



U.S. Department of Justice

National Security Division

U.S. FOREIGN
INTELLIGENCE
SURVEILLANCE COURT

UNCLASSIFIED

2024 OCT -7 AM 10: 22

Washington, D.C. 20530

MAURA PETERSON
CLERK OF COURT

October 4, 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 described in previous update reports, while deployment of the Bridge is fully completed on the FBI's Secret enclave, the FBI is still working to deploy the Bridge on the Top Secret enclave. This letter 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

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

with a high level of data integrity by automatically cross-referencing Bridge data with 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 noted above, 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) As previously reported, 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 were initiated in FISAMS before the cut-off date. The FBI continues to provide training and direct user support to address user transition issues. The FBI, through the Bridge team, also continues to respond to user feedback by modifying the Bridge application to increase its usability. Since the last update report was filed in July 2024, the FBI has advised that it has updated its FISA forms in Bridge to address new requirements in the Reforming Intelligence and Securing America Act (RISSA).

(U) The Bridge team continues to work 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. As previously reported, the Bridge application was developed such that, once developed in one enclave, it could be deployed across multiple enclaves with minimal redevelopment. Previously, the Bridge team developed and delivered all required architectural, business concept, cost estimate, and technical requirement documentation; satisfied certain governance requirements necessary to move forward with deployment; and began receiving certain development work from the FBI's Case Management System Engineering team to allow the Bridge team to begin preliminary integration tasks on the Top Secret enclave. Since the government's last update, the Bridge team has been working to specify the adjustments to the Secret enclave product that are necessary for deployment on the Top Secret enclave in anticipation of beginning development work to fully integrate Bridge. To identify these adjustments, the Bridge team has been considering user feedback on the Secret enclave product, as well as input from critical stakeholders at the FBI and at the Department of Justice. In the coming months, the FBI anticipates beginning the actual development work, including the work necessary for its Case Management system to provide the verification capacity necessary to integrate the Bridge on the Top Secret enclave.

(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

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

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.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Sanz-Rexach', written in a cursive style.

Gabriel R. Sanz-Rexach
Chief, Operations Section
Office of Intelligence
National Security Division
U.S. Department of Justice

UNCLASSIFIED