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Description of document: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) U.S. Bomb Data Center (USBDC) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) 2010

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Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Information Privacy and Governance (IPG) Division,
Room 4E.301
99 New York Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20226
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U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives

www.atf.gov

November 24, 2020

REFER TO: 2021-0088

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated October 25, 2020, and received by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) on November 3, 2020, in which you requested the current Memorandum of Understanding between the bureau's USBDC and the International Association of Fire Chiefs. We apologize for the delay in our response as we are currently working through a backlog of FOIA requests.

In response to your request, we have processed a total of 2 pages of responsive material. We are releasing 1 page in full, and we are releasing 1 pages in part. Each page of this production indicates whether it is being released in full (RIF), or released in part (RIP). Individual redactions identify the exemption pursuant to which the redacted material has been withheld.

We are withholding third party information, including the names of ATF employees, under FOIA Exemption (b)(6). To disclose personal information about a living individual to a member of the public, we need the written consent from the persons whose information you requested. Without written consent, proof of death, or an overriding public interest, personal information is exempt from disclosure under the FOIA. The FOIA does not require agencies to disclose information that would be a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy (5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)).

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(c). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaisons, Darryl Webb or Zina Kornegay, at (202) 648-7372, for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for

OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you are not satisfied with my response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following web site:

<https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Siple".

Adam C. Siple
Chief, Disclosure Division

Enclosure

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made between the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Inc. (IAFC), a non-profit, IRS 501(c)(3), tax exempt corporation with offices at 4025 Fair Ridge Drive, Fairfax, VA 22033 ("Association") and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), U.S. Bomb Data Center, with offices at 99 New York Avenue, NE, Washington, DC.

This MOU is to establish a partnership for the purpose of advancing the availability of and implementation of information utilizing the Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS) to more effectively support the overall fire and emergency service mission in the United States.

The Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS) provides bomb technicians, post-blast investigators and fire investigation authorities with state-of-the-art case management technology at no charge. BATS users have the ability to query over 180,000 explosives and arson incidents dating back to the early 1970's. Authorized users can customize and print professional reports using standardized terminology for consistency. Investigators are able to capture details of bomb and arson cases, including the origin-and-cause or device placement, casualties, dollar losses, fire descriptors, collateral crimes, device components, witness interviews, suspect information, and descriptions of how a device was delivered.

BATS is web-based, available all the time, and contains powerful tools for trend analysis and searching for similarities in motives, device components, and potential suspects. BATS is separate from the NFIRS database. NFIRS reports the fire department suppression efforts; BATS documents the follow-up investigation.

The IAFC and ATF enter into this partnership to leverage organizational assets toward the continued education of the fire service community in dealing with the criminal misuse of fire and explosives across the country. The purpose of this partnership is to provide support in the efforts to promote the use of BATS to document and report explosives-related incidents in this country.

To that end, the IAFC will provide the ATF an opportunity to provide an overview of the Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS) at our annual Fire-Rescue International Conference. Any expenses associated with this presentation would be incurred by ATF. In addition, the IAFC will continue to explore other opportunities with ATF to further support the use of BATS. In the event that ATF decides to utilize the services of the IAFC to further promote BATS, a formal Agreement will be drawn up.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties hereto have agreed.

Mark W. Zylf
Mark Light, Executive Director and CEO
Association – IAFC

4-7-10
DATE

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(b) (6), Chief
U.S. Bomb Data Center

4/12/10
DATE