuts.

Steps to doing this:

First, open the phone junction box and disconnect one of the two wires for the target phone line. Most residents will have only one phone line. If they have two, the second (line 2) is usually used for computer purposes. The steps provided within this document will work on either line 1 or line 2.

***NOTE:** Older houses did not fall into today's universal categorization regarding color coding of telephone wires. Some older houses used a simple heavy gauge two conductor wire for telephone line. Newer houses will use the standardized color code. Line number two is usually made up of a yellow and a black wire. Line number one will have a red and a green wire.*

Whether its old wiring or new, the goal is to disconnect or interrupt one of the two wires of the line we want to use. Disconnect one of the two wires. Advise somebody who has access to a telephone to call the residence and have them tell you when it starts ringing. When they tell you it's ringing, reconnect the wire. A connection is established and the person who called the residence will now be able to hear inside the residence.

How this works:

When the line is interrupted (disconnected) the telephone system sees the phone as "hung up" or on hook. When a call is placed into the residence and the wire is then reconnected, the telephone system sees this as somebody answering the telephone (taking handset off hook). A connection is now established between the two phones, same as a normal telephone call. The caller will be able to hear all ambient room noise inside the target building.

Remember, noises made at your end will be played on the handset and the target's end. He/She may be able to hear you, so be quiet.

Ken Slater – 836 Technologies