



U.S. Department of Justice

National Security Division

U.S. FOREIGN
INTELLIGENCE
SURVEILLANCE COURT

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Washington, D.C. 20530

October 13, 2023

MAURA PETERSON
CLERK OF COURT

The Honorable Anthony J. Trenga
United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court
U.S. Courthouse
333 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

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

Dear Judge Trenga:

(U) The government hereby responds to this Court's Order dated May 22, 2023 (Order), in the above-listed docket number, regarding technological improvements to processes used by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for preparing Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) applications or verifying the information contained in FISA applications. Per the Order, the Court ordered the government to provide its next report no later than October 13, 2023. The government hereby reports as follows:

(U) As discussed in previous updates in this matter, the FBI has developed and implemented a new electronic FISA management system named the Bridge to streamline the FBI's FISA-related workflow processes. The FBI previously used the FISA Management System (FISAMS) to manage these processes, but due to the age of FISAMS, the FBI determined that deficiencies within FISAMS, which sometimes did not interface well with other FBI systems, presented technological challenges in continuing to effectively manage the FISA workflow process. The Bridge is designed to remedy these deficiencies. Among other features, the Bridge uses a technical interface to communicate with the FBI's case management system, known as Sentinel. The technical interface is designed to provide users with a high level of data integrity by automatically cross-referencing Bridge data with Sentinel case data. In addition, users can now complete FISA request forms and FISA verification forms directly in the Bridge application, which assists users in validating inputted data. The FBI also has integrated other technological improvements to its accuracy procedures with the Bridge; for example, the FBI's Electronic Woods capability, previously deployed in Sentinel in or around July of 2021, 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.

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(U) As of the date of this filing, the FBI has fully deployed the Bridge throughout the enterprise's Secret enclave. All FBI field offices and the relevant FBI Headquarters Divisions have received initial training on the Bridge, and significant testing of the Bridge platform has been accomplished. With operational usage now underway, the FBI's Bridge development team has begun to gather user feedback. With this feedback, the Bridge development team has enhanced the usability of the system, such as by redesigning parts of the user interface to accommodate larger numbers of facilities and by improving on-screen text to provide enhanced instruction and clarity, including improving the formatting of official record documents for serialization to Sentinel.

(U) Though fully deployed on the Secret enclave, the FBI is still in the process of transitioning users fully to the Bridge. After deployment, initial feedback from users of the Bridge revealed certain additional technical and training needs that are inhibiting user transition completion. The FBI continues to resolve and address these technical and training needs as they are identified. In addition, the Bridge has not yet been deployed on the enterprise's Top Secret enclave. Accordingly, pursuant to the Order, the government will provide a subsequent report to the Court again within 90 days of the date of this filing, further addressing the testing and implementation of the Bridge and providing updates on any material developments regarding the FBI's technological efforts to improve compliance with the FBI's accuracy and completeness procedures.

(U) The FBI has reviewed this letter and confirmed its accuracy.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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

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