

UNCLASSIFIED//

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION****Electronic Communication****Title:** (U) Opening of Full Investigation**Date:** 01/31/2019**From:** WASHIN N FIELD

WF-

**Con****Approved By:** SSA DAR

A/CDC

ASAC DU

SAC Timothy M. Dunham

**Drafted By:****Case ID #:**

(U// ) TROPIC VORTEX;

MEDIA LEAK-NEWSPAPER;

VICTIM- ;

SENSITIVE INVESTIGATIVE MATTER-OTHER

SENSITIVE MATTER

**Synopsis:** (U// ) To open a full investigation codenamed TROPIC VORTEX regarding an unauthorized public disclosure of U.S. Government classified information.

**Details:**

(U// ) On or about 22 March 2017, Department of Justice (DOJ) Acting Deputy Attorney General (A/DAG) Dana Boente directed U.S. Attorney's Office District of Connecticut (USAO CT) Assistant U.S. Attorney (AUSA) John Durham to lead an investigation based on a criminal referral from the regarding an unauthorized public disclosure of U.S. Government classified information. In general, such investigations are conducted by the FBI's Counterintelligence Division (CD) with oversight from DOJ's National Security Division (NSD). However, at least one of the subjects of the investigation is a former senior FBI official who previously worked in NSD. To avoid a potential conflict of interest or an appearance thereof, the A/DAG assigned the investigation to AUSA Durham and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) instead of NSD

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UNCLASSIFIED// [REDACTED]

Title: (U) Opening of Full Investigation  
Re: [REDACTED], 01/31/2019

and the FBI. On or about 22 December 2017, AUSA Durham and USPIS completed their investigation and provided a memorandum with their conclusions and recommendations to Attorney General Jeff Sessions. (The memorandum is classified [REDACTED] and will be submitted to the case file in a separate document.)

(U// [REDACTED]) In or about January 2019, CD received a draft memorandum from the USAO District of Columbia (DC) regarding the aforementioned investigation. (Upon finalization, the memorandum will be submitted to the case file in a separate document.) USAO DC indicated the investigation may contain information relevant to other FBI investigations of unauthorized public disclosures, including, but not limited to, ECHOS FATE ([REDACTED]), FOGGY FALLS ([REDACTED]), GENETIC CHRISTMAS ([REDACTED]), and SIRENS LURE ([REDACTED]). In response, [REDACTED] directed WFO to open a full investigation for the purposes of reviewing the investigation and/or incorporating any information relevant to these other investigations. Therefore, WFO is opening a full investigation codenamed TROPIC VORTEX regarding an unauthorized public disclosure of U.S. Government classified information.

(U// [REDACTED]) As directed by CD Policy Guide [REDACTED], this investigation is being placed in a prohibited status and does not require any additional approvals to do so. As directed by CD Policy Guide [REDACTED], this investigation is being conducted as a criminal investigation and designated as a sensitive investigative matter as at least one of the subjects is a former senior FBI official.

(U) The WFO point of contact for this investigation is Special Agent [REDACTED] at [REDACTED].

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UNCLASSIFIED// [REDACTED]



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**Import Form**

**Form Type:** LHM - Letter Head Memorandum

**Date:** 02/04/2019

**Title:** (U) Notification of Inititation of Investigation

**Approved By:** SSA DARGIS MARK B

**Drafted By:** [REDACTED]

**Case ID #:** [REDACTED]

(U// [REDACTED]) TROPIC VORTEX;  
MEDIA LEAK-NEWSPAPER;  
VICTIM-[REDACTED];  
SENSITIVE INVESTIGATIVE MATTER-OTHER  
SENSITIVE MATTER

**Synopsis:** (U) To add a letterhead memorandum (LHM) notifying  
Department of Justice of initiation of full investigation codenamed  
TROPIC VORTEX to the case fil  
nterintelligence Division [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] to provide the LHM to DOJ [REDACTED]

**Reason:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**ify On:** [REDACTED]

◆◆



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535-0001



Page 1 of 6

Classified By: [REDACTED]  
Derived From: [REDACTED]  
Declassify On: [REDACTED]

FBI-HJC-119-SL-000270

[REDACTED]

**(U) NOTIFICATION OF INITIATION OF INVESTIGATION**

(U) Date: February 4, 2019

(U) Subject(s) of Investigation:

[REDACTED]

(U// [REDACTED]) Type of Investigation:

☐ Preliminary Investigation (PI)

☒ Full Investigation (FI)

☐ Single subject

☒ Multi-subject

☐ Enterprise

☐ Foreign intelligence collection

(U// [REDACTED]) Investigation Initiated by:

☒ Field Office

☐ FBI Headquarters

(U// [REDACTED]) Date Initiated/Converted:

January 31, 2019

(U// [REDACTED]) Notice to DOJ via LHM Required:

☒ Full on USPER

☒ SIM (preliminary or full investigation)

☐ Enterprise investigation

☐ Foreign intelligence case

**(U) I. Purpose of the Investigation:**

(U// [REDACTED]) Check the appropriate purpose for which the investigation is being initiated, as per AGG-Dom II.B.1 and DIOG Sections 6.2 and 7.2:

☒ (U// [REDACTED]) To detect, obtain information about, prevent, [REDACTED] protect against federal crimes or threats to the national security.

[REDACTED]

\_\_\_ (U// [REDACTED]) To collect positive foreign  
intellig[REDACTED]. (Full investigations only)

(U) II. Predication for the Investigation:

(U// [REDACTED]) Appropriate circumstances: Check the appropriate  
circ[REDACTED]ance(s) on which the initiation of the Preliminary  
Investigation or Full Investigation is based, as per AGG-Dom  
II.B.3 and DIOG Sections 6.5 and 7.5:

\_X\_ (U// [REDACTED]) An activity constituting a federal crime  
or a thr[REDACTED] to the national security has or may have  
occurred, is or may be occurring, or will or may occur  
and the investigation may obtain information relating  
to the activity or the involvement or role of an  
individual, group, or organization in such activity;

\_\_\_ (U//F [REDACTED]) An individual, group, organization,  
entity, i[REDACTED]rmation, property, or activity is or may  
be a target of attack, victimization, acquisition,  
infiltration, or recruitment in connection with  
criminal activity in violation of federal law or a  
threat to the national security and the investigation  
may obtain information that would help to protect  
against such activity or threat;

\_\_\_ (U// [REDACTED]) The investigation may obtain foreign  
intellig[REDACTED] that is responsive to a positive foreign  
intelligence requirement, as defined in DIOG Section  
7.4.C. (Full investigations only)

*(U) Factual Predication:*

(U// [REDACTED]) On or about March 22, 2017, Department of Justice (DOJ)  
Acti[REDACTED] Deputy Attorney General (A/DAG) Dana Boente directed U.S.  
Attorney's Office District of Connecticut (USAO CT) Assistant  
U.S. Attorney (AUSA) John Durham [REDACTED] d  
on a criminal referral from the [REDACTED]  
regarding an unauthorized public  
classified information. In general, such investigations are  
conducted by the FBI's Counterintelligence Division (CD) with  
oversight from DOJ's National Security Division (NSD). However,  
at least one of the subjects of the investigation is a former  
senior FBI official who previously worked in NSD. To avoid a

[REDACTED]

potential conflict of interest or an appearance thereof, the A/DAG assigned the investigation to AUSA Durham and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) instead of NSD and the FBI. On or about December 22, 2017, AUSA Durham and USPIS completed their investigation and provided a memorandum with their conclusions and recommendations to Attorney General Jeff Sessions. (The memorandum is classified [REDACTED] and is available for review in the FBI case file.)

(U// [REDACTED]) In or about January 2019, CD received a draft memorandum from the USAO District of Columbia (DC) regarding the aforementioned investigation. (Upon finalization, the memorandum will be submitted to the case file.) USAO DC indicated the investigation may contain information relevant to other FBI investigations of unauthorized personnel, including, but not limited to, ECHOS FATE ( [REDACTED] ) GY FALLS ( [REDACTED] ) HRIS ( [REDACTED] ). In response, [REDACTED] directed WFO to open [REDACTED] purposes of reviewing the investigation and/or incorporating any information relevant to these other investigations. Therefore, WFO is opening a full investigation codenamed TROPIC VORTEX regarding an unauthorized public disclosure of U.S. Government classified information.

(U// [REDACTED]) As directed by CD Policy Guide [REDACTED], this investigation is being placed in a prohibited status and does not require additional approvals to do so. As directed by CD Policy Guide [REDACTED], this investigation is being conducted as a criminal investigation and designated as a sensitive investigative matter as at least one of the subjects is a former senior FBI official.

(U) Non-USPER:

[REDACTED] Under DIOG Appendix G, Section 2.1, if a non-USPER, [REDACTED] provide narrative demonstrating that the person is or may be:

\_\_\_\_ [REDACTED] A foreign power or working for a foreign power [REDACTED]

\_\_\_\_ [REDACTED] From a foreign country or entity that has been designated by the President or the Attorney General on the National Security Threat List (NSTL),

[REDACTED]

in consultation with the National Security Council for purposes of the AGG-DOM based on the concern its activities present to the national security of the United States;

       [REDACTED] In another class designated by the Dire [REDACTED] the FBI in consultation with the Assistant Attorney General for National Security;

\_X\_ [REDACTED] Not applicable.

(U) III. Sensitive Investigative Matter(s):

(U// [REDACTED]) Check all pertinent sensitive investigative matter(s), as defined in DIOG Section 10.2.3.2 A-G, and Appendix G, Section 7 that apply to this investigation (If applicable, provide a narrative below addressing the sensitive investigative matter):

       (U// [REDACTED]) A domestic public official or political candidate

       (U// [REDACTED]) A religious or political organization or an individual prominent in such an organization;

       (U// [REDACTED]) A member of the media or a news organization (unless excepted in DIOG Appendix G, Section

       (U// [REDACTED]) An individual having an academic nexus (unless excepted in DIOG Appendix G, Section G);

\_X\_ (U// [REDACTED]) Any other matter which, in the judgement of the official authorizing an investigation, should be brought to the attention of FBIHQ and other DOJ official

       (U// [REDACTED]) Any matter subject to the SORC as per DIOG Appendix C and G;

       (U// [REDACTED]) Not applicable

(U) IV. Certification:

(U// [REDACTED]) The case agent and all approving personnel certify that

\_X\_ (U// [REDACTED]) An authorized purpose and adequate predicate exist for initiating the preliminary or full investigations;



[REDACTED]

\_X\_ (U// [REDACTED]) The investigation is not based solely on the exercise of First Amendment activities or race, religion, national origin or ethnicity of the subject;

\_X\_ (U// [REDACTED]) The investigation is an appropriate use of personal and financial resources.

(U) The CD point of contact [REDACTED] vest  
Supervisory Special Agent [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]. FO  
[REDACTED] on [REDACTED] is [REDACTED] t [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] at [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**Electronic Communication**

**Title:** (U// [REDACTED]) CASE CLOSING CONCURRENCE

**Date:** 02/25/2020

**CC:** [REDACTED]

**From:** COUNTERINTELLIGENCE  
[REDACTED]

**Approved By:** UC [REDACTED]

FEINBERG MATTHEW A

**Drafted By:** [REDACTED]

**Case ID #:** [REDACTED]

(U// [REDACTED]) TROPIC VORTEX;  
MEDI LEAK-NEWSPAPER;  
VICTIM-[REDACTED];  
SENSITIVE INVESTIGATIVE MATTER-OTHER  
SENSITIVE MATTER

**Synopsis:** (U// [REDACTED]) To Document CD-[REDACTED] Concurrence to Close Captioned Investigation

**Reason:** [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**fy On:** [REDACTED]

**Reference:** [REDACTED]

**Enclosure(s):** Enclosed are the following items:

1. [REDACTED] Closing LHM

**Details:**

[REDACTED]

Title: (U// [REDACTED]) CASE CLOSING CONCURRENCE  
Re: [REDACTED], 02/25/2020

(U// [REDACTED]) Based on the information provided below, this communication provides Section Chief concurrence to close the captioned investigation in accordance with Domestic Investigations and Operations Guide (DIOG) 7.12 and Counterintelligence Division Policy Guide (CD PG) [REDACTED].

(U// [REDACTED]) On March 22, 2017, Department of Justice (DOJ) Acting Deputy Attorney General (A/DAG) Dana Boente directed US Attorney's Office District of Connecticut (USAO-CT) US Attorney (USA) John Durham to lead an investigation based on a criminal referral from the [REDACTED] regarding an unauthorized public disclosure of U.S. Government (USG) classified information ("UPD").

[REDACTED] The criminal referral indicated the New York Times published an article in October 2016 ("October 2016 NYT Article") containing a UPD.

(U// [REDACTED]) In general, UPD investigations are conducted by the FBI's CD with oversight from DOJ's National Security Division (NSD). However, one of the subjects of the investigation was then FBI General Counsel James Baker, who had previously worked in NSD. To avoid a potential conflict of interest or an appearance thereof, the A/DAG assigned the investigation to USA Durham and the US Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) instead of NSD and CD.

(U// [REDACTED]) On December 11, 2018, USA Durham and USPIS completed their investigation ("USPIS Investigation") and provided a memorandum ("USA Durham Memo") with conclusions and recommendations to Acting Attorney General (A/AG) Matthew Whitaker. The USA Durham Memorandum is classified [REDACTED] and is maintained in a 1A Package (See [REDACTED]). Portions of the USA Durham Memo at the [REDACTED] classification are provided as follows.

[REDACTED] The October 2016 NYT Article indicated there were two USG sources for the article. The USPIS Investigation revealed Baker to be one of the

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Title: (U// [REDACTED]) CASE CLOSING CONCURRENCE  
Re: [REDACTED], 02/25/2020

two sources. However, the USPIS Investigation also revealed Baker disclosed USG classified information to the NYT under the belief he was ultimately instructed and authorized to do so by then FBI Director James Comey. For example, during interviews, Baker indicated FBI Chief of Staff James Rybicki instructed him (Baker) to disclose the information to the NYT, and Baker understood Rybicki was conveying this instruction and authorization from Comey. Additional details are classified [REDACTED] and are included in an attachment (1A Package) to this document.

[REDACTED] The USPIS Investigation [REDACTED]. Additional details are classified [REDACTED] and are included in an attachment (1A Package) to this document.

[REDACTED] Based on the evidence (which included interviews, access/email/phone records, and [REDACTED]), potentially applicable law and criminal statutes, and the USA Principles of Federal Prosecution, the USA Durham Memo recommended NO prosecution of Baker or anyone else for this UPD. The full details of this recommendation are in the USA Durham Memo (See [REDACTED]).

(U// [REDACTED]) In January 2019, WFO received a draft memorandum from the USAO District of Columbia (DC) ("USAO-DC Memo") via [REDACTED] (i.e., the predecessor to CD-[REDACTED]) regarding the USPIS Investigation and USA Durham Memo. In or about February 2019, WFO received the official USAO-DC Memo via [REDACTED]. In the USAO-DC Memo, USAO-DC indicated the USPIS Investigation and USA Durham Memo may contain information relevant to other FBI investigations of UPDs, including, but not limited to, ECHOS FATE ([REDACTED]), FOGGY FALLS ([REDACTED]), GENETIC CHRISTMAS ([REDACTED]), and SIRENS LURE ([REDACTED]). In response, [REDACTED] directed WFO to open a full investigation for the purposes of reviewing the USPIS Investigation and USA Durham Memo and/or incorporating any information

[REDACTED]

Title: (U// [REDACTED]) CASE CLOSING CONCURRENCE  
Re: [REDACTED], 02/25/2020

relevant therefrom to these other investigations. On January 31, 2019, WFO opened captioned full investigation TROPIC VORTEX to do so.

(U// [REDACTED]) On April 8, 2019, WFO completed a review of the USPIS Investigation and USA Durham Memo, noted significant findings therefrom in a document ([REDACTED]), and provided them to the attorneys, agents, and professional staff assigned to TROPIC VORTEX, ECHOS FATE, FOGGY FALLS, GENETIC CHRISTMAS, and SIRENS LURE. WFO did not identify any additional investigative leads regarding Baker or the second [REDACTED] source for the October 2016 NYT Article. WFO did identify one additional investigative lead as follows.

(U// [REDACTED]) On March 4, 2017, President Donald Trump tweeted he had just learned former President Barack Obama was tapping phones at Trump Tower during the 2016 election. On March 5, 2017, the NYT published an article titled "Comey Asks Justice Dept to Reject Trump's Wiretapping Claim" ("March 2017 NYT Article"). The March 2017 NYT Article reported a USG official indicated Comey asked the DOJ to publicly reject the assertions in President Trump's tweets, but the DOJ had not released any such statement. The tweets and article occurred shortly after the initiation of the USPIS Investigation. During interviews for the USPIS Investigation, multiple DOJ and FBI officials were asked about their discussions, actions, and responses to the tweets and article. Although these officials provided opinions on the identity of the USG official in this article, the USPIS Investigation did not determine who it was.

(U// [REDACTED]) On October 21, 2019, WFO compiled findings from the USPIS Investigation regarding the tweets and the March 2017 NYT Article, and from additional investigation by WFO. The findings revealed Rybicki forwarded an email containing a proposed statement to the news media regarding the tweets to his (Rybicki's) presumed personal email account. The proposed statement originated from Comey and appeared to be at the

[REDACTED]

Title: (U// [REDACTED]) CASE CLOSING CONCURRENCE  
Re: [REDACTED], 02/25/2020

UNCLASSIFIED level of classification. WFO assessed Rybicki did so in furtherance of a potentially unauthorized disclosure to the news media, which appeared to be at the implicit direction of Comey. WFO documented these findings and assessment in [REDACTED], and presented them to the attorneys, agents, and professional staff assigned to TROPIC VORTEX, ECHOS FATE, FOGGY FALLS, GENETIC CHRISTMAS, and SIRENS LURE.

(U// [REDACTED]) Based on the findings and assessment, USAO-DC issued a preservation letter for Rybicki's personal email account in furtherance of potential legal process. However, USAO-DC subsequently declined to pursue additional legal process as the proposed statement appeared to be UNCLASSIFIED. WFO also prepared materials regarding the proposed statement for use in a November 2019 interview with Rybicki by USAO-DC and WFO, but USAO-DC declined to use them. As such, WFO considers this additional investigative lead complete.

(U// [REDACTED]) On January 30, 2020, USAO-DC issued a prosecutorial declination decision for TROPIC VORTEX, via meeting with and confirmation email to WFO, which is included as an attachment to this document (1A Package).

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[REDACTED]

**U.S. Department of Justice**  
**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
Washington, D.C. 20535-0001  
CD4X-0028-19



(U// [REDACTED]) Date: February 21, 2020

(U// [REDACTED]) Report: Closing Letterhead Memorandum

(U// [REDACTED]) Investigation: TROPIC VORTEX

(U// [REDACTED])          Preliminary Investigation (PI)  
  x   Full Investigation (FI)

         Single subject  
         Multi-subject  
         Enterprise  
         Foreign intelligence collection  
  x   Unsub

(U// [REDACTED]) FI Initiated: 01/31/2020

(U// [REDACTED]) I. Background/Predication for the Investigation:

(U// [REDACTED]) On March 22, 2017, Department of Justice (DOJ) Acting Deputy Attorney General (A/DAG) Dana Boente directed US Attorney's Office District of Connecticut (USAO-CT) US Attorney (USA) [REDACTED] and an [REDACTED] based on a criminal referral from the [REDACTED] regarding an unauthorized public disclosure (USG) classified information ("UPD").

[REDACTED] The criminal referral indicated the New York Times published an article in October 2016 ("October 2016 NYT Article") containing a UPD.

(U// [REDACTED]) In general, UPD investigations are conducted by the FBI's CD with oversight from DOJ's National Security Division (NSD). However, one of the subjects of the investigation was then FBI General Counsel James Baker, who had previously worked in NSD. To avoid a potential conflict of interest or an appearance thereof, the A/DAG assigned the investigation to USA Durham and the US Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) instead of NSD and CD.

[REDACTED]

(U// [REDACTED]) On December 11, 2018, USA Durham and USPIIS completed their investigation ("USPIIS Investigation") and provided a memorandum ("USA Durham Memo") with conclusions and recommendations to Acting Attorney Matthew Whitaker. The USA Durham Memorandum [REDACTED] and is maintained in a 1A Package (See [REDACTED]) of the USA Durham Memo at the [REDACTED] classified as follows.

[REDACTED] The October 2016 NYT Article indicated there were two USG sources in the article. The USPIIS Investigation revealed Baker to be one of the two sources. However, the USPIIS Investigation also revealed Baker disclosed USG classified information to the NYT under the belief he was ultimately instructed and authorized to do so by then FBI Director James Comey. For example, during interviews, Baker indicated FBI Chief of Staff James Rybicki instructed him (Baker) to disclose the information to the NYT, and Baker understood Rybicki was conveying this instruction and information from Comey. Additional details are classified [REDACTED] and are included in an attachment (1A Package) to this document.

[REDACTED] USPIIS Investigation [REDACTED]. Additional details [REDACTED] in attachment (1A Package) to this document.

[REDACTED] Based on the evidence, interviews, access to [REDACTED] phone records, and [REDACTED], potentially applicable law and criminal statutes, principles of Federal Prosecution, the USA Durham Memo recommended NO prosecution of Baker or anyone else for this UPD. [REDACTED] this recommendation are in the USA Durham Memo (See [REDACTED]).

(U// [REDACTED]) In January 2019, WFO received a draft memorandum from the USAO District of Columbia (DC) ("USAO-DC Memo") via [REDACTED] (i.e., the predecessor to CD- [REDACTED]) regarding the USPIIS Investigation and USA Durham Memo. In January 2019, WFO received the official USAO-DC Memo via [REDACTED]. In the USAO-DC Memo, USAO-DC indicated the USPIIS Investigation and USA Durham Memo may contain information relevant to other FBI investigations of UPDs, in addition to limited to, ECHOS FA [REDACTED], FOGGY FALLS ([REDACTED]), GENETIC CHRIST [REDACTED] and SIRENS LURE [REDACTED]). In response, [REDACTED] to open a full investigation for purposes of reviewing the USPIIS Investigation and USA Durham Memo and/or incorporating any information relevant therefrom to these other investigations. On January 31, 2019, WFO opened captioned full investigation TROPIC VORTEX to do so.

(U) **II. Conclusion**



[REDACTED]

(U// [REDACTED]) On April 8, 2019, WFO completed a review of the USPIIS Investigation [REDACTED] memo, noted significant findings therefrom in a document ([REDACTED]), and provided them to the attorneys, agents, and [REDACTED] assigned to TROPIC VORTEX, ECHOS FATE, FOGGY FALLS, GENETIC CHRISTMAS, and SIRENS LURE. WFO did not identify any additional investigative leads regarding Baker or the second [REDACTED] source for the October 2016 NYT Article. WFO did identify one additional investigative lead as follows.

(U// [REDACTED]) On March 4, 2017, President Donald Trump tweeted he had just learned former President Barack Obama was tapping phones at Trump Tower during the 2016 election. On March 5, 2017, the NYT published an article titled "Comey Asks Justice Dept to Reject Trump's Wiretapping Claim" ("March 2017 NYT Article"). The March 2017 NYT Article reported a USG official indicated Comey asked the DOJ to publicly reject the assertions in President Trump's tweets, but the DOJ had not released any such statement. The tweets and article occurred shortly after the initiation of the USPIIS Investigation. During interviews for the USPIIS Investigation, multiple DOJ and FBI officials were asked about their discussions, actions, and responses to the tweets and article. Although these officials provided opinions on the identity of the USG official in this article, the USPIIS Investigation did not determine who it was.

(U// [REDACTED]) On October 21, 2019, WFO compiled findings from the USPIIS Investigation regarding the tweets and the March 2017 NYT Article, and from additional investigation by WFO. The findings revealed Rybicki forwarded an email containing a proposed statement to the news media regarding the tweets to his (Rybicki's) presumed personal email account. The proposed statement originated from Comey and appeared to be at the UNCLASSIFIED level of classification. WFO assessed Rybicki did so in furtherance of a potentially unauthorized disclosure to the news media, which appeared to be at the implied Comey. WFO documented these findings and assessment in [REDACTED], and presented them to the attorneys, agents, and professionals assigned to TROPIC VORTEX, ECHOS FATE, FOGGY FALLS, GENETIC CHRISTMAS, and SIRENS LURE.

(U// [REDACTED]) Based on the findings and assessment, USAO-DC issued a prosecution letter for Rybicki's personal email account in furtherance of potential legal process. However, USAO-DC subsequently declined to pursue additional legal process as the proposed statement appeared to be UNCLASSIFIED. WFO also prepared materials regarding the proposed statement for use in a November 2019 interview with Rybicki by USAO-DC and WFO, but USAO-DC declined to use them. As such, WFO considers this additional investigative lead complete.

(U// [REDACTED]) On January 30, 2020, USAO-DC issued a prosecutorial declination decision for TROPIC VORTEX, via meeting with and confirmation email to WFO, which is included as an attachment to this document (1A Package).

[REDACTED]

(U// [REDACTED]) The FBI WFO point of contact for this investigation is SA [REDACTED], [REDACTED].

UNCLASSIFIED// [REDACTED]

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**Electronic Communication****Title:** (U) Closing of Full Investigation TROPIC  
VORTEX**Date:** 03/13/2020**From:** WASHINGTON FIELD

WF- [REDACTED]

**Con** : [REDACTED], [REDACTED]**Approved By:** [REDACTED]**Drafted By:** [REDACTED]**Case ID #:** [REDACTED](U// [REDACTED]) TROPIC VORTEX;  
MEDIA LEAK-NEWSPAPER;  
VICTIM- [REDACTED];  
SENSITIVE INVESTIGATIVE MATTER-OTHER  
SENSITIVE MATTER

**Synopsis:** (U// [REDACTED]) To close captioned full investigation TROPIC VORTEX regarding an unauthorized public disclosure of USG classified information.

**Details:****(U) Closing of Full Investigation**

(U) Washington Field Office (WFO) is closing captioned full investigation TROPIC VORTEX. See [REDACTED] for WFO recommendation to close investigation. This serial contains the justification for closing along with US Attorney's Office District of Columbia (USAO-DC) declination to prosecute; and it documents the Domestic Investigations and Operations Guide (DIOG) 7.12 and Counterintelligence Division Policy Guide (CD PG) [REDACTED] standards for closing a full investigation (copied below).

**(U) DIOG and CD Standards for Closing of Full Investigation**

UNCLASSIFIED// [REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED// [REDACTED]

Title: (U) Closing of Full Investigation TROPIC VORTEX  
Re: [REDACTED], 03/13/2020

***(U) Summary of Results of Investigation***

(U) See [REDACTED]

***(U) Sufficient Personnel and Financial Resources***

(U// [REDACTED]) WFO has provided sufficient personnel and financial resources for TROPIC VORTEX.

***(U) Logical and Reasonable Investigation***

(U// [REDACTED]) WFO has completed all logical and reasonable investigation for TROPIC VORTEX. See [REDACTED]

***(U) Disposition of Investigative Methods***

23. (U// [REDACTED]) WFO has completed or discontinued all investigative methods for TROPIC VORTEX.

***(U) Disposition of Leads***

24. (U// [REDACTED]) WFO has completed or discontinued all leads for TROPIC VORTEX.

***(U) Disposition of Evidence***

25. (U// [REDACTED]) WFO has NOT collected any evidence (1Bs) for TROPIC VORTEX. WFO is adding miscellaneous investigative notes as an attachment (1A Package) to the file.

***(U) Closing Status Code***

26. (U// [REDACTED]) The closing code for TROPIC VORTEX is [REDACTED] (USA Declination Closing) based on the USA Durham Memo and USAO-DC prosecutorial declination decision.

UNCLASSIFIED// [REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED// [REDACTED]

Title: (U) Closing of Full Investigation TROPIC VORTEX  
Re: [REDACTED], 03/13/2020

**(U) Miscellaneous**

(U) See [REDACTED] for Counterintelligence Division-  
[REDACTED] (CD-[REDACTED]) concurrence to close investigation.  
This serial contains the closing letterhead memorandum (LHM) for  
Department of Justice National Security Division (DOJ-NSD).

(U) As the closing of captioned investigation has been discussed and  
coordinated at biweekly meetings involving WFO, CD-[REDACTED], NSD, DOJ-NSD, and  
USAO-DC, CD-[REDACTED] has advised WFO does not need to wait for a response to  
the closing LHM from DOJ NSD.

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UNCLASSIFIED// [REDACTED]