



ATF News

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ATF, INTERNATIONAL BOMB DATA PARTNERS SHARE UNIQUE EXPLOSIVES COMMUNICATIONS PORTAL *Twenty-five Countries To Collaborate in New Anti-Terrorism Effort*

WASHINGTON -- The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and law enforcement agencies from 24 countries that comprise the International Bomb Data Center Working Group (IBDCWG) announced today that they will share information on bombs and other explosives through a new state-of-the-art communications portal known as the IBDCWG Portal.

The joint effort to combat terrorism provides its users with a collaboration tool that operates in real time, via the Internet and is capable of translating text within documents. The portal also includes the ability to exchange encrypted information in live "chat" forums. Languages currently available include English, Spanish, French, German and Dutch, and more are likely to be added.

ATF's U.S. Bomb Data Center, which Congress has entrusted with maintaining all information on explosives and arson incidents, fast-tracked the development of the IBDCWG Portal, which was merely a concept a year ago. After receiving a request relating to its design and implementation from the working group, ATF sought and integrated feedback from the IBDCWG membership to bring the project to fruition.

Use of the portal is limited to law enforcement agency bomb data centers that are members of the IBDCWG, an international working group of law enforcement agency-bomb data centers around the world. Its objective is to share technical information, especially in the face of critical incidents involving explosives or other means, and planned or actual terrorist attacks.

The IBDCWG was formed in mid-2005 by bomb data centers from 12 countries, including the United States. Since then, the group has more than doubled and today includes bomb data centers from Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, France, Finland, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, Israel, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Romania, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

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The portal is distinct from the international and multilingual explosives database that ATF and other international law enforcement agencies use to share information and intelligence on explosives incidents, devices and methods, and firearms. The portal is a means to communicate, while the database is a place to store and exchange information. In 2006, Australia joined ATF, Britain, Colombia, Hong Kong, Mexico, Northern Ireland and Singapore as a participant employing the database. The Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS), another database maintained by the U.S. Bomb Data Center, allows state, local and other federal law enforcement agencies in the United States to share information about bomb and arson cases and incidents.

ATF, which regulates the U.S. explosives industry and has jurisdiction for investigating bombings and other explosives incidents, is one of the world's leading explosives investigative and training agencies, providing that expertise to the U.S. military, State Department, and local, state, other federal and foreign law enforcement in the United States and overseas.

Since 2001, ATF's National Center for Explosives Training and Research has trained almost 6,000 bomb technicians and investigators in explosive disposal and investigative techniques. ATF also provides explosives training to the new Iraqi Police Service and at the International Law Enforcement Academies in Botswana, El Salvador, Hungary and Thailand.

More information on ATF and its programs can be found at www.atf.gov and on the U.S. Bomb Data Center at: <http://www.atf.gov/aaxis2/index.htm>.

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