



U.S. Department of Justice

National Security Division

U.S. FOREIGN
INTELLIGENCE
SURVEILLANCE COURT

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Washington, D.C. 20530

MAURA PETERSON
CLERK OF COURT

April 10, 2024

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 files this letter in furtherance of its obligations pursuant to this Court's Order dated May 22, 2023 (Order), in the above-listed docket number, which ordered the government to file periodic reports 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. In the Order, the Court ordered the government to provide a report no later than October 13, 2023. The Order further required that, if deployment of the Bridge (discussed below) was not completed by October 13, 2023, the government shall submit subsequent reports at intervals of no more than 90 days thereafter, until the government reports that such deployment has been completed. The government timely filed its report on October 13, 2023, noting, in part, that the deployment of the Bridge was ongoing. As deployment of the Bridge was not fully completed by October 13, 2023, this filing constitutes the government's subsequent report in this matter.

(U) As previously reported, 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 presented technological challenges in continuing to effectively manage the FISA workflow process. The Bridge is designed to remedy these deficiencies. Among other benefits, it uses a technical interface to communicate with Sentinel, the FBI's case management system. The interface is designed to provide users with a high level of data integrity by automatically cross-referencing Bridge data with

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Sentinel case data. Users can also complete FISA request forms and FISA verification forms directly in the Bridge, which assists users in validating inputted data. As reported in the government's prior reports, the FBI has fully deployed the Bridge throughout the enterprise's Secret enclave; however, the Bridge has not yet been deployed on the enterprise's Top Secret enclave.

(U) With regard to the developments on the Secret enclave, the FBI's Bridge team has primarily transitioned to a support and operations role as the Bridge's FISA processes have been fully deployed on this enclave. Due to the full deployment of the Bridge, FISAMS is no longer used for processing new or renewal Secret-level FISA applications as of in or around February 2024, apart from a limited number of Secret-level FISAs that had been initiated in FISAMS before the cut-off date. The FBI continues to address user transition issues by providing training and by direct support from the Bridge team. The FBI, through the Bridge team, also continues to make minor modifications to the Bridge application based on user feedback and to increase the usability of the application.

(U) Since the government's last update, the Bridge team has been working toward the deployment of the Bridge on the Top Secret enclave, which will be used to process new or renewal Top Secret-level FISA applications. For context, the Bridge application was deliberately developed in a way that is "enclave aware," meaning that a product, once developed in one enclave, can be deployed across multiple enclaves with minimal redevelopment. However, to deploy in an additional enclave, access to the new enclave hosting environment is required. For the FBI to gain access to such an environment, certain contracting and accreditation requirements had to be met, which has taken longer than originally expected. The FBI has now made significant progress in resolving those issues. Accordingly, the FBI has gained approval to access the hosting environment in preparation for beginning the required engineering efforts inside the host environment necessary for deploying the developed Bridge application. The Bridge team has begun developing the features and services that will be necessary to integrate the Bridge and the Top Secret case management system.

(U) As the Bridge has not yet been deployed on the Top Secret enclave, the government will provide a subsequent report to the Court again within 90 days of the date of this filing, which will continue to address the status of the planned deployment of the Bridge on that enclave, and, if applicable, provide updates on any material developments regarding the FBI's technological efforts to improve compliance with the FBI's accuracy and completeness procedures.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. O'Connor".

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

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