



Department of Justice

STATEMENT OF

**DOUG OLSON
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED AGENCIES
AND
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
UNITED STATES SENATE**

**AT A HEARING ENTITLED
“A REVIEW OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIFA WORLD CUP 2026”**

**PRESENTED
APRIL 15, 2026**

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Chair Moran, Chair Britt, Ranking Member Van Hollen, Ranking Member Murphy, and Members of the Subcommittees, thank you for having me here today to speak with you about the role of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the United States Government (USG) effort to ensure the safety and security of the 2026 Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup Tournament.

My name is Doug Olson, and I am the Special Agent in Charge of the FBI’s Portland Field Office and the FBI’s Senior Coordinating Official (SCO) on the White House Task Force on the FIFA World Cup 2026 (WHTF).

Executive Order 14234

On March 7, 2025, President Trump signed Executive Order 14234, establishing the WHTF in order to coordinate USG efforts related to the 2026 World Cup Tournament. This year’s Tournament will be the largest sporting event in history, as 48 teams play 104 matches in 16 cities across three countries. The United States’ role as co-host presents an “opportunity to showcase the Nation’s pride and hospitality while promoting economic growth and tourism through sport¹.” The scope of the event and the challenges associated with a complex global threat environment require a unified government effort.

In my role, I engage regularly with WHTF senior leadership, including Executive Director Andrew Giuliani, and colleagues throughout the USG as we seek proactive solutions to both common threats and challenges associated with special events, and to the unique aspects that set the FIFA World Cup apart from even the biggest special events in recent US history. I am lucky to have a particularly strong relationship with my Department of Homeland Security (DHS) counterpart, Christopher Tomney, Director of the Office of Homeland Security Situational Awareness within DHS Headquarters.

¹ Executive Order 14234 of March 7, 2025 (Establishing the White House Task Force on the FIFA World Cup 2026), see <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/DCPD-202500339/pdf/DCPD-202500339.pdf>

FBI Support to Interagency Efforts

As the FBI SCO, it has been my privilege to oversee various efforts across nearly every headquarters division and over 20 of our field offices with responsibilities related to the FIFA World Cup. All 56 field offices and 63 Law Enforcement Attaché offices worldwide stand ready to support the USG as the Tournament approaches and throughout the 39-day event. Notably, 12 of our field offices will have matches in their Areas of Responsibility (AOR), and an additional 11 field offices cover cities that will host team lodging and practice facilities. Official and unofficial fan festivals will take place across the country.

Headquarters personnel work every day to support our field offices, and this effort is no different. Our Critical Incident Response Group (CIRG) has taken a significant role in matters ranging from special events planning to Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-UAS) operations and intelligence coordination.

The FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services Division (CJIS), Information Management Division (IMD), and CIRG play a key role in ensuring those seeking access to secure venue spaces are thoroughly vetted. In addition, our Counterterrorism Division, Criminal Division, Counterintelligence and Espionage Division, and Cyber Division are closely monitoring all available information to maintain awareness of threats from potential terrorists, cyber actors, and anyone else seeking to engage in nefarious activity related to the World Cup. Our International Operations Division (IOD) personnel are constantly sharing information with our partners around the world and our Office of Partner Engagement (OPE) and Office of the Private Sector (OPS) maintain strong relationships with our Federal, state, and local law enforcement partners along with private companies to ensure a common operating picture and threat awareness.

Of course, the FBI continues its daily global operations, and we are constantly assessing the appropriate assignment of personnel and resources to support day-to day missions, the World Cup, and a variety of significant events, including those associated with America's 250th anniversary celebrations.

I would like to take this opportunity to detail just a few of the ways the FBI is contributing to a safe and secure World Cup.

Special Event Support

FBI Headquarters and field office personnel have significant experience with special event support. Field-based personnel, including Special Events and Crisis Management Coordinators are consistently engaged with FBI Headquarters personnel and with Federal, State, Local, Tribal & Territorial (SLTT) Law Enforcement in their AORs. These teams are responsible for a variety of important functions, ranging from venue access to dissemination of event-related intelligence products and evaluation of resource requests. CIRG and field office leadership make critical decisions regarding the deployment of tactical teams, bomb technicians, and specialized assets throughout the United States.

DHS has a leading role in host city and SLTT coordination, and FBI special events teams maintain close relationships and strong communication with our DHS partners.

Counter-UAS

One of the most significant safety concerns surrounding the World Cup is the threat posed by unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). Recent deployments of UAS on battlefields overseas, incursions into protected airspace in the homeland, and UAS-based criminal activity around prisons and at the US-Mexico border have demonstrated the versatility of UAS, the ease with which bad actors can obtain them, and the rapid advancement of UAS technology. The sustained, multi-city nature of the Tournament requires C-UAS capabilities that can be maintained at operational tempo for weeks, not just a single event.

The FBI's C-UAS capabilities include both detection and mitigation. Detection involves monitoring for and identifying unauthorized UAS activity; mitigation involves actively countering a UAS that poses a credible threat. Some forms of detection can be conducted using passive technologies that do not require specific statutory authorization. However, both mitigation and certain detection methods that implicate federal communications or surveillance statutes require authorization under 6 U.S.C. § 124n. In December 2025, Congress passed the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 (P.L. 119-60), which included the SAFER SKIES Act, extending for the first time C-UAS authority to qualified SLTT law enforcement agencies, conditioned on completing training and certification at a federally established training center.

In furtherance of the SAFER SKIES Act and Executive Order 14305 (Restoring American Airspace Sovereignty), the FBI established the National Counter-UAS Training Center (NCUTC) in Huntsville, Alabama, the only federally authorized C-UAS training and certification center for SLTT law enforcement in the country. As of April 2026, the NCUTC has certified 45 SLTT law enforcement officers, including officers from World Cup host cities, with an additional class in progress and projected to bring the total to 61 prior to the start of the Tournament. The rapid development of the NCUTC curriculum is a testament to the FBI's dedication to the C-UAS mission, and I look forward to seeing the NCUTC team continue to offer world-class training well beyond the World Cup.

The SAFER SKIES Act directs the Attorney General to issue guidelines and requires joint regulations to govern SLTT C-UAS operations conducted under the agencies' own statutory authority. While those are being finalized, the FBI is putting these certified officers to work now through a task force model. NCUTC-certified SLTT officers are being assigned to FBI-led Counter-UAS Task Forces (CUTFs) at field offices with World Cup responsibilities, where they are deputized to conduct C-UAS operations under FBI authority and supervision. This approach ensures that the investment in SLTT training translates directly to operational capability for the World Cup and provides the FBI with the operational depth necessary to sustain C-UAS protection at select match venues and associated sites over the course of a 39-day, multi-city tournament.

Intelligence Coordination Center

Timely intelligence sharing is critical to the preservation of life and property, and the FBI is working closely with the Intelligence Community (IC) and SLTT, foreign government, and private sector partners to ensure the collection, analysis, and sharing of intelligence at all classification levels is continuous and effective.

In support of this effort, the FBI has established the Intelligence Coordination Center (ICC), one of the key nodes of the Interagency Coordination Plan (ICP). The ICC, based out of FBI Headquarters, will continue to collect, analyze, and share World Cup-related threat reporting, law enforcement information, IC products, and other relevant information throughout the Tournament. The ICC will maintain close contact with Operations Centers in Canada, Mexico, the International Police Cooperation Center (IPCC), and FIFA Headquarters in Coral Gables, Florida.

The FBI has administrative and operational oversight of the ICC and is working daily to establish internal resource and personnel requirements, manage internal and external information flows, and draft insightful intelligence products on World Cup-related topics. They are coordinating closely with DHS and interagency partners to set the ICC roles and requirements within the ICP.

International Police Cooperation Center

The International Police Cooperation Center (IPCC) is a centralized, multi-agency coordination hub established by the host nation to facilitate international police collaboration during major international sporting events. Recognized as a global best practice, the IPCC ensures unified situational awareness, coordinated risk mitigation, and international cooperation. The FBI will manage the US IPCC. LEOs from 46 countries—including larger contingents from Canada and Mexico—will convene throughout the Tournament to share real-time information related to ongoing and scheduled matches, fan events, and simultaneous events in host cities and beyond.

The IPCC will coordinate closely with the ICC and the DHS-led Special Events Coordination Center. Like the ICC, the IPCC will maintain open communication with Operations Centers in Canada, Mexico, and at FIFA Headquarters.

Namechecks

FIFA processes information from hundreds of thousands of individuals requiring accredited access to tournament venues. This access is provided to staff, vendors, players, coaches, family, VIPs, and more. To increase event security, FIFA requested the FBI conduct thorough records checks of all individuals requiring accredited access to World Cup venues. While the FBI has conducted checks for special events, the scale of these checks being done in support of the World Cup is unprecedented and has required the dedication of significant resources.

FBI teams from CJIS, IMD, CIRG, and our field offices all play a critical role in conducting and validating detailed records checks. DHS is a key partner in this endeavor, responsible for the electronic transfer of significant amounts of data from FIFA into FBI systems. While it may seem simple, the effort of ingesting records, conducting checks, and producing validated results is a complex and labor-intensive process.

Incident Response

I've highlighted some of the most significant FIFA-specific efforts the FBI is involved in, but I want to stress that the entire FBI stands ready to respond to any significant events regardless of proximity to World Cup events. As an organization, we have been mindful of daily operational needs as well as special events that will require FBI engagement throughout a very busy summer in order to make practical decisions on resource allocation and prioritization.

Communications and Engagement

Finally, the FBI is also working with our interagency partners and the WHTF to ensure consistent, proactive messaging and coordination on World Cup efforts. For example, we are working with the WHTF and C-UAS stakeholders to share important drone advisories—encouraging fans to leave their drones at home and highlighting the severe consequences for unauthorized drone operation. We recently hosted a successful information sharing conference in Atlanta for personnel from across the USG and SLTT entities to strengthen interagency coordination, enhance intelligence sharing, and optimize information system access in preparation for the FIFA World Cup. The FBI maintains strong relationships with private sector partners and has offered webinars on the USG efforts to ensure a successful World Cup, covering topics like risk mitigation, security planning, and international collaboration.

Closing

I am continually impressed by the efforts of my FBI colleagues and our partners as we all endeavor to host a safe, secure, and ultimately successful FIFA World Cup Tournament. The WHTF has been critical in bringing interagency partners together to address the myriad of challenges associated with such a massive endeavor, hosted during a challenging time in a complex threat environment.

The FBI could not do this alone, and the relationships we have with so many great partners will continue to be critical to our success. I want to thank Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Robert O'Leary as well as Director Tomney and their teams for their consistently excellent work, and for being here with me today.

The FBI remains committed to its core mission—to protect the American people and uphold the Constitution of the United States—and to the safety, security, and overall success of the FIFA World Cup. I appreciate the Committee's interest in the same.

I welcome any questions you may have for me. Thank you for your time.