

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES
United States Bomb Data Center
Washington, DC

To: Special Agent Louis Sackandy
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Washington Field Division
Washington, DC

I/N: 768015-06-0026
INV TITLE: ALLEN, Kennesson
DATE: December 15, 2006

Request:

On or about December 12, 2006, ATF Special Agent Louis Sackandy with the Washington Field Division contacted the U.S. Bomb Data Center (USBDC) requesting information concerning incidents where a model rocket motor was utilized. Specifically, Special Agent Sackandy requested the number of bombings and explosive recoveries where model rocket motors or ammonium perchlorate were utilized as the explosive filler or as part of ignition system for a destructive device.

Methodology and Analysis:

A query of the Arson and Explosives Incident System (AEXIS)¹ identified 44,629 bombing incidents and 28,955 explosive recoveries within the database. Keyword searches for the terms "ROCKET MOTOR" or "ROCKET ENGINE" or "AMMONIUM PERCHLORATE" returned a number of incidents involving bombings and explosive recoveries that were used as either the "Filler Material"² or in the "Ignition System."³ The returned data was evaluated and analyzed, resulting in an aggregate total of 219 times the above enumerated items were found in bombings related incidents and explosive recoveries. Examination of the data breaks down as follows:

	Items Found	Injured	Killed
FILLER MATERIAL	37	15	1
IGNITION SYSTEM	173	19	4
AMMONIUM PERCHLORATE	8	1	0
Totals	218	35	5

¹ AEXIS database is maintain by the U.S. Bomb Data Center and contains primarily component related information on over 119,000 arson and explosive related incidents.

² "Filler Material" refers to energetic materials or compounds use to create an explosion.

³ "Ignition System" refers to components and/or compounds that are utilized in the beginning of the firing-train to complete an explosion.