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U.S. Department of Justice

National Security Division

U.S. FOREIGN
INTELLIGENCE
SURVEILLANCE COURT
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MAURA PETERSON
CLERK OF COURT

Washington, D.C. 20530

November 28, 2022

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 August 29, 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 initiated and supported formal headquarters and field office user testing in a specific pre-production environment, as well as developing and deploying the Sentinel user interface and the Pen Register Trap and Trace renewal process for testing. During the current reporting period, the team has configured and deployed for testing: 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 related to a FISA request that can be used for basic reporting needs and exported to a spreadsheet. The team has also completed headquarters and field office user testing activities, with the Bridge being presented before, and tested with, users from five FBI field offices and four Headquarters

¹ (U) Letter from Kevin O'Connor, Chief, Oversight Section to the Honorable Rudolph Contreras (August 29, 2022).

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divisions. Finally, the overall Bridge-FISA workflow on the secret enclave has been scheduled for product delivery to the FBI's National Security Branch for final user testing.

(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 previous updates have noted, 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. The EWC was deployed enterprise-wide in or about July 2021. Since the EWC has been deployed, it is currently in an operational state, and no near-term development activities are planned, though 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 (CHS). In the previous reporting period, the FBI deployed the Disclosure of CHS Identify Form to production, as well as continuing its work to finalize requirements and develop enhancements to the Source Opening Communication and certain reports, consistent with the recommendation of the Office of the Inspector General. During the current 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.

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

Respectfully submitted,



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