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U.S. Department of Justice

National Security Division

U.S. FOREIGN
INTELLIGENCE
SURVEILLANCE COURT

2023 MAR -1 PM 1:19

MARINA PETERSON
CLERK OF COURT

Washington, D.C. 20530

March 1, 2023

The Honorable Rudolph Contreras
United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court
333 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: *In Re Accuracy Concerns Regarding FBI Matters Submitted to the FISC*,
Docket No. Misc. 19-02

Dear Judge Contreras:

(U) The Government respectfully submits this update regarding technological improvements the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is undertaking to aid in consistency and accountability within the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) application process.

(U) On March 5, 2020, the Court entered an Order directing the Government to provide by March 27, 2020, "a description of any planned or implemented technological improvements to the process of preparing FISA applications or verifying the information contained in FISA applications and updates every thirty days thereafter until they have been fully implemented." Corrected Opinion and Order of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (the Court) entered on March 5, 2020 (March 5, 2020 Order) at 17. Following the Court's grant of a modification permitting updates to be provided to the Court every ninety days, the Government has filed periodic updates, including, most recently, on November 28, 2022.¹

(U) As explained in previous updates to the Court, the FBI is continuing to work towards transitioning the FISA processes currently handled in a platform called the FISA Management System (FISAMS) into a system colloquially known as "the Bridge." During the previous reporting period, the Bridge team configured and deployed certain processes and features for testing, including a specific serialization process for an FBI administrative unit, the FISA processes for emergency and expedited requests, and a feature that allows users access to advanced metadata files. The team also presented the Bridge before, and tested with, users from five FBI field offices and four Headquarters divisions. The team also scheduled the Bridge-FISA workflow on the secret enclave for product delivery to the FBI's National Security Branch (NSB) for final user testing. During the current reporting period, the team delivered the Bridge-FISA Initial Operating Capability (IOC) product to NSB for final testing and onboarding. It also deployed, and verified with a DOJ user, a Bridge proxy environment, which will allow

¹ (U) Letter from Kevin O'Connor, Chief, Oversight Section to the Honorable Rudolph Contreras (November 28, 2022).

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authorized DOJ users access to Bridge from their native DOJ workstations. Finally, the team has obtained an Authority to Operate, which allows the Bridge to be used in a production capacity on the Secret enclave and is beginning the administrative set-up necessary to prepare the Bridge for operational FISA use.

(U) As discussed in previous letters, the FBI has also been working on technological improvements related to its accuracy procedures, also known as the Woods Procedures, which will ultimately be integrated with the Bridge. These efforts have attempted to find a way to use Sentinel to optimize certain internal processes used by FBI personnel to create accuracy subfiles and make the file contents available, as permitted by the FBI's FISA minimization procedures. As noted in previous updates, the FBI has completed the Electronic Woods Capability (EWC) in Sentinel that can interface with the Bridge and allows FBI personnel to export an accuracy subfile, which can be downloaded and transmitted to other personnel participating in the FISA process. In or about July 2021, the EWC was deployed enterprise-wide, and it is currently in an operational state with no near-term development activities planned. The team has continued to address maintenance issues as they arise during the current reporting period.

(U) Finally, consistent with an Office of the Inspector General recommendation in the *Review of Four FISA Applications and Other Aspects of the FBI's Crossfire Hurricane Investigation*, the FBI has continued to work to develop enhancements to an information technology system that assists employees in fulfilling appropriate mandates for the management and administration of Confidential Human Sources (CHSs). During the previous reporting period, the FBI continued to work on finalizing requirements for the Source Opening Communication and CHS Quarterly Supervisory Source Report, as well as implementing planned work regarding the CHS Contact Report, referenced in the report filed on August 29, 2022. During the current reporting period, the FBI has continued its work, including implementing the CHS Contact Report, finalizing key requirements, and automating a questionnaire.

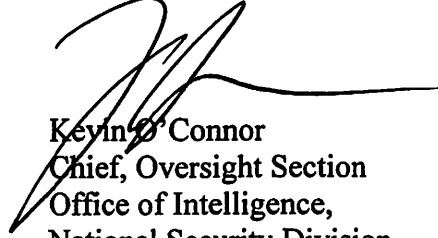
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(U) This letter constitutes the Government's thirteenth update in the above-captioned docket regarding planned or implemented technological improvements. The FBI has reviewed this response and confirmed its accuracy.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin P. Connor', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin P. Connor
Chief, Oversight Section
Office of Intelligence,
National Security Division
U.S. Department of Justice

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