

To: Chicago From: Criminal Investigative  
Re: 66F-HQ-A1323588, 03/05/2002

**Precedence:** ROUTINE

**Date:** 03/05/2002

**To:** Chicago

**Attn:** SAC

SSRA [REDACTED]  
SSA John G. Raucci

**From:** Criminal Investigative  
Operational Support Section  
Asset Forfeiture Unit Room 10151  
**Contact:** SSA [REDACTED]

**Approved By:** Montemorra Robert A

**Drafted By:** [REDACTED] ag

**Title:** ASSET FORFEITURE PROGRAM MATTERS;  
EAST COAST ASSET FORFEITURE CONFERENCE  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
APRIL 9-11, 2002;  
WEST COAST ASSET FORFEITURE CONFERENCE  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA  
APRIL 30 - MAY 2, 2002

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**Synopsis:** To request that Chicago Special Agent (SA) Robert G. Wright, Jr. be authorized to make case presentations, at captioned conferences, regarding the seizure of terrorist assets while he was the Case Agent investigating the terrorist group HAMAS.

**Administrative:** Reference telephone call from SSA [REDACTED] (FBIHQ) to SA Robert G. Wright, Jr. (Chicago) and SSRA [REDACTED] (Chicago) on March 5, 2002.

**Details:** Captioned two conferences are specifically designed for the FBI's forfeiture personnel and are considered the main forfeiture-related seminars. These conferences are sponsored by the Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU), Forfeiture and Seized Property Unit (FSPU), and the Legal Forfeiture Unit (LFU).

The three day agenda will include an overview of the U.S. Patriot Act of 2001 and the expanded role of the FBI's Asset Forfeiture Program in terrorism investigations.

In 1998, SA Wright was the case agent in a Chicago investigation code named "VULGAR BETRAYAL" which led to the seizure of \$1.4 million of Middle East terrorist funds. The civil case was subsequently filed, by the United States Attorney's Office, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, Case Number 98 C 3548.

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This was the first time that the FBI utilized the civil forfeiture laws to seize terrorist assets and it would be deemed beneficial, to the forfeiture program, for SA Wright to make a case presentation on how the assets were identified, located, and seized. It is requested, that without jeopardizing any current or future investigation nor classified material, that SA Wright explain the history of the case, the tracing and identification of HAMAS assets, the use of the forfeiture provisions, a description of the seizures conducted, and if possible contrast the previous forfeiture laws with the Patriot Act which was passed following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

If authorized by Chicago, it is anticipated that SA Wright will make his case presentation on the first day of the conference immediately following instruction on the U.S. Patriot Act of 2001.

FBIHQ will pay for all of SA Wright's travel expenses by authorizing a TR Number. Specific information regarding the conference will be provided to SA Wright upon Chicago's approval to travel.

Any questions may be directed to SSA [redacted] at [redacted] or Unit Chief Robert A. Montemorra at 202-324-8628.

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1:Adm)

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

It is requested that Chicago authorize the travel of SA Robert G. Wright, to make a case presentation at each conference, as set forth in this Electronic Communication.

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