U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives

United States Bomb Data Center

Washington, DC 20226

www.atf.gov

April 26, 2013

Dear ████████ :

In March 2013 the U.S. Bomb Data Center (USBDC) received a request for information from the Institute of Makers of Explosives (IME) regarding the use of commercial explosives utilized in bombing events in the United States. The IME defined "commercial explosives" for the purposes of this request as "Explosives designed, produced, and used for the commercial or industrial application rather than military purposes, and not explosive powders such as black powder, smokeless powder, or pyrotechnic powders."

The data presented in this report is drawn from the Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS) database, which consists of data that has been populated by public safety and law enforcement agencies who are members of the BATS user community. The information presented in this response is based on only those incidents that have been reported to the USBDC through the Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS). Additional information in connection with the U.S. Bomb Data Center (USBDC) and BATS is provided below in the "reference" section of this response.

The USBDC examined the BATS database for all "Actual," "Attempted" and "Premature" "Bombing" incidents. A data extract incorporating the years between CY 2008 to CY 2012 was examined to identify all incident records that stated that commercial explosive material(s), as defined by the IME, was used.

The USBDC identified more than 4,000 bombing events that occurred between 2008 and 2012, including actual, attempted and premature bombings, and of those incidents less than 1 percent were reported to have used a commercial explosive product as defined by the IME.*

"Explosives designed, produced, and used for the commercial or industrial application rather than military purposes," and not explosive powders such as black powder, smokeless powder, or pyrotechnic powders.

The U.S. Bomb Data Center (USBDC) serves as the national repository for explosives and arson related incident data, having been established by the Federal Explosives Laws and Attorney General designation. Its purpose is to collect data and to provide bomb technicians and investigators with information and intelligence to assist in the investigation of bombings, arson, and the criminal misuse of explosives. For more information about the USBDC, please see *Fact Sheet, U.S. Bomb Data Center* by visiting the ATF Web site at: www.ATF.gov or http://www.atf.gov/publications/factsheets/factsheet-us-bomb-data-center.html.

For law enforcement agencies, the Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS) is the reporting link to the USBDC, the national database (repository) for explosives and arson incident information. The purpose of BATS is to collect data and to provide bomb technicians and arson investigators with analytical products to assist in the investigation of crimes related to the criminal misuse of explosives and acts of arson. For information pertaining to BATS, please visit www.ATF.gov or http://www.atf.gov/applications/bats/index.html.

Questions or comments in connection with the above information can be directed to the USBDC at ███████████ or ███████████.

Sincerely yours,

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Director, U.S. Bomb Data Center