INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT BOARD (IOB) MATTER

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has determined the Division obtained financial records pertaining to a suspected terrorist without proper authority.

In this regard, in conjunction with an on-going international terrorism investigation of Division personnel prepared and issued requests for hotel records pertaining to the subject and his companion, and financial records pertaining to the subject. The latter request was sent by facsimile within hours of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon requesting bank and credit card records.

Although the letters prepared by only "requested" information from the record-holders, those responsible for preparing the correspondence incorrectly styled them as National Security Letters (see 50 U.S.C. § 1851 and 12 U.S.C. § 3414) and recited the certification language as the legal authority to request the information. The letters were signed by the Acting Special Agent in Charge who, at that time, did not have legal authority to issue National Security Letters. This matter has been reported to the FBI's Office of Professional Responsibility for action deemed appropriate.